

Map of the New World, with European settlements and American Indian tribes, 1730

Introduction

This map, “Recens edita totius Novi Belgii in America Septentrionali,” depicts present-day New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Created by Dutch mapmakers in 1730, the map reflects the struggle for territory in the region, referring to places by their Dutch, English, and American Indian names.

The Dutch and English met in various conflicts for control of New England and the upper Mid-Atlantic in the seventeenth century, and both nations increasingly viewed American Indians as an obstacle to settlement. In the 1660s and 1670s, the Dutch fought with England, losing control of New York to the English in 1644 (with a brief return in 1673), after having focused much of their resources on subduing Indian groups in the 1640s and 1650s. Like the Dutch, the English clashed with American Indians in various wars, including the Pequot War (1637), King Philip’s War (1675), King William’s War (1689), and Queen Anne’s War (1701). In some of these conflicts, Indians had allied with the French against the English, hoping to prevent further English incursions into their lands. Though there were periods of peace between European settlers and American Indian groups, another conflict was always on the horizon as European powers determined to push farther into North America.

This map reflects the ever-changing landscape of power in colonial America in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Published fifty-six years after the English gained permanent control of New York, the map shows the names various inhabitants gave to the places they tried to make home. Long Island, for instance, is labeled *Insula longa* (Latin for “Long Island”), with the “alias” *Iorck shire* (or “Yorkshire,” an English name) and *Matouwacs* (an Algonquin name for the island that the Dutch also used).

Questions for Discussion

Carefully examine the map image and read the introduction in order to answer the following questions:

1. List the names of as many American Indian tribes as you can identify from this map.
2. In what way has the mapmaker / engraver minimized the importance and contributions of Native Americans?

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Image



Recens Edita totius Novi Belgii [New Netherland - New York], 1730. (Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC03583)