



The Invasion of Quebec

In the summer of 1775, an invasion force set out from the Thirteen Colonies to attack the British Province of Quebec. The province, stretching from the Labrador coast south all the way to the Mississippi River and encompassing the Great Lakes, had been wrested from French control during the Seven Years' War. It was, at the time, a British possession, but the Continentals hoped to gain a foothold in the region and persuade the Francophone Canadians who populated Quebec to join in the war on the side of the Colonies.



Canadian soldiers defend the walls of Quebec against a Continental attack

The Continental Army began their campaign by besieging Fort St. Johns. The fort was captured, and the Americans pushed on to take the city of Quebec. Here, however, the invasion faltered. Bad weather, disease, and a staunch defense by the city's inhabitants caused the Continental advance to stall. Demoralized, the army pulled back, pursued by British reinforcements commanded by General John Burgoyne. By the winter of 1776, the Continentals were back where they had started; at Fort Ticonderoga in the Hudson River Valley. The campaign had been a costly failure.

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