

# TREATY OF PARIS, 1763

The year is 1763 and you are King George III of England. The Seven Years' War, known in America as the French and Indian War, ended earlier this year with the Treaty of Paris.

In the treaty, England took over all the French territory in Canada, including the Ohio Valley and the territory in the west to the Mississippi River. The celebration of victory was cut short soon after the war ended, however.

In May, Ottawa Native Americans, along with a group of other tribes, began attacking settlements all over the Ohio Valley and around the Great Lakes. They have been unified under Pontiac, the Ottawa chief. Over a six-month period, Native Americans have captured eight forts along the frontier and are attacking two other forts at Detroit and Niagara. About 2,000 settlers have been killed or captured in the most well-coordinated military attacks yet by Native Americans on British colonists and soldiers. (The conflict has been called Pontiac's Rebellion, or Uprising, or War.) Thousands of other settlers have abandoned their homes on the frontier for more settled areas. The population of settlers along the frontier has been reduced by one-third to one-half.

British leaders in London fear that the Native Americans will make secret agreements with the French colonists remaining in the area (whom the Native Americans prefer to the more numerous British settlers) for weapons to resist the British settlers. Such an alliance of French colonists and Native Americans could make it very difficult for Britain to take control of all this new territory in the Ohio River Valley. The English will wonder why they even fought the war if the government was simply going to give control of the captured territory back to the enemy.

British leaders on the Board of Trade believe the source of the Native American trouble is unfair trading practices by white traders and the seizure of Native American land by White speculators and settlers.

Native Americans have complained repeatedly that they are being mistreated by White settlers. These unfair trading and land practices must be stopped in order to bring about peace. British leaders promised in 1758 to protect Native American lands. Now is the right time to carry out the promise.

Pontiac's Rebellion is a crisis that needs to be resolved. More importantly, however, the larger issue of what to do about the Native Americans and the new territory needs to be decided.

**What will British policy be toward the Native Americans and the new territories in America gained from the French in the Treaty of Paris? Explain. You can choose as many options as you'd like:**

1. Keep a large number of British soldiers in America to guard the new territories taken from the French. There are 8000 British soldiers in America now. A suggestion by one adviser is to keep them there and send over another 2000.
2. Ask the colonies to raise militias to guard the new territories. Colonial fighters would cost about the same as British soldiers, but the colonies and the British government would be sharing the cost of the colonial militias.
3. Draw a line between the British colonies and the new territories gained from the French, making it illegal for British colonists to settle to the west of the line in the new territories. The west would become a large Native American territory, reserved just for them.
4. Negotiate a settlement with the leaders of Pontiac's Rebellion. Compromise on some of the Native American grievances and assure the Native Americans that the British will deal fairly with them. The negotiations would involve giving gifts to the Native Americans, a sign of respect. Negotiations would also involve a British promise to oversee trading and land sales to ensure that Native Americans are treated fairly.
5. Use British soldiers in America to crush Pontiac's Rebellion militarily and recapture all the forts. The Native Americans have to realize that the British are in control of the Whole territory up to the Mississippi River.

**You may ask any two of the following questions:**

How strong are the British soldiers? Can they defeat the Native Americans?

How strong are colonial fighters? Can they defeat the Native Americans?

Can the colonists raise enough fighters to guard the frontier?

Why are the Native Americans rebelling?

Will the colonists actually be willing to pay for soldiers? Have they been cooperative in helping the British Empire in the past?

How many settlers already live in the West, beyond the proposed line?