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French Indian War

The French and Indian War (1754-63) was fought across North America however, most of the battles occurred in New York, with Albany being the control center for the British troops. It was a war between the British settlers, the French settlers, and the Indians that decided the political fate of the North American colonial experience.¹

The war began with a series of French victories. Fort Henry, for example, was an especially brutal victory which led to the killing of 200 enemy's soldiers. Yet despite early success the tide of the war switched in favor to the British. From 1758 through the end of the war, the British claimed victory in battles over the Great Lakes region, and then Quebec and eventually in Montreal.²

The victory of not only the aforementioned battles, but also the war proved beneficial for the British. It gave the British colonies unlimited land to settle to their north. Also, they received a fiscal benefit due to war time demands. Historian Rickie Lazzerini views the end of the French and Indian War as a "turning point in colonial history because it allowed New York and the other colonies to focus on internal matters."³

The French and Indian war had a great impact of the British settlers in the North American colonies. For now these people came together and began to recognize a

¹ Rickie Lazzerini "History of New York" Accessed April 27, 2010 http://www.kindredtrails.com/New_York_History-1.html

² Ibid; Age Mooy "From Revolution to Reconstruction" accessed April 27, 2010 <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/E/7yearswar/fiw03.htm>

³ Ibid.

common experience, and a common foe. Before the French and Indian War, the thirteen colonies treated each other as different entities. However now they united as one common state and they began to realize that they had a common culture different from that of the British homeland, rather an American Culture, thus beginning the road to independence.⁴

The French and Indian War was vital for the colonies to realize that they wanted and needed independence from Britain. The key issue resulting for the war was the issue of tax. Due to the debts incurred by the war, the British began to tax the colonies.⁵ These taxes were widely unpopular in the colony and again brought the colonists together to fight against a common problem.⁶

The various British taxes encompassed many areas of colonial life. For example, the Navigation Acts was a heavy duty on trade between the American colonies and Britain. The Stamp Act necessitated that every piece of paper of legal use including everything from diplomas to playing cards, be stamped to assure that taxes were paid on that paper. Effecting the Southern U.S. Colonies was the Sugar Act.⁷ This was passed in 1765 during a period of economic depressing. All together the colonies grew more dissatisfied with British rule.

The proceeds of the Stamp Act went directly to pay the salaries of the British Soldiers in British, North American colonies. The part of the act that was most critiqued was objectors to the act, more specifically those who refused to pay it, would be tried in a vice admiralty court. Trials in admiralty courts were presided over by Royal Judges,

⁴ Lazzarini; Mooy.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Lazzarini.

⁷ "Stamp Act" Online Highways LLC. Accessed April 27, 2010. <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h642.html>

and not one's peer or even another colonist.⁸ The colonists were outraged that they were unfairly taxed and then unfairly judged with no representation in Parliament. Out of the Stamp Act the famous quote "No taxation without representation" occur.⁹

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Lazzarini; Online highways.