

Seven Years' War

General comments:

*Causes*

- English and French have claims over the Ohio Valley
- France wants to link its Northern and Southern territories – this would prevent the British from moving further west
- Competition through trade – French were impacted by the British Navigation Acts and laws in terms of imports to Americas
- Alliances with Indian tribes – particularly Half King Tanacharison (c.1700-1754)
- 150 years of French and British conflict

*Consequences and other*

- Two sides: GB, Anglo-American colonists, Iroquois Confederacy (5 nations – Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca) (and allies Prussia and Hanover) **vs** France, French colonists, native allies (and allies Austria, Sweden & Spain)
- War provided GB with enormous territorial gains in North America
- Disputes over subsequent frontier policy and paying the war's expenses led to colonial discontent, and the American Revolution
- 'Global conflict' fought between 1756-1763
- Britain declared war on France
- Ended with the Treaty of Paris 1763 – marked the beginning of British dominance in North America
- Royal Proclamation of 1763 – blocked colonists' westward expansion and reserved western land for American Indian use – not so much about giving land back to Natives but enabling Britain a monopoly on future land purchases from Natives
- Both GB and France suffered financial loss
- Britain imposed taxes on colonies to pay off debt – in the form of acts such as Stamp Act 1765
- France had a territorial and military loss

According to Burbank & Cooper (Empires in World History) – 2010

Priority and focus on social change from an idea of monarchy to the idea of people controlled democracy

*Causes*

- Move from monarchy to democracy
- New ideas differed greatly from traditional ideas of government

- Tension between “monarchical and aristocratic privileges” and “the people’s claim to rights”

*Consequences*

- Britain had to tighten control and extract more resources from its overseas components
- Lead to rising anger and mobilisation among elites in the 13 Colonies of North America
- France lost colonies and gained a lot of debt from the war

According to Benjamin (The Atlantic World) – 2009

Focus on war for land and control – building empires

*Causes*

- Various wars over trade and colonial possessions
- French and English contesting the Ohio Valley
- Overall war for empires and control on land
- Colonies becoming more important

*Consequences*

- “Great Britain was the dominant power in the Atlantic World by the end of the Seven Year’s War”
- “devastated French trade”
- “value of British exports and reexports had risen thirty percent”

Pierre Pouchot in 1781

- Blames the British for their commercial and territorial aggression and French ministers and intellectuals for not realising the value of New France

According to Ferguson (Civilisation) – 2011

Focus on property – how it was divided influenced the government

Limited interpretation of the Seven Years' War

According to John Green (Crash Course) – 2013

Focus on “battle for land”

- Main cause – Ohio Company claiming land

Answering questions (extended):

- What have they said?
- What have they missed?
- Are there any obvious biases?
- Do they agree or disagree with other historians?
  - Why might they agree or disagree?