

January 25, 2016

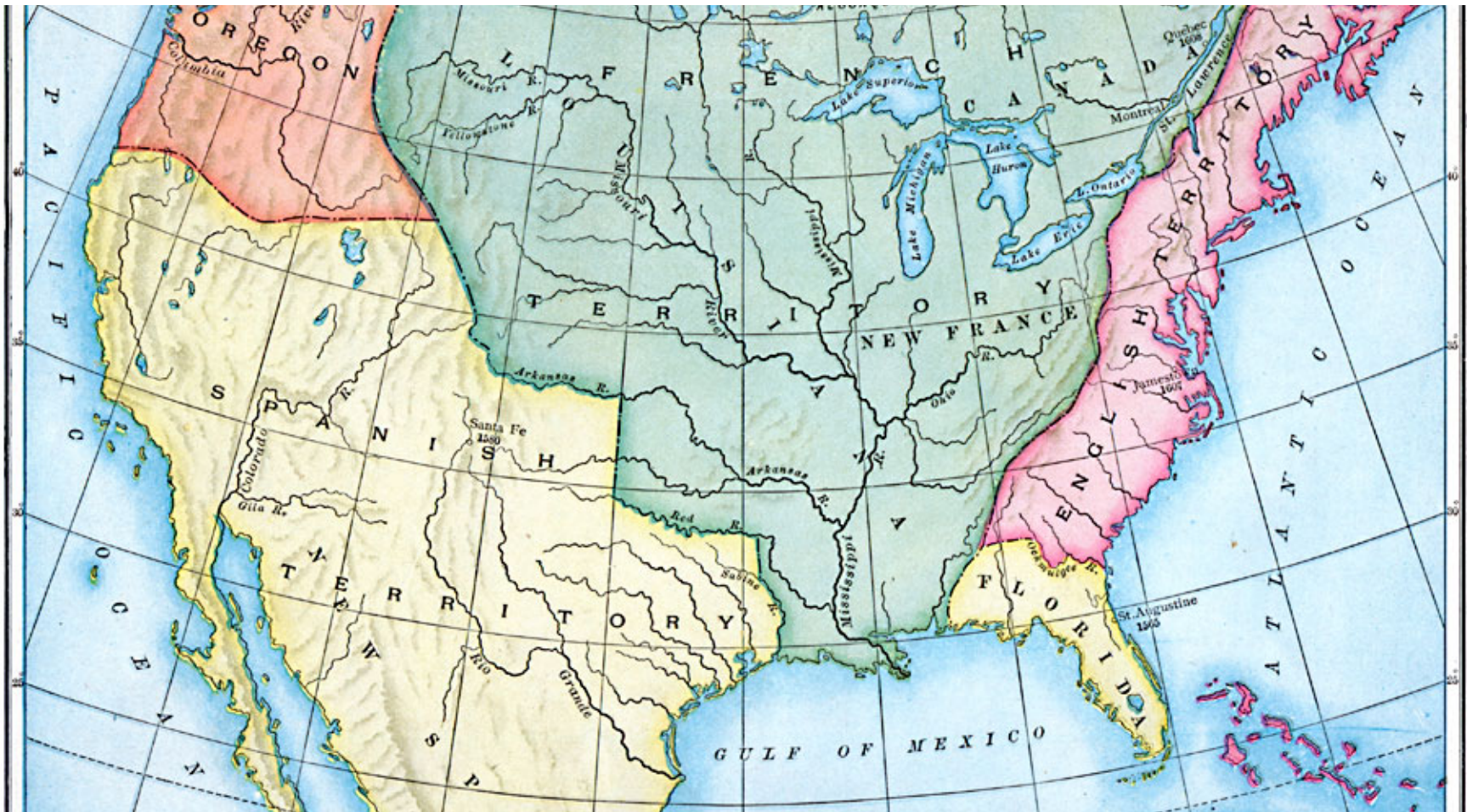
**The Road to Independence
(1753–1783)**

**What led to the movement
towards Independence**

North American Colonies

- European colonization dominated the continent.
- Colonized to spread empire and make money.
- British – mid-continent along east coast
- French – northern and central part of continent
- Spanish – southern and western part of continent

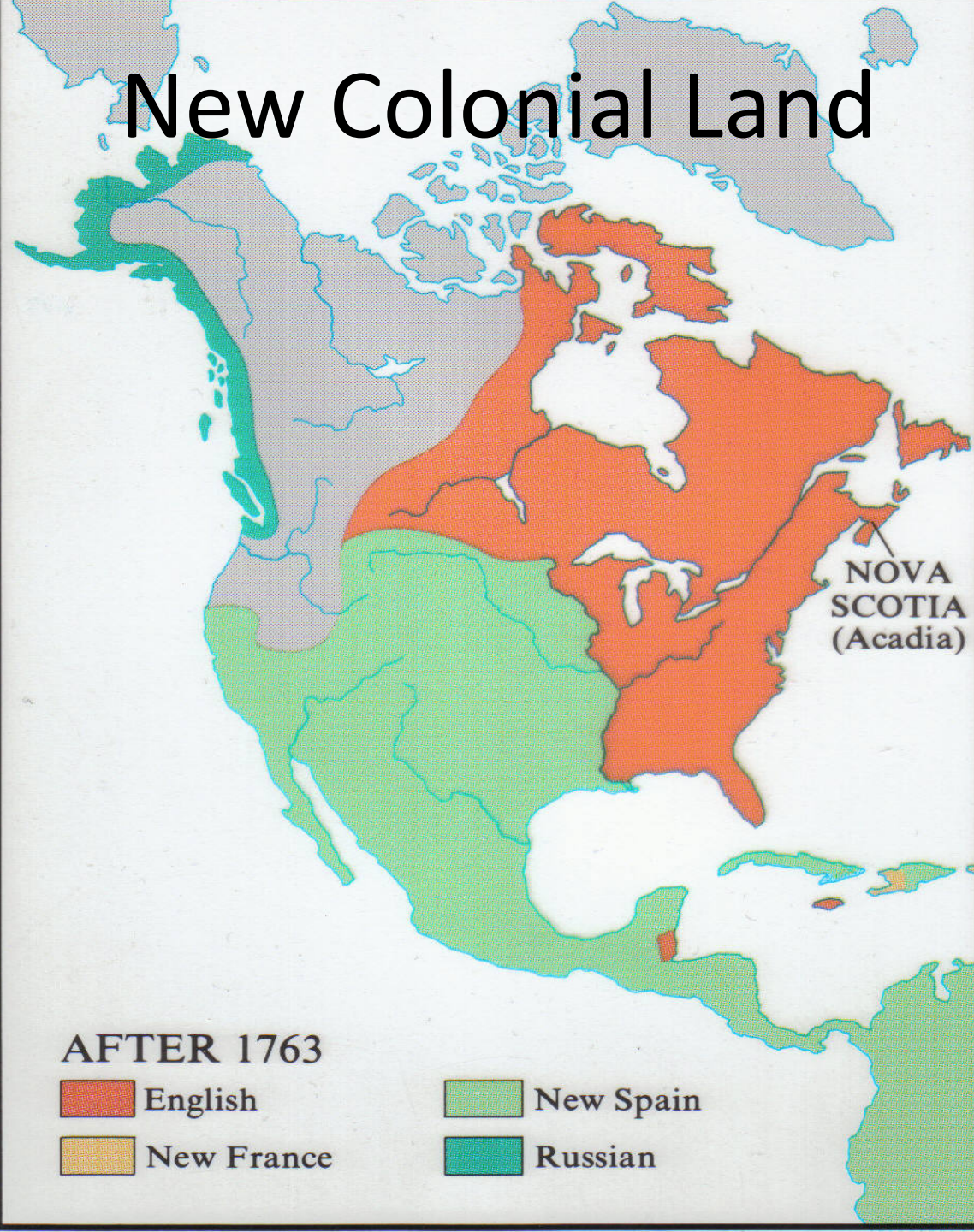
European Colonization



Causes of War

- June 1754, Benjamin Franklin proposed the Albany Plan of Union.
 - Franklin thought that the colonies would benefit from greater unity, following the examples of Iroquois unity.
 - The colonists rejected Franklin's plan, but it later provided a model for the United States government.
- The French and Indian War ended a struggle between the British, the French and Native Americans over land in eastern North America. Name due to British vs. French/Native American

New Colonial Land



Britain's Financial Problems

- The costs of governing and defending Britain's empire made the British people the most heavily taxed people in the world.
- Britain struggled with debts and taxes, the colonies in America were prospering.
- Decided colonies should help pay off debt
 - Sugar Act in 1764 marked the start of a new British policy designed to raise more income from the colonies.
 - The Quartering Act of 1765 required colonists to provide housing and supplies for British troops in America.
 - Colonists complained that the changes violated their rights as British subjects, but mostly they went along with them.

The Stamp Act Crisis

- In March 1765 -Stamp Act. - Tax on newspapers, pamphlets, legal documents, and most other printed materials.
- In October 1765, Stamp Act Congress.
 - “no taxation without representation.”
 - Britain had no right to force laws on the colonies because the colonists had no representatives in the British Parliament.
- American merchants organized a boycott of British goods. refusal to buy certain products or use certain services as an act of protest.
 - Groups, known as the Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty, sprang up to enforce the boycott and organize other ways of resisting British policies.
 - By November 1765, when the Stamp Act was to take effect, most stamp distributors had resigned or fled, leaving no one to sell the stamps. In 1766, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.

Rising Tensions in the Colonies

- In 1767, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts.
- The colonists protested these acts, which put taxes on certain goods, such as glass and tea.
- British troops were sent to Boston, Massachusetts, to put down violent resistance to the Townshend Acts.



The Real Boston Massacre

- In March 1770, a small crowd threatened the British soldiers. In what became known as the Boston Massacre
- Colonists protested the presence of the soldiers and threw rocks, snowballs and ice at the troops. Someone yelled out “FIRE”
- Soldiers killed five colonists
- Soldiers were tried and found guilty of manslaughter.
- Punishment – thumb branding
- Soon after the Boston Massacre, Parliament canceled all the Townshend taxes, except for the tax on tea.

The Boston Tea Party

- In May 1773, the Parliament passed the **Tea Act**, an act that gave a British company special tax exemption in the colonies. The American colonists protested.
- Sons of Liberty planned a protest.
- On December 16, 1773, colonists, dressed as Native Americans boarded three tea ships in Boston and dumped all of the tea into the harbor. This incident became known as the Boston Tea Party.
- **The Intolerable Acts** were the American Patriots' term for a series of punitive laws passed by the British Parliament in 1774 after the Boston Tea party. They were meant to punish the Massachusetts colonists for their defiance in throwing a large tea shipment into Boston harbor. In Great Britain, these laws were referred to as the **Coercive Acts**.

Rising Tensions in the Colonies

- On September 5, 1774, a gathering of 56 delegates met in Philadelphia in what became known as the First Continental Congress.
- The delegates decided to renew a boycott of British goods and organize armed militias. They also made a direct appeal to the king, drafting the Declaration of Rights and Grievances.
- King George repealed some taxes but imposed new ones.

Fighting at Lexington and Concord

- The Americans whom King George had labeled “rebels” called themselves *Patriots* formed armed militias.
- Massachusetts Patriots gathered guns and ammunition and stored a major stockpile in Concord, a town about 20 miles from Boston.
- On April 18, 1775, about 800 British troops moved out of Boston to seize the weapons.
- Boston Patriots learned about the British soldiers’ plan. When the main British force arrived at Lexington, about five miles from Concord, they encountered an armed militia, warned by Paul Revere. The battles that ensued became known as the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- The Battles of Lexington and Concord sparked the Revolutionary War, which became a war for American independence from Britain.

Issues Behind the Revolution- Assessment

What was the first tax the British imposed over the colonies?

- (A) The Tea Act
- (B) The Stamp Act
- (C) The Townshend Acts
- (D) The Sugar Act

Which battles sparked the Revolutionary War?

- (A) The battles against the Intolerable and Tea Acts
- (B) The Battles of Lexington and Concord
- (C) The Boston Massacres
- (D) The Battles of Lexington and Townshend

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Common Sense

- *Common Sense*, a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine, was an important document during the Revolution. Paine wrote about the importance of armed struggle against the British Empire and about the ideological importance of American independence.
- The pamphlet, written in a simple, direct style, appealed to the American people. *Common Sense* convinced many readers, including many who had favored a peaceful settlement with the British government, to support a complete—and likely violent—break with Britain.

The Declaration of Independence

- *Common Sense* appeared at the same time as the meeting of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. This Congress met less than a month after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and it continued to meet throughout the Revolution.
- The Congress sent an Olive Branch Petition to King George III of England. This petition expressed the colonists' loyalty to the king and requested a halt in fighting until a solution could be found. The king refused the petition.
- In June 1776, after more than a year of war, the Congress decided it was time for the colonies to cut ties with Britain. They prepared a statement of the reasons for separation—a Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson drafted the document.

Drafting a Declaration

- Thomas Jefferson divided the Declaration into three sections:
 - The preamble, or introduction, explained the Declaration's purpose, in the declaration of rights, Jefferson drew heavily on the writings of John Locke. Locke believed that people have natural rights—rights that belong to them simply because they are human. Jefferson called these *unalienable rights*, meaning rights that could not be taken away.
 - In the complaints against the king, Jefferson wrote that public officials must make decisions based on the law, not on their own personal wishes. He called this a rule of law.
 - The resolution, in declaring the colonies free and independent states, concluded the Declaration.
- Jefferson's document not only declared the nation's independence, it also defined the basic principles on which American government and society would rest.
- Congressional delegates voted to approve the Declaration on July 4, 1776.

Ideas Behind the Revolution-

Assessment

What was the impact of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*?

- (A) *Common Sense* explained "no taxation without representation" to the British Parliament.
- (B) *Common Sense* helped the colonists understand the ancient Greek system of democracy.
- (C) *Common Sense* provided the inspiration for the Olive Branch Petition.
- (D) *Common Sense* convinced many readers to support a break with Britain.

Which of the following writers influenced the Declaration of Independence?

- (A) Oliver Cromwell
- (B) Nicolo Machiavelli
- (C) John Locke
- (D) Ernest Hemingway

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Write your own Declaration of Independence

- Part one what freedoms do you have/want, make an argument for your freedoms, rights whatever you think you should have.
- Part two List where your freedoms, rights etc. have been abused or denied
- Part three tell me how you are declaring your independence and how you will be living with your new independence.
- Part four make it big and bold and legible, so the whole world can see what you have accomplished!