Beginning in the late 1400s, Europeans began to arrive in North America. First, soldiers came to build and protect empires for their homelands. In the 1600s, settlers from England came seeking land. And traders from France and Holland came to trap and trade furs. By the 1700s, these Europeans were fighting one another. Different groups became allies or foes of various American Indian tribes. The 1700s was a time of conflict over land, trade, and empire.

**Conflicts over Land and Trade**

In 1637, the Pequot War was fought for land. The Puritans in Massachusetts were growing in number. These settlers wanted to expand to the west. But their neighbors to the west were a powerful American Indian tribe called the Pequots. When a settler was murdered, the Puritans blamed the Pequots. They used this incident as a reason to attack and burn a Pequot village. The Pequots struck back and killed several settlers. The Puritans were allied with the Narragansett tribe. Together, they attacked and burned a large Pequot community. They killed some 600 men, women and children. Then the Puritans were able to settle on much of the Pequot land.

The competition over the fur trade also led to conflicts. The French, the Dutch, and the English all wanted to control this valuable trade. The French had a treaty with the Huron tribe. The Dutch, and then the English, were allies of the mighty Iroquois tribes. The Europeans gave their American Indian allies firearms in trade for furs. Then they sold the furs for money. The French armed the Hurons. The Dutch, and later the English, armed the Iroquois. The Iroquois were winning an arms race. This led to war among the tribes.

**War Among American Indian Tribes**

In 1649, the Iroquois attacked the Hurons. They killed many members of that tribe. They captured others. The Hurons who were able fled to the west. Some went as far as the western Great Lakes.

This migration of the Huron people caused a new conflict over land. The Hurons still had firearms from the French. The area they now settled in was already crowded with other tribes. They fought with one another over food, land and supplies. Some tribes were forced to find new homes.

One Midwestern tribe was the Lakota. They moved from their homeland near the Great Lakes onto the plains. There, they adapted to a new way of life. They used horses to hunt buffalo. They fought with their new American Indian neighbors. The Lakota people made a new home on the plains and grew powerful.

**European Conflicts Spread to North America**

The conflicts among Europeans had their roots far from North America. In Europe, the rival nations of France, England, and Spain were fighting a series of wars. These disputes spread across the Atlantic.
King William’s War raged in Europe from 1689 to 1697. King William III was England’s king. He led his country against France. In North America, English forces and their Iroquois allies fought the French and their allied tribes.

Queen Anne’s War lasted from 1702 to 1713. In Europe, Great Britain’s Queen Anne fought France and Spain. This war also spread across the Atlantic. Battles took place in French Canada, Spanish Florida, and along the frontier of the British colonies. Again, each nation’s American Indian allies were involved.

In King George’s War (1744-1748), the British king, George II, led his country once more into war against Spain. The war grew to include France and other countries. In North America, the war was again fought on the frontier.

The French and Indian War (1754-1763) was the final war of this period. As you read in Chapter 10, the British won this war. Their alliance with the Iroquois helped them.

**The Cherokee War**

Alliances were often complicated at that time. The Cherokee War, or the Cherokee Uprising, shows this clearly.

When the French and Indian War began in 1754, the Cherokees sided with the British. But relations between the Cherokees and the British settlers were strained. Then, in 1758, a band of Cherokees met with the British. The British general was disrespectful. While making the trip home after the meeting, the Cherokees lost some of their horses. They stole some horses from settlers.

The situation went from bad to worse. The settlers reacted to the theft by killing 19 of their Cherokee allies. And they scalped the dead.

Cherokee chiefs tried to restore the peace. But younger Cherokee warriors wanted revenge. They raided settlers on the frontier. To stop them, over 2,000 British soldiers marched on the Cherokees. A full-scale war erupted between the former allies. Many died on both sides.

In 1761, the Cherokees lost the war. They had to give up their eastern lands. However, the British victory was also costly. And soon after, the British had to fight other American Indians in the Pontiac Uprising of 1763. To gain peace, British King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763. In it, he stopped British colonists from moving west across the Appalachian Mountains and onto American Indian lands. This angered the settlers. They began to resent British rule. In the years to come, this would help cause greater trouble for Great Britain.