

The English Colonies: From Comfort to Discontent

I. Self-government & Religious Freedom in the Colonies

A. Self-government quickly took root in the colonies

- 1. The House of Burgesses, in Virginia, became the first elected assembly in the Americas**
- 2. By 1750, all 13 colonies had an elected assembly**
- 3. The Crown appoints governors to govern the colonies, but many are incompetent**

II. England Ignores Its Colonies

A. In colonizing America, England followed no ‘master plan’

- 1. The promise of cheap land and religious/political freedom attracted settlers to America**

B. At first, England ignored its colonies

- 1. Then in 1660, England enacted the Navigation Acts**
- 2. Definition: Colonists were only allowed to export their crops and raw materials to England and could only import goods from England**
- 3. England wanted to control and profit from Colonial trade**

III. North American Land Claims, 1753

A. In the struggle for N. America, the rivalry between Britain and France was intense

- 1. France was building forts in the lush Ohio River Valley**
- 2. A young George Washington led a force of 150 Virginia militiamen, but was defeated by 600 French troops**
- 3. Native Americans decided to side with the winner – the French**
- 4. Thus, began the French and Indian War**

IV. North American Land Claims, 1763

- A. The Treaty of Paris signed in 1763 ended the war**
 - 1. France gave up Canada and all its claims east of the Mississippi, a region they called Louisiana**
 - 2. Great Britain emerged as the most powerful nation in the world: its empire spanned the globe, its Navy ruled the seas**
- B. But there were new problems for Britain**
 - 1. One was how to keep peace with the Native Americans who were still loyal to the French**
 - 2. Indians attacked British forts and settlements, killing over 2,000 colonists**
 - 3. Britain decided it was too dangerous to settle in the Ohio River Valley, and so passed the Proclamation of 1763**
 - 4. Definition: A line along the crest of the Appalachians beyond which colonists could not pass**
- 5. Colonists were infuriated. After helping England win the war, they were being denied the fruits of victory**

V. King George III

- A. Became King of England just as the French and Indian War was ending.**
- B. To enforce the Proclamation of 1763, he planned to station 10,000 troops in America.**
 - 1. But Britain was broke. Because of the war they were £140,000,000 in debt**
 - 2. George had already raised taxes in England so high that people were rioting in the streets.**
 - 3. To England, it seemed only sensible that the American colonists be asked to pay at least part of the cost of their defense**
 - 4. The colonists were worried about having a standing British army in America**