

Friends Foes and Frenchmen

A Brief History of the Northwest Territory
to and through the American Revolution

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Montgomery County Genealogy Club
Crawfordsville, Indiana



L. of the Woods

INDEFINITE BOUNDARY

Lake Superior

BRITISH CANADA

Mississippi River

Green Bay

NORTHWEST

L. Michigan

L. Huron

L. Ontario

NEW YORK

Ft. Niagara

Detroit

L. Erie

LOUISIANA

Illinois R.

TERRITORY

Maumee R.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Philadelphia

Wabash R.

Scioto R.

Muskingum R.

St. Louis

Cahokia

Kaskaskia

Vincennes

Cincinnati

Marietta

Baltimore

Annapolis

Ohio

Louisville

River

VIRGINIA

MARYLAND

James R.

Richmond

Lake Champlain

Mohawk

Albany

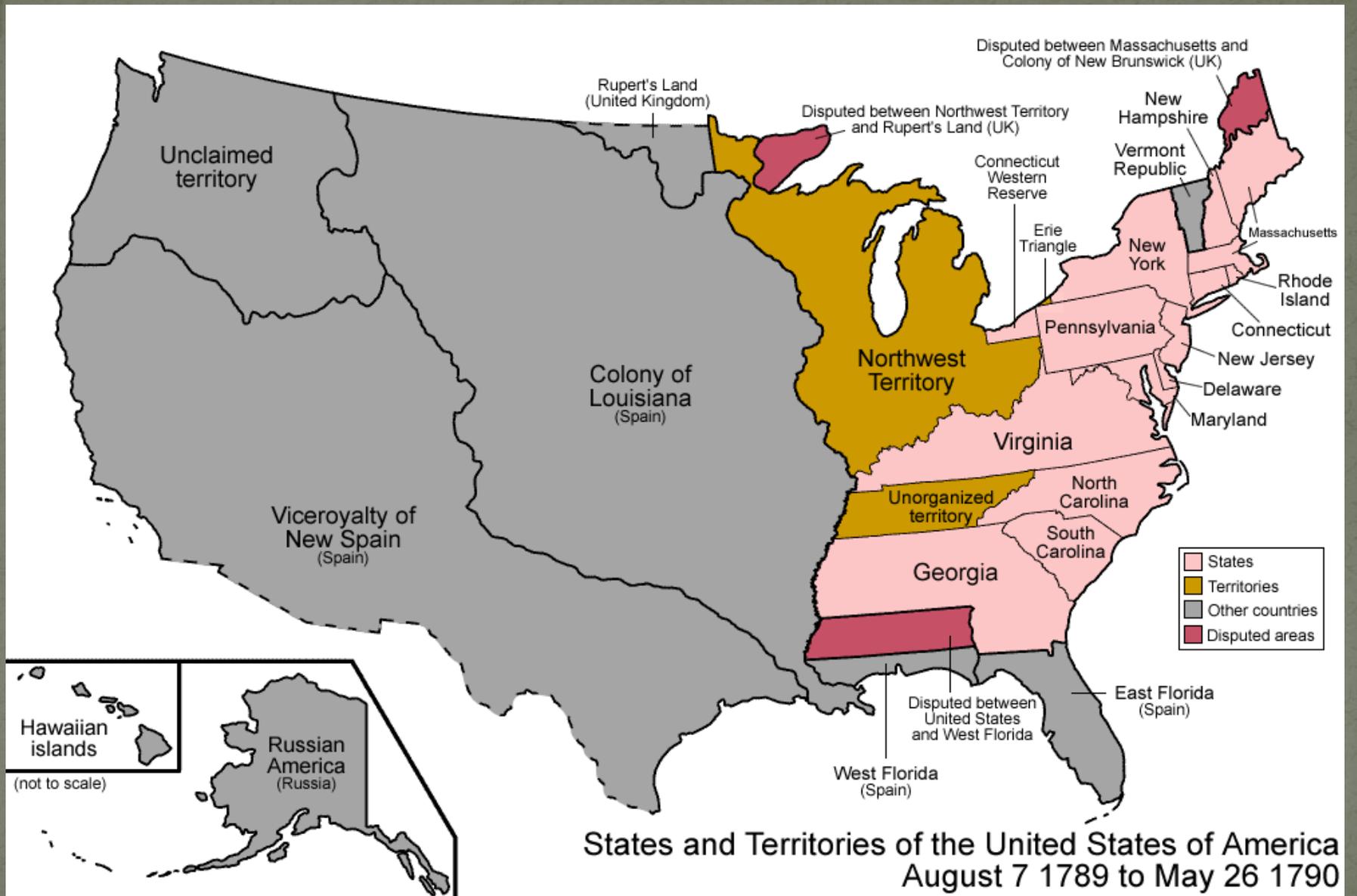
NEW JERSEY

DELAWARE



Source:

Ohio History
Central.org



Source: Wikipedia, User:Golbez. - Own work, CC BY 2.5,
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The Old World



Source: Google Earth

The New World



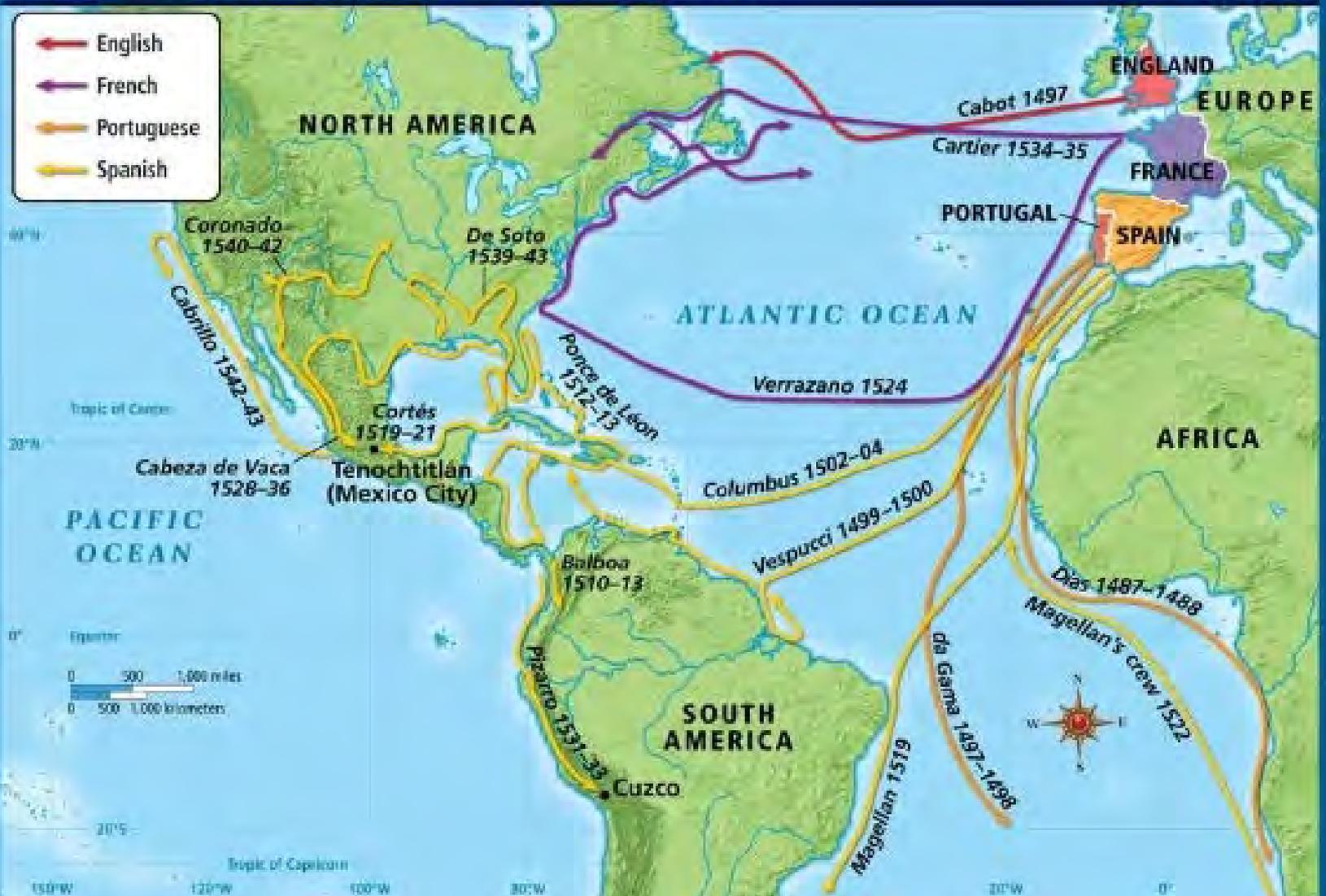
Source Google Earth

The New World



Source Google Earth

European Exploration of the Americas 1500-1550



New World Resources



Precious Metals,
Fine furs, and
Sugar Cane.

Source: Wikipedia Commons



Approximate tribal boundaries prior to European Arrival



Source: Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

In the early days of Indian and European interaction, did the natives treat the newcomers as the existential threat which they ultimately proved to be?

NO! Generally not.

They accepted the Europeans gifts of pots, pans, knives and trinkets. And, when offered, GUNS.



Source ebay – image of belt buckle available on ebay

Rather than fighting the newcomer, the Indians generally used the new weapons to fight each other.

Old tribal rivalries, fought with new weapons.

Armed with guns provided by the Dutch, the Iroquois federation proceeded to rampage across the territory we now call the Mid-West, displacing the inhabitants and disrupting ancient tribal claims.

The **Beaver Wars** were mostly an intra-Indian set of campaigns which disrupted and displaced many natives in this area.

Iroquois Expansion 1638-1711



Source:
wikipedia commons

Only when the French gave firearms to tribes such as the Miami were the Iroquois pushed back towards the east.

As a result of the Beaver Wars, tribal claims were disrupted and the area we now call Indiana was not densely populated by natives in the late 1600s.

Before – or after – Beaver Wars?



Source: wikipedia commons

Meanwhile, the French continued to explore, map, and claim the heart of North America.

In 1663, King Louis XIV, the Sun King, took control of French operations in North America from private companies and officially made Nouvelle France a province of the Kingdom of France.

French Map 1681



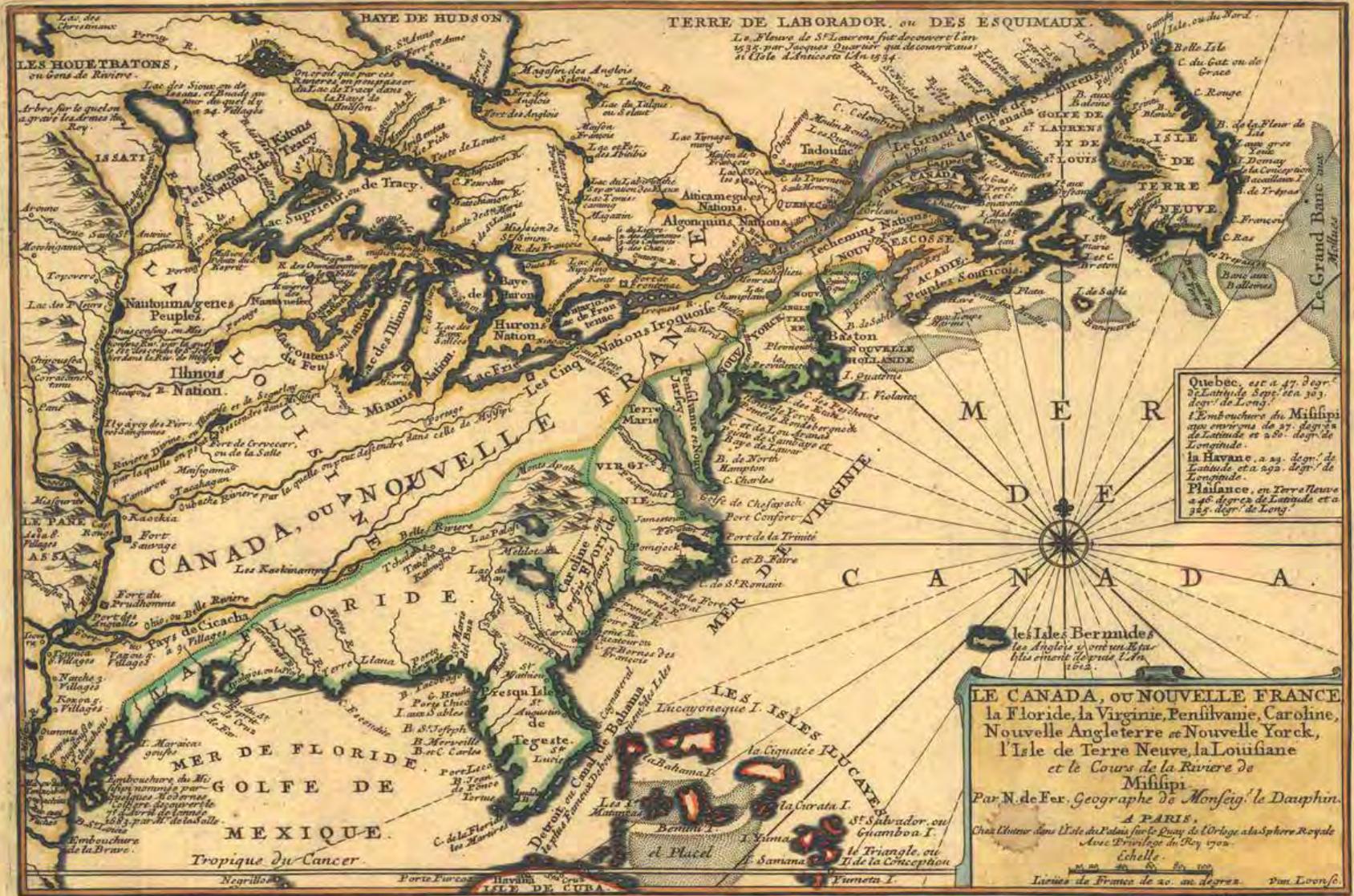
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Wikipedia commons



CARTE
DE L'AMERIQUE
SEPTENTRIONALE
ET PARTIE
DE LA MÉRIDIIONALE

Depuis l'embouchure de la Rivière St. Laurent
jusqu'à l'Île de Cap Breton, avec les nouvelles
découvertes de la Rivière Missouri, au Canada.
Carte de la Rivière St. Laurent et de son Delta.

French Map, 1702



1612.

LE CANADA, ou NOUVELLE FRANCE
la Floride, la Virginie, Pensilvanie, Caroline,
Nouvelle Angleterre et Nouvelle Yorck,
l'Isle de Terre Neuve, la Louifiane
et le Cours de la Riviere de
Missipi.

Par N. de Fer. Geographe de Monseig' le Dauphin.

A PARIS.

Chez l'Auteur dans l'Oratoire du Palais sur le Quay de l'Orloge a la Sphere Royale
Avec Privilege du Roy 1702.

Echelle



Laees de France de 20. au degres.

Van Loon sc.

Monseigneur
Le Dauphin

Louis of France
Son of Louis XIV



Source:
Wikipedia commons

Nicolas de Fer
1646-1720

French
Cartographer
and Geographer

Source:
Wikipedia commons





ISSATI

Kitons Tracy

Nautoumages Peuples

Illinois Nation

Miamis Nation

Hurons Nation

Nations Iroquoise

CANADA, OU NOUVELLE FRANCE

FLORIDE

Pays de Cicacha

Caroline

MER

European Claims in North America, mid 1700s



Source wikipedia commons

1763



Pays des Illinois

● *Fort*

● *Colonie*

Relations of the French and Indians

The French and Indians were generally sympathetic.

French forts acted as trade centers for Indians.

French Jesuit Priests learned the Indian languages.

Some French fur traders intermarried with the Indians.

Relations of the French and Indians

Generally, unlike the British, who came with their families to settle and farm the land, the French fur traders were single men who were here working, ultimately in service of the King.

The French trade was primarily in beaver skins. Most of the French were trappers, not farmers. It was in their interest to keep the forests whole and intact. Hence, the Indians did not perceive a fundamental threat from the French trappers.

Meanwhile, back in Europe.....

- In the 1750s much of Europe became embroiled in a grand conflict known as the **Seven Years War**.
- The North American Theater of this war is commonly referred to as **The French and Indian War**.
- France and Britain were on opposite sides in this conflict.
- The war was not particularly about North America but was fought here, in part. The results of the war had huge implications for the future of European descendants in North America.

The Seven Years War



Source: slideshare.net

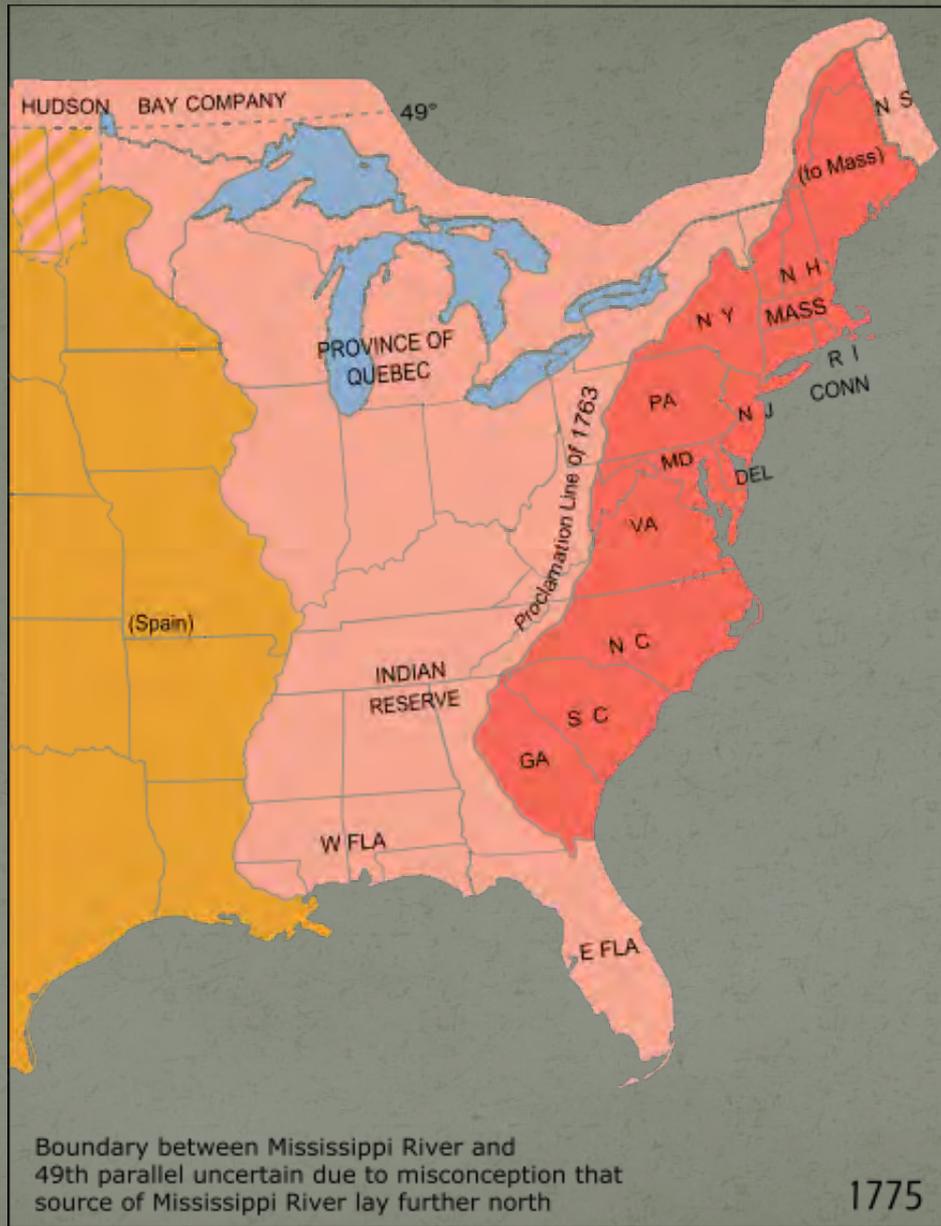
Results of the Seven Years War

- Great Britain and her allies win.
- France cedes most of its North American territory to Britain. The end of Nouvelle France (New France).
- France keeps the lucrative sugar trade in the West Indies but gives up the North American fur trade.
- The war nearly bankrupts the British Government.
- Great Britain begins to levy heavy taxes on the Colonies to help pay for the war.

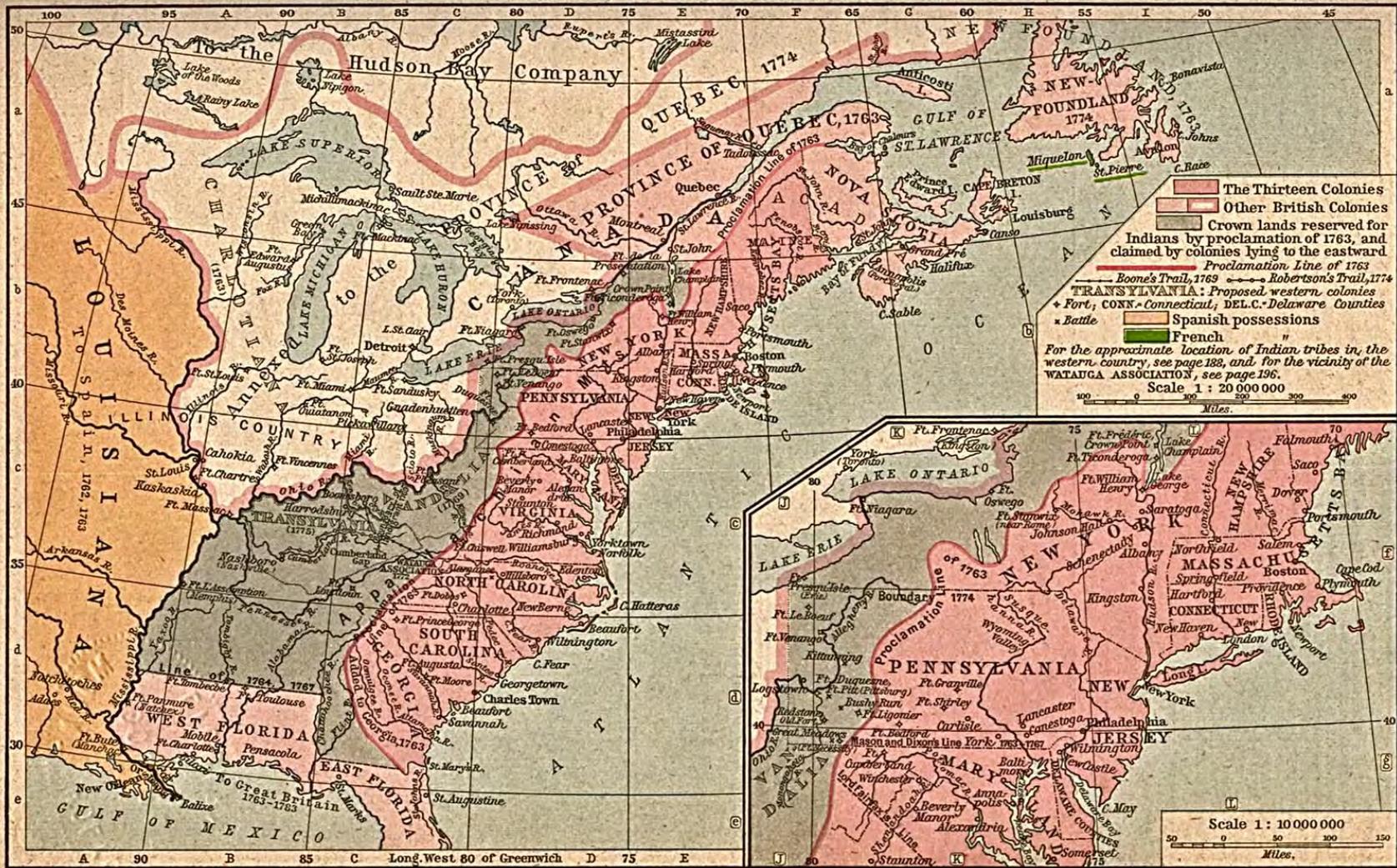
Great Britain's post-war strategy for North America

- Britain follows a development strategy of promoting the growth of coastal cities in the American Colonies for the purpose of fostering a strong market of export goods from English factories.
- Britain perceives the newly gained territories west of the Appalachians as an opportunity to foster trade with the Indians and is not interested in promoting settlement by the colonials in this area.
- By the Proclamation of 1763 Britain reserves the territory west of the Appalachians for the Natives.

British Territories as of 1763



Source wikipedia commons



Source: Historical Atlas, William R. Sheperd, New York, Henry Holt and Company, image shared compliments of Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

What was the effect of this war on the American Colonists?

- The French and Indian War, as we called it, saw the rise of a Colonial, we-are-one, can-do spirit.
- George Washington rose to prominence as a military leader.
- Colonials were resistant to the increased tax burden.
- Colonials, desirous of land, were outraged at the Proclamation Line of 1763, reserving the west for the natives.

What was the effect of this war on the American Colonists?

- The 1763 Proclamation Line did not hold and colonists continued to flood west.

Nonetheless....

The stage was set for the American Revolution!

The American Revolution



America Fights!



America Wins!



HOORAY

FOR THE

GOOD GUYS!

But what about that business with
George Rogers Clark in the west?



George Rogers Clark

Epic march through flooded ground to take Vincennes (Ft. Sackville).

Major disruption to British operations in the west.

Many historians believe that the trouble caused by G.R. Clark in the west caused the British to cede the “Northwest Territory” in the Treaty of Paris.



Seriously, Dudes!

If not for George Rogers Clark and his incredibly tough soldiers, the Northwest Territory might have ended up being part of Canada.

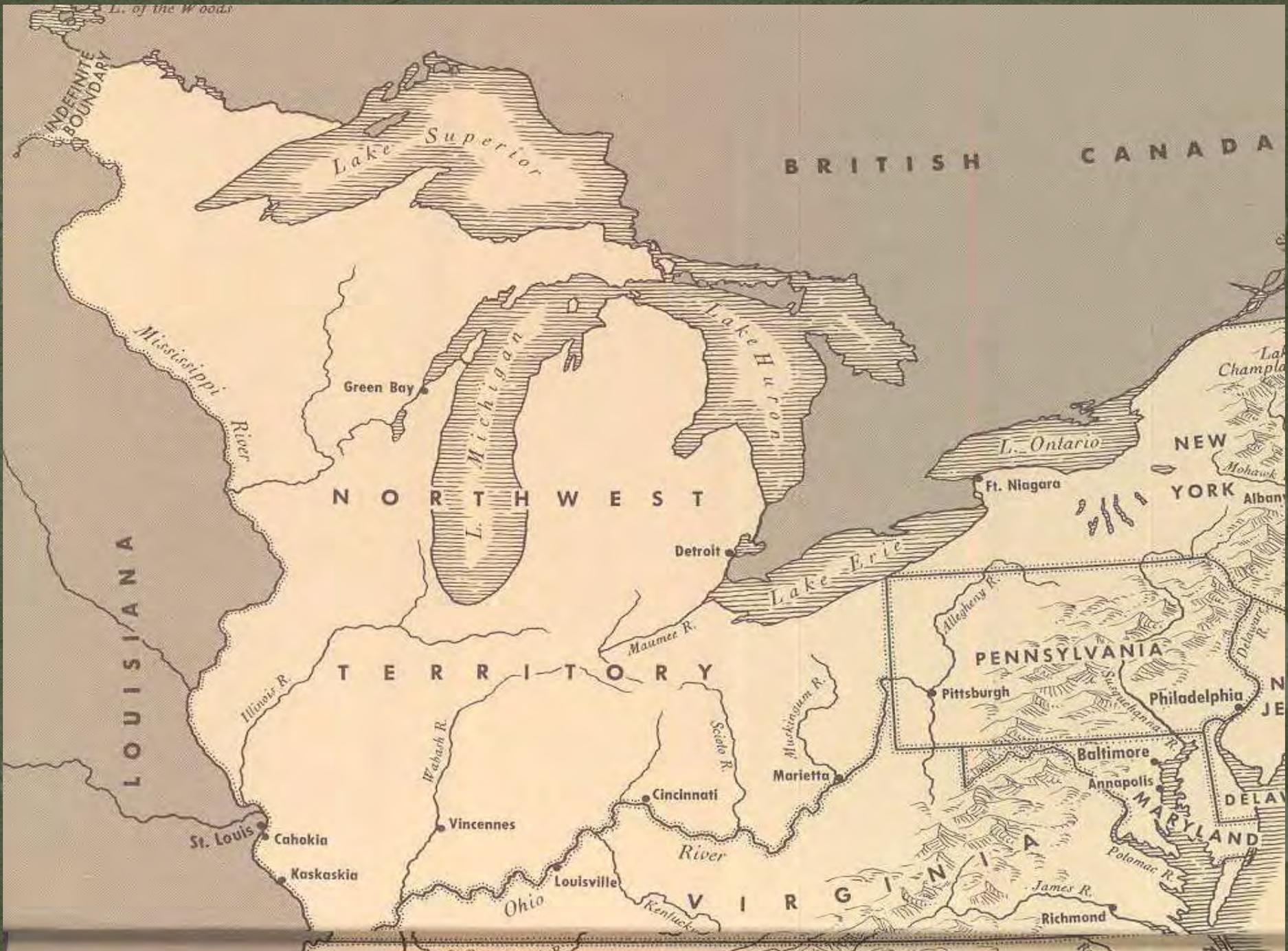


Source wikipedia commons

Now for the grand experiment called the
United States of **America**







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