

French and Indian War

(1754-60; ended with Treaty of Paris, 1763)

British:

Wanted to keep French out of Ohio River Valley

Americans:

- Wanted Indian raids on frontier to stop
- Wanted to engage in more trade with Indians
- Population: 1.1 million (free); 250,000 (slave)

Iroquois:

- Traditional enemies of the French, but willing to keep peace in exchange for trade concessions in Great Lakes
- Wanted to dominate Pennsylvania and Ohio Valley (to keep British out)

Tanaghrisson:

Representative of Iroquois Indians in Ohio (the Mingo) to Iroquois Confederation; he needed gifts from American traders to distribute to followers, to keep them loyal.

French:

- Wanted to control trade with Indians in the northwest region (Ohio River Valley, Great Lakes region)
- OK with Iroquois expansion as long as they kept the British out
- Population (in Canada) of 50,000

Tanaghrisson needed American traders to give him gifts to distribute to the Indians in the Ohio region; they moved into the area in exchange. This convinced the French that the Iroquois couldn't dominate the Ohio themselves, and so they started their Plan B, which was to construct forts in the region. This alarmed the British, who sent George Washington to politely ask the French to leave. Not inclined to see things his way, the French refused. The British returned with troops and the war was on.