

Section 2: The Colonial Wars

Introduction

The theme of this section is essentially "England and France compete for control of the fur trade." Although the Colonial Wars were fought for more than just control of the fur trade this will remain our focus.

The Colonial Wars took place in both North America and Europe. The wars in Europe were basically power struggles between princes jockeying for position. These wars were not confined to the European continent. Instead, the conflicts were global in character and battles were fought in Asia, North America, Europe, and on the oceans of the world. You might say these wars (the Seven Years' War, in particular) were the first *world* wars.

One of the main concepts developed in this section is the idea of a "Theatre of Operations." A theatre of operations is a simple concept: a single war can be composed of *many* battles fought in very *different* locations at the *same* time. For example, in World War II the Americans fought the Japanese in the "Pacific Theatre" and the Germans in the "European Theatre." The Colonial Wars took place in both the North American and European theatre. I.e. When there was a war going on in Europe there was a corresponding conflict in North America at the same time.

The main struggle a student might have with this section are all the names, wars, dates, and keeping all the information straight. I've done what I can to provide a very simple picture of what happened. Moreover, I've included a number of study companions, I.e. Downloads, movies, etc. to give you the structure necessary to succeed. Ultimately, though, if you want to experience success in this unit you will have to work.

Story Outline for 2.0: The Colonial Wars

THE STORY	THE DETAILS	TERMS & PEOPLE
<p><i>The Colonial Wars were a series of conflicts fought between France and England (and their respective Indian allies) over a 75 year period.</i></p> <p><i>The Colonial Wars were typically an extension of wars being fought in Europe.</i></p>	<p>2.0). Introduction: Colonial Wars</p> <p>1). There were two causes of the Colonial Wars:</p> <p>a). Both France and Great Britain were expanding into the interior of North America at the same time.</p> <p>B). Secondly, kings in Europe were engaged in dynastic struggles with one another.</p>	<p>Dynastic Struggle: a conflict in which two or more kings fight with one another over control of another kingdom's throne.</p>
<p><i>The treaty demonstrated how pointless the war had been: all the territories captured by either side were restored to their former owners.</i></p>	<p>King William's War (1689-97)</p> <p>1). France and England were fighting one another for control of the fur trade in North America.</p> <p>2). England was trying to check the growth of French power in both North America and Europe.</p> <p>3). New France's Governor Frontenac organized a series of raids into English territory (Thirteen Colonies).</p> <p>4). In retaliation, the English sent an army led by Sir William Phips to strike at Port Royal and Quebec City. The English successfully captured Port Royal; however, winter forced the English to return to America before they could capture Quebec.</p> <p>5). The war was brought to a close with the signing of the Treaty of Ryswick.</p>	<p>Governor Frontenac: governor of New France who used his position in Quebec to personally profit from the fur trade. His aggressive policies towards the English and their allies led to a series of wars.</p> <p>Sir William Phips: an illiterate commander of English forces during King William's War.</p>
<p><i>Although the Treaty of Utrecht officially ended the war, "unofficially" the English and French continued to raid and/or scalp one another for another three decades.</i></p>	<p>Queen Anne's War (1702-13)</p> <p>1). The French launched an attack on Deerfield, Massachusetts with their Huron allies. All the inhabitants were either scalped/killed/kidnapped.</p> <p>2). The English hit Port Royal again and captured it. The English moved towards Quebec but winter pushed them back.</p> <p>3). The English booted the French entirely out of Newfoundland.</p> <p>4). The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht.</p> <p>5). The British keep "Acadia" and rename it "Nova Scotia."</p>	<p>Peace Treaty: a document confirming the end of hostilities between two or more nations.</p>

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	<p>King George’s War (1740-48) 1). The French attack the English settlement of Canso, Nova Scotia. The settlers left before the arrival of the French. The French tried to recapture Port Royal (which had been renamed “Annapolis Royal”). 2). The English counter-attacked sending William Pepperella to capture Fort Louisbourg. The fortress fell after a two month siege. 3). The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. Fort Louisbourg was returned to the French.</p>	<p>Annapolis Royal: after capturing Port Royal during the 2nd Colonial War the English renamed the settlement in honour of their queen, Anne.</p>
<p><i>Both France and the Thirteen Colonies (Virginia in particular) wanted to control the Ohio Valley region.</i></p> <p><i>The Ohio Valley was strategically important because it gave whoever controlled it control over north-south traffic on the local river systems up to the Great Lakes.</i></p> <p><i>The Battle on the Plains of Abraham effectively ended France’s presence in North America.</i></p>	<p>French-Indian War (1754-63) 1). The French constructed a series of forts all along the shared border of New France and the Thirteen Colonies. 2). The English-Americans were upset because the French forts effectively prevented them from expanding westward. 3). An English-American force attacked and captured Fort Louisbourg during a prolonged siege. They moved on to Quebec City. 4). Wolfe and Montcalm fought one another during the Plains of Abraham (1759). The French were defeated and England took possession of New France.</p>	<p>General James Wolfe: fought at the Battle of Fort Louisbourg and led a daring attack against Quebec City in 1759.</p> <p>General Louis Joseph de Montcalm: led a staunch defence of New France. He used delay tactics in an attempt to use winter to push the English out; however, the English forced Montcalm to a decision before winter arrived.</p> <p>Seven Years’ War: another name used in reference to the French-Indian War (1754-63).</p>
<p><i>With the help of two Frenchmen, the English established trading posts on the Hudson and James bays.</i></p> <p><i>These new posts diverted furs north to the Hudson away from the Montreal merchants in the east.</i></p>	<p>2.1). K. William’s War: Canadien Perspective 1). Raddison and Groseilliers approached the French merchants about establishing a series of trading posts in the “north-west.” The merchants of Montreal refused to support the idea fearing it would cut into their profits. 2). The two Frenchmen took their idea to the English who jumped at the chance to stick it to the French. 3). England established several trading posts in the Hudson Bay area (thereby establishing the Hudson’s Bay Company). 4). The French responded by establishing the Compagnie du North (Company of the North) whose purpose it was to destroy the HBC.</p>	<p>Pierre-Espirit Raddison: a French explorer and map maker who worked for the Hudson’s Bay Company.</p> <p>Medard Chourt des Groseilliers: was a coureur des bois who worked with Jesuit missionaries among the Huron. He helped establish the Hudson’s Bay Company.</p>

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	<p>The Cunning de Troyes</p> <p>1). The Company of the North hired de Troyes to lead a military expedition against the HBC forts on James Bay.</p> <p>2). The French expedition caught the English by surprise because it came during winter. The French captured the English forts.</p>	<p>Pierre de Troyes: was a member of the French nobility who felt at home in the wilderness.</p>
<p><i>The Iroquois expanded their territory to include the western shore of Lake Ontario (previously controlled by the Huron).</i></p>	<p>The Return of the Iroquois</p> <p>1). The Iroquois diverted the fur trade south away from Montreal.</p> <p>2). Governor Frontenac responded to the Iroquois threat by launching a series of raids against the Iroquois Confederacy.</p> <p>3). Meanwhile the Iroquois were knocking off the allies of the French one at a time (as the French were incapable of both defending themselves and their allies).</p>	
<p><i>The French came to see the need to either outright destroy the Iroquois or become friends.</i></p>	<p>France's Reputation Takes a Beating</p> <p>1). King Louis XIV replaced Frontenac with a new governor (Brisay). The new governor was instructed to defend the colony and repair the damage done to France's alliances due to Frontenac's neglect.</p> <p>2). Brisay entered into secret peace negotiations with the Iroquois.</p> <p>3). The Huron chief Kondiaronk heard about the attempts at a French-Iroquois peace and felt betrayed. Kondiaronk captured the Iroquois peace delegation killing some of its members and then sending the rest home saying, "The French governor had told him to do it." There was no separate peace signed.</p>	<p>Jacques Rene de Brisay: replaced Frontenac as governor of New France. He was charged with rebuilding France's alliance system and dealing effectively with the Iroquois threat (he did neither).</p> <p>Kondiaronk: a shrewd and strong-minded Huron chief who earned the nickname "Rat" from his French allies because he had a mind of his own.</p>
	<p>Let's Get Ready to Rumble: Phips vs. Frontenac (1690)</p> <p>1). Following the massacre at Lachine the French launched an attack against the English village of Schenectady.</p> <p>2). Phips captured Port Royal and then sailed on to Quebec City. Winter pushed the English-American force out of New France.</p>	
<p><i>Although the French were significantly outnumbered in North America by the English, the French-Indian system of alliances and forts gave Quebec a much needed advantage on the frontier.</i></p>	<p>2.2). Prelude to War</p> <p>1). See <i>Queen Anne's War</i> above.</p>	

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<i>Following de Troye's successful expedition to push the English out of the Hudson and James Bay area, the English returned to establish new trading posts in this region.</i>	<p>Prelude to War, Continued...</p> <p>1). The English refused to give up their trading posts/forts on James Bay. The merchants of Montreal sent Pierre le Moyne d'Iberville to push the English out once and for all.</p>	<p>Pierre le Moyne d'Iberville: was an effective military leader that led French forces to victory over the English repeatedly.</p>
	<p>Pierre le Moyne d'Iberville (1689)</p> <p>1). D'Iberville captured the English trading post/fort called York Factory on James Bay.</p> <p>2). He led a French-Huron massacre of the people living in the American village of Schenectady.</p> <p>3). D'Iberville successfully pushed the English from Newfoundland; however, while he was doing this the English re-established themselves on the Hudson and James Bays.</p>	<p>Schenectady Massacre: a French attack launched against the Thirteen Colonies in revenge for the English-Iroquois massacre of the French village of Lachine.</p>
<i>Because of d'Iberville's efforts the French Empire in North America stretched north from the Hudson Bay all the way south to the Gulf of Mexico.</i>	<p>Battle on the Hudson (1697)</p> <p>1). D'Iberville ship the <i>Pelican</i> defeated three English vessels during a naval action on the Hudson Bay in 1697.</p>	
<i>An outbreak of small-pox among the Five Nations severely weakened them.</i>	<p>Peace at Last with the Iroquois (1701)</p> <p>1). A treaty establishing peace between New France and the Five Nations was formally signed in 1701.</p>	
<i>Shortly after establishing peace with the Five Nations, New France was at war with the Thirteen Colonies again.</i>	<p>Queen Anne's War (1702-13)</p> <p>1). The French launched raids of New England and the English responded by striking at Acadia.</p> <p>2). Colonel Church led the English-American army against Acadia in 1704.</p> <p>3). Acadia was captured and the main settlement's name (Port Royal) was changed to Annapolis Royal in honour of Queen Anne.</p> <p>4). The English in Acadia (renamed Nova Scotia) were attacked by the Micmac.</p>	<p>Benjamin Church: earned the nickname the "Avenging Puritan" because he showed brutality towards the French Catholics.</p> <p>Acadia: this region was renamed to Nova Scotia ("New Scotland") following the English capture.</p> <p>Micmac: native allies of the French in the Acadia area.</p>
<i>The Treaty of Utrecht did not establish peace but provided grounds for a future, greater war between France and Britain.</i>	<p>Treaty of Utrecht (1713)</p> <p>1). The French gave back the Hudson Bay forts to the English.</p> <p>2). France agreed to give up <i>all</i> of Acadia. The French interpreted this provision differently than the English. The English believed <i>all</i> meant ALL of modern-day Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had been given up; whereas the French interpreted ALL to mean only Port Royal.</p>	

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<p><i>The merchants of Boston felt threatened by the construction of Fort Louisbourg, e.g. French pirates would refit/re-supply here on their way to attack English-American ships to the south.</i></p>	<p>Fort Louisbourg Built (1719) 1). The French remained in Nova Scotia by controlling the northern island of <i>Ile Royal</i> (Cape Breton Island). 2). France constructed a huge fortification called Fort Louisbourg to help protect French interests on the St. Lawrence and the cod fisheries at the Grand Banks. 3). Louisbourg was built in order to protect New France (Quebec) from invasion.</p>	<p>Grand Banks: an area located off the south-eastern coast of modern day Newfoundland known for its plentiful supply of cod fish.</p>
<p><i>Although Fort Louisbourg had been captured it was given back to the French. This greatly angered the Thirteen Colonies causing Britain to pay the complete expense of the war to appease the Americans.</i></p>	<p>King George's War (1740-48) 1). The war began in 1740 but the only battle worth recalling was the English-American siege of Fort Louisbourg (1745). 2). A priest known as Father la Loutre encouraged the Micmac to kill the English. 3). The English captured Fort Louisbourg but returned it to the French in 1748.</p>	<p>Father la Loutre: nicknamed the "Moses of the Micmac" he was a militant man who was captured by the English and deported to France where he received a hero's welcome.</p>
<p><i>Before expelling the French Acadians the attempted to get the Acadians to speak an "Oath of Allegiance" to Britain to guarantee their loyalty in event of a war with France.</i></p> <p><i>A total of 12,000 Acadians were forcibly resettled outside of Nova Scotia.</i></p>	<p>2.3) The Great Expulsion 1). In 1713, when the English conquered Acadia they were not in a position to boot the French out. 2). By 1750 it appeared war with France was inevitable. The British wanted to remove the "French threat" from Acadia before attacking Quebec. 3). The Acadians were forcibly removed (deported) in 1755 to France, Britain, Louisiana, French Antilles, and the British Antilles. 4). The deportation process continued for several years.</p>	<p>Oath of Allegiance: an oath or promise spoken by a person to agree to behave in a particular way.</p> <p>John Winslow: British officer given the job of expelling the Acadians in 1755.</p> <p>Robert Monckton: a British officer who oversaw the continued expulsion of the French of Acadia in 1758.</p>
<p><i>The French-Indian Wars were a result of decades of territorial disputes over who should control the Ohio Valley region.</i></p> <p><i>The Ohio was important to the fur trade; moreover, whoever controlled this region controlled access to the remainder of Western North America.</i></p>	<p>The French Indian Wars (1754-63) 1). Washington and an American force ambushed Canadiens in 1753. The French pursued and defeated Washington at Fort Necessity that same year. 2). Braddock led an American expedition against Duquesne in 1754 and was defeated.</p>	<p>George Washington: an American officer from Virginia and future 1st president of the United States.</p> <p>General Braddock: leader of American forces during the second Battle of Fort Duquesne.</p>

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<p><i>The Thirteen Colonies wanted to expand westward but several factors prevented them from effectively doing this.</i></p> <p><i>For the first few years of the French-Indian Wars the French knew nothing but victory.</i></p>	<p>France's Native Alliance System</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). The Thirteen Colonies fought one another over territorial disputes. 2). Americans wanted to settle Indian lands; therefore, native peoples preferred dealing with the French who by and large only wanted to trade. 3). The French-Native fur trade network enabled the French to construct a series of forts in the interior of North America thereby preventing further westward expansion of the Americans. 4). In 1756, Vaudreuil led a strike force against the English at Fort Oswego. 5). In 1757, Montcalm troops and his native allies captured Fort William Henry. 	<p>Rigaud de Vaudreuil de Cavagnal: the last French governor of New France who advocated the type of warfare practiced by native peoples as opposed to conventional European war tactics.</p> <p>General Montcalm: overall commander of French forces defending New France and their system of forts during the French-Indians Wars. He was an officer of the "old school" who disliked the tactics practiced by the Canadiens and their native allies.</p> <p>Fort William Henry: the natives massacred the English who surrendered. The violence only stopped once Montcalm intervened directly.</p>
<p><i>England established a naval blockade of New France. The blockade prevented essential supplies from reaching Montcalm. Montcalm therefore was forced to withdraw to Quebec City because he could not defend the entire North American French Empire.</i></p> <p><i>The French governor of Louisbourg tried to delay the English as long as possible. He knew that if winter came the British would not be able to attempt an attack on New France itself until the following year.</i></p>	<p>Louisbourg Falls (1758)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). A combined English-American force arrived at Fort Louisbourg in June, 1758. 2). Louisbourg (under the leadership of Drucor) held out as long as it could trying to buy time for Quebec City. 3). Louisbourg fell to the General Amherst in 1758 for the final time. The fortress was completely destroyed. 4). General Wolfe played a key role in the capture of Louisbourg. 	<p>Governor Drucor: Louisbourg's governor at the time of the English-American siege.</p> <p>Anglo-American: a compound term which basically means "English-American."</p> <p>General Jeffrey Amherst: commander of Anglo-American forces at Louisbourg.</p> <p>General James Wolfe: British officer who was given command of army during the eventual siege of Quebec City. He led the English to victory over the French at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham (1759).</p>
<p><i>Britain almost bankrupted itself to defeat France in North America.</i></p>	<p>1759: The Battle of Quebec</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Britain's Prime Minister William Pitt focused primarily on the North American Theatre of the Seven Years' War. 2). The British Armada arrived off the coast of Quebec City in 1759. 	<p>William Pitt: influential prime minister at the time of the French-Indian Wars. The city of Pittsburgh was named in honour of him.</p>

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<p><i>The fortress of Quebec City was protected by walls and high cliffs on virtually every side.</i></p> <p><i>Montcalm's plan was to fight a protracted war; that is, avoid fighting the English in any conclusive battle by staying within the protection of the walls of Quebec City.</i></p>	<p>Montcalm's Burning Boats</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Montcalm commanded men to load rafts with gunpowder and explosives. 2). The rafts or "burning boats" were then sent down river towards the British ships anchored in the St. Lawrence. 3). The boats blew up before reaching the British position. 	
<p><i>Wolfe had to capture Quebec City before winter arrived and the St. Lawrence River froze over.</i></p>	<p>Episode V: The British Empire Strikes Back</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Wolfe ordered an assault of the beach at Beauport. The French massacred the English marines. 2). Montcalm refused to come out from the safety of his walls. So Wolfe ordered the destruction of villages and burning of crops all around New France. 	<p>Beauport: an easily defensible beach position below the walls of Quebec City.</p>
<p><i>Wolfe was running out of time. He discovered a little known goat path called the Anse au Foulon during a walk. He used this path to gain access to high ground near Quebec City.</i></p>	<p>The Plains of Abraham (1759)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). The English spent the night marching up a goat path getting access to an abandoned farmer's field. 2). Wolfe formed his army at the bottom of a hill called the Buttes-a-Neveu. 3). Montcalm marched his troops double-time from Beauport to the Plains of Abraham. 4). Montcalm believed if the English successfully encircled Quebec City he would be starved into surrender. 	<p>Anse ou Foulon: the goat path used by Wolfe to gain access to the Plains of Abraham.</p> <p>Buttes-a-Neveu: the hill where the Battle of the Plains of Abraham was fought.</p>
<p><i>With the English victory at the Plains of Abraham New France came under the effective control of Great Britain.</i></p>	<p>Battle on the Plains</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). The French and English armies met at the Plains of Abraham. 2). The French Canadian militia caused problems for Montcalm. Instead of marching in discipline toward the British while firing, the militia would go on their stomach to shoot and reload—this made it impossible for the French army to march together. 3). The English won the battle. Both Montcalm and Wolfe were killed during the conflict. 	
<p><i>The Battle of Saint-Foy was basically a repeat of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham with the roles reversed, e.g. It took place at the identical location.</i></p>	<p>The Battle of Saint-Foy (1760)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). A French army under the command of General de Levis attempted to retake Quebec City. 2). The English commanded by General Murray came out to meet them. 3). The French were victorious but the English successfully retreated into the safety of Quebec City's walls. 4). 	<p>General Francois-Gaston de Levis: commanded an army given the task to retake Quebec City in 1760.</p> <p>General James Murray: first English governor of Quebec.</p>

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<p><i>England retained control over Quebec following the signing of the Treaty of Paris (1763) which ended the Seven Years' War (French-Indian Wars).</i></p>	<p>Conclusion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). France's presence was permanently ended in North America; however, it did retain control of two fishing islands—St. Pierre and Miquelon—off the coast of Newfoundland. 2). King George II now had 65,000 French Catholic subjects. 3). With the French threat gone the Americans became more outspoken in their demands for their being given more decision-making power. 	<p>Beauport: an easily defensible beach position below the walls of Quebec City.</p>
<p><i>Following the conquest of New France in 1759 there were still four more years of war between France and Britain. The British, therefore, created a temporary government for Quebec called a "military government."</i></p>	<p>2.4). Life During the British Occupation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). James Murray became the military governor of New France. 2). With the English victory came the arrival of immigrants from the Thirteen Colonies to Quebec. 3). These new English immigrants wanted all the privileges that go to the victorious. 4). Murray kept the English in-line and preserved rights and freedoms for the French. 	<p>Military Government: a government headed by a military officer instead of a civilian. The people are not consulted in decisions made. Instead, society is run by the "rule by decree."</p> <p>Rule by Decree: to rule by decree means essentially to rule by dictate or basically everyone has to do what they are told or else.</p>
<p><i>Westminster passed the Proclamation to establish a more permanent form of government for Quebec.</i></p>	<p>Royal Proclamation (1763)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). The Proclamation called for the creation of a colonial elected assembly. 2). This document also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -established the boundaries of Quebec and the Thirteen Colonies thereby preventing American expansion westward -protected Indian lands in the Ohio Valley 	<p>Westminster: England's parliament building. The "Westminster System" is the name of England's democratic system of government.</p> <p>Elected Assembly: members are chosen through a democratic process to "represent" people in a decision-making body called an assembly.</p>
<p><i>Murray appreciated the fact that Quebec would remain "French" in character well into the foreseeable future. Therefore, he implemented only those provision of the Proclamation that did not threaten to outright alienate the French.</i></p>	<p>Governor James Murray</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Murray established an appointed council instead of an elected assembly to help run the French colony. 2). Governor Murray took a "conciliatory" attitude towards the French and respected them. 3). Murray, however, was disliked by the English minority and was eventually recalled to Britain and replaced by Guy Carleton. 	<p>Appointed Council: members of this council were rich and influential English and Frenchmen appointed directly by the governor.</p>
<p><i>Carleton was appointed governor of Quebec to put the French in their place; however, he ended up continuing Murray's policies of conciliation and tolerance.</i></p>	<p>A New Governor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Carleton admired the French for their work ethic and simple life style. 2). Carleton refused to implement an elected assembly. He knew it would be dominated by the English minority which would only serve to destabilize Quebec. 	<p>Governor Carleton: Quebec's second English governor. He was governor twice (he also served in this position during the American Revolution Period, 1776-1783).</p>

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<p><i>With the French threat gone the Thirteen Colonies became more vocal in their desire to be either independent of Britain or to have more autonomy (decision-making power).</i></p> <p><i>The Quebec Act was passed by Westminster to ensure that the French would either actively assist Britain in a conflict with America (or at the very least the French would remain neutral).</i></p>	<p>The Quebec Act (1774)</p> <p>1). Britain pursued a policy of gaining the support of French Canada before a war broke out with the Thirteen Colonies.</p> <p>2). Please download, print, and read the handout from the website called "Companion to the English Reaction to the <i>Quebec Act</i>."</p>	<p>Beauport: an easily defensible beach position below the walls of Quebec City.</p>