

THE FRENCH-INDIAN WAR AND ANCILLARY MATTERS

By Wayne Hogan

'Writer's Corner'

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

Sunday, 22 December 2013, pg. C4

Think mid-18th Century. There's a little snarfus going on somewhere up around the southeastern and northeastern seaboard, and a bit interiorally, too. It's called the French-Indian War, and it'll last for several, and I do mean several, days. The General Accounting Office up in D. C. has yet to receive from either the French or the Indians a complete breakdown on cost figures, but whether reckoned in francs or wampum, the best preliminary estimates run quite high. More to the point is an even larger and, to the present, equally unanswered question: who precisely was it who started this War?

History speaks about some guy called George Washington (you may have heard of him, he's on some of your lesser-valued money) having had something to do with it. Something about an ambush or something.

'Course we know history's been occasionally wrong about some things along the way, and so it may be wrong about this. History has more specifically tended mainly to blame, on the one hand, the French, or, on the other hand, the Indians.

To this latter line of politically improper insinuation, France's former President DeGaulle, to the very end, swore on a stack of Resister-in-Absentia medals that his people, who, he always insisted, "go almost as far back as you can count in grossly deflated francs" (saying this in perfect Gualina, of course), did not start the French-Indian War. And a Mr. John Rainy Cloud Washington (no relation to George, of course), the Apache co-owner of the large casino on the northern outskirts of Gallup (NM), speaking in the reputedly musky smoke-signal way of his, maintains essentially the same for his people. So, the question remains – if, say, neither George Washington nor the French nor the Indians started the French-Indian War, who, then, precisely did?

Now, at long last, the answer to this forever-nagging question is starting to more definitively emerge, thanks to the recent surfacing of fragmentary-bordering-on-hearsay evidence drifting in piecemeal from undisclosed sources in Marseille (tha'd be France, of course) and Gallup thus far suggesting rather pointedly that the actual onus of the French-Indian War rests rather squarely upon, of all the places upon which it might rest, Kazakhstan.

Yes, you heard that right and you're hearing it here first...Kazakhstan. Who'dathunkit, right? Kazakhstan. The reputed birthplace of modern Homo Sapiens, its peoples the inventors of the bow and the boat, the developers of Atbasar archeological culture, the beginnings of horse domestication, and presently and proudly one of five independent central Asian states carved out from within what was once the gargantuan Soviet union, the "evil empire," as ol'what'shisname, one of our former presidents would have it. And the reason the Kazakhstani precipitated the French-Indian War is?

As best as can be surmised from the fragmentary evidence that has drifted in so far, the reason(s) is(are) pretty straightforward – they disliked DeGaulle intensely, and Camus a little also, something about the accent, it's rumored, and weren't too happy, with the way the Indians had of riding their horses without saddles; more, that they used far too few white horses to suite the Kazakhstani, who liked white horses best. It bears mentioning that in addition to the question of who stated the French-Indian War having now been rendered at least much closer than ever before to a definitive answer, it's been additionally estimated, wholly conjecturally, of course, that the French-Indian War would have lasted much, much longer and been much, much more costly had it not been for the influence of Gandhi's work over in India, India being by some accounts the real birthplace of the American Indian, and of Gandhi himself being not-too-distantly related to General DeGaulle (of France, you'll recall). Still, it's perhaps only fair to say that still much is left to future historical scholars to know about this whole issue. Perhaps somewhere out there's a Kazakhstani or two who'd like to come forward and shed additional light on this still-smoldering, ne molding, topic.

Whatcha say, Kazakhstanis? You can reach us 24/7 at frenchindianwar@yahoo.com (if that really is a real e-address).

*Read more 'Writer's Corner' at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>