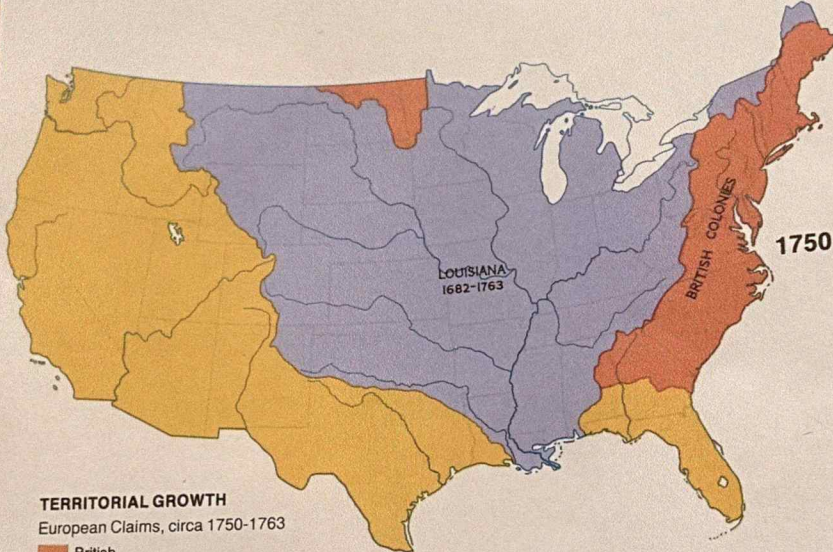


First claims on a continent

With a royal grant for half of North America, Virginia became the first English colony. Other charters went to proprietors and commercial endeavors such as the Massachusetts Bay Company. Like most colonies, Massachusetts claimed lands "from the Atlantick . . . to the South Sea on the West Parte." Transcontinental claims engendered disputes with France and Spain.



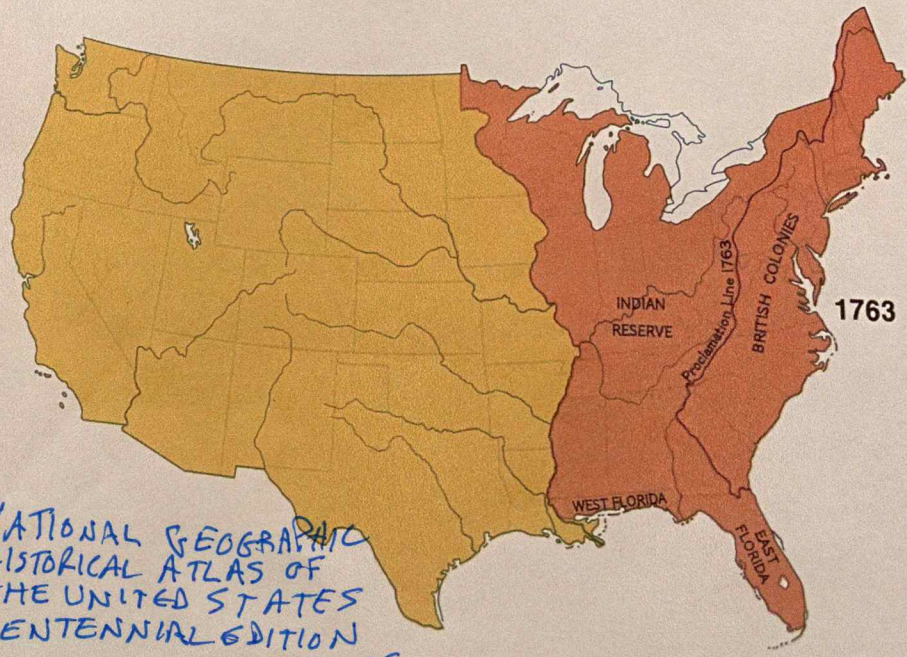
TERRITORIAL GROWTH
European Claims, circa 1750-1763

- British
- French
- Spanish

Crossed claims & war

On the eve of the French and Indian War, fewer than 80,000 Frenchmen inhabited Canada and the disputed Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. British colonists numbered 1,300,000. Battles near Lake Champlain and Lake George were indecisive until new British strength was committed. The storming of Québec ended French hopes in 1759.

Driven from 1755 by British refugees from Louisiana under the Their narrow of frontage



The colonial shuffle

The Treaty of Paris in 1763 ended France's dominion in North America. Canada and lands east of the Mississippi went to Britain; Spain ceded Florida to Britain and received all French holdings west of the Mississippi. Britain's reservation of western lands for Indians angered colonists.

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