

Sample Responses

AP US History 2004 DBQ (Revised)



The sample responses are presented in this file without any commentary so that students can read and score them.

1. Analyze the ways in which the French and Indian War (1754-1763) altered the relationship between Britain and its American colonies in the period between 1740-1766.

SAMPLE RESPONSE A

Prior to the French and Indian War, the Thirteen Colonies enjoyed a great deal of independence from the mother country. Although Parliament passed the Navigation Acts to implement mercantilism and restrict trade, they were rarely enforced and the colonies were able to trade freely for the most part. This policy of salutary neglect came to an end with the French and Indian War, which created tensions between the British government and its North American colonies. The French and Indian War strained the relationship between Britain and the American colonies because of the colonists' desire to move west, the inferior treatment they received during the war by the British, and economic restrictions enacted by Parliament after the war.

One of the causes of the French and Indian War was the British colonists' desire to move west. Many colonists crossed the Appalachian Mountains to settle in the Ohio River Valley, which was claimed by the French. In addition to the French claims, Western Indians who lived in the area felt threatened by the British colonial expansion. Canassatego, a leader of the Iroquois Confederacy, complained in 1742 about British colonists settling on lands that the tribes had not sold, making it difficult for the Iroquois to carry on their way of life (Doc 2). The Iroquois and other tribes sought to check British expansion before it became a greater problem. Their attempts fell on deaf ears, resulting in most Indian tribes siding with the French during the French and Indian War. The British victory resulted in the French abandoning all of their North American land claims, giving the British control of the Ohio River Valley and other lands to the west of the

Appalachian Mountains (Doc 1). Although the British won the war, the colonists were disappointed by the Proclamation Line of 1763, which forbade colonists from settling west of the Appalachian mountains, reserving those lands for the Indians. The Proclamation Line created the first tensions between the colonists and the British government after the French and Indian War.

During the war, the colonists were often treated as second class citizens of the British Empire. A Massachusetts soldier wrote in his diary about the unfair treatment he was receiving, claiming that the British Army was depriving the colonial soldiers of liquor and clothes while forcing them to remain in the fort beyond their enlistments (Doc 4). While it is possible that the British were treating colonial soldiers poorly, war can often be difficult and soldiers have to go through hardships. Keeping a diary is a good way for a soldier to vent to himself - especially when bored sitting in a cold fort all day! George Washington, although he was an upstanding and wealthy citizen of Virginia, had to practically beg and flatter General Braddock and his aide for a position to serve as a volunteer in the war (Doc 3). As a colonist, Washington wasn't given a commission in the British Army but only as a militia officer. He wasn't taken seriously and had to serve under General Braddock, who ended up being an idiot who got himself and his men killed in spite of Washington's flattery.

By far, the biggest factor that caused tension between the British government and the American colonies was the change in British policies about taxation and trade. After the war, many colonists were excited about the future and quick to claim credit, as is evidenced by Rev. Thomas Barnard's sermon where he claimed that New England's children had "zealously" pitched in to help with the war effort (Doc 5). This, of course, contradicts the Massachusetts soldier's diary entry written during the war since he was anything but zealous (Doc 2), but since Barnard is speaking after the war ended, it's typical for people to romanticize a war and their contributions to it after the fact. British officials were not nearly as impressed with the colonists' contributions to the war, instead noting that the colonies were costing money and the taxes being collected from colonial trade were not sufficient to even pay the costs of maintaining them (Doc 6). The purpose of the Order in Council was to persuade the king to increase the enforcement of the

Navigation Acts and to collect taxes from colonial shippers who had not been paying them. The result of this effort was the Sugar Act, passed by Parliament after the French and Indian War to increase tax revenue. Although the Sugar Act technically lowered the tax on imported sugar, it increased enforcement and ended the policy of salutary neglect. Although the Sugar Act upset colonists, their reaction to the Sugar Act was not nearly as intense as their reaction to the Stamp Act, which sought to raise revenue in the colonies through a direct tax on legal transactions. In protest, colonists boycotted British goods and harassed British officials. One newspaper mocked the stamp, portraying it as a skull and crossbones in order to protest the Stamp Act as a violation of colonial rights (Doc 7). The Stamp Act was repealed as a result of colonial protests and boycotts, but Parliament struck back later with the Townshend Acts, which taxed paper, paint, tea, and other products.

By frustrating colonists who wanted to move West, putting them in situations where they were treated like second-class citizens, and by passing more stringent tax policies, the British government alienated colonists after the French and Indian War, sowing the seeds for the American Revolution.

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SAMPLE RESPONSE B

Before the French and Indian War, Parliament pretty much left the colonies alone. This policy was called salutary neglect. Even though Parliament passed laws about trade and mercantilism, they didn't enforce them. The colonies got to trade with whoever they wanted. This changed after the French and Indian War when Parliament passed new restrictions and taxes. The French and Indian War hurt the relationship between Britain and the American colonies because the colonists wanted to move west and were upset about Parliament taxing them.

The Indians didn't like it when colonists moved west onto their lands. One Iroquois chief complained about the British colonists settling on lands that the Indians had not sold (Doc 2). When the British beat the French in the French and Indian War, the French lost their colonies in North America and the British took control of them (Doc 1). Colonists like Thomas Barnard thought they would enjoy more freedom and peace after they won the war, but those colonists were wrong (Doc 5). Since Barnard was a preacher, he might have been pressured to say these things because a lot of churches were controlled by the state at that time. After the war, the British government passed the Proclamation of 1763, which banned colonists from moving west of the Appalachian Mountains. This upset colonists who felt entitled to settle on those lands after they beat the French in the war.

During the war, George Washington was really excited about fighting for the British (Doc 3), but the colonists weren't excited anymore when the British started taxing

them after the war. British officials in an Order in Council urged the king to raise taxes on the colonies because they were costing too much money (Doc 6). As British officials, their job was to make sure that the colonies were profitable and they were only concerned about money and not how happy the colonists were. When Parliament passed the Stamp Act to raise money, the colonists were very upset. Newspapers like the Pennsylvania Journal protested the Stamp Act by portraying the stamp as a skull and crossbones (Doc 7). Colonists also boycotted British goods because of the Stamp Act and Parliament repealed the Stamp Act a year later.

The French and Indian War hurt the relationship between Britain and its colonies because the colonists were upset about not being able to move west and having to pay more taxes.

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SAMPLE RESPONSE C

The French and Indian War hurt the relationship between Britain and the American colonies because the colonists wanted to move west and were upset about paying taxes after the war.

When the colonists moved West, they upset the Native Americans who lived there. Before the war, an Iroquois chief complained about settlers moving west and said he knew the value of the land and the British should stop colonists from moving west (Doc 2). After the French and Indian War, the Proclamation of 1763 banned colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains. This upset colonists and hurt the relationship between Britain and the colonies. During the French and Indian War, George Washington volunteered to help the British as a military officer and seemed really excited about it (Doc 3). He must not have been very happy afterwards because later he commanded the American army against the British in the American Revolution. After the war was over, the British government complained that the colonies were too expensive and should be taxed more (Doc 6). Parliament passed taxes like the Stamp Act to raise money. Colonists weren't happy with the Stamp Act and protested about it with a skull and crossbones cartoon in a Pennsylvania newspaper (Doc 7).