

The Effects of the Proclamation of 1763 on Tribal Sovereignty

Placard 2

Directions: Read the following article about the effects of the Proclamation of 1763 on Indian Nations. Use the information to answer the questions below. Be prepared to share these responses with the class or your teacher.

"After the French and Indian War, the King of England sent forth The Proclamation of 1763 to the colonies. It **prohibited** colonists from settling in the lands that were just 'won' by the English. The proclamation provided that all lands west of the heads of all rivers which flowed into the Atlantic Ocean from the west or northwest were off-limits to the colonists. This excluded the rich Ohio Valley and all territory from the Ohio to the Mississippi rivers from settlement [See map]. The King hoped that the Proclamation would **allay** [reduce] some of the hostilities between the British and Ohios. The angry colonists, however, ignored the Proclamation and encroached on Indian lands nonetheless. The lack of enforcement of the Proclamation led to **Pontiac's War**, which lasted until the Declaration of Independence." <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=1443>

The Proclamation of 1763 established two key principles:

- a. **Great Britain would deal with Indian tribes in government-to-government relationships.** The King:
 - i. recognized Indians as political entities (like other territory-controlling nations of Europe) and
 - ii. pledged to use diplomacy, warfare, and treaty processes in dealing with Indians.
- b. **Conflict would be avoided if there were clear Indian Country and British boundaries.**

This was difficult for Indians to accept, because "it implied that the British possession of the land east of the line [drawn in the Proclamation] were legitimate, the result of warfare, treaty and purchase." (*Indian Country* Harvey and Harjo, p 111) but since colonists ignored the Proclamation, and the king did not enforce it, the paper was meaningless. Indians began killing encroachers.



Be The Expert:

1. Explain at least two ways the Proclamation of 1763 affected the **tribal sovereignty** of eastern tribal nations.
2. Why do you think the Proclamation of 1763 led to Pontiac's War?
3. Why was the border between the colonies and Indian Country so difficult for tribes to accept?

Other Resources:

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/proc63.htm>