

# Parliamentary Simulation

## Post French & Indian War Problems

You are each members of British *Parliament* – the law making group of the British government. You have convened in a session following the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1763. The French, your arch enemy, have given up a substantial amount of land to the English as part of their terms of surrender. However, there are many questions about how to deal with this land now that the size of British *empire* in the *New World* has essentially doubled in size. With more land, potentially, comes more problems...

The following are a series of issues you must consider as Great Britain's governing body:

1. **Finances and Debt** – Wars are expensive, especially one fought across an ocean that lasted for seven years! The Royal Treasury has long since run out of money, so the government resorted to taking out loans in order to finance the expenses of the French and Indian War as well as to keep the government running.
  - The French and Indian War was so costly that the Royal Government had to borrow money to keep operating. The British national debt doubled to 140,000,000 pounds at the end of the war.
  - Parliament has already paid 275,000 pounds to *colonists* for their contributions to the war effort
  - There is a division in Parliament about how to treat the *colonists*. Some say to make them pay as much as local British citizens. Others say the risk *colonists* took to settle the *New World* should exempt them from taxation.
  - Royal advisors estimate that colonial citizens pay approximately 1/20<sup>th</sup> the amount that those living on the British Isles pay in taxes. There are members of Parliament who now believe the *colonists* should pay their fair share! After all, they receive the benefits of living in the greatest empire on Earth, why shouldn't they contribute the same amount as the citizens living in England?
  - Much of the taxes that are paid in the colonies tend to stay in the colonies – only customs duties (paid for *imports* and *exports*) come to the Royal Treasury. As a result, the Royal Government is currently receiving very little taxable income from their American *colonies*.

Options:

1. Continue to borrow money to finance the government and its operations.
2. Increase taxes on the *colonists* in America.
3. Increase taxes on British citizens.

As a group, come up with a solution that you can all agree upon. Write down your answer with SPECIFIC REASONS that EXPLAIN WHY you choose the option you did. Have one person in your group who will be responsible for sharing your group's decision on this topic with the class.

2. **Colonial Expansion** – The American colonists have been clear in expressing their intent to expand west of the Appalachian Mountains, especially now that so much territory has been gained from the French. Since many Americans risked their lives fighting beside English soldiers during the French and Indian War, many colonists feel they have more than earned the right to settle in this rich farm land.

- Frontier land is becoming scarce east of the Appalachian Mountains, especially given the rapid growth of colonial populations.
- Without further room to expand, the colonies must face a halt to *immigration* out of the United Kingdom to the New World since there is less space for people to settle.
- Many Native American tribes, however, who had sided with the French, present a danger to the welfare of English colonists seeking new, cheap frontier land.
- To protect colonists who want to move out into the frontier, the English government would have to build forts and station soldiers throughout the newly acquired territory. That would be one more huge expense for the Royal Government at a time when they are still trying to pay off the bills from the last war. They don't really want new expenses.

Options:

1. Station British troops in the newly acquired areas of the west to ensure the safe settlement of colonists. It will cost approximately 300,000 pounds per year to station the 10,000 troops that British field commanders recommend.
2. Restrict colonists from moving west until a plan can be made regarding how to deal with the area.
3. Allow settlers to move west at their own risk.

As a group, come up with a solution that you can all agree upon. Write down your answer with SPECIFIC REASONS that EXPLAIN WHY you choose the option you did. Have a different person in your group who will be responsible for sharing your group's decision on this topic with the class.

3. **Relations with Native Americans** – Based on their long standing fur *trading* relationships, some Native American tribes fought on the side of the French during the war. Other native tribes, such as the Iroquois, fought along with the English and colonists against the French and their native allies. Natives on both sides had hoped to use this conflict to further their own goals of protecting valuable trading connections or destroying long standing enemies – both native and European.

- The Covenant Chain with the Iroquois Confederacy is in effect in the Middle Colonies. This is an agreement to honor Native American land holdings and to treat the Native Americans of the area as an equal nation. Under this arrangement, colonists can NOT move into Iroquois lands. Many *colonists* are angered by this decision.

- Reports have come in that there are still skirmishes happening along the borders of the English colonies between Native American tribes and the colonists, even after the French have surrendered. A chief named Pontiac has led Native American forces in attacking British forts; all but two forts have fallen, with hundreds of colonial casualties.

Options:

1. Honor the Covenant Chain with the Iroquois – your wartime allies - and treat all other Native American tribes with equal respect.
2. Break the treaty, or Covenant Chain, with the Iroquois – your wartime allies - and treat all other Native American tribes the same.
3. Attempt to deal with every tribe separately. Honor the Covenant Chain with the Iroquois, wage war on the tribes that are hostile to the British cause or that refuse to accept your terms of peace, and establish other peace agreements with tribes that aided the British during the French and Indian War.

As a group, come up with a solution that you can all agree upon. Write down your answer with **SPECIFIC REASONS** that **EXPLAIN WHY** you choose the option you did. Have a third person in your group who will be responsible for sharing your group's decision on this topic with the class.

4. **Trade Regulation** – The system of *mercantilism* that was established to guarantee England profits from its trade with the American colonies is showing some cracks that are hurting English businesses, tax collection and ultimately, the Royal Treasury. Many *colonists* are finding ways to get around the English trade laws. The unlawful behavior of these English subjects in America is having a negative financial impact on England and its *empire*.

- The Navigation Acts and other laws of mercantilism are failing. Smuggling continues to be a growing issue in the colonies.
- Reports show that the British customs service has collected about 2,000 pounds per year in duties (taxes) on imports and exports.
- It costs 8,000 pounds per year to fund the British customs service.
- Goods worth approximately 700,000 pounds have been illegally imported by colonists who did not pay taxes on them.

Options:

1. Pass laws that increase penalties for smuggling (i.e. imprisonment, death).
2. Repeal (cancel) trade laws, which is basically admitting you have lost control of colonial trade, and look for a new way of making money off of the colonies.
3. Do nothing and let the colonists continue to make a joke out of English authority.

As a group, come up with a solution that you can all agree upon. Write down your answer with **SPECIFIC REASONS** that **EXPLAIN WHY** you choose the option you did. The last person in your group should be prepared to share.

- (1) DECISION AND JUSTIFICATION for **FINANCES and DEBT**:

Financial GAIN  or COST  as a result of your decision

Describe what will be done with the GAIN in government funds OR...

Explain how the COST will be paid for (the money needs to come from somewhere!)

- (2) DECISION AND JUSTIFICATION for **COLONIAL EXPANSION**:

Financial GAIN  or COST  as a result of your decision

Describe what will be done with the GAIN in government funds OR...

Explain how the COST will be paid for (the money needs to come from somewhere!)

- (3) DECISION AND JUSTIFICATION for **RELATIONS w/ NATIVES**:

Financial GAIN  or COST  as a result of your decision

Describe what will be done with the GAIN in government funds OR...

Explain how the COST will be paid for (the money needs to come from somewhere!)

- (4) DECISION AND JUSTIFICATION for **TRADE REGULATION**:

Financial GAIN  or COST  as a result of your decision

Describe what will be done with the GAIN in government funds OR...

Explain how the COST will be paid for (the money needs to come from somewhere!)