

than quick profits from sugar, and he chose Canada. British possession of Canada, Bute thought, would put an end to the long series of wars waged by the French and the English for control of North America,⁸ and put Britain in control of the lands belonging to the American Indian tribes, who had long been a threat to the western frontiers of the colonies when they fought for the French.

Benjamin Franklin, in London at the time, agreed. He published a pamphlet anonymously (which guaranteed that it would attract attention) in which he described America as the western frontier of the entire British Empire. Canada must remain British, he counseled, in order to secure all of North America. In fact, he predicted that "America might one day number a hundred million people." He ended by dismissing the possibility that the colonists would ever unite against Great Britain:

Benjamin Franklin

If [the colonists] could not agree to unite for their defense against the French and Indians who are harassing their settlements, burning their buildings, and murdering their people, can it reasonably be supposed there is any danger of their uniting against their own nation, which protects and encourages them, and [in] which they have so many connections and ties of blood, interest and affection? . . . I venture to say that an union amongst them for such a purpose is not merely improbable; it is impossible . . . without the most grievous tyranny and oppression.⁹

In December 1762 the House of Commons voted in support of the king and the peace. The nation was tired of war. The Treaty of Paris was signed on February 20, 1763. It had taken nearly three years to negotiate.

The peace of 1763 was the first important achievement of George III's personal rule in foreign affairs. In fact, when the preliminaries of the treaty were approved by Parliament, the Princess Dowager exclaimed, "Now my son is King of England!"

In his American colonies there was rejoicing from New England to the Carolinas. Bonfires were lit, church bells tolled, and guns were fired in celebration. There were festive banquets and colorful parades.