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**DBQ 3: WHAT CAUSED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION?**

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### Historical Background

Too often, the seeds of future wars grow from the results of earlier wars. This certainly was true of the American Revolution.

The earlier conflict was the French and Indian War, which ended in 1763. Britain and its American colonies defeated the French and their Indian allies. This war was the last of a long series of colonial-era wars dating back to 1689. Britain and France fought these conflicts for control of Europe and of their colonies throughout the world. The French and Indian War (1754–1763) was the last of these conflicts. More than the earlier wars, it was waged over the control of North America. People in all the British North American colonies rejoiced at the British victory. In 1763, American colonists were proud to be part of the British Empire.

Yet in 1775, America and Britain were at war. How could Americans, in the space of only twelve years, go from celebrating their membership in the British Empire to waging war against Britain?

■ **Directions:** The following question is based on the documents (1–5) that follow. Before reading these documents, be sure to

1. Carefully read and think about the document-based question that follows these directions.
2. Ask yourself: What do I already know about this question and its topic? What did I learn from reading the Historical Background section? If I had to answer the document-based question without reading any of the documents, what would I say?
3. Take a few minutes to jot down the major things you already know about this topic and question. What important names, dates, events, and major ideas do you already know?
4. Now read each document carefully. Ask yourself: How does this document help to answer the document-based question? Underline things of special importance and jot notes in the margins. If you're confused by or don't understand a document, go on to the next one. Later, if you have time, you can go back.
5. Develop a thesis statement that directly answers the document-based question. You'll want to state this thesis early in your essay.
6. Briefly outline your entire essay. Make sure that what you say in it supports and proves your thesis statement. In your essay, plan how you'll use the information found in the documents and what you know already about this topic.

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