

V. The Colonial Wars, a.k.a. The French and Indian Wars (1689-1763)

A. New France

1. French colonization of North America began at Quebec in 1608.
2. Looking for a passage *through* America to Asia, they soon discovered the Great Lakes and the rivers that lead to the Mississippi.
3. In 1682, Sieur Lasalle, a French explorer, was the first European to travel all the way down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico—a territory they called “Louisiana.”
4. In terms of its area, French territory in America was very large, but it was not settled by nearly as many colonists as the Eastern seaboard had been by England.

B. Three Early Wars

1. As France and England fought wars back in Europe, so their colonists fought in America. Each time the war came to be known by the name of the English king at the time.
 - a) King William’s War (1689-1697)
 - b) Queen Anne’s War (1701-1714)
 - c) King George’s War (1740-1748)
2. Hundreds of colonists were killed each time, but no gains were made by either side. At each war’s end, the situation returned to the *status quo ante bellum* (the way things were before the war).

C. The French and Indian War (1756-1763)

1. Both England and France wanted to colonize the Ohio River valley.
2. In 1754, battles occurred at the site of present-day Pittsburgh. These were the first important battles of a young commander named George Washington.
3. In 1759, at the Battle of Quebec, two large European armies faced each other under the command of Frenchman the Marquis de Montcalm and Englishman General Wolfe. The English captured Quebec, and by the end of the war, England controlled North America almost entirely.

VI. Prelude to the Revolution

A. Britain's New Challenges

1. The country known as England became “Great Britain” in 1707, during Queen Anne’s War. Today it includes four parts (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland). Its people are known as British.
2. Britain had defeated France in the Colonial Wars, but now had a much larger territory to manage, and a very large debt to pay.
3. Also, the American colonies were now a part of a large British Empire that included territories on every major continent. The king believed his American colonists were his servants in a quest to create an *Anglo-centric* world.
4. Looking upon his colonists in America as his servants in a quest for world power, the King of Great Britain, George III became more and more of a tyrant, raising new taxes and imposing new laws on them without a care for how this would affect them.. However, his desire for more power ran into the obstacle of American leaders who had learned the story of liberty in ancient Greece & Rome, and in England itself...