

## 6 Rivalries Over the Land

### Section Focus

**Key Terms** League of the Iroquois ■ Albany Plan of Union ■ French and Indian War ■ Treaty of Paris (1763) ■ Proclamation of 1763

**Main Idea** The growth of the American colonies meant almost constant warfare on the frontier as the colonists battled the Indians for land and as England struggled against France for empire.

**Objectives** As you read, look for answers to these questions:

1. What was a principal reason for wars between the colonists and their Indian neighbors?
2. How did the Indians get involved in the struggle between France and Britain for world empire?
3. What was the outcome of Britain's struggle against France in North America?

The European colonization of America was, from the Indian point of view, the European invasion of America. The Europeans, who had burst into the Indian world, seemed determined to conquer each other and as much of the rest of the world as they could.

The first contacts between Europeans and Indians helped both sides. To survive, the Europeans depended on Indian knowledge of the terrain, of plants and animals, of farming, of woodland survival. The Indians, in exchange, traded for metal tools and guns, which they greatly valued. But in time the colonists became stronger and acquired the skills of the Indians. Then they no longer needed the Indians.

### WAR OVER TERRITORY

As the swelling numbers of colonists hungered, in Roger Williams's words, for "great portions of land," wars of conquest and resistance began. In 1622, the Powhatans killed one-third of Virginia's colonists before they in turn were destroyed. In the next decade the Pequot Indians of the Connecticut Valley resisted the Puritan invasion of their land. The Pequots were to all purposes wiped out.

In 1675 the Puritan colonies went to war with their neighbors, the Narragansetts, over land. The chief of the Narragansetts was Metacomet, named King Philip by the English. As a result of King Philip's War, almost every colonial town in Massachusetts and Connecticut was threatened. In the war one-sixth of New England's male popu-

lation was killed, and many towns were destroyed. In the end the colonists broke the back of Narragansett power by destroying their cornfields and starving them into submission. The warriors were killed or sold into slavery. The remaining Indians were put on reservations or bound out as laborers.

### WAR FOR FURS AND EMPIRE

The efforts of France and England to line up Indian allies encouraged still more frontier warfare. France had allied itself with the Algonquin and Huron Indians of the lands bordering the St. Lawrence Valley. The Iroquois of the Hudson Valley sided with the English.

The nations of the Iroquois had joined together in the **League of the Iroquois**. Founded around 1500, the league worked to end the almost constant warfare that had existed among them. It grew to become the most powerful Indian confederation in America.

Because Iroquois expansion threatened the French fur trade, France began in 1687 to wage war on the league. The conflict broadened two years later when France and England went to war. This was part of the first of their struggles for world empire. For eight years the Iroquois defended English frontier interests against the French and their Indian allies in what is known as King William's War. Neither in King William's War nor in two later wars—Queen Anne's War in 1702-1713 and King George's War, 1740-1748—did the balance of power change in North America. One

effect of the frontier wars, however, was to unleash French-sponsored Indian raids on English settlements.

### FRONTIER BRUTALITY

The frontier wars fostered brutality. Consider the story of Hannah Duston of Haverhill, Massachusetts, as told by Cotton Mather. This incident happened during King William's War. In March 1697 she, her week-old baby, and a nurse were in the house when a party of twenty Indians attacked the town. Her husband, in the field nearby, ran to save his wife. But the Indians got there first. They forced Hannah Duston, her baby, and the nurse to join the other captives they had by then collected. Before "they had gone many steps, they dashed out the brains of the infant against a tree." Other captives were slain by a hatchet blow.

Assigned to an Indian family, Duston and her nurse accompanied them 50 miles north to their home on the Merrimack River near present-day

Concord, New Hampshire. The Indians intended to take the women, as well as a youth captured the year before, to Canada and sell them to the French. The prisoners were not guarded, for the Indians did not believe they would try to escape so far from their home.

Before the group could start for Canada, Hannah Duston and her two companions rose just before daybreak. Seizing hatchets, they killed two men, two women, and six children. They had started on their way when Duston became fearful that her neighbors would not believe her story. So, they turned back, scalped the Indians, and returned to Haverhill with the bloody proof wrapped in a piece of linen.

### THE SEARCH FOR A SECURE FRONTIER

By the 1750s, the expanding population of the English colonies was causing the balance of power between France and England to shift. In 1750 French colonists numbered about 60,000, while

This painting shows a group of Abenaki Indians and their French allies attacking the British frontier settlement at Deerfield, Massachusetts, in 1704. **POLITICS** Why did the French and English compete for allies among the Indian tribes?



## FRENCH AND ENGLISH RIVALRY, 1754-1763



### MAP SKILLS

This map shows the sites of major battles in the French and Indian War. Along which river was the Battle of Quebec fought? **CRITICAL THINKING** Why might the French have had difficulty protecting their southern forts?

over a million people lived in the English colonies. The English colonies were doubling their population every generation. To meet the growing demand for land, land speculators began to plan for the settlement of the Ohio Valley.

France became alarmed. An English presence along the Ohio River could threaten its control of the Mississippi Valley. So France began to rim the Ohio Valley with forts in order to protect its domain. Virginia ordered its militia, led by a young soldier named George Washington, to drive the French from their position.

Both France and England were encroaching on the lands of the Six Nations of the Iroquois. Yet that domain had no clear boundaries. To discuss relations with the Iroquois, the British Board of Trade called a conference at Albany for June 1754.

Representing Pennsylvania at the conference was Benjamin Franklin. He had been thinking a lot about the need of the colonies to join together for their mutual defense. Franklin went to Albany, therefore, not just to discuss matters with the Iroquois. He also intended to present a plan of union to the other colonies. Known as the **Albany Plan of Union**, this proposal called for each colony to send representatives to a new council. Head of the council would be a president-general appointed by the Crown. The council would have the power to make war and peace with the Indians, raise armies, build forts, levy taxes, and found new settlements.

In the end, the Albany Plan of Union failed, rejected by both the colonial assemblies and by Britain. The colonial assemblies thought the proposed council would have too much power. England

thought the plan too democratic. Acceptance of the Albany Plan might have prevented the strife that later led to the American Revolution.

### THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

The struggle between France and England in North America was finally settled in the **French and Indian War**. This war, fought between 1754 and 1763, became part of a larger, worldwide war known as the Seven Years' War.

George Washington had failed to drive the French from the Ohio Valley. In a second effort General Edward Braddock led an army of both Virginians and British troops into the region. They too met defeat because the Indian allies of the French found it easy to pick off the red-coated British.

In the end the fate of the Ohio Valley was to be settled by the fate of Canada. The crucial year was 1759. In that summer the British, under James Wolfe, sailed up the St. Lawrence to attack the French stronghold of Quebec. Two hundred English ships, carrying 18,000 men, arrived at the foot of the imposing cliffs on which Quebec was built. Waiting for them were 14,000 troops under the command of the Marquis de Montcalm.

Quebec seemed unconquerable. For three months Wolfe sailed up and down the river, looking for an opening in the French defenses. Then a British scout discovered a passage that led up the cliffs to the grassy fields on the plateau above. On the night of September 12 more than 4,000 British soldiers swarmed up the steep path. At daybreak they were waiting in battle formation before the

fortress. In the battle the British won a decisive victory, but both Wolfe and Montcalm lost their lives.

The British conquest of Canada forced France to give up its American empire. After the **Treaty of Paris (1763)**, Britain controlled North America from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi River. (Spain, which had sided with France in the war, gave Florida to Britain.) Americans who thought they could now settle the Ohio Valley, however, were wrong. To protect the Indians and reduce conflict, Britain issued the **Proclamation of 1763**. It declared that all land west of the Appalachians would be Indian land and off-limits to the colonists. This decision was not welcome to those looking westward, and it provoked the anger that would later lead to the American Revolution.

### SECTION REVIEW

- 1. KEY TERMS** League of the Iroquois, Albany Plan of Union, French and Indian War, Treaty of Paris (1763), Proclamation of 1763
- 2. PEOPLE AND PLACES** Benjamin Franklin, James Wolfe, Quebec
- 3. COMPREHENSION** Why did colonists and Indians fight bloody wars in the 1600s?
- 4. COMPREHENSION** Why was the future of the Ohio Valley settled by the Battle of Quebec?
- 5. CRITICAL THINKING** How might history have been different had a British scout not discovered a path to the fortress of Quebec?

### CHAPTER 3 TIMELINE

