The French and Indian War, from (1754-1763), marked a clear change in the relationship between Britain and its American colonies. Before the war, the colonies regarded Britain as an overseer, an entity that only interfered to help the colonies. After the war, Britain became an oppressor, trying to use the colonies to maximize her own gains. What changed? Everything that did relates back to the war. The three main issues that led to the American colonies breaking from Britain in 1776 were Taxes, the Proclamation line of 1763, and the disrespect the British for the Americans.

Taxation was, by far, the most influential and divisive issue that faced the American colonies and Britain. After the war, the British were in much, much debt. Fighting the French had been costly, and the British needed a revenue stream. Logically, they saw the war as one fought to protect the colonies, so they, of course, taxed the colonists. At first, colonists were ok with British tariffs, which made the colonists buy British goods. However, once the British began enforcing internal revenue taxes, cries of indignation were heard. A call for "no taxation without representation," referring to the colonists nonexistent representation in British parliament, was heard. The British claimed that the colonists had "virtual representation," which was that the British parliamentary members were looking out for the colonists. Everything at first was an economic issue, as colonists did not want to pay more for goods. After the Tea Act, though, the issue became one of principle, the principle being the lack of representation. At that point tensions boiled over, and a course was set for Revolution.
Another issue between Britain and the colonists was the Proclamation line of 1763. In the French and Indian War, Britain gained French land by the Mississippi. Colonists wanted the chance of free, unoccupied land west of the Appalachians. However, the British felt it was their right to protect colonists from Indians that remained in the area, and set the Proclamation line of 1763, which forbid settlement across the Appalachians. Colonists were curious that they could not use land they felt they had fought hard for. Many crossed illegally anyway, which the British saw as blatant disrespect. This lead to many increased tensions, and more importantly made many common back country dwellers side with the American Revolutionaries.

The third issue that lead to the American Revolution was the British disrespect of Americans. During the war, British soldiers saw Americans as stupid and uncultured, they did not allow them to rise past the rank of private in the military, and maliciously referred to them as “huckstering soldiers.” After the war ended in 1763, British soldiers were stationed in America to keep the peace, which lead to soldiers and civilians coming into contact. Acts such as the Quartering Act, which forced Americans to house British Soldiers, only increased the proximity. Mutual disrespect lead to conflicts, such as the much idealized Boston Massacre. Direct contact lead to Britain being seen as an oppressor, and disrespect lead to tensions.
The contrary to many people's opinion, however, Britain did not suddenly become the "bad guys." They simply began to play a more active role in the colonies. They seemed to have every right to tax, set boundaries, and send soldiers as they did.

So, did the colonists simply overreact? Or did the British overstep their bounds? It seems the problem was the colonists simply had become used to governing themselves.

The relationship between Britain and the colonies changed after the French and Indian War. The British had set expansion boundaries, and sent soldiers. The colonists saw this as oppression, and tensions built until the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Now, the rest is history.