

## Connect: The Effects of the French and Indian War

When the French and Indian War finally ended in 1763, no **British subject [citizen]** on either side of the Atlantic could have foreseen the coming conflicts between the **mother country [Great Britain]** and its' North American colonies. Even so, the seeds of these conflicts were planted during, and as a result of, this war. Keep in mind that the French and Indian War was a global conflict. Even though Great Britain defeated France and its allies, the victory came at great cost. In January 1763, Great Britain's national debt was more than 122 million **pounds [the British monetary unit]**, an enormous sum for the time. Figuring out how to pay the debt was not easy for King George III and the British government.

**\*122 million pounds in 1763 = 29,290,212,684.20 dollars today**

The problem of Great Britain's massive debt was made worse by other problems facing British leaders after the French and Indian War in 1763. **Maintaining** order in America was a **significant** challenge. The possibility of peaceful relations with the Indian tribes were not good. As a result, the British decided to keep a **standing army** in America. In addition, an Indian uprising on the Ohio frontier, **Pontiac's Rebellion**, led to the **Proclamation of 1763**, which stopped colonial **migration** west. This would lead to conflicts with land-hungry settlers and **land speculators [acquire and sell for profit]** like George Washington.

British leaders also felt the need to tighten control over their empire. To be sure, laws **regulating [controlling]** trade and **navigation [sea travel]** had been on the books for generations, however American colonists were **notorious** for avoiding these laws by smuggling. From the British point of view, it was only right that American colonists should pay their fair share of the costs for their own defense. If additional taxes could be collected through stricter control of navigation and trade, so much the better. Thus the British began their attempts to end Salutary Neglect.

In 1764, Parliament enacted the **Sugar Act**, an attempt to raise revenue in the colonies through a tax on molasses. Although this tax had been around since the 1730s, smuggling and lack of enforcement had made it ineffective. Now, however, the tax was to be enforced. Then in 1765, Parliament [British Government] **enacted** the **Stamp Act**, which placed taxes on paper, playing cards, and every legal document created in the colonies. Since this tax affected virtually everyone and extended British taxes to Colonial produced and commonly used goods, the reaction in the colonies was explosive.