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**America's Revolution (4) – French and
Indian War – II**

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

Intro.: A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts

Content: The *French and Indian War* was the North American theater of a much larger international conflict known to European historians as the *Seven Years' War*. The land and naval forces of Great Britain and its allies secured a major victory over France and its allies in the years between 1755

and 1763. It was an enormously expensive enterprise and by prevailing in it Britain laid the foundation for its second empire while at the same time it sowed the seeds of destruction for its first empire.

The French and Indian War was a frontier conflict fought from Virginia to Nova Scotia along the western border between New France and its Indian allies and the thirteen maritime British colonies and their Indian allies. The European French population was approximately 70,000 at the time of the war, concentrated in the St. Lawrence River Valley with smaller population centers as far south as New Orleans. The French alliance with Native American tribes was strengthened by

commercial traffic specifically that carried on by traders and trappers many of whom intermarried with high-ranking Indian women.

The total British colonial population of 1.5 million dwarfed its French counterpart and was beginning stretch out west into the Ohio watershed, bringing the two antagonists into conflict. The war went badly at first for the British. From 1755-1757 almost everything the British tried failed. Next time: Braddock's defeat and Acadian ethnic cleansing.

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

Resources

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Nester, William R. *The First Global War: Britain, France and the Fate of North America: 1756-1775.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 2000.

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