



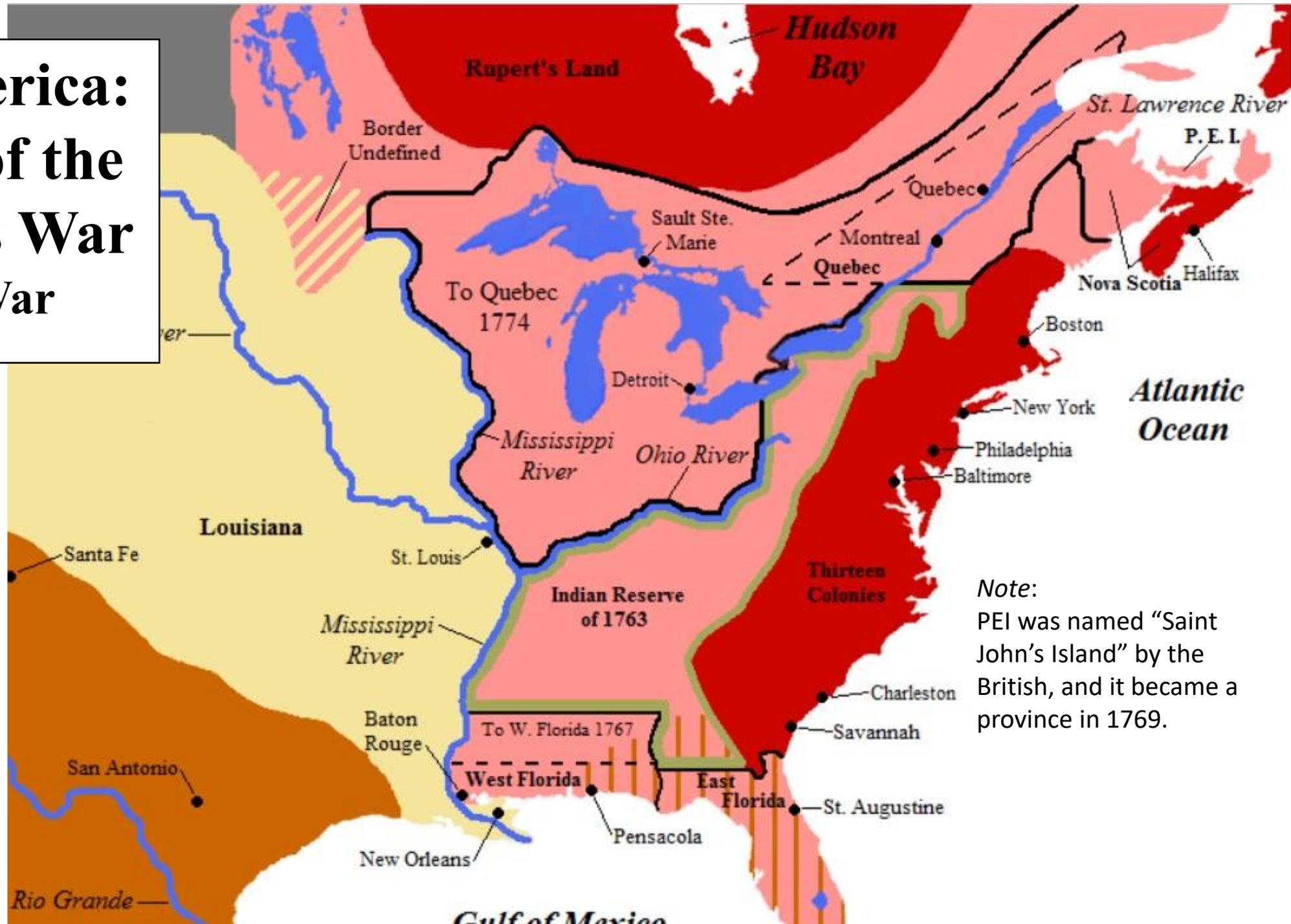
# **An Intro to the Causes of the American Revolution**

# British America: at the end of the Seven Years War the F & I War

Map 16

**Legend**

- British before 1763
- British gains, 1763
- Spanish before 1762
- Spanish gains, 1762
- Lost by Spain & gained by Britain, 1763
- Indian Reserve
- Unexplored



*Note:*  
PEI was named "Saint John's Island" by the British, and it became a province in 1769.

# Time of change and the beginnings of Upheaval

The War of Independence was caused by a series of disagreements and events between the British Crown and the British American colonies.

**Some of the major causes:**

- 🇬🇧 Colonial Opposition to control
- 🇬🇧 Rights of Englishmen
- 🇬🇧 Taxation Without Representation
- 🇬🇧 Enlightenment Thinking: French & Indian War
- 🇬🇧 Basically: Changes in Society, Political Philosophy, British Government Policy, and British American attitudes.



# Some of the Causes you could Google

## Some Specific Events:

1. **End of the Seven Years' War (1763)**
2. **The Proclamation of 1763 (1763)**
3. **Grenville Acts (1764)**
4. **The Stamp Act (1765)**
5. **The Quartering Act (1765)**
6. **Townshend Acts (1767)**
7. **Boston Massacre (1770) illustrated →**
8. **Boston Tea Party (1773)**
9. **Intolerable Acts (1774)**





The previous illustration is of the Boston Massacre by Paul Revere. This is a detail from a painting by Don Troian. It is probably copyrighted by Don, but it was on his Fb page.

Unlike Revere's propaganda, it was chaotic at night (around 2100 on that 5th of March in 1770) and was not a line of fire. The large, unruly crowd of roughly 60+ Bostonians was showering a small group of men from the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment (around 9 total) with snowballs, ice, and sticks. Five people were killed, including Crispus Attucks, who is sometimes named as the first to die in the revolution.

Captain Thomas Preston and his men were charged. Captain Preston was tried separately. The main issue was whether he had given the order to fire; he was found not guilty in a trial held in Boston. Josiah Quincy and future US President John Adams were his attorneys. They also defended the soldiers. Two of the men, Hugh Montgomery and Matthew Kilroy, were found guilty of manslaughter. They "prayed clergy" to avoid the death sentence. Instead, they were branded on the thumb with a hot iron, the letter "M" for murder/manslaughter.

By the way, the Customs House that you see on the right in Revere's work and just over the heads of the soldiers was not labelled "Butcher's Hall".

## Two important points of the American Revolution (1763-1789) and the War of Independence (1776-1783)



*A close-up of the most amazing Zofany painting (1771) of King George III.*

### 1. Independence wasn't the original goal

- ⊗ When fighting started in April 1775, most British Americans did **not** want full independence.
- ⊗ They mainly wanted **more control over their own affairs** while still staying part of the British Empire.
- ⊗ The Continental Congress even sent a petition to King George III, asking for his help and stating that they were **not** trying to break away.
- ⊗ The British government and the king rejected their requests and began treating the colonists as enemies. Part of the King's duty was to **protect** Parliament.
- ⊗ This pushed many Americans to believe that **independence was the only solution**.

### 2. King George III wasn't trying to be a tyrant

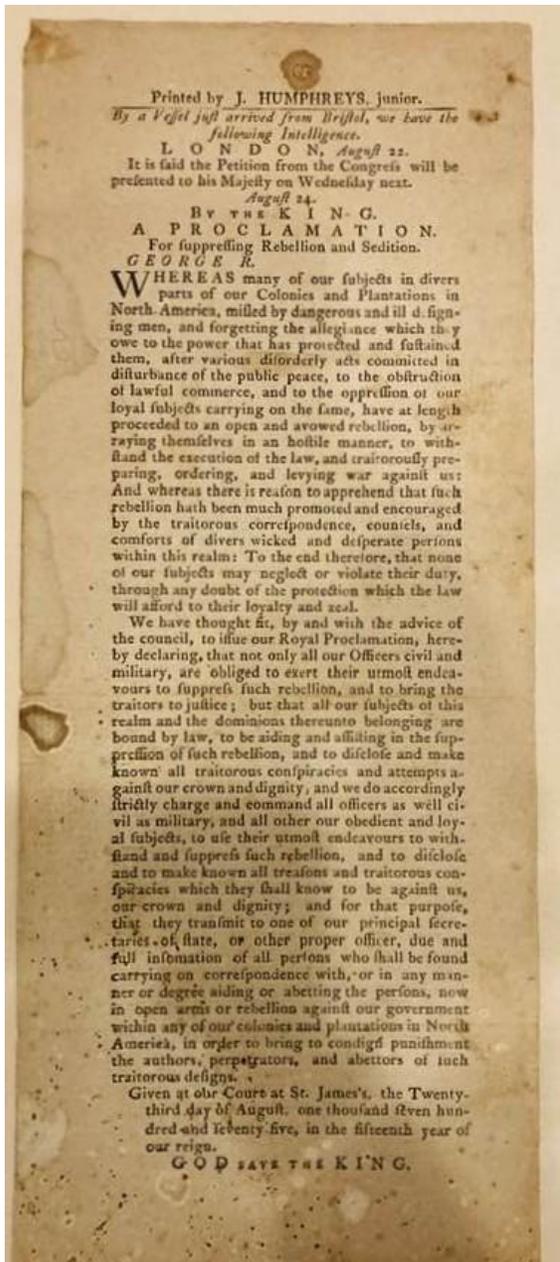
- ⊗ The Declaration of Independence accused the king of trying to impose a harsh, tyrannical rule.
- ⊗ In reality, before the war, George III often encouraged his ministers to be **moderate**, not extreme.
- ⊗ In 1775, he disappointed the colonists by fully supporting his government's decisions. It was actually his duty to do so. By 1775, it had been 67 years since a monarch refused to sign a bill into law. That was the last time it **ever** happened!
- ⊗ He believed the war was about defending the **rights of Parliament**, not about increasing his own personal power.

# Declaration of Rebellion

King George III, "By the King, a Proclamation, For Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition," broadside printed by James Humphreys in Philadelphia, circa 31 October or 1 November 1775.

This small broadside is the first public announcement in the colonies of the news that the King had officially proclaimed the American colonies in rebellion. It is the only known copy. It was made by James Humphreys, a Loyalist printer, who noted he received the news from a ship that arrived from Bristol. John Vicary was the captain of the ship, arriving in Philadelphia on October 31, 1775. Humphreys likely got the news from Vicary and quickly made this broadside on October 31 or November 1. Humphreys' composing of type was reused in his newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Ledger*, which published the news to a wider audience on November 4. Vicary went on to support the Patriot cause on a privateer during the Revolution and the British Navy captured him twice, both times sending him to prison ships in New York. He died in 1784, possibly due to health issues related to his time on prison ships.

*A special display (25-09-09) at the American Philosophical Society for the members of the Philobiblon Club of Pennsylvania. Courtesy of Edward Rix, a member and an old friend*



The War of Independence, 1775 — 1783



Studies of ye Long 18th Century  
1688 - 1820

# The Great Upheaval

19 April 1775 – 3 September 1783

(8 years, 4 months and 15 days)

Initially, the struggle that began in 1775 was an internal conflict within the British Empire.

Early support in the war came secretly from France when they provided weapons for the Dutch to give to the Rebels.

The opening shots were fired at the Battle of Lexington



*"I never had an idea of subduing the Americans; I meant to assist the good Americans subdue the bad." — General James Robertson*

1. U.S. War of Independence was both an insurrection and a civil war fought between 1775 and 1783.
2. It was carried out by 13 of Great Britain's 19 continental North American colonies.
3. These colonies won political independence and went on to form the United States of America.
4. The war followed more than a decade of growing estrangement between the British crown and many British American.
5. This was caused by British attempts to assert greater control over colonial affairs after having long adhered to a policy of salutary neglect, which upset just about everybody, including future Patriots and Loyalists.
6. Until early in 1778, the conflict was a civil war within the British Empire, but afterward it became an international war as France (in 1778) and Spain (in 1779) joined the colonies against Great Britain. The British declared war on the Dutch in late 1780 (the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War) largely because of Dutch support for the Rebels, making them combatants.
7. From the beginning, sea power was vital in determining the course of the war.
8. This lent to British strategy a flexibility that helped compensate for the comparatively small numbers of troops sent to British America.
9. Ultimately, the French helped bring about the final British surrender at Yorktown in 1781.
10. The War of Independence marked the first time in history that a people fought for their independence in the name of certain universal principles such as the rule of law, constitutional rights, and popular sovereignty (despite how they treated their fellow citizens who were opposed to a violent form of resistance).



# Numbers — All Approximate

from many sources, ('cause nobody knows) and these are *just* the armies

## *Under Arms*

**United States** troops 40,000 (army/militia)

**France** 10,800

**Spain** 12,000

**Indigenous** unknown

## *Casualties*

**troops** 8,800; 6,100 wounded; from disease  
(an estimate of 25-70,000 war dead)

**France** 2,112 America east coast only

**Spain** 371 killed all in West Florida

**Indigenous** unknown

## *Under Arms*

**Great Britain** troops: 48,000 (mostly in NA)

**German** troops: 29,875 (from 6 States)

**Provincial** troops: 25,000 (Braisted has over 35,000  
names in his database)

**Indigenous** (mostly Haudenosaunee): 13,000

## *Casualties*

**Great Britain** 8,500 killed

**Germans** 7,774 killed; 1,800 wounded

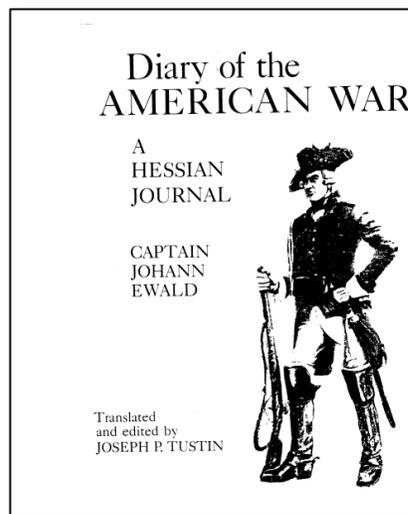
**Provincials** 7,000 killed; 5,300 from disease

**Indigenous** 500

**Suggested reading. The end bit is very interesting, as it covers New York in the final years of the war, when 3rd (later 2nd) DeLancey's was based there.**



Ewald, Captain Johann, Field Jäger Corps, *Diary of the American War: A Hessian Journal*. Translated and Edited by Joseph P. Tustin, Yale University Press, 1979. Out of Print.



Born in Hessen-Cassel on 30 March 1744. Joined the army as a youth. Promoted to Ensign for bravery in 1761 during the Seven Years' War, then Lieutenant in 1766 during the peace. He wore a glass eye having been wounded in a bar fight. In 1774 he was promoted to Captain. In 1776 he was sent to British America with the Feldjägerkorps. He died, at 69, in 1833.

Portrait as the **Royal Danish Lieutenant General Johann von Ewald, Chief of the Scheswig Jäger Corps. Painting by C.A. Jensen, 1835. It hangs in the Frederiksborg Palace in Hillerød, Denmark.**



I will be expanding all of this after I  
expand the River Expedition, 1776!

Your most Humble & Obedient Servant  
P. Gillies, Chaplain to the 3<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>