



# The Causes of the American Revolution



1763-1775



# Origins of the American Revolution

---

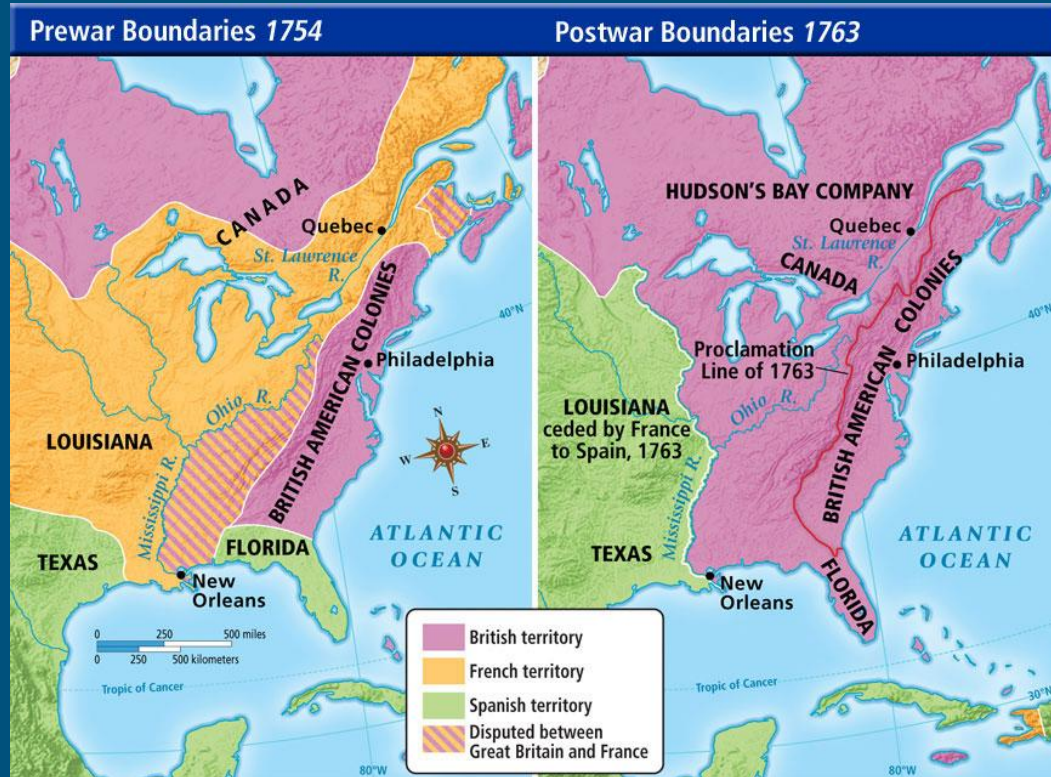
- The growth of colonial assemblies and the ability for property owners to vote was dramatically different than the experience in Britain, or anywhere else in Europe at the time. Very few people owned property in Britain, while in the colonies, property ownership was actually quite common.
- There was no hereditary aristocracy in the American colonies as there was in Britain. While a few planters and merchants did amass a tremendous amount of wealth, their wealth paled in comparison to that of English nobles, for example.
- The Enlightenment inspired the colonists to become more educated and fostered a sense of independent thought. The Great Awakening taught the colonists to challenge traditional authority figures and gave them a belief in their own abilities.
- The presence of slavery meant that the colonists understood the value of freedom.

# The French and Indian War

---

- The French and Indian War was a costly global conflict. While Great Britain did emerge victorious, it came at a high price.
- The British won a tremendous amount of territory in North America. It now acquired all of the land west to the Mississippi River, but this led to continued problems with the Native Americans such as Pontiac's Rebellion.
- The continued fear of Native American rebellions led the British to restrict colonial expansion into the West with the Proclamation Boundary Act of 1763. This was the first of a series of acts by the British government which angered the colonists, who defied the act and continued settling west of the boundary line.
- The French and Indian War had to be paid for and while the colonists were proud of their effort and the new land that has been acquired, most of the colonists felt that the British government should allow for it to be settled.

# The Impact of the French and Indian War



# The Causes of the American Revolution

---

- In order to pay for the French and Indian War, the British Parliament levied taxes on the colonists through the following acts and tightened their once loose control of colonial trade— a policy that had become known as salutary neglect.
- These acts included the Sugar Act (1764), the Stamp Act (1765), the Quartering Act (1765), the Declaratory Act (1766), the Townshend Acts (1767), the Tea Act (1773), the Quebec Act (1774) and the Coercive Acts (1774).
- While not all of the acts were for the purpose of raising tax revenue, each would anger the colonists and their protests against them, which often turned violent were met with stiffer British resistance.
- It was the acts of Parliament— a legislative body in England which the colonists felt did not represent them— that led to the growing divide between the colonists and the British government and ultimately to war.