



AP[®] US History (Operational) 2004 Sample Student Responses

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The French and Indian War, the north american counterpart to the 7 years war, was a massive and costly event. The British government sent troops to defend the interests of the colonists. The repercussions of the war were quite significant and long lasting and the escalation that resulted led all the way to the revolutionary war. The French and Indian war had great effect on the politics, economics, and ideology of the American colonies.

The political repercussions of the war were quite varied. The military experience it gave to our soldiers was a huge plus when fighting the British some years later. Had George Washington not transferred into General Edward "Bulldog" Braddock he might not have ever gotten the field experience at Fort Mifflin. Another political result of the war was the westward expansion of the settlers. With the removal of the French influence of the Ohio river valley string of forts the settlers were free to expand into indian territory. This resulted in Pontiacs Rebellion and the restrictions on where to settle and addition of more troops to the regime. This new cost could not be handled by the British Treasury and since the English people were already so heavily taxed and the Americans were the ones reaping the benefits the introduction of a new set of taxes was a must. The English Parliament started with a tax on the merchants but soon it spread to all colonists.

The economic relations with England became noticeably strained after the French and Indian war. Parliament decided the quickest way to defray some of the costs of the war and the

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quartering of troops would be the most profitable of the colonies, the West Indies. This became the Sugar Act. This unfortunately did not generate the revenues expected because of the smuggling and only effected a small portion of the population, southern planters and New England distillers. The next measure taken was the Stamp Act. This required a stamp to be attached to all matters of documents and had to be paid for in British sterling which was quite scarce to start with. As the Sugar act effected only a small group only a small commotion was made while the Stamp Act angered a large group a huge response came from the colonists. This was one of the four things that brought all the colonies together and united them under a single goal. This act was a slap in the face to the most important people in the colonies; lawyers, judges, merchants, newspaper printers, and business men. Even though it was later repealed these people never forgave the insult and when the cry raised up for independence these were the men leading the way.

The Ideological position of the colonist changed over the years. Initially after the French and Indian war was over the colonists were relieved and grateful for their benefactor's assistance. As Rev. Thomas Bennet shows the colonists had nothing but kind words for the mother country that had rescued them and stamped out the threats to them. As time went on the colonist began to resent this now constant attention. They wished to return

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to the state, political neglect in which they managed their affairs and the 1750's. Before the French and Indian / Seven years war the British Empire was locked in constant combat with the French. With them defeated it turned its attention to its colonies and they resented them for it.

The French and Indian war strained relations as a result of the political, economic and ideology of the changing colonies. The French and Indian war set the colonies on a course of change which led them all the way to the Revolutionary War.

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During the course of the years 1754-1763 the British Empire was engaged in the third of three wars with rival France. This conflict (which would come to be known as the "French and Indian War" and the "Seven Years War") would be played out entirely on the North American continent, during which the colonials would fight actively on the side of the British. It would be this conflict that would serve as the turning point in Colonial-British relations, specifically in the economic regard (which in turn, would have profound impact in the political and ideological realms.)

This conflict, which begins in earnest in 1754, would take place only twenty years before the revolution. However, colonials at this point were not only content with British rule, but also eagerly willing to fight to protect it. (Document C) This is crucial in that it marks this event as the turning point. Before this and for a brief time afterward (Document E) colonials embrace British rule. The events after, however, will have profound negative effect on British-Colonial relations. Also significant is the experience given to many colonial participants that will later prove valuable in the revolution, as well as the initial rumblings of discontent (Document D) that will lay the foundation for later protest.

The immediate result of the war was superficially positive; Britain was granted all lands East of the

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Mississippi and as far North as Canada. (Document A) Fearful of Indian attack, as well as possible Spanish intervention, the crown issued the Proclamation line of 1763, which forbade the colonists of moving West of the Appalachians. The idea was to use the newly won lands as a buffer zone, between the colonists, and the Spanish and Indians. This did not sit well with the colonists however, who felt that because they had fought the French for that land, they should have the right to settle it. While there were no reports of violence over the issue, it is clear that this marks the first significant show of discontent by the colonies.

The second major issue that rose from the war was purely economic. Under the British Mercantilist policy, the colonies sole purpose was the generation of revenue to produce profit. Three wars with France, and the War of Jenkins Ear with Spain had resulted in massive debts for Britain. Britain felt (as seen in Document F) that the easiest way to solve this problem was to tax the colonies. They also felt (again, as seen in Document F) that the colonies had lost some of their profitability, due in large part to the 100 years of Salutary Neglect, enjoyed by the colonies, under the advice of Roger Walpole. The taxes imposed on the colonies (beginning with the Molasses Act, were

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progressing forward with the Sugar, Stamp and Tea acts) whipped the colonies into an angry fever. While Britain's motives may have been purely economic, the colonials viewed them as political oppression. Regardless, ~~the~~ relations in both arenas suffered as a result.

The ideological relations are in large part superficial. While the colonials did draw on the ideals of The Enlightenment and the English philosopher John Locke (whose ideas may be found in both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution), ideology was not the cause of the revolution. It was merely the banner they rode under, with political and economic motives the driving factor. Though romanticized in Thomas Paine's "Common Sense", ideological relations contributed little to the relationship between the colonies and Britain.

The events to follow would be escalations of these very issues, and would eventually lead to American Independence. These same political and economic issues can be traced back to their roots, at the end of the French and Indian war. It can be accurately stated that this conflict marked the turning point between the colonies as loyal British subjects, and discontent subjects on the road to revolution.

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The colonists had a generally friendly attitude toward the British overall since they enjoyed the benefits of an imperial relationship without restrictions.

For many years, throughout the 1600s and ^{imperial accompanying} early part of the 1700s, the British pursued a policy of salutary neglect (healthy noninterference) toward its colonies. Britain enacted a series of Navigation Laws, but ~~these~~ these attempts to regulate trade were minimally enforced. However, this relationship ~~was~~ was dramatically altered by the French and Indian War of 1764 - 1763. The course of the war itself significantly affected the political and ideological relationship of the colonists to their mother country, inasmuch as ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ the ~~British~~ ~~imposed~~ the colonists found the British imposition of restrictions and its hierarchical army to be repulsive to liberty, while the British saw the need for greater ~~the~~ imperial control. However, it was the economic aftermath of the war, ~~the~~ which left Britain with a staggering war debt and ~~the~~ a need to raise new colonial revenues, that militated most heavily against colonial cooperation with the British.

The French and Indian War, called the Seven Years' War in Europe, had its antecedents in the settlement of the French and the British in the ~~the~~ Ohio valley region of the ~~the~~ American continent. Both the French and British sought to control lands in the region, while Native Americans resisted the attempts of both to settle. The Indians largely played off of both sides to maintain an uneasy balance of power, but ~~the~~ one group eventually decided to grant ~~the~~ trading concessions to the British, giving England greater access to the interior of the continent. France saw this as a threat to its own territories and summarily constructed forts of defense, like Fort Duquesne.

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The British followed suit, building fort of their own. One such effort was to build Fort Necessity near Fort Duquesne, which George Washington led. ~~The initial friendliness of the colonists toward the British~~ At the fort, however, Washington became embroiled in a conflict with the French forces there; he was captured and forced to surrender. ^{in 1754} Thus began the French and Indian war.

The colonists had a largely friendly and amicable attitude toward the British at the outset. For example, General Washington praised the British General Braddock in a 1755 letter as a man of "abilities and experience" (PSC C). The long British policy of salutary neglect had meant that the colonists could enjoy the benefits of trade ^{with} and protection from the British without the discomfort of rigid controls. However, this changed as the war progressed. In the second stage of the French and Indian war, beginning in 1756, Britain sought to impose greater control on the colonial war effort. British Prime Minister William Pitt tried to control the conduct of the fighting himself, "impressing" (forcibly enlisting) colonists to fight and imposing other restrictions on colonial freedom. A colonial soldier, for example, wrote in 1759 of how he was unlikely to get liquor or clothing and of how he was subject to "martial law." He protested that he, too, was a man of English blood, but that he was not afforded the "Englishman's liberty" (DSC D). This political control by Britain led to riots and colonial resistance; pretty soon, the consequences of it overruled any benefits it may have offered, and William Pitt was forced to back

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down. However, for the rest of the war, the political legacy of repression remained in colonial minds and produced hostility to British control. ~~The~~ Another, ideological aspect of the interaction between Britain and its colonies furthered this hostility. The colonists themselves were organized into voluntary units of men fighting with relative equality. The British, meanwhile, were organized into hierarchical divisions in which rigid order was maintained. The Massachusetts soldier who protested political repression also noted this when he observed that the British troops "are but little better than slaves to their officers" (Doc. D). This ideological idea of a ~~the~~ righteous American army juxtaposed with a rigid British one further augmented the colonial resistance to British oppression. The colonists not only saw British political interference in their affairs as illegitimate; they also resented British hierarchy.

The British, however, took from the war an entirely different perspective. The colonists may have seen themselves as great participants in the struggle; one sermon by Reverend Thomas Bernard in 1763 portrayed New England as the greatest helper of Britain in the effort. However, the British saw the colonists as lazy and unhelpful. The war had been fought for their benefit, but they had been largely neglected thought the British. England was further outraged by the fact that some American merchants had actually sold supplies to the French West Indies during the war against France. The political and ideological lessons learned by the

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British, therefore, were that the colonists are too independent — and must be made to act properly. The conclusion, then, was that greater imperial control was necessary.

While political and ideological differences may have contributed to the change from a friendly relationship to a hostile one, economics was a major factor as well. The 1763 Treaty of Paris gave Britain all of France's territory east of the Mississippi, except New Orleans and Canada (D-C-A). This doubled the size of the British Empire and augmented the necessity of stationing British troops on the border to protect against Indian raids. ~~It~~ This was at the same time that Britain faced a staggering war debt from seven years of fighting. Yet, the colonists largely refused to contribute to a war fought for their own defense. A 1763 British Order in Council found that the revenue from the colonies couldn't even pay a fourth of the cost of collecting it. It also reported that "neglect, connivance, and fraud" had ~~been~~ hampered revenue collection in a time of greatest need (D-C-F). The British then saw it as justified to seek new sources of revenue from the colonies. The principal vehicle for doing so was the ~~the~~ 1765 Stamp Act, part of Prime Minister Grenville's program to exert greater control over the colonies. The Act required that all paper products — from wills and deeds to playing cards — ~~had~~ have a stamp on them. ~~It~~ This was the

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first direct tax ~~was~~ (a tax payed outright, rather than an indirect one incorporated into the full price of a good) imposed by Britain. ~~Even more important, however, was that it was also the first British tax that could not~~

All previous taxes could be construed by the colonists as measures imposed by Britain to regulate commerce. However, this act could not be interpreted that way; it could only be seen as an unequivocal attempt by Britain to raise revenue.

This provoked outrage from colonists all over. Lawyers and influential members of society were affected; newspaper publishers, one of the most influential groups on public opinion, were outraged by the tax. The ~~the~~ Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser even announced that it would expire because of the "dreadful" tax (DACH). A Stamp Act Congress was formed to resist the ~~the~~ revenue measure, while Sons of Liberty terrorized collection agents. Such colonial protests continued as Britain further attempted to impose control, until these events eventually produced the American Revolution.

The French and Indian war transformed relations between the colonies and Britain from one of friendly respect to one of hostile ~~dis~~ distrust. During the course of the war, political repression by Britain and ideological opposition to Britain's hierarchical army produced the seeds of American protest; at the same ~~the~~ time, Britain saw the necessity of imposing greater ~~the~~ control on its recalcitrant colonies. ~~the~~ The economic results of the

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war, however, were even more disastrous. ~~Then~~ The costs of the fighting and protection of a newly enlarged territory forced Britain to impose new revenue measures like the 1765 Stamp Act so the colonists would pay their due share. However, the colonists bitterly resented ^{this unequal} British ~~attempts~~ attempt to raise revenue without the consent of their colonial assemblies. In this way, the French and Indian War soured the rapport between Britain and its colonies that eventually produced the American Revolution.