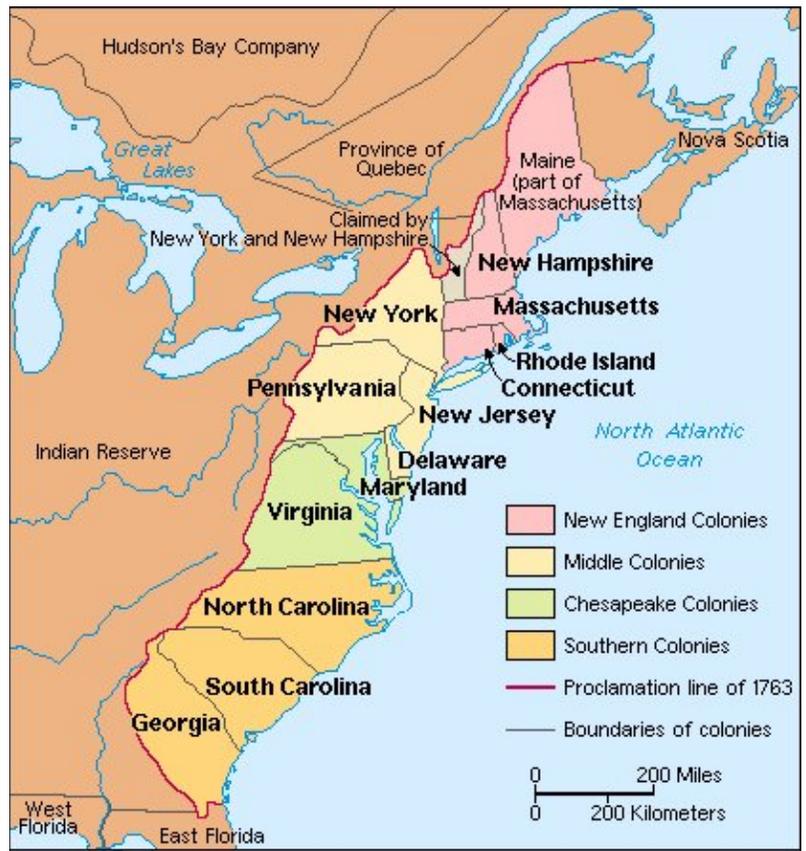


WHAT DID THE THIRTEEN COLONIES THINK OF BRITISH ACTIONS IN THE NEWLY ACQUIRED COLONIES?

When Britain gained control of Acadia and New France at the end of the Seven Years' War, this would not be the first time the British owned land on the North American continent. Britain had already established the **Thirteen Colonies** along the east coast of what is present day America. This colony was heavily populated (by 1775, 2.5 million settlers lived in the 13 Colonies vs. only 70,000 in Quebec), had its own forms of local government, and was very valuable to the British mercantilism system (producing wheat, sugar, tobacco, and rice). With the British focusing their attention on governing their new colony, the 13 Colonies began to feel as though their needs were not being met and were increasingly frustrated and weary of British rule.



Reaction to the Royal Proclamation 1763

Settlers in the 13 Colonies were definitely not pleased with the terms of the Royal Proclamation. There was a clear boundary denoting where the 13 Colonies ended and First Nations land reserves began. The 13 colonies wanted to expand westward into the Ohio River Valley, but the Proclamation of 1763 would forbid this. If anyone wanted to trade, trap, or settle in this region they could have to get a special government license to do so.

After the Seven Years' War England was heavily in debt and would look to her colonies to help pay. Needless to say the 13 Colonies were not too pleased with being taxed to pay for something they had no part in and would receive no benefit from!

Reaction to the Quebec Act 1774

This government act enraged the 13 Colonies on two accounts. First, borders of Quebec were enlarged to include rich fur trading territory between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. It seemed that the British could take reservation land whenever they wanted, but the 13 Colonies were still denied the right to expand into this area. Secondly, the 13 Colonists were distraught to learn the people of Quebec would not be granted an elected government. The 13 Colonies already had elected forms of responsible government and were hoping more would arise in the British colonies. This was a sign that democracy had not yet arrived in the British colonies of North America.

