

# Consequences of the British Conquest of 1760 & the American Revolution

- 🇬🇧 Remember that from the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries the British colonies of the New World had been left to their own devices in terms of government. The British were more focused on European affairs.
- 🇬🇧 After the 1760 Articles of Capitulation are signed in Montreal, New France is placed under military rule with **General Jeffery Amherst as governor (1760-3)**. Amherst believes in the superiority of the British military and does not engage with any Indigenous allies of the French (there was no formal end to hostilities between the British Crown and First Nations allied with New France, or within its sphere of influence).
  - Amherst believed that separate peace did not need to be negotiated with France's Indigenous allies. In fact, he advocated using biological warfare (diseased blankets) as a way to wipe out the Indigenous populations. Amherst's genocidal attitudes toward Indigenous Peoples unleashed violent insurrections (i.e. **Pontiac's Wars**) against the British Crown by First Nations. **Sir William Johnson**, an Irish superintendent of Indian Affairs, advised Amherst to negotiate with Indigenous leaders. Ultimately, Johnson won out and Amherst was recalled to London.
- 🇬🇧 The Seven Years War was concluded with the Treaty of Paris (1763) by European powers – no Indigenous representatives were present.
  - This creates a problem in North America – what was it?
- 🇬🇧 British King George III issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763. This proclamation set the boundaries (blocking further expansion of the 13 colonies) and governmental policies of the province of Quebec. The ultimate authority of the province was vested in the governors who represented the Crown. Conquered land became “Crown Land” – owned by the monarch.
  - What is the nature of a “proclamation”?



Huzzah! I am King George III. The Royal Proclamation was made in my name.

🇬🇧 The defeat of the French was a blow to the Indigenous Nations. First Nations lost their bargaining position between the French and English. They could no longer play one colonial power against the other – the British were the major European player on the continent (for now).

🇬🇧 Various territories in Europe shifted from control of one country to another. In Canada, the French king renounced “all pretensions which he had [formed] to Nova Scotia or Acadia in all its parts.” As well, the French king ceded to the English Crown “. . . in full right, Canada, with all its dependencies, as well as the island of Cape Breton, and all the other islands and coasts in the gulph and river of St. Lawrence.”

- Only a small piece of New France remains in North America: Saint Pierre and Miquelon.



🇬🇧 New France became the British colony of Quebec. Military rule ended in 1764, and James Murray became governor of the colony (we will find out what happened to Amherst later).



🇬🇧 The transition from the French Crown to the British Crown was largely seamless for the settlers. (*The Wendy's Conquest of 1992-1995*)

🇬🇧 Quebec was to be ruled as a British Crown Colony (directly by the British Crown) unlike the Thirteen Colonies to the south who had, in absence of any direction from Britain, developed their own quasi-elected assemblies.

- Why was Quebec's direct Crown rule a threat to the Thirteen Colonies?

🇬🇧 Quebec's Governor James Murray recognized that the relatively small British army was surrounded by 70,000 French-speaking, Roman Catholic *Canadiens* who had a strong culture and identity. The French outnumbered the British 25:1 in the new colony. Sympathetic to the French, as well as aware of the precariousness of British rule in the region, Murray upset the local English population and was recalled to England in 1766.

🇬🇧 Most of the Catholic clergy preached submission to British rule – knowing full well that they could be removed from their posts if the British wanted.

🇬🇧 Land speculators west of the thirteen colonies (including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin) pushed further and further into Native lands. European populations continued to swell.

 The events happening in Quebec worried the Thirteen Colonies. By passing legislation such as the *Quebec Act*, Britain reminded people in the older, established North American colonies that their elected assemblies were a privilege, not a right. Britain's attention was returning turning to North America – they were ready to take control of the area.

## **The Quebec Act of 1774:**

Why?

What did it do?

The province's territory was expanded to take over part of the Indian Reserve, including much of what is now southern Ontario, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota.

Reference to the Protestant faith was removed from the oath of allegiance.

It guaranteed free practice of the Catholic faith.

It restored the use of the French civil law for matters of private law, except that in accordance with the English common law, it granted unlimited freedom of testation. It maintained English common law for matters of public law, including administrative appeals, court procedure, and criminal prosecution.

It restored the Catholic Church's right to impose tithes.

 Anger arose out of a series of taxes that the British imposed on the Thirteen Colonies to try and help pay for the Seven Years' War.

 In 1775 the newly formed American Continental Congress declared that the Quebec Act demonstrated “ . . . a despotism dangerous to our very existence.”

 The Thirteen Colonies of America declared themselves independent from the British Crown July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. This began the American Revolution (1776-1783).