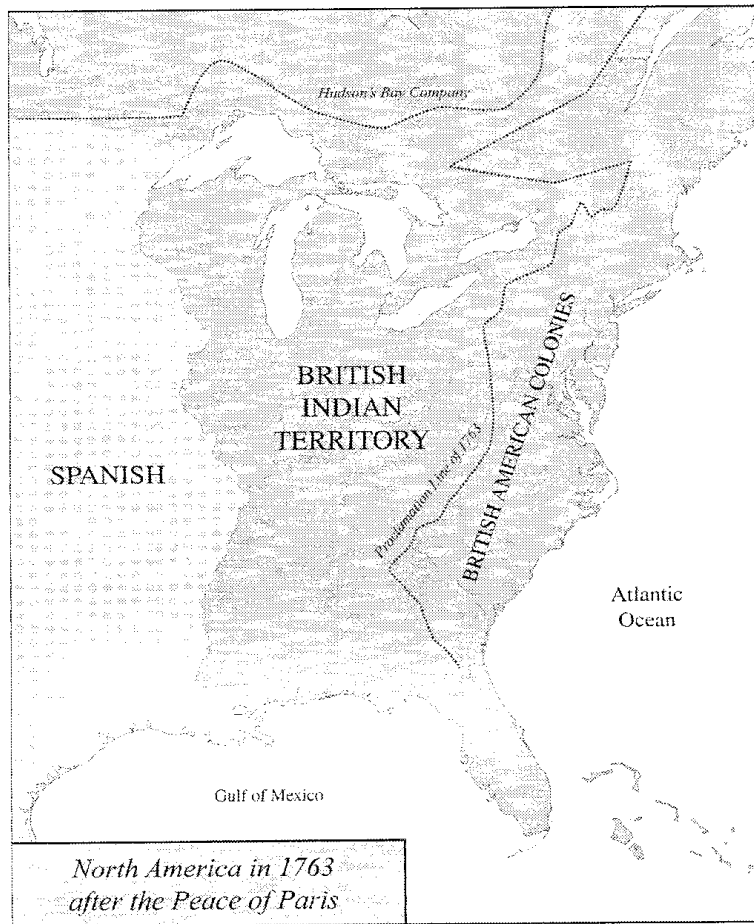


LESSON 1: TREATY OF PARIS, 1763

Student Handout 5: Outcomes



The British decided to prevent the colonists from expanding beyond the ridge of the Appalachian Mountains in the Proclamation of 1763 (option 3). British leaders felt they needed to reduce conflicts between colonists and Native Americans; one way to do that was to separate the two groups. No one could buy land from Native Americans without the approval of a Native American council as well as a British official. The proclamation was intended to protect the Native Americans from the colonists.

There was a big problem with the Proclamation, however—enforcement. Colonists poured over the Appalachians like water, and there was no way to stop them

without sending a huge army, many more than 10,000 men. Moreover, there was no way to force existing settlers out of the territory. For example, the proclamation said that trade was still open in the territory. If a settler in the Ohio Valley was farming but also trading with Native Americans, should he and his family be forced out of the territory? Whole towns of settlers lived in the Ohio Valley legally. Were they now to be expelled? How was the army supposed to deal with settlers who refused to leave? Some colonies, such as Virginia, had grants of land extending into the Ohio Valley. Were these now illegal and invalid?

Many colonists were enraged by the proclamation. They felt they had just helped the British defeat the French in war, and now they couldn't even expand into the new territory gained from the French. The colonists saw the proclamation as unfair. Many colonial tobacco farmers, merchants, and other businessmen were also in debt. They had hoped to make money to pay back their debts by speculating (buying and selling) in land in the new territory, but the proclamation only made their financial situation worse. Moreover, the British government granted land to British soldiers in the Ohio Valley. The colonists thought it outrageous that they were prevented from living in the new territory while British soldiers were given land in the very same territory. Even fur traders didn't like the proclamation because it restricted the fur trade to a few forts, reducing overall trade.

The Proclamation of 1763 slowed the settlement of the West, but did not prevent it. Colonists continued to move across the Appalachians, and conflicts with Native Americans continued. In 1772, the British government withdrew the soldiers from the frontier to the cities in rebellion. Western settlement increased further, and there were more conflicts with Native Americans.

The colonists also saw the proclamation, by keeping them near the coast, as a method of controlling them; that indeed was one of the motivations of some British leaders. The British Board of Trade said that the colonists should be confined “to such a distance from the seacoast, as that those settlements should lie within the reach of the trade and commerce of this kingdom...and also of the exercise of that authority and jurisdiction, which was conceived to be so necessary for the preservation of the colonies in due subordination to, and dependence upon, the mother country.” British General Thomas Gage agreed that if the colonists moved west in large numbers they would begin manufacturing for themselves and become independent.

The British decided to crush Pontiac’s Rebellion through military force (option 5). British soldiers recaptured the eight forts and broke the siege of the other two. The British commander in America, Lord Jeffrey Amherst (for whom Amherst College is named), approved the use of biological weapons against the Native Americans. Blankets infected with smallpox were given as gifts to the Native Americans. The Native Americans were weakened significantly as the smallpox spread through their tribes. On the other hand, British leaders also tried to negotiate (option 4). They removed General Amherst and replaced him with a commander who would give (non-lethal) gifts to and negotiate with the Native Americans. These negotiations, combined with military victories, brought Pontiac’s Rebellion to an end.

British leaders decided to keep a large British force of soldiers in the colonies, rather than ask the colonies to raise soldiers to help guard the new territories. There were two reasons for maintaining a larger British force. First, British leaders did not want to force a large number of officers out of the army after they had just served their country in the war against the French. Officers forced to retire would be upset, and many had political connections to members of Parliament. Second, British leaders did not trust the colonists to raise soldiers and actually pay for them (option 2). British leaders remembered the start of the French and Indian War, when the colonists were uncooperative. They should have also remembered, however, that in the last two years of the war, the colonists were very cooperative in raising soldiers and helping to defeat the French. The British may have missed a chance to get colonial help.