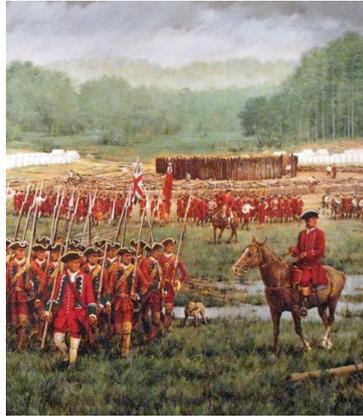


French and Indian War

(1754-63)

Referred to in world history as the **Seven Years War** (fighting in Europe started in 1756)
Ended with Treaty of Paris (1763)

George Washington in command of Virginia state militia in front of Fort Necessity, the scene of a battle in July 1754



British: Wanted to keep French out of Ohio River Valley
Americans: Wanted Indian raids on frontier to stop;
Wanted to engage in more trade with Indians;
Population: 1.1 million (free); 250,000 (slave)
Iroquois: Traditional enemies of the French, but willing to keep peace in exchange for trade concessions in Great Lakes; Wanted to dominate Pennsylvania and Ohio Valley
French: Wanted to control trade with Indians in the northwest region (Ohio River Valley, Great Lakes region); OK with Iroquois expansion as long as they kept the British out; Population (in Canada) of 55,000

Wanting to drive British merchants out of the Ohio River valley, the French built forts there. This alarmed the British, who sent George Washington to tell the French to leave. When the French refused, the British returned with troops and the war was on. Called the first world war by Winston Churchill, this war saw up to 1 million deaths by soldiers (in battle as well as from wounds)

After suffering losses in the initial years of the war, Britain engaged in an aggressive program of recovery. (1) They reversed a decades long decline in their navy (the French had aggressively built up theirs in the years leading up the war), putting more large ships into the water in 1757 & 1758; (2) the British subsequently seized colonies from France and Spain (Spain entered the war on the side of France in 1762) all over the world (India, Caribbean, Canada, and Africa); (3) Britain paid the Prussian (German) King Frederick the Great £700,000 a year to fight against France; (4) Britain paid American Indians for each scalp, and reimbursed the American colonies for some of their expenses in war; (5) with a massive invasion force (42,000 infantry, plus sailors), Britain took Canada from the French.

In the Treaty of Paris (1763), England received Canada and trading posts in Africa and India from France, and Florida from Spain; Britain returned Cuba and the Philippines to Spain, which received the Louisiana Territory from France; Britain returned some of its French Caribbean conquests (the major ones being Guadeloupe and Dominique); and France gave up Prussian territories it had occupied along the Rhine River in Germany.