Chapter 6

The Duel for North America, 1608–1763
I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada

• France was a late comer in the scramble for the New World real estate:
  – It was convulsed in foreign wars and domestic strife during the 1500s
  – It was involved in clashes between Roman Catholics and Protestant Huguenots
  – On St. Bartholomew’s Day, 1572, over 10,000 Huguenots-men, women, and children were butchered in cold blood.
I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

• 1598—the era of the **Edict of Nantes**:
  – Issued by the crown, granted limited toleration to French Protestants
  – France blossomed, led by brilliant ministers and by King Louis XIV, who reigned for 72 years (1643-1715)
  – Fatefully for North America, he took a deep interest in overseas colonies.
I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

• 1608 the permanent beginnings of a vast French empire (see Map. 6.1) was established at Quebec:
  – Led by Samuel de Champlain—"Father of New France"
  – He established friendly relationships with the Huron Indian tribes
  – Entered into a treaty with the Huron against the Iroquois tribes of the upper New York area.
I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

• The government of New France (Canada) finally fell under the direct control of the king
  – This royal regime was almost completely autocratic
  – The people elected no representative assemblies
  – They did not enjoy the right to trial by jury, as in the English colonies.
I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

• The population of Catholic New France grew at a listless pace:
  – Late 1750s Catholic New France had only 6,000 or so whites in New France
  – Landowning French peasants had little motive to move
  – French Huguenots were denied a refuge
  – French government favored the Caribbean Islands.
II. New France Fans Out

• New France contained one valuable resource—the beaver:
  – European fashion-setters valued beaver-pelt hats
  – These colorful *coureurs de bois* were runners of risk:
  – They littered the land with scores of place names: Baton Rouge (red stick), Terre Haute (high land), Des Moines (some monks).
II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

• French *voyageurs* recruited Indians into the fur business:
  – The Indian fur flotilla that arrived in Montreal in 1693 numbered 400 canoes
  – Many of these Indians were decimated by the white man’s diseases and alcohol
  – Slaughtering beaver by the boatload violated many Indians’ religious belief.
II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

• French Catholic missionaries (Jesuits) labored to save the Indians for Christ and from the fur-trappers:
  – Jesuits suffered tortures by the Indians
  – They had few converts, but did play a vital role as explorers and geographers.
  – Other explorers sought neither souls nor fur, but empire.
II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

- French explorers:
  - Antoine Cadillac founded Detroit, “the City of Straits”
  - Robert de La Salle floated down the Mississippi in 1682 to the point of the Gulf
  - He named the interior basin “Louisiana,” after Louis XIV
  - He failed to find the Mississippi delta, landed in Spanish Texas and in 1687 was murdered.
II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

The French planted several fortified posts in what is now Mississippi and Louisiana:

– One was New Orleans in 1718
– They established forts in fertile Illinois country at Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes became the garden of France’s North America empire.
III. The Clash of Empires

• The earliest contests among the European powers for control of North America:
  - **King William’s War** (1689-1697) and **Queen Anne’s War** (1702-1713) (see Table 6.1) British colonists against the French *coureurs de bois*
  - Bloody action on the villages of Schenectady, New York and Deerfield, Massachusetts (see Map 6.3).
• Peace terms, signed at Utrecht in 1713, revealed how badly France and its Spanish ally had been beaten (see Map. 6.4):
  – Britain was awarded French-populated Acadia, which the British renamed Nova Scotia also Newfoundland and Hudson Bay
  – France’s settlements pinched by the St. Lawrence set their ultimate doom.
III. The Clash of Empire (cont.)

• The American colonies had decades of “salutary neglect,” fertile soil for the roots of independence.
• The British won limited trading rights in Spanish America, which led to smuggling.
• Robert Jenkins, British captain, had one ear sliced by a Spanish sword.
• This led to the War of Jenkins’s Ear, 1739.
III. The Clash of Empires (cont.)

• The War of Jenkins’s Ear led to the large-scale War of Austrian Succession in Europe (see Table 6.2) called **King George’s War** in America:
  - New Englanders with the help of the British captured the French fortress of Louisbourg and commanded the St. Lawrence River (see Map 6.3) later returned to France by treaty of 1748.
  - France still clung to its vast holdings.
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<thead>
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<th>Name, Reign</th>
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<td>George I, 1714–1727</td>
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<td>George II, 1727–1760</td>
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<td>George III, 1760–1820</td>
<td>American Revolution, 1775–1783</td>
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IV. George Washington Inaugurates War with France

• The Ohio Valley became the chief contention between French and British:
  – For the British it was critical area for westward movement
  – The French had to retain it if they were going to link their Canadian holdings to those of the lower Mississippi Valley
  – The British determined to fight for their economic security and supremacy.
IV. George Washington Inaugurates War with France (cont.)

- The Ohio Valley rivalry brought tensions:
  - French were in the process of erecting a chain of forts on the Ohio River
  - Fort Duquesne was at the pivotal point where the Monongahela and Allegheny River join to form Ohio—the latter site of Pittsburgh
  - In 1754 George Washington was ushered onto the stage of history.
IV. George Washington Inaugurates War with France (cont.)

• To secure the Virginians’ claim Washington was sent to the Ohio Country:
  – Washington encountered a detachment of French troops about 40 miles from Fort Duquesne (see Map 6.5) and fired
  – The French leader was killed and his men retreated
IV. George Washington Inaugurates War with France (cont.)

• War in the Ohio country:
  – Washington, after a ten-hour siege, was forced to surrender July 1754
He was able to march his troops away with full honor.

The British brutally uprooted the French Acadians and scattered them as far as Louisiana.
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Table 6-2 p103
V. Global War and Colonial Disunity

• The three Anglo-French colonial wars had all started in Europe, but now in America:
  – French and Indian War—touched off by George Washington in the Ohio Valley 1754 rocked for two years and then widened
  – **Seven Years’ War**—it was fought not only in America but in Europe, West Indies, Africa, Philippines and on the ocean. The Seven Years’ War was a 7-sea war (see Map 6.6).
V. Global War and Colonial Disunity (cont.)

• The crisis now demanded concerted action:
  – In 1754 the British government summoned an intercolonial congress to met at Albany, N.Y.
  – Immediate purpose was to control the Iroquois tribes loyal to Britain
  – The longer-range purpose was to achieve greater colonial unity and thus bolster the common defense against France
V. Global War and Colonial Disunity (cont.)

• Role of Benjamin Franklin at Albany:
  – First, he published his famous cartoon—Join, or Die
  – At Albany, was the leading spirit of the *Albany Congress* presenting a well-devised but premature scheme for colonial home rule
  – The delegates unanimously adopted the plan but individuals spurned it, as well as the London regime.
V. Global War and Colonial Disunity (cont.)

• To the colonists, it did not give enough independence, to the British, it gave too much.

• Franklin’s observations: all people agreed on the need for union, but their “weak noddles” were “perfectly distracted” when they attempted to agree on details.
Events of the Seven Years’ War
1. Virginia-Pennsylvania-Ohio, 1753–1764
2. Nova Scotia, 1754
3. Hudson River-Lake Champlain, 1755–1760
4. Minorca, 1756
5. Central Europe, 1756–1762
6. Bengal, 1757
7. Louisbourg, 1758
8. West Africa, 1758
9. Mexico, 1758–1769
10. Quebec and Upper St. Lawrence, 1759–1760
11. Eastern Caribbean, 1759–1762
12. Iberian Coast, 1759
13. French Coast, 1759–1761
14. Upper Great Lakes, 1759–1764
15. Pontchartrain, 1760–1762
16. Spain, 1762
17. Newfoundland, 1762
18. Havana, 1762
19. Manila, 1762
20. Pontiac’s Rebellion, 1763–1764

Territorial claims, ca. 1750
- British
- French
- Portuguese
- Spanish

Map 6-6 p105
VI. Braddock’s Blundering and Its Aftermath

- The opening clashes of the war went badly for the British:
  - General Edward Braddock was sent to Virginia with a strong detachment of British regulars.
  - Set out in 1755 with 2000 men to capture Fort Duquesne.
  - On his way met smaller French and Indian army.
VI. Braddock’s Blundering and Its Aftermath (cont.)

– In the ensuing battle, George Washington had two horses shot from under him and four bullets pierced his coat. Braddock was fatally wounded.
– Inflamed by this easy victory, the Indians took a wider warpath, from Pennsylvania to North Carolina.
– Washington with 300 men tried desperately to defend the frontier.
– The British had defeat after defeat.
VII. Pitt’s Palms of Victory

- William Pitt, British superlative leader
  - He was known as the “Great Commoner.”
  - In 1757 he became a foremost leader in the London government:
    - He soft-pedaled assaults on the French West Indies and concentrated on the vitals of Canada—the Quebec-Montreal area.
    - He picked young and energetic leaders
VI. Pitt’s Palms of Victory (cont.)

• Pitt’s leadership:
  – First he dispatched a powerful expedition in 1758 against Louisbourg causing it to fall
  – Quebec was next under James Wolfe he met French Marquis de Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham, the outskirts of Quebec. Both commanders fell, fatally wounded
  – The French were defeated and the city surrendered.
VI. Pitt’s Palms of Victory (cont.)

– The **Battle of Quebec** in 1759 ranks as one of the most significant engagements in British and American history:

– When Montreal fell in 1760, the French flag had fluttered for the last time

– The Peace of Paris in 1763 threw the French off the continent of North America

– The French were able to maintain several small but valuable sugar islands in the West Indies.
VII. Pitt’s Palms of Victory (cont.)

• France was also able to receive two never-to-be-fortified islets in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for fishing stations.

• Final blow to the French when they ceded to Spain all trans-Mississippi Louisiana, and the outlet of New Orleans (see Map 6.7).

• Great Britain emerged as the dominant power in North America.
VIII. Restless Colonists

• Britain’s colonists emerged with increased confidence in their military strength
  – The French and Indiana War, while bolstering colonial self-esteem, simultaneously shattered the myth of British invincibility
  – Displaying the contempt of the professional soldiers, the British refused to recognize any American militia commission above the rank of captain.
VIII. Restless Colonists (cont.)

• Britain’s colonists:
  – They were distressed by the reluctance of the colonists to support the common cause wholeheartedly
  – Some colonists, self-centered and alienated by distance from the war, refused to provide troops and money for the conflict.
VIII. Restless Colonists (cont.)

• Britain’s colonists:
  – Unity received some encouragement during the French and Indian War
  – When soldiers and statesmen from widely separated colonies met they often agreed
  – They discovered that they were all fellow Americans who spoke the same language and shared common ideals
  – A coherent nation would emerge.
IX. War’s Fateful Aftermath

• The removal of the French menace in Canada profoundly affected American attitudes:
  – In a sense the history of the United States began with the fall of Quebec and Montreal the infant Republic was cradled on the Plains of Abraham.
  – The Spanish and Indian menaces were now substantially reduced
  – The Spanish removal from Florida and the French removal from Canada deprived the Indians
IX. War’s Fateful Aftermath (cont.)

• **Pontiac’s uprising** by the Ottawa Chief Pontiac to lay siege to Detroit in spring of 1763 and eventually overran all but three British posts west of the Appalachians, killing some 2000 soldiers and settlers:
  - The British retaliated swiftly and cruelly with a primitive version of biological warfare
  - Pontiac perished in 1769 at the hands of a rival chieftain.
IX. War’s Fateful Aftermath (cont.)

• The colonists were now free to cover the Appalachian Mountains and take the western lands.

• The London government issued its Proclamation of 1763 which flatly prohibited settlement beyond the Appalachians (see Map 6.8).
# CHRONOLOGY

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<td>1608</td>
<td>Champlain colonizes Québec for France</td>
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<tr>
<td>1643</td>
<td>Louis XIV becomes king of France</td>
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<td>1682</td>
<td>La Salle explores Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico</td>
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