


# The French and Indian War



1754-1763



# A Global Conflict in the Making

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- By 1750, the English and the French had already fought three major conflicts which had embroiled the colonists— King William's War (1689-1697), Queen Anne's War (1702-1713) and King George's War (1739-1748).
- Though the colonists had fought in these conflicts, very little actually changed. France and its Native American allies on the western frontier still remained an impediment to westward expansion.
- With the colonial populations swelling, the frontier had become a warzone with the French and the Native Americans on one side and the English colonists on the other. But, there was one exception, the powerful Iroquois Confederacy, whose tribes remained loyal to the British.

# The Albany Plan of Union

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- In order to keep the Iroquois Confederacy as allies and to promote a unified colonial front, Benjamin Franklin and the delegates of the peace negotiations in Albany, New York, proposed a plan for colonial home rule that would use colonial unity to provide the common defense of the western frontier against future Native American incursions and French attacks.
- Though the Albany Plan of Union would ultimately fail– as both the respective colonial governments that had sent delegates to it and the British government as well, rejected it– it was one of the first true attempts at colonial unity.
- The coming French and Indian War would have a tremendous impact on the colonists and their relationship with the British Empire. It is safe to say that it was a triggering event which would lead to the American Revolution.

# The Albany Plan of Union, 1754

