**I. The Road to Revolution: Part I**

As Spain declined as a world power, England and France became the two great rivals for leadership in Europe, control of the seas, and possession of India and North America. Competing for dominance, the two countries fought each other in a succession of wars during the 17 th and 18 th centuries.

**I.1.England and France Compete for World Power**

The underlying causes of Anglo-French rivalry in North America were conflicting territorial claims and competition over the fur trade.

The French and English fought four intercolonial wars in North America. The first three originated in Europe but soon spread to the colonies, where they were known as king william’s War(1689-1697) Queen Anne’s War(0701-1713), and king George’s War(1744-1748).

The fourth struggle, the French and Indian War (1754-1763), differed from the other three in that it broke out in North America and later spread to Europe.

**I.2.Causes of the French and Indian War**

The immediate cause of the French and Indian War was a dispute between France and England over possession of land west of the Appalachians. The conflict arose in 1740’s when traders from the English colonies began to extend their operations beyond the Appalachians into the Ohio Valley. This development brought the English into competition with the French for the Indian fur trade. English colonists also looked to the fertile valley as a place to found new settlements.

Insisting that the land was theirs, the French in 1753 began to build a chain of forts from Lake Erie southward to the Ohio River. As a result, the governor of Virginia sent George Washington, a 21 year-old surveyor to demand that the French leave the Ohio Valley. The French refused.

The French next built a fort, called fort Duquesne.

Governor of Virginia responded by sending a force of militia, under Washington, to seize fort Duquesne. The colonials defeated a small detachment of French soldiers and built an outpost, which they named Fort Necessary. The French, however, returned with reinforcements and forced the Virginians to surrender Washington and his men were permitted to return home. This action in 1754 marked the opening of the war.

**I.3.The English Suffer Defeats in the Early Part of the War**

Braddock’s Defeat (1755). Edward Braddock was sent by England to command the British forces in µNorth America. In his first campaign, he led an army of English troops and colonial militia against Fort Duquesne. Unfamiliar with wilderness, warfare, Braddock

**I.4.The Tide Turns after Pitt Assumes Leadership in England**