The French and Indian War (The Seven Years’ War)
“The people, even to the lowest ranks, have become more attentive to their liberties, more inquisitive about them, and more determined to defend them than they were ever before known or had occasion to be.”

– John Adams, 1765
North America before French and Indian War
North America after French and Indian War
Empires at War

Great Britain, France, Spain

- 1689-1763
- Domination of colonial trade
  - King William’s War 1689-1697
  - King Anne’s War 1702-1713
  - King George’s War 1744-1748
- European theater primarily; North America secondary
  - “Amateur” colonial forces did fighting on this side
French and Indian War 1754–1763

French fortifications in Ohio River Valley provokes British response

- George Washington
- Early stumbles for British
- Albany Plan of Union - sets precedent

British rebound

- Treaty of Paris
  - French Canada & Spanish Florida
  - Louisiana Territory - Spanish
- Unchallenged supremacy
Contrasting Views

British View
- low opinion of colonial military
- Contributions lacking

Colonial View
- Proud militarily
- Self defense possible
- Questions of British troops
Shifting Policies

Colonial Reorganization

- Salutary neglect ends
- 4 costly wars
- Grenville’s 3 problems after war
  - Security of British holdings
  - Contain colonial hunger for land
  - How to pay for it

Pontiac’s Rebellion
Proclamation of 1763