Conflicts in the Colonies: 1675-1774

Chapter 5

Vocabulary

- Militia
- Casualties
- Backcountry
- Pioneers
- Boycott
- Repeal
- Writs of Assistance
- Propaganda

Trouble on the Frontier

Section 1

Colonists' Relations with American Indians

- English settlers called Metacomet, King Philip.
  - Metacomet opposed the colonists' efforts to take his people's land.
  - The colonists were afraid that Metacomet wanted to destroy them.
- 1675 – these tensions finally erupted into a conflict called King Philip's War.
  - The colonial militia- civilians serving as soldiers – fought American Indian warriors.
  - Both sides attacked each other's settlements, killing men, women, and children.
  - The fighting ended in 1676 with 600 colonists and 3,000 Indians dead, including Metacomet.
  - Some American Indians allied with the colonists to fight against Metacomet's forces.
    - This alliance was based on trade because Indian leaders wanted tools, weapons, and other goods that Europeans could provide in exchange for furs which were sold for very large profits.
  - French colonists allied with the Algonquian and Huron while the English allied with the Iroquois League.

Conflicts with France

- In the late 1600s, both England and France wanted control over both Europe and North America.
- A series of wars resulted.
  - First, King William's War, lasted from 1689 to 1697 but did not change colonial boundaries in North America.
  - Queen Anne's War began in 1702, with England fight both France and Spain.
    - In the colonies, the English and French had Indian allies that raided towns.
    - English forces captured Canada's Port Royal and later burned the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine in Florida.
    - In 1713, a treaty ended this war with Great Britain gaining the Hudson Bay, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia from France.
  - King George's War, fought against France in the 1740s, had little lasting effect on the colonies.
    - After this war, Great Britain and France were still competing for Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes.

Conflicts with France (cont.)

- To protect their interests in the Ohio Valley area, the French built three forts on land claimed by the colony of Virginia.
  - In 1753, Virginia demanded that France give up its forts, but French officers refused.
- 1754 – seven colonies sent delegates to Albany, New York.
  - Colonial leaders wanted to make a treaty with the powerful Iroquois League.
  - Pennsylvania delegate Benjamin Franklin helped write the Albany Plan of Union, which called for all the colonies except Georgia to unite.
    - This plan was based on the example of unified government that the Iroquois League represented.
    - The colonists and Parliament rejected the plan.

The French and Indian War

- The British began building a fort on the Ohio River, but the French drove them out and built Fort Duquesne (dooh KAYN).
- A young Virginian, George Washington, arrived with more soldiers and built a simple fort named Fort Necessity.
  - The French attacked and caused many casualties – killed, injured, or captured soldiers – forcing Washington to surrender.
  - Washington's defeat in 1754 was the start of the French and Indian War.
    - This was took place between Britain and France.
    - In 1756 fighting also began in Europe and elsewhere.
    - This worldwide conflict was called the Seven Years' War.
- King George II sent General Edward Braddock to command British forces in North America.
  - He knew little about frontier fighting and when he attacked Fort Duquesne in 1755, his forces were attacked in a forest ambush.
  - The British suffered almost 500 casualties including Braddock.
- 1759 – British General James Wolfe captured Quebec (capital of New France).
  - Fighting continued until 1763 and Britain won most of the important battles.

The Treaty of Paris

- 1763 – Great Britain and France signed the Treaty of Paris ending the war.
- The treaty redrew the political map of North America.
  - Canada went to Britain.
  - All French lands east of the Mississippi River except the city of New Orleans went to Britain.
  - In 1762, Spain allied with France, so Britain gained Florida.
- The Treaty of Paris gave Britain a claim to almost all land east of the Mississippi River.
- Spain was the now the only other major European nation with lands in North America.

Consequences of the French and Indian War

Section 2

The Frontier

- Colonists set up homes mainly on coastal areas and new rivers.
  - To the west was a huge frontier where fur traders and a few forts were the only signs of Europeans.
- European settlers slowly moved into the Virginia and Carolina backcountry – a thinly populated frontier area between the coastal settlements and the Appalachian Mountains.
  - These settlers were called pioneers because they risked attacks from American Indians who resisted this settlement on their land.
- Some pioneers crossed the Appalachians farther to the north and moved into the forested lands along the Ohio River Valley.
  - They found that the soil in the Ohio River Valley was good for farming.
  - After the French and Indian War, more colonists came to settle in this area.

Conflict in the Ohio River Valley

- Now that the British had claims to the Ohio River Valley and the Great Lakes, they felt entitled.
  - This area included all of the American Indian lands in the Ohio River Valley and the Great Lakes.
  - Unlike the French, the British wanted to build settlements in the area.
  - This led to problems between the British and American Indian leaders who opposed and increase in British settlements.
- The British signed a treaty with France and not the American Indians.
  - Chippewa leader Minavavana expressed this view by saying "Englishmen, although you have conquered the French, you have not yet conquered us!"
  - The American Indians were not ready to give up their land.
- In the 1760s, American Indian tribes began to join together to resist the British.

Pontiac's Rebellion

- Pontiac's Rebellion began in May 1763 when American Indians attacked British forts on the frontier.
  - Within a month, seven forts had been captured.
- Fort Detroit, Britain's political and trading center in the Great Lakes, was then attacked and the British held out for months.
  - The Indians following Pontiac grew tired and went home.
- Then they attacked Fort Pitt and also failed.
  - Both sides suffered many casualties and more Indians left Pontiac.
- Pontiac surrendered in 1766.

The Proclamation of 1763

- The tensions with American Indians worried officials in the British government.
  - Leaders feared that more fighting would take place on the frontier if colonists kept moving onto American Indian lands.
  - These conflicts would disrupt trade in the region and force Britain to spend more money on defense.
- King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763.
  - This law banned the British from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.
  - A border between colonial and American Indian lands was created.
  - The colonists in the Upper Ohio River Valley were ordered to remove themselves from their settlements.
- Many colonists ignored this proclamation and it was difficult to enforce.
  - Colonists continued settling around and their defiance of the British government showed their increasing unhappiness with British attempts to control them.

Trouble Over Colonists' Rights

Section 3

Raising Taxes

- Even though Great Britain had won the French and Indian War, Parliament still had to pay for it.
- In addition, Britain kept an army in North America to protect the colonists from Indian attacks.
  - To help pay for this, Prime Minister George Grenville asked Parliament to tax the colonists.
- 1764 – Parliament passed the Sugar Act.
  - Duties, or taxes, were set on molasses and sugar imported buy colonies.
  - This was the first act passed specifically to raise money in the colonies, rather than to regulate trade.
- In addition to passing new taxes, the British would not let the colonies print their own money.

Taxation without Representation

- James Otis, a lawyer from Boston, was one of the first colonists to protest taxation by Parliament.
  - He argued that Parliament could not "take from any man any part of his property, without his consent in person or buy representation."
  - No one in Britain had asked the colonists if they wanted to be taxed.
- The colonists had no direct representatives in Parliament.
  - Therefore, Otis said, the tax was unfair and violated colonists' right.
- May 1764 – Samuel Adams agreed with Otis and believed that agreeing to pay taxes would be dangerous.
  - The slogan "No Taxation without Representation" quickly spread throughout the colonies.
- Adams shared the idea that the colonists should boycott certain goods (not purchase certain goods).
  - They hoped that this would hurt the British economy and they would end the taxes.

The Stamp Act

- In March 1765 Parliament passed the Stamp Act.
  - This act required the colonists to pay for an official stamp, or seal, whenever they bought paper items (legal documents, licenses, newspapers, pamphlets, and even playing cards).
  - Grenville thought this tax was fair because people in Britain already paid similar taxes.
- Protests against this tax started almost immediately.
  - In New York and Massachusetts, colonists formed secret societies called the Sons of Liberty which used violence to frighten tax collectors.
    - They told tax collector Andrew Oliver that "his house would be destroyed and his life [would be] in continual danger" unless he quit his job. Oliver quite.
    - Many colonial courts shut down because people refused to buy stamps.
- May 1765 – Patrick Henry presented a series of resolutions to the House of Burgesses in Virginia which led John Robinson, the leader of the house to yell "Treason! Treason!"

Repealing the Stamp Act

- October 1765 – delegates from nine colonies met in New York.
  - They issued the declaration that the Stamp Act violated their rights and liberties.
  - They then asked Parliament to repeal, or end, the act.
  - A group of London merchants claimed that the colonial boycott hurt their business and they wanted the Stamp Act repealed.
  - Benjamin Franklin spoke before Parliament and said that the colonists would buy British goods again if they repealed the Stamp Act.
  - William Pitt (from Parliament) led them in repealing the act in 1766.
- The members of Parliament were upset and they issued the Declaratory Act.
  - This act stated that Parliament had the power to make laws for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever."
  - In other words, Parliament made the rules, not the colonists.

New Taxes and Tension

Section 4

The Townshend Acts

- June 1767 – Parliament passed the Townshend Acts.
  - These acts placed duties on imported glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea.
  - The money from these duties paid for military costs and the salaries of colonial governors.
  - To enforce these acts, Britain used writs of assistance, which were special forms that allowed tax collectors to search for smuggled goods.
  - Colonists felt that their constitutional rights were being violated.
  - Once again, the colonists boycotted British goods.
  - Women, known as the Daughters of Liberty supported the boycott.
- February 1768 – Samuel Adams stated that the acts violated the legal rights of the colonists.
  - The Massachusetts asked other colonies to help and soon others joined the protest against the Townshend Acts.
- Tax collectors seized the ship Liberty on suspicion of smuggling.
  - The ship's owner, John Hancock, was upset and the Sons of Liberty began attacking the houses of customs officials.
  - Governor Bernard broke up the Massachusetts legislature and asked troops to restore order.
  - British soldiers arrived in Boston in October 1768.

The Boston Massacre

- Many Bostonians felt that the British government had sent the soldiers.
  - Fights were common.
- March 5, 1770 – the tension exploded and a lone British soldier standing guard got into a fight with a colonist.
  - Soon a crowd of colonists began throwing snowballs at the soldier and shouted insults.
  - Then a troop of soldiers arrived and the crowd became louder and angrier.
  - Suddenly, the soldiers fired into the crowd killing several colonists.
- Samuel Adams and others used this as propaganda – giving only one side of the story – against the British.
- The colonists called the shootings the Boston Massacre.

A Tax on Tea

- To release tensions, Parliament repealed almost all of the Townshend Acts, but kept the tax on tea.
  - They knew colonial demand for tea was high, despite the boycott.
- Colonists kept on smuggling illegal tea.
  - The British East India Company offered Parliament a solution by selling its tea directly to the colonies and charge low prices. They would still make a profit and cheaper tea might reduce smuggling.
- Parliament passed the Tea Act in 1773.
  - Colonists worried that many colonial merchants would be out of business and the British East India Company would monopolize, or gain complete control, of the tea trade.
- The colonists united against the Tea Act.
  - A ship carrying British tea arrived in Boston Harbor in November 1773 with two other ships joining soon.
  - The Sons of Liberty demanded the ships leave, but Massachusetts Governor did not let the ships leave without paying the tea duty.
- December 16, 1773 – colonists dressed as American Indians snuck onto the ships and dumped 342 tea chests into Boston Harbor.
  - This became known as the Boston Tea Party.

The streets echoed with "Boston Harbor [is] a teapot tonight!"

The Intolerable Acts

- Spring 1774 – Parliament passed the Coercive Acts which colonists called the Intolerable Acts. (Massachusetts punishment)
  - Boston Harbor was closed until Boston paid for the lost tea.
  - The Massachusetts charter was cancelled. The governor decided if and when the legislature could meet.
  - Royal officials accused of crimes were sent to Britain for trial. This let them face a more friendly judge and jury.
  - The Quartering Act forced colonists to quarter, or house and supply, British soldiers.
  - General Thomas Gage became the new governor of Massachusetts.
- These acts made more people angry.
  - Colonists felt these acts went against the traditional rights of British citizens, such as freedom of travel in peacetime and no quartering of troops in private homes.
  - They tried to bring together leaders from each colony to decide the best way to respond to Britain's abuses of colonial right.