

The Proclamation of 1763



At the conclusion of the French and Indian War, the colonists living in North America were amongst the most patriotic British citizens in the empire. Yet, it didn't take long for the relationship with their mother country to sour.

Much of it had to do with changes in British policies toward the American colonies following the conflict. And it didn't take long for those changes to start.

The first policy Americans took issue with was the Proclamation of 1763. This law stated that colonists couldn't settle newly acquired lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. It would remain "Indian Territory" for the time being, the result of a Native American uprising called Pontiac's Rebellion.

Many Native American leaders could see the growing threat to their lands, and some began calling for tribes to unite and drive the colonists away. The result came to be known as Pontiac's Rebellion, but the Ottawa Chief was only one of many united in this cause.

Over a span of 1,000 miles, Native American attacks on the frontier were violent and furious. They attacked forts, cabins, and hunters. British troops were sent to meet the threat as tribes began laying siege to Forts Pitt and Detroit. One thousand Shawnee warriors ambushed the troops at Bushy Run, but the engagement resulted in an eventual British victory. However, the event caught London's attention, resulting in the Proclamation of 1763 and King George III sending more troops to North America. All this came at a cost of 320,000 pounds a year.

The British felt that since the resources were going to the colonists' defense, they should pay for it. Americans looked at the scenario differently. Nearly every free man in the colonies owned a gun, and most men, aged 16 to 60, served in the militia. The colonists outnumbered the Native American Indians 20 to 1, so most didn't feel they needed the troops.

Then, in 1765, under request of his generals, King George III approved the Quartering Act. The law stated that colonial legislatures had to provide housing, food, and supplies for the troops. Accommodations for the soldiers were to be provided in barracks, public houses, inns, and wineries.

The colonies objected to the legality of this act, stating that it violated the English Bill of Rights of 1689 which forbade taxation without representation as well as maintaining a standing army without Parliamentary consent.

Thomas Gage, commander of British forces in North America, was sent to New York where most of the new troops would be stationed. In 1767, when the New York Assembly refused to provide housing for the British troops, Parliament issued orders to suspend the Province of New York's Governor and legislature until the needs of the soldiers were met.

Questions

- 1) The Proclamation of 1763 was issued as a result of
 - a) Colonial resistance to British taxation
 - b) A Native American uprising known as Pontiac's Rebellion
 - c) French forces refusing to vacate forts at the conclusion of the French and Indian War
 - d) American colonists refusing to provide lodging for British soldiers

- 2) Various Native American Indian tribes attacked colonial settlements on the western frontier because
 - a) The colonists were allied with the French
 - b) The Native Americans were allied with the British
 - c) The colonists were a threat to tribal lands
 - d) The tribes hoped to expand into areas occupied by French colonists

- 3) On the issue of British troops in the American colonies, most colonists felt
 - a) The troops were needed for protection, and the colonists were happy to pay for them
 - b) That the troops were needed but they did not want to pay them
 - c) The troops were not necessary and the colonists could defend themselves
 - d) The British troops should stay until after Pontiac's Rebellion was over

- 4) The Quartering Act stated that
 - a) British troops would be sent to a colony upon the request of the colonial legislature
 - b) British troops would be available to defend a colony if the colony paid for housing and feeding them
 - c) All British troops would be withdrawn from the American colonies after the Native American rebellion ended
 - d) British troops would be stationed in particular colonies, and the colonial legislatures had to meet their housing and supply needs

- 5) When the New York Assembly refused to provide housing for British soldiers
 - a) The British sent the troops to New Jersey
 - b) The British sent the troops back to Great Britain
 - c) General Thomas Gage sent troops to attack the Governor's Mansion
 - d) Parliament intended to shut down the New York Assembly until the needs of the soldiers were met

Answers

- 1) B
- 2) C
- 3) C
- 4) D
- 5) D