

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Part A — Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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2B
1 of 3

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 ~~for~~ 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 of 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~~ so they, of course, taxed the colonists. At first, colonists were o.k. 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 principal, the principal being the lack of representation. At that point tensions boiled over and a course was set for Revolution.

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2 B
2 & 3

Another issue between Britain and the colonists was the Proclamation line of 1763. In the French and Indian War, Britain gained French land to the Mississippi. Colonists wanted the chance of free, unoccupied land west of the Appalachians. However, the British did not want to have to protect colonists from Indians that roamed in the area, and set the Proclamation line of 1763, which forbade settlement across the Appalachians.

Colonists were furious 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 led to many increased tensions, and more importantly made many common backcountry dwellers side with the American Revolutionaries.

The third issue that led 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 "backstain soldiers." After the war ended in 1763, British soldiers were stationed in America to keep the peace, which led 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 led to conflicts, such as the much idealized Boston Massacre. Direct contact led to Britain being seen as an oppressor, and disrespect led to tensions.

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2B
3A3

~~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. ~~The~~ ~~settlers~~ ~~felt~~ they seemed to have every right to have, 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.