The Great Awakening and
the French and Indian War

The War that Made America
Before 1750

- By 1750, the colonies had more than 1 million people in them.
- The British Parliament and King had left the colonies alone, and they had learned to govern themselves through elected general assemblies.
The Great Awakening

- By 1730, strong religious communities in the colonies were crumbling. The harsh theocracy of the Puritans and other strict churches had pushed many away.

- That would change with the arrival of George Whitfield, a minister from England.
Revivals

- Whitfield and others like him traveled from town to town, holding open air religious revivals in which all were welcome.

- They preached fire and damnation, but also stressed that all were equal in the eyes of God. Anyone could find salvation.
Impact

- The Great Awakening strengthened the ideals of equality, liberty, and self-reliance in the colonies.
- Dozens of new denominations of Christianity were born in the Great Awaking.
As the colonies grew, the colonists began to look west to the Ohio Valley, for more land. Settlers began pushing west of the Appalachian Mountains.

The Ohio Valley was the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.
French Claims

- France, which controlled Canada, also had claims on the Ohio Valley. To enforce this claim, they built Fort Duquesne where Pittsburg stands today.
Conflict

- A war between France and Britain erupted when in 1754, a young George Washington led an expedition into the Ohio Valley to inform the French that the English intended to claim all of Ohio.
A Single Spark

- A small fight took place when Washington’s men opened fire on a group of French ambassadors who were delivering their own message to the English, claiming the Ohio Valley for France.
Choosing Sides

- England and France declared war to decide, once and for all, who would control North America.

- The Indians, caught in the middle, mostly sided with France. They feared an English victory would lead to thousands more settlers pushing west.
Seven Years of War

- The French and Indian War, or the Seven Years war, dragged on for, of course, seven years.

- Although the British lost many early battles, the French could not hold back their sheer numbers and their American colonial allies.
The End of New France

- North American fell to Britain in 1759, when the British captured Quebec, the most important city in Canada, after scaling a sheer cliff in the dead of night.

- Britain claims Canada, and all of the Ohio Valley. Other French lands were given over to Spain.
Effects

- Britain became the masters of North America. The French were pushed off the continent.
- American colonists now had the entire Ohio Valley to settle and began pushing west.
- However, the war was expensive. Britain was left with a crushing DEBT. It needed to be repaid.
English Claims Before and After