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**America's Revolution (1) – George
Washington Strikes the Spark - I**

Lead: In the 1700s the United States broke from England. No colony in history had ever done that. This series examines America's Revolution.

Intro.: A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts

Content: When King George III of Britain and his advisors heard the news that George Washington had been appointed commander of what would become the victorious Continental Army in 1775, they were quite familiar with the name and

reputation of the Virginian. Washington had been a major international player for over two decades since a little known event on the frontier of Pennsylvania in May 1754 gave the 22-year old Lieutenant Colonel of the Virginia Militia the beginning of an outsized status. His exploits that spring became the catalyst of the first real world war, known in Europe as the Seven Years' War and in America as the French and Indian War.

In the 1750s the Ohio Valley was disputed territory. French Canadians, Native Americans, and British colonists, particularly in Pennsylvania and Virginia, contested the ownership of the rich and strategic river and the

lands bordering it. In 1753 then Major George Washington was sent as an ambassador to the French and their Indian allies. The British sent a written demand that the French stop building forts along the river which the Virginians felt encroached upon British territory. The French refused and the following year Washington was sent by Governor Robert Dinwiddie to establish the flag, to complete and defend a fort at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers at present-day Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. Next time: a mysterious interrogation and the start of a great war.

At the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.

Resources

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