

Clash of Empires

1607-1763



by Joe Burton

A Clash of Empires

The Old World's superpowers, France and England, often clashed. Their ultimate struggle began in the New World in 1755, when the French, looking to extend their territory, met English colonists moving west. On one side of the fight were the English and their colonists, and on the other side were the French and their many Indian allies. The series of battles they fought was called '*The French and Indian War.*' Britain won in 1759: now they had control of the colonies.

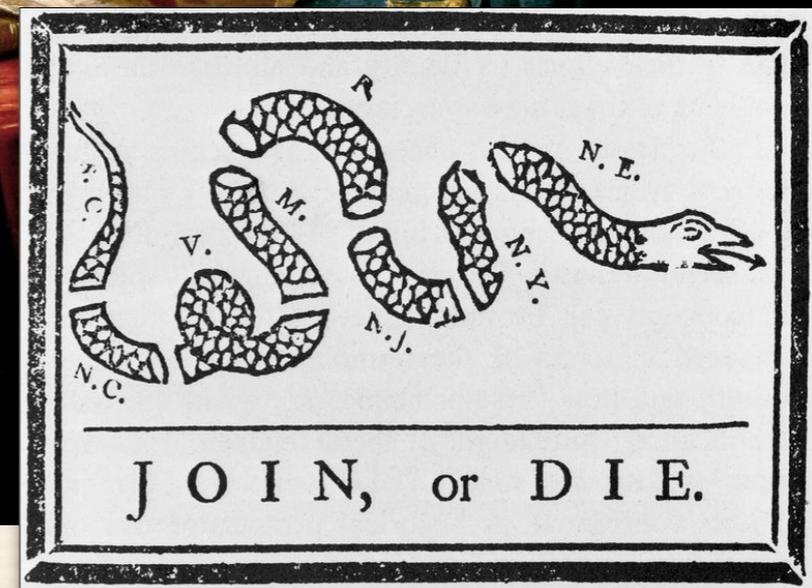
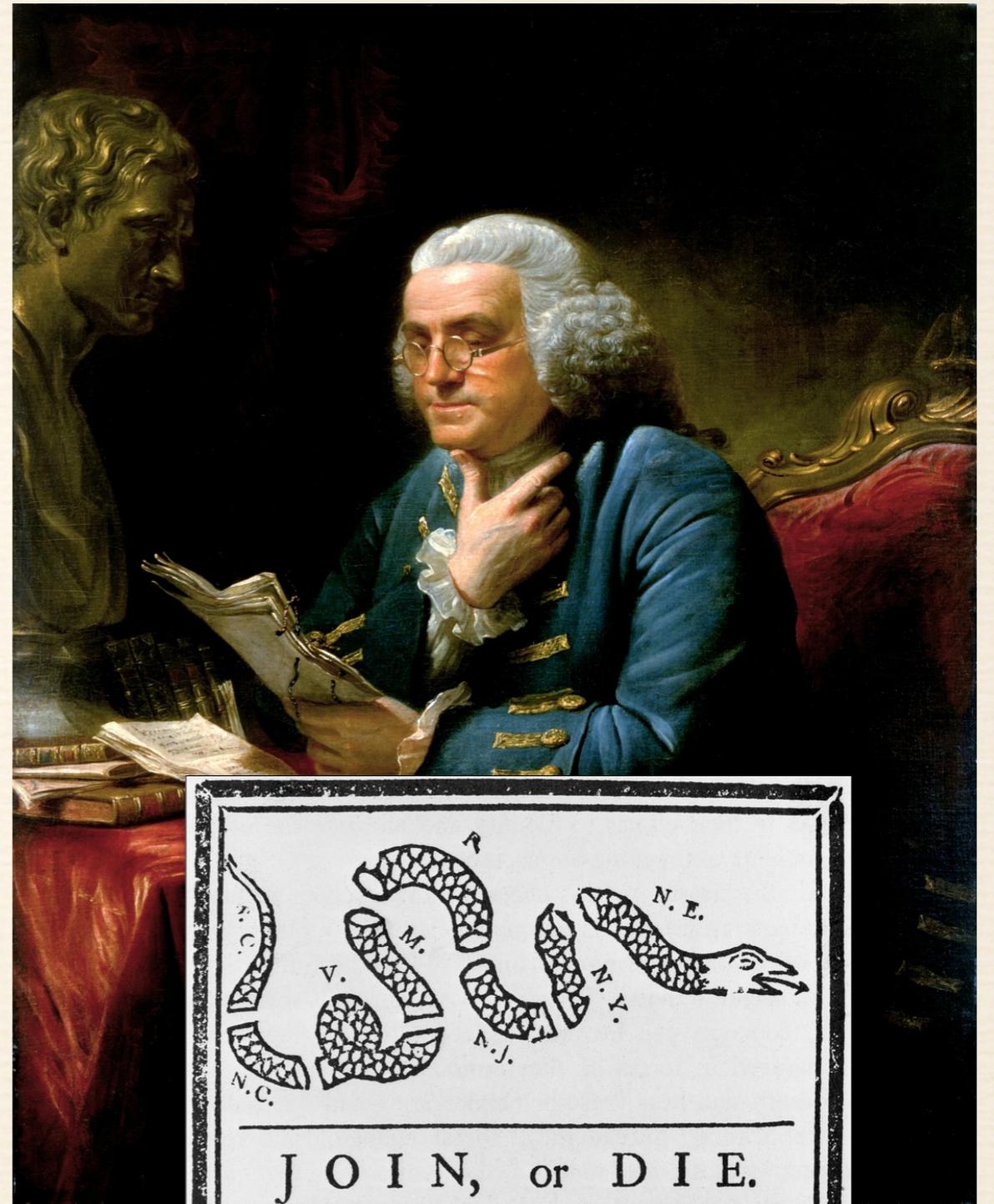


Albany Plan of The Union

In 1754 before war with France was declared, delegates from seven British colonies met in Albany, New York, to consider ways of defending themselves.

Benjamin Franklin (right) presented the daring plan - the creation of a colonial “*Union*” that could tax citizens in order to pay for a unified Army.

The delegates adopted the plan, but none of the colonies approved it; they did not want to give too much power to the central authority.



The French & Indian War

- ❖ In the 1750s...
- ❖ ...the French expanded their fur-trading empire south into the Ohio River valley...
- ❖ ...building forts for protection.
- ❖ At the same time...
- ❖ ...English colonists were crossing the Appalachian Mountains to settle in the region.

The French & Indian War

- ❖ The French encouraged their Algonquin Indian allies to raid the English settlements...
- ❖ ...spreading terror along the frontier.
- ❖ When a Virginia Militia...
- ❖ ...or Army...
- ❖ led by 22-year-old George Washington was sent to protect English settlers in 1754...
- ❖ ...they were driven out by the French.

Pontiac's Rebellion was led by Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa Indians in May 1763. American Indians resented English control of their land and resolved to win it back by attacking English forts.

The Rebellion failed, but it made the English recognize the Indians' claim to North American lands.



The War Rages On

- ❖ In 1754...
- ❖ ...Britain sent General Edward Braddock...
- ❖ ...Colonel Washington...
- ❖ ...and 2,500 British Troops to the Ohio frontier to confront the French.
- ❖ A force of Frenchmen and Indians...
- ❖ ...fighting from the cover of trees and ravines...

The War Rages On

- ❖ ...caught the soldiers in a deadly crossfire...
- ❖ ...killing or wounding more than half the British soldiers and mortally wounding Braddock.
- ❖ Fighting raged along the frontier for nearly a year...
- ❖ ...with the French pushing back every attack.
- ❖ In 1756...
- ❖ ...England formally declared war on France.

General Braddock



GENERAL BRADDOCK'S defeat in 1755 by an allied French and Indian force outside Fort Duquesne - now Pittsburgh - recast the French and Indian War.

In Braddock's defeat, the battle and its consequences escalated the conflict between Britain and France into a global struggle known as the *Seven Years' War*...

...opening resentful fissures between Britain and the 13 colonies that helped bring on the American Revolution.

The destruction of a conventional British army by irregular forces in remote mountainous territory foreshadows similar encounters in the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

A Stunning Victory

- ❖ This clash between England and France was part of the first global war...
- ❖ ...battles were also fought in Europe, India, Africa, and the Caribbean.
- ❖ In 1757, William Pitt became leader of Parliament in England (our Congress)...
- ❖ ...and Britain's fortunes changed.
- ❖ Pitt wanted to focus Britain's military might on North America.

A Stunning Victory

- ❖ With help from the colonial militia and the Iroquois tribes...
- ❖ ...the British attacked Fort Niagara and Lake Champlain...
- ❖ ...and sent an invasion force up to Quebec.
- ❖ The plan worked...
- ❖ ...the British won.

A Stunning Victory

- ❖ The Treaty of Paris in 1763 ended all French claims in North America.
- ❖ Canada became a British colony...
- ❖ ...and the huge French territory of Louisiana was given to Spain as thanks for its support.
- ❖ Britain was now the world's most powerful empire...
- ❖ ...and its colonies were proud to be a part of it.

William Pitt



So the turning point in the French and Indian war came when **Pitt** took over the wartime operations.

He believed that North America was critical for England's global domination.

Pitt turned recruitment and supplies over to local authorities in America and promised to reimburse them for their efforts.

His basic strategy was to commit more troops and juggle the command... replacing old war heroes with vigorous young ones.

In Honor of the Young British King, George III

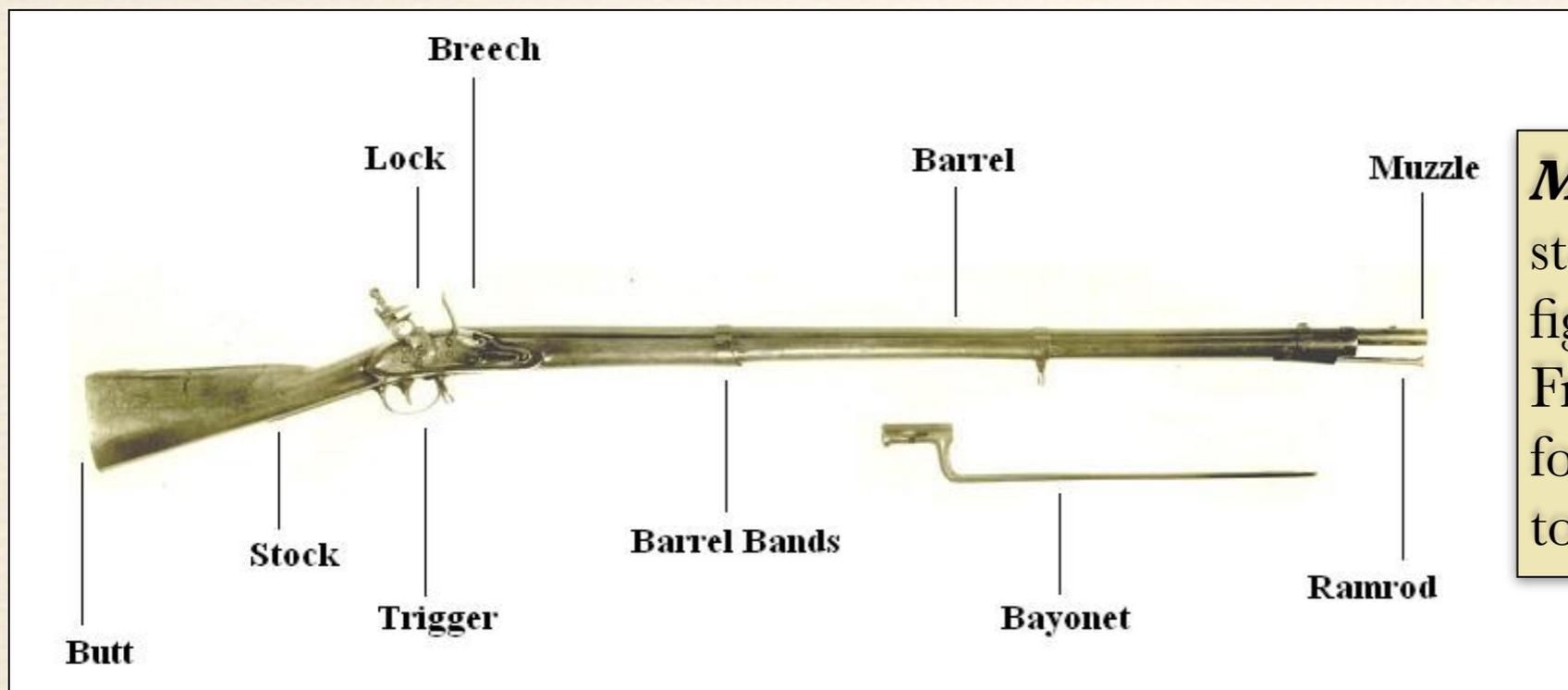
Statues of King George III were erected in dozens of towns in America in celebration of Britain's amazing victory over France. George III was King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1760 until the union of the two kingdoms in 1801.

It was then, that he became King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Unlike his two predecessors... he was born in Great Britain, and spoke English as his first language.



Fighting North American-Style

When George Washington entered the Wilderness with Braddock's troops, he was furious to see the army march out in the open, and in perfect rows. Washington explained that the Indians fought from behind the cover of trees and boulders, not in formation, but Braddock did not listen. His reluctance to adapt to fighting styles led to a tragic British defeat. Washington himself escaped uninjured, although he had two horses shot out from under him.



Muskets like this one were the standard weapon for those fighting on both sides in the French & Indian War. Twenty-four separate steps were needed to reload them in battle.

