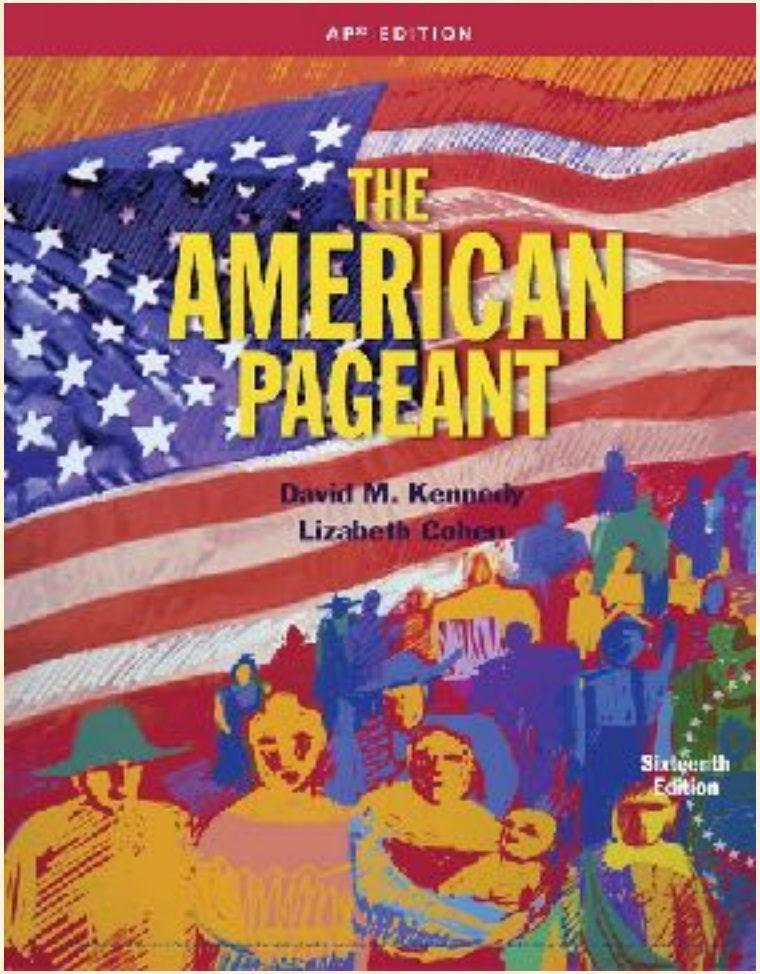
Chapter 6

The Duel for North America 1608–1763



I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada

- France was a latecomer in the scramble for New World real estate:
  - It was convulsed by foreign wars and domestic strife during the 1500s.
  - It was involved in clashes between Roman Catholics and Protestant **Huguenots.**
  - On St. Bartholomew's Day, 1572, over 10,000 Huguenots—men, women, and children—were butchered in cold blood.

I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

- 1598: Era of the **Edict of Nantes**:
  - Issued by the crown, it granted limited toleration to French Protestants.
  - France blossomed, led by brilliant ministers and by King Louis XIV, who reigned for 72 years (1643–1715).
  - Fatefully for North America, he took a deep interest in overseas colonies.

I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

- 1608: The permanent beginnings of a French empire (see Map. 6.1) were established at Québec:
  - Efforts were led by Samuel de Champlain, “Father of New France.”
  - He established friendly relationships with Huron Indian tribes.
  - He entered into a treaty with the Huron against the Iroquois tribes of the upper New York area.

NEWFOUNDLAND
Hudson Bay
Québec 1608
Montréal 1642
NOVA SCOTIA
Port Royal 1604
Detroit
ILLINOIS COUNTRY
Missouri R.
Ohio R.
Colorado R.
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
La Salle murdered 1687
SAINT-DOMINGUE (Fr.)
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean Sea
Mexico City
Territorial claims
British
French
Spanish
0 500 1000 Km.
0 500 1000 MI.
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Map 6.1 p102

I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

- Government of New France (Canada) finally fell under direct control of the king.
  - This regime was almost completely autocratic.
  - The people elected no representative assemblies.
  - They did not enjoy the right to trial by jury, as in the English colonies.

I. France Finds a Foothold in Canada (cont.)

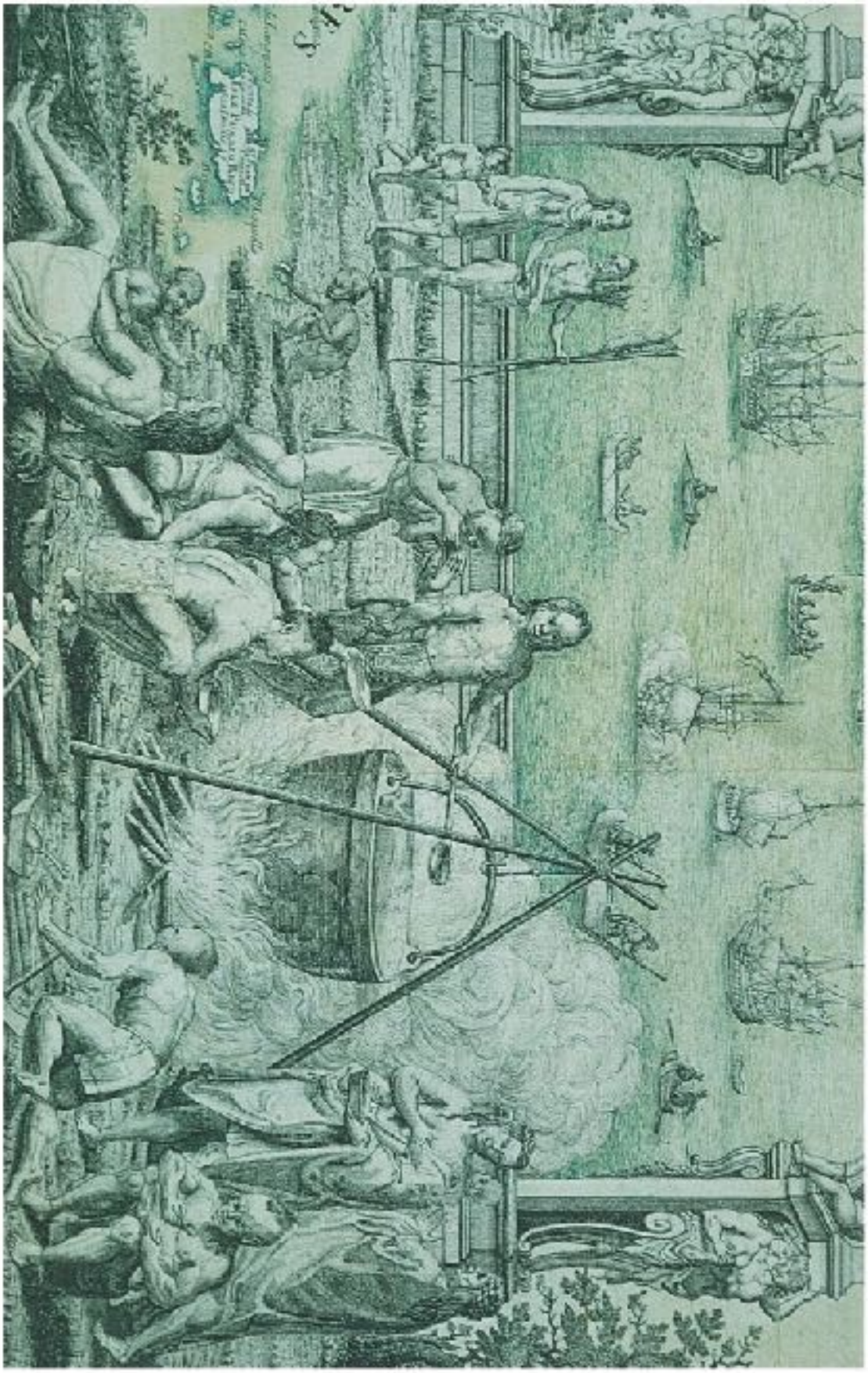
- The population of Catholic New France grew slowly:
  - In the late 1750s, only 60,000 or so whites were in New France.
  - Landowning French peasants had little motive to move.
  - French Huguenots were denied a refuge.
  - The French government favored its Caribbean islands.

II. New France Fans Out

- New France contained one valuable resource—the beaver:
  - European fashion-setters valued beaver-pelt hats.
  - Colorful **coureurs de bois** trapped beavers.
  - They littered the land with scores of place names: Baton Rouge (red stick), Terre Haute (high land), Des Moines (some monks).

II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

- French **voyageurs** recruited Indians into the fur business (see Map 6.2):
  - The Indian fur flotilla that arrived in Montréal in 1693 numbered 400 canoes.
  - Many of these Indians were decimated by the white man's diseases and alcohol.
  - Mass slaughter of beavers violated many Indians' religious beliefs and caused ecological damage.



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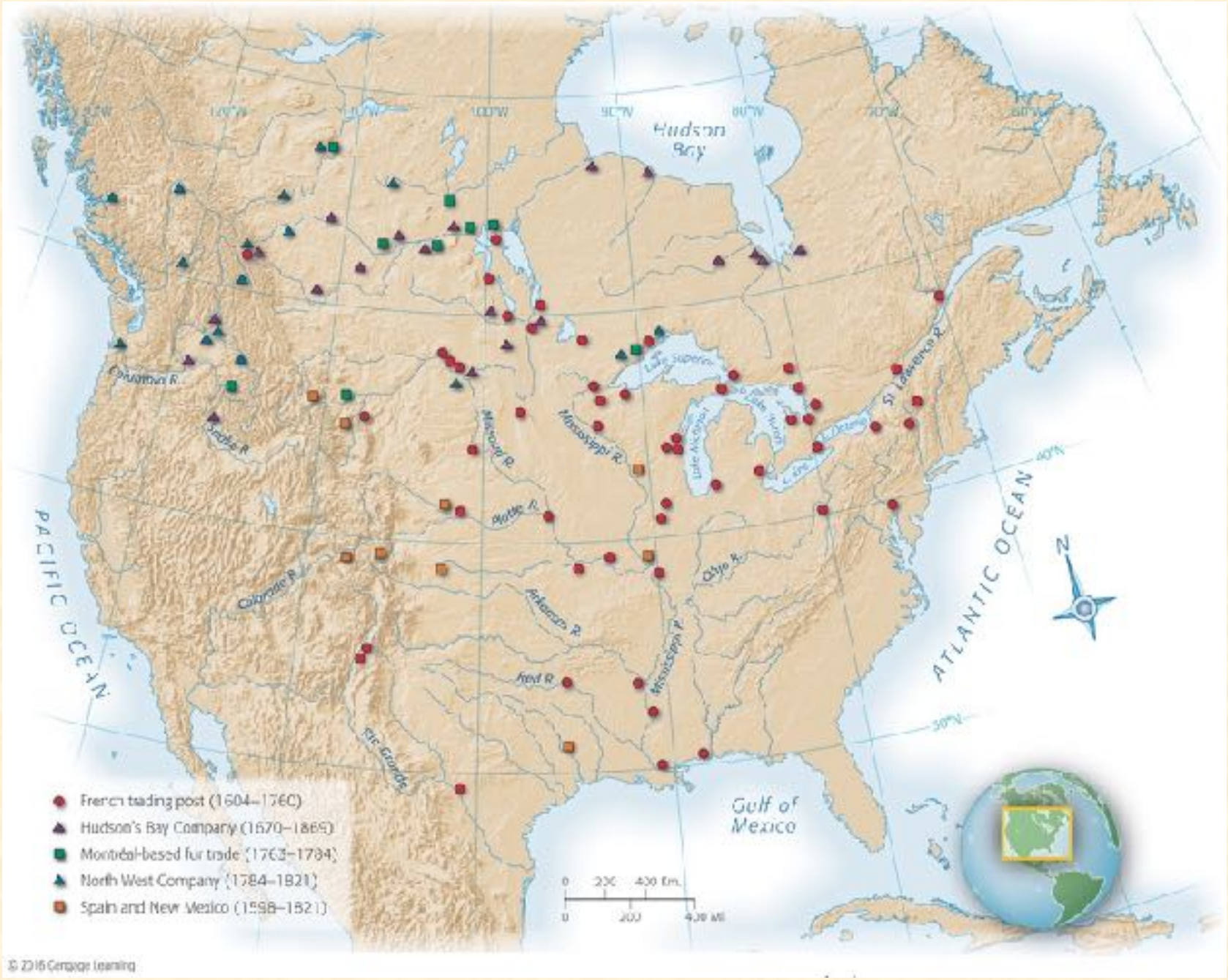

Hudson Bay
Lake Superior
Lake Michigan
Lake Huron
Lake Erie
Lake Ontario
St. Lawrence R.
Columbia R.
Snake R.
Missouri R.
Platte R.
Mississippi R.
Ohio R.
Arkansas R.
Red R.
Colorado R.
Rio Grande
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Gulf of Mexico
N
French trading post (1604–1760)
Hudson's Bay Company (1670–1869)
Montréal-based fur trade (1763–1784)
North West Company (1784–1821)
Spain and New Mexico (1598–1821)
0 200 400 Km.
0 200 400 Mi.
© 2016 Cengage Learning

Map 6.2 p103

II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

- Catholic missionaries (Jesuits) tried to save Indians for Christ and from fur-trappers:
  - Some suffered torture by Indians.
  - They had few converts but did play a vital role as explorers and geographers.
  - Other explorers sought neither souls nor fur, but empire to block English and Spanish expansion.

II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

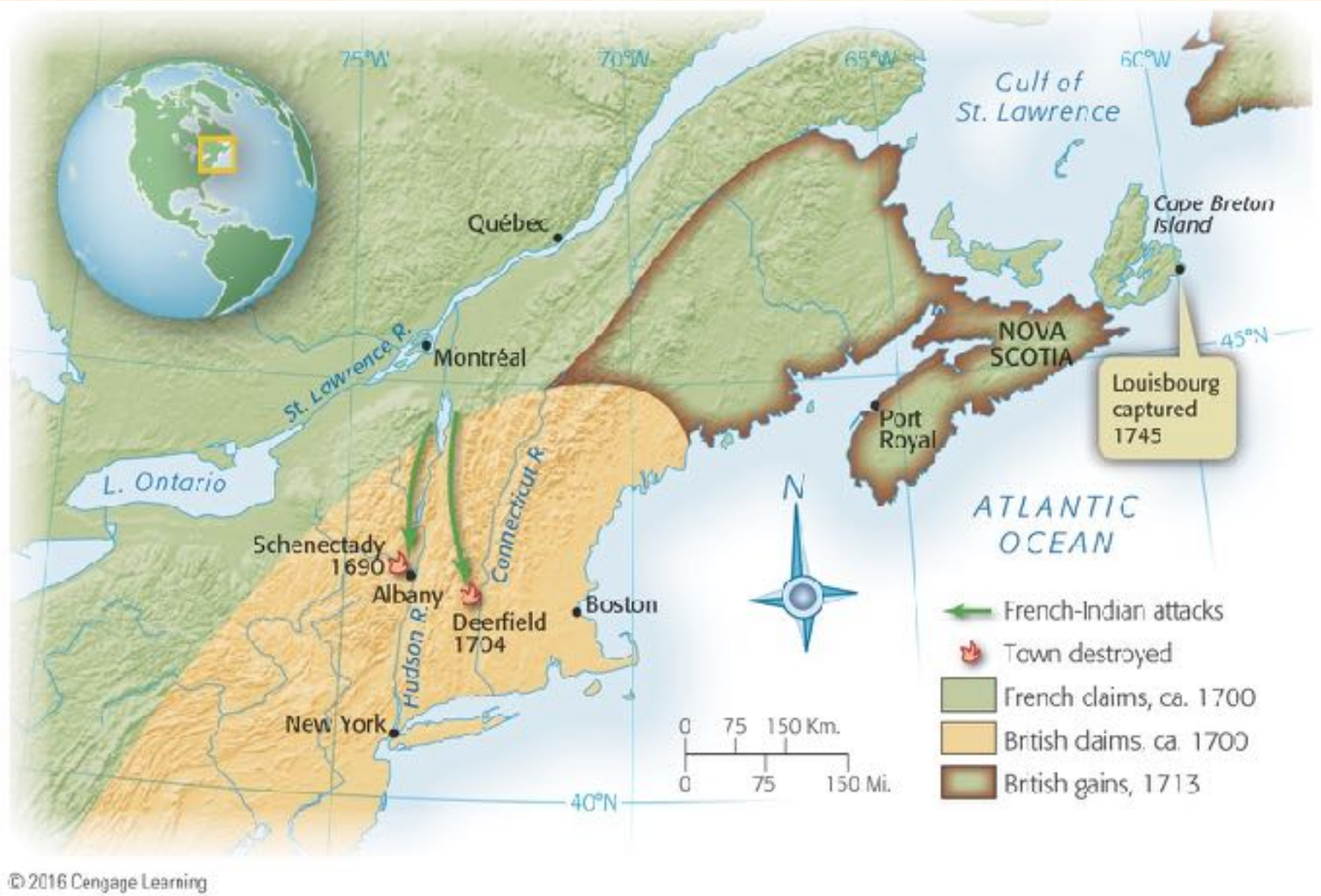
- French explorers:
  - Antoine Cadillac founded Detroit, “the City of Straits.”
  - Robert de La Salle floated down the Mississippi in 1682 to where it mingles with the Gulf.
  - He named the interior basin “Louisiana,” after Louis XIV.
  - He failed to find the Mississippi delta, landed in Spanish Texas, and in 1687 was murdered.

II. New France Fans Out (cont.)

- The French planted several fortified posts in what is now Mississippi and Louisiana:
  - New Orleans was founded in 1718.
  - The forts in fertile Illinois country (Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes) became the grain garden of France's North America empire.

III. The Clash of Empires

- The earliest contests among European powers for control of North America:
  - In **King William's War** (1689–1697) and **Queen Anne's War** (1702–1713) (see Table 6.1), British colonists fought French *coureurs de bois.*
  - Indian allies ravaged Schenectady, New York, and Deerfield, Massachusetts (see Map 6.3).


75°W
70°W
65°W
60°W
Gulf of St. Lawrence
Cape Breton Island
Québec
Montréal
St. Lawrence R.
NOVA SCOTIA
45°N
Louisbourg captured 1745
Port Royal
L. Ontario
Connecticut R.
N
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Schenectady 1690
Albany
Deerfield 1704
Boston
Hudson R.
New York
0 75 150 Km.
0 75 150 Mi.
40°N
French-Indian attacks
Town destroyed
French claims, ca. 1700
British claims, ca. 1700
British gains, 1713
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Map 6.3 p104

TABLE 6.1 Later English Monarchs*

Name, Reign	Relation to America
William III, 1689–1702	Collapse of Dominion of New England; King William's War
Anne, 1702–1714	Queen Anne's War, 1702–1713
George I, 1714–1727	Navigation Laws laxly enforced ("salutary neglect")
George II, 1727–1760	Ga. founded; King George's War; Seven Years' War
George III, 1760–1820	American Revolution, 1775–1783

*See pp. 26 and 50 for earlier monarchs.

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III. The Clash of Empires (cont.)

- Peace terms, signed at Utrecht in 1713, revealed how badly France and its Spanish ally had been beaten (see Map. 6.4):
  - Britain gained French-populated Acadia (which the British renamed Nova Scotia) as well as Newfoundland and Hudson Bay.
  - Losses pinched France's settlements on the St. Lawrence and thereby sealed their ultimate doom.

George Catlin, Chief of the Taensa Indians Receiving La Salle, Paul Mellon Collection, image courtesy of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

180°
160°W
140°W
120°W
100°W
80°W
60°W
40°W
20°W
60°N
40°N
20°N
NEWFOUNDLAND
Hudson Bay
NOVA SCOTIA
Quebec
Montréal
Port Royal
Missouri R.
Mississippi R.
Ohio R.
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean Sea
Jamaica (Gr. Br.)
Territorial claims
British
French
Spanish
0 500 1000 Km.
0 500 1000 Mi.
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Map 6.4 p105

III. The Clash of Empires (cont.)

- American colonies then experienced decades of “salutary neglect”—fertile soil for roots of independence.
- British also won limited trading rights in Spanish America, which led to smuggling.
- British captain Robert Jenkins had one ear sliced off by a Spanish official, which led to the **War of Jenkins’s Ear** in 1739.

III. The Clash of Empires (cont.)

- The War of Jenkins's Ear merged with larger War of Austrian Succession in Europe (see Table 6.2), called **King George's War** in America:
  - New Englanders with help from British navy captured Louisbourg, which commanded the St. Lawrence River (see Map 6.3).
  - But was returned to France by the treaty of 1748.
  - France still clung to its vast holdings.

IV. George Washington Inaugurates War with France

- The Ohio Valley became the chief bone of contention between the French and British:
  - For the British, it was a critical area for westward movement.
  - The French needed it to link their Canadian holdings to those of the lower Mississippi Valley.
  - The British colonists were determined to fight for their economic security and supremacy.

TABLE 6.2 The Nine World Wars

Dates	In Europe	In America
1688–1697	War of the League of Augsburg	King William's War, 1689–1697
1701–1713	War of Spanish Succession	Queen Anne's War, 1702–1713
1740–1748	War of Austrian Succession	King George's War, 1744–1748
1756–1763	Seven Years' War	French and Indian War, 1754–1763
1778–1783	War of the American Revolution	American Revolution, 1775–1783
1793–1802	Wars of the French Revolution	Undeclared French War, 1798–1800
1803–1815	Napoleonic Wars	War of 1812, 1812–1814
1914–1918	World War I	World War I, 1917–1918
1939–1945	World War II	World War II, 1941–1945

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Table 6.2 p106

Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library

IV. George Washington Inaugurates War with France (cont.)

- Ohio Valley rivalry increased tensions:
  - The French erected a chain of forts along the Ohio River.
  - Fort Duquesne was at the pivotal point where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers join to form the Ohio River—the later site of Pittsburgh.
  - In 1754, the governor of Virginia sent young George Washington to Ohio Country to secure the Virginians' claim.

IV. George Washington Inaugurates War with France (cont.)

- In this skirmish:
  - Washington met some French troops about 40 miles from Fort Duquesne (Map 6.5) and fired.
  - French leader was killed and his men retreated.
  - French returned and surrounded Washington.
  - Washington, after 10-hour siege, surrendered but was allowed to march troops away with honor.
  - In response, the British brutally uprooted French **Acadians** and scattered them as far as Louisiana: descendants are “Cajuns.”

NEW FRANCE
Gulf of St. Lawrence
New France's boundary with Maine, New Hampshire and New York was uncertain.
Québec 1759
St. Lawrence R.
St. François 1759
Montreal 1760
Mohawk
Rogers Rangers
Fort Crown Point 1759
Fort Ticonderoga 1758
Fort William Henry 1757
Lake George 1755
Fort Oswego 1756
Fort Niagara 1756
Lake Ontario
Lake Huron
Lake Erie
Fort Presque Isle
Fort Le Boeuf
Fort Machault
Allegheny R.
Fort Duquesne 1756
Braddock defeated 1755
Ohio R.
Fort Necessity Washington defeated July 1754
Washington 1753–1754
Monongahela R.
NEW YORK
IROQUOIS
PENNSYLVANIA
MD
DEL
VIRGINIA
N.J.
New York
Philadelphia
Hudson R.
CONN.
R.I.
MASS.
Boston
N.H.
MAINE (MASS.)
ACADIA
NOVA SCOTIA
Fort Gaspereau 1755
Fort Beausejour 1755
Louisbourg 1758
Halifax
British deport 6,000 Acadians, summer of 1755.
ATLANTIC OCEAN
British territory
French territory
Disputed territory
British forces
French forces
British fort
French fort
British victory
French victory
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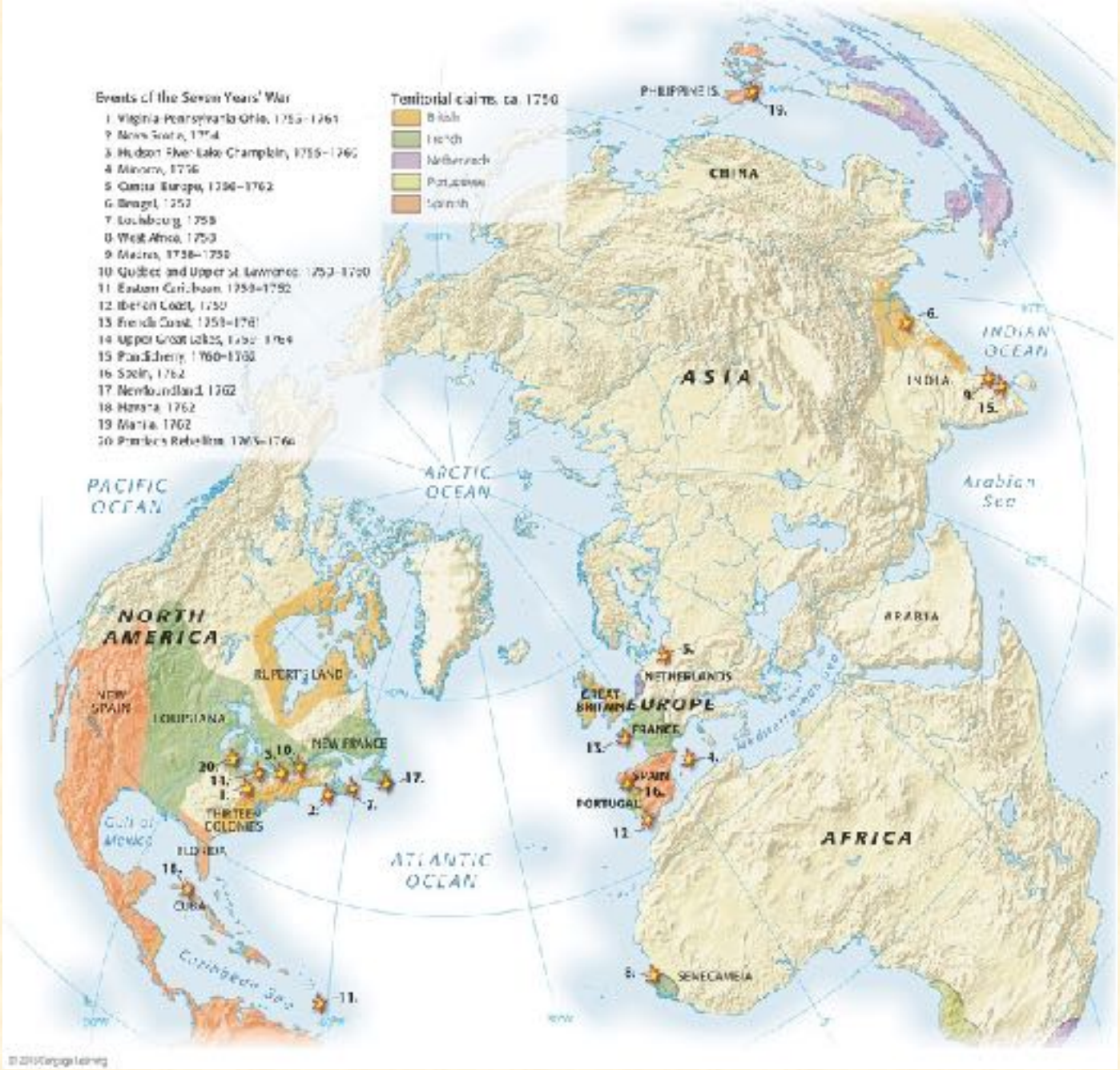
Map 6.5 p107

V. Global War and Colonial Disunity

- First 3 Anglo-French colonial wars started in Europe, but the 4th one started in America:
- The **French and Indian War,** started by Washington in the Ohio Valley (1754), widened after two years into the **Seven Years' War** in America, Europe, the West Indies, Africa, Philippines, and on the ocean.
- The Seven Years' War was a 7-sea war (see Map 6.6).


Events of the Seven Years' War
1 Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, 1755–1761
2 Nova Scotia, 1754
3 Hudson River–Lake Champlain, 1755–1762
4 Minorca, 1756
5 Central Europe, 1756–1762
6 Bengal, 1757
7 Louisbourg, 1758
8 West Africa, 1758
9 Madras, 1758–1759
10 Quebec and Upper St. Lawrence, 1759–1760
11 Eastern Caribbean, 1759–1762
12 Iberian Coast, 1759
13 French Coast, 1759–1761
14 Upper Great Lakes, 1759–1764
15 Pondicherry, 1760–1761
16 Spain, 1762
17 Newfoundland, 1762
18 Havana, 1762
19 Manila, 1762
20 Pontiac's Rebellion, 1763–1766
Territorial claims, ca. 1750
British
French
Netherlands
Portuguese
Spanish
PHILIPPINES
CHINA
ASIA
INDIA
INDIAN OCEAN
Arabian Sea
ARCTIC OCEAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
NORTH AMERICA
NEW SPAIN
LOUISIANA
RUPERT'S LAND
NEW FRANCE
THIRTEEN COLONIES
FLORIDA
CUBA
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean Sea
ATLANTIC OCEAN
NETHERLANDS
GREAT BRITAIN
EUROPE
FRANCE
SPAIN
PORTUGAL
ARABIA
AFRICA
SENEGAMBIA

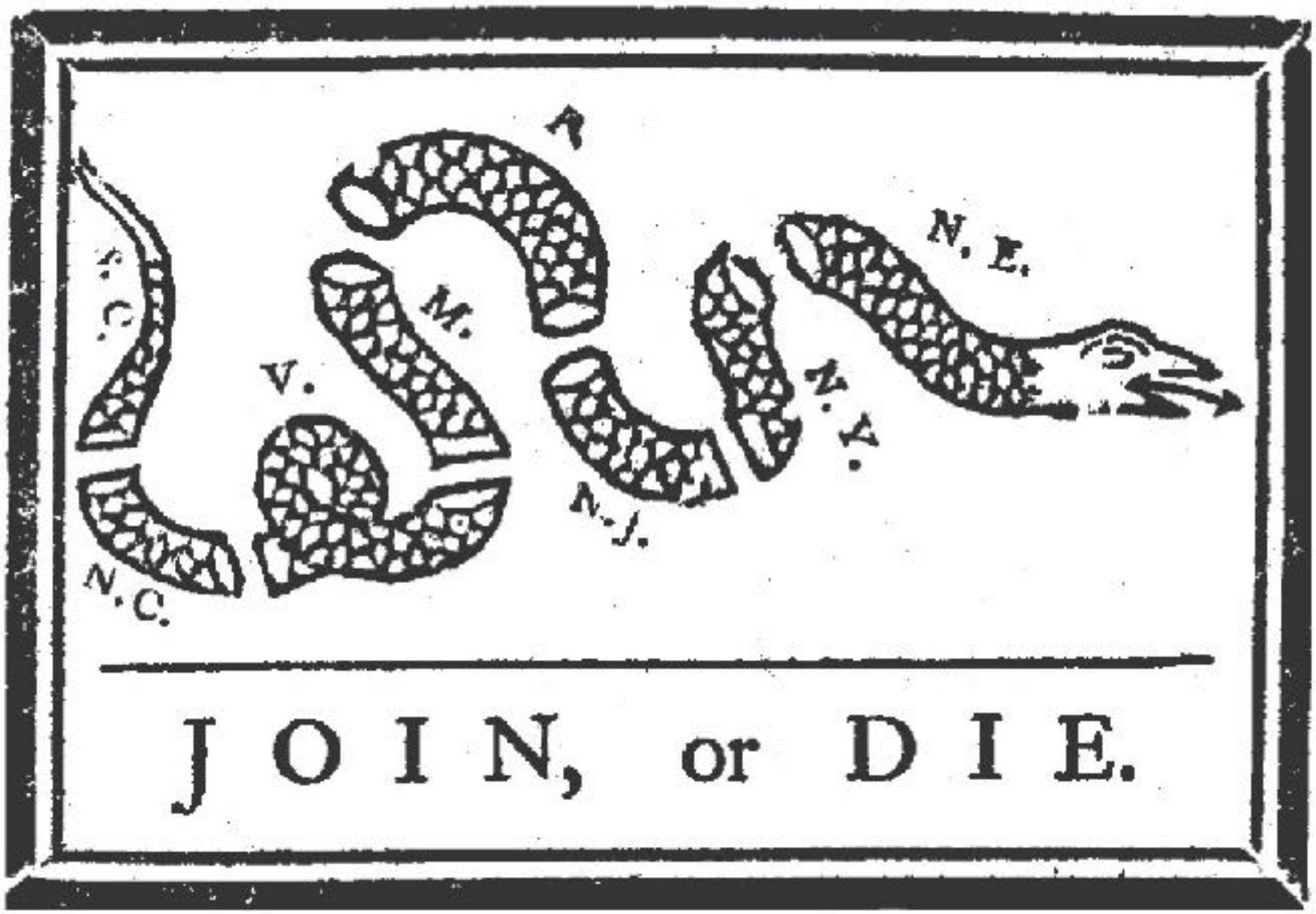
Map 6.6 p108

V. Global War and Colonial Disunity (cont.)

- The crisis demanded concerted action:
  - In 1754, the British government summoned an intercolonial congress to met at Albany, N.Y.
  - Only 7 colonies sent delegates.
  - The immediate purpose was to control Iroquois tribes loyal to Britain.
  - The longer-range goal was to increase colonial unity and thus bolster common defense against France.

V. Global War and Colonial Disunity (cont.)

- Benjamin Franklin was the leading spirit at the **Albany Congress**:
  - He published the famous cartoon "Join, or Die."
  - He presented a well-devised but premature scheme for colonial home rule.
  - Albany delegates unanimously adopted it.
  - Individual colonies rejected it, as did the British government.



Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division, [LC-USZC4-5315]

V. Global War and Colonial Disunity (cont.)

- Franklin's scheme (cont.):
  - To colonists, it did not give enough independence.
  - To the British, it gave too much.
  - Franklin observed that everyone agreed on need for union, but were "distracted" when they tried to agree on details.

VI. Braddock's Blundering and Its Aftermath

- Opening clashes of war went badly for British:
  - General Edward Braddock was sent to Virginia with a strong detachment of British **regulars.**
  - He set out in 1755 with 2,000 men to capture Fort Duquesne.
  - On his way he met a smaller French and Indian army.

VI. Braddock's Blundering and Its Aftermath (cont.)

- Opening clashes (cont.):
  - Washington had two horses shot from under him and four bullets pierced his coat.
  - Braddock was fatally wounded.
  - The British were routed and suffered large losses.
  - Inflamed by easy victory, Indians launched assaults from Pennsylvania to North Carolina.
  - Washington with 300 men tried to defend frontier.
  - The British experienced defeat after defeat.

VII. Pitt's Palms of Victory

- William Pitt was Britain's superlative leader:
  - He was known as the "Great Commoner."
  - 1757: He became a key leader in the London government.
  - He downplayed assaults on the French West Indies.
  - He concentrated on the vital Québec-Montréal area of Canada.
  - He picked young and energetic military leaders.

VII. Pitt's Palms of Victory (cont.)

- William Pitt (cont.):
  - 1758: He dispatched an expedition that took Louisbourg, the first major British victory.
  - He sent James Wolfe to take Québec.
  - Wolfe battled the Marquis de Montcalm's forces on the Plains of Abraham outside of Québec.
  - Both commanders were fatally wounded.
  - The French were defeated and Québec surrendered.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division [LC-USZ62-47]

VII. Pitt's Palms of Victory (cont.)

- **Battle of Québec** (1759) was one of the most significant battles in British and American history:
  - When Montreal fell in 1760, the French flag fluttered for the last time in Canada.
  - The Treaty of Paris in 1763 displaced the French empire from the North American continent.
  - The French were able to maintain several small but valuable sugar islands in the West Indies.

VII. Pitt's Palms of Victory (cont.)

- France also received two never-to-be-fortified islets in Gulf of St. Lawrence for fishing stations.
- Final blow: France ceded to Spain all of trans-Mississippi Louisiana, including New Orleans (see Map 6.7).
- Great Britain emerged as:
  - The dominant power in North America
  - The leading world naval power

180°
160°W
140°W
120°W
100°W
80°W
60°W
40°W
20°W
60°N
40°N
20°N
Hudson Bay
Columbia R.
Missouri R.
Mississippi R.
Ohio R.
Colorado R.
Rio Grande
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean Sea
BR. HONDURAS
Territorial claims
British
French
Spanish
Russian
0 500 1000 Km.
0 500 1000 Mi.
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Map 6.7a p111

Hudson Bay
Québec
Montréal
Boston
New York
Philadelphia
Richmond
Savannah
St. Louis
Santa Fé
San Antonio
New Orleans
Mexico City
SAINT-DOMINGUE
BR. HONDURAS
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean Sea
ATLANTIC OCEAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
Territorial claims
British
French
Spanish
Russian
Proclamation Line of 1763
0 500 1000 Km
0 500 1000 Mi.
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Map 6.7b p111

VIII. Restless Colonists

- Britain's colonists emerged with increased confidence in their military strength and skill.
  - 20,000 colonists were under arms at war's end.
  - War shattered the myth of British invincibility.
  - Displaying the contempt of professional soldiers, the British refused to recognize any American militia commission above the rank of captain.

Detroit Public Library, Burton Historical Collection

VIII. Restless Colonists (cont.)

- British officials were distressed by reluctance of some colonies to support the war wholeheartedly.
- Some colonies, self-centered and alienated by their distance from war, refused to provide troops and money for the conflict.
- Colonies still exhibited strong tendencies toward disunity.

VIII. Restless Colonists (cont.)

- But unity among colonies received some encouragement during the war:
  - When soldiers and statesmen from different colonies met, they discovered they were all Americans who spoke the same language and shared common ideals.
  - A coherent nation could emerge, but it would not be easy.

IX. War's Fateful Aftermath

- Removal of French menace in Canada profoundly affected American attitudes:
  - In a sense history of the United States began with the fall of Québec and Montréal.
  - Spanish and Indian threats were substantially reduced.
  - Spanish removal from Florida and French removal from Canada deprived Indians of potential allies to outset growing British power.

IX. War's Fateful Aftermath (cont.)

- **Pontiac's uprising** by Ottawa Chief Pontiac:
  - Laid siege to Detroit in 1763 and overran all but three British posts west of the Appalachians.
  - Killed some 2,000 soldiers and settlers.
  - British retaliated swiftly and cruelly with a primitive version of biological warfare.
  - Pontiac died in 1769 at hands of a rival chieftain.
- Colonists were now free to cross Appalachian Mountains and take western lands.

IX. War's Fateful Aftermath (cont.)

- But London issued the **Proclamation of 1763,** which banned settlement beyond the Appalachians (see Map 6.8).
  - Britain only wanted to avoid another bloody Indian uprising.
- But angry colonists flouted the proclamation.
- The stage was set for conflict:
  - The colonists refused to be restrained.
  - British government was frustrated with colonies.

Lake Superior
Lake Huron
Lake Michigan
Lake Ontario
Lake Erie
SPANISH LOUISIANA
MAINE
N.H.
MASS.
CONN
RHODE ISLAND
New York
PENN
DELAWARE
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Gulf of Mexico

Map 6.8 p114

CHRONOLOGY

1598	Edict of Nantes (repealed in 1685)
1608	Champlain colonizes Québec for France
1643	Louis XIV becomes king of France
1682	La Salle explores Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico
1689–1697	King William's War (War of the League of Augsburg)
1702–1713	Queen Anne's War (War of Spanish Succession)
1718	French found New Orleans
1739	War of Jenkins's Ear
1744–1748	King George's War (War of Austrian Succession)
1754	Washington battles French on frontier Albany Congress
1756–1763	Seven Years' War (French and Indian War)
1755	Braddock's defeat
1757	Pitt emerges as leader of British government
1759	Battle of Québec
1763	Peace of Paris Pontiac's uprising Proclamation of 1763