

# Georgia and the American Revolution

The colony of Georgia was somewhat removed and disconnected at first from some of the initial causes of the Revolutionary War. The **Revolutionary War** occurred between Great Britain and the British colonies in North America. The colonies wanted to be independent of the unfair and unjust treatment they were receiving from the British government. Of all the colonies, Georgia was the youngest, poorest, and smallest. The causes of the Revolutionary War did impact the colony of Georgia, but not as much as some of the better-established colonies.

The **French and Indian War** happened from 1754 until 1763 between Great Britain and France. This war was part of a much larger war around the world called the Seven Years War that was being fought on multiple fronts. The French and Indian War was a conflict over control and dominance of the Ohio River Valley. Both sides wanted this area desperately for the fur trade. **Fur trade** is the buying and selling of furs for export to make a profit. Britain won this war eventually and gained control of Canada and all of frontier land west of the Mississippi River. Georgia had basically no involvement in this war at all. The war was fought quite some distance from Georgia, so the impact was minimal in Georgia. This war was expensive, and Britain had to find some creative and quick ways to cover the high cost. Britain was near the edge of complete financial ruin after this war. King Georgia III came up with the Proclamation Act of 1763 and the Stamp Act to help recoup money to pay the debts from the war.

The **Proclamation Act of 1763** was an attempt to build, stabilize, and maintain relationships with American Indians that occupied the lands won in the war by Great Britain. It stated that colonists could not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains anymore for any reason. Due to Britain's terrible financial situation, they could not afford to get in any disputes or wars with the American Indians at all. Many colonists who had fought in the war believed that this act was wrong and unfair. They wanted to settle and expand on the land that they had fought so bravely to win. This created tremendous levels of tension between Britain and the colonies.

The **Stamp Act of 1765** was another attempt to collect money from the colonies for Britain to cover war debts. It put a tax on everyday items in the colonies like newspapers, documents, and assorted licenses. The colonists were against this almost immediately and made it known. While other colonies responded violently in some ways, Georgia was not as dramatic. Some colonies would have violent protests against the Stamp Act, including against the individual tax collectors. A **tax collector** is a person that a government hires to make sure a tax is collected and enforced. Georgia's small population and dependence on the British meant that they were limited in how they could respond. Some were heavily against the Stamp Act, however. Several key figures in the colony of Georgia spoke out against the Stamp Act.