

Quebec Falls In 1757, Britain had a new secretary of state, William Pitt, who was determined to win the war in the colonies. Pitt sent the best generals to America and borrowed money to pay colonial troops. The British controlled six French forts by August 1759, including Fort Duquesne (rebuilt as Fort Pitt). In late summer, the British moved to attack New France at its capital, Quebec.

Connect to the World

The Seven Years' War

The French and Indian War was part of the Seven Years' War (1756–1763), a worldwide struggle between France and Great Britain.

The British lay siege to Quebec, which sits on cliffs 300 feet above the St. Lawrence River. In September, a scout found a steep path up the cliffs to the plains near Quebec. Under cover of darkness, British general James Wolfe and 4,000 of his men secretly climbed the cliffs.

When the French awoke, the British were lined up on the plains, ready to attack. In the short, fierce battle that followed, Wolfe was killed. The French commander, Montcalm, died of his wounds the next day. Quebec surrendered to the British. The **Battle of Quebec** was the turning point of the war. When Montreal fell the next year, all of Canada was in British hands.

Britain and France battled in other parts of the world for almost three more years. Spain made a **pact** in 1761 to aid France, but this help came too late. When the Seven Years' War ended in 1763, the **Treaty of Paris** was signed. The treaty ended nearly all French control in North America and dramatically expanded Britain's colonial empire.

SUMMARIZE Describe the alliances of the French and Indian War.

COMPARING Prewar and Postwar Boundaries

Prewar Boundaries 1754



Postwar Boundaries 1763



Connect Geography & History

- Place** What was the southern limit of British territory in 1754?
- Evaluate** Which nation benefited most from the treaty?