Cultural Activity

Printing and Newspapers
1760

■ Printing establishment, includes newspaper
■ Printing establishment, without newspaper
* Government printing

Printing and Newspapers
1775

■ Printing establishment, includes newspaper
■ Printing establishment, without newspaper
* Government printing
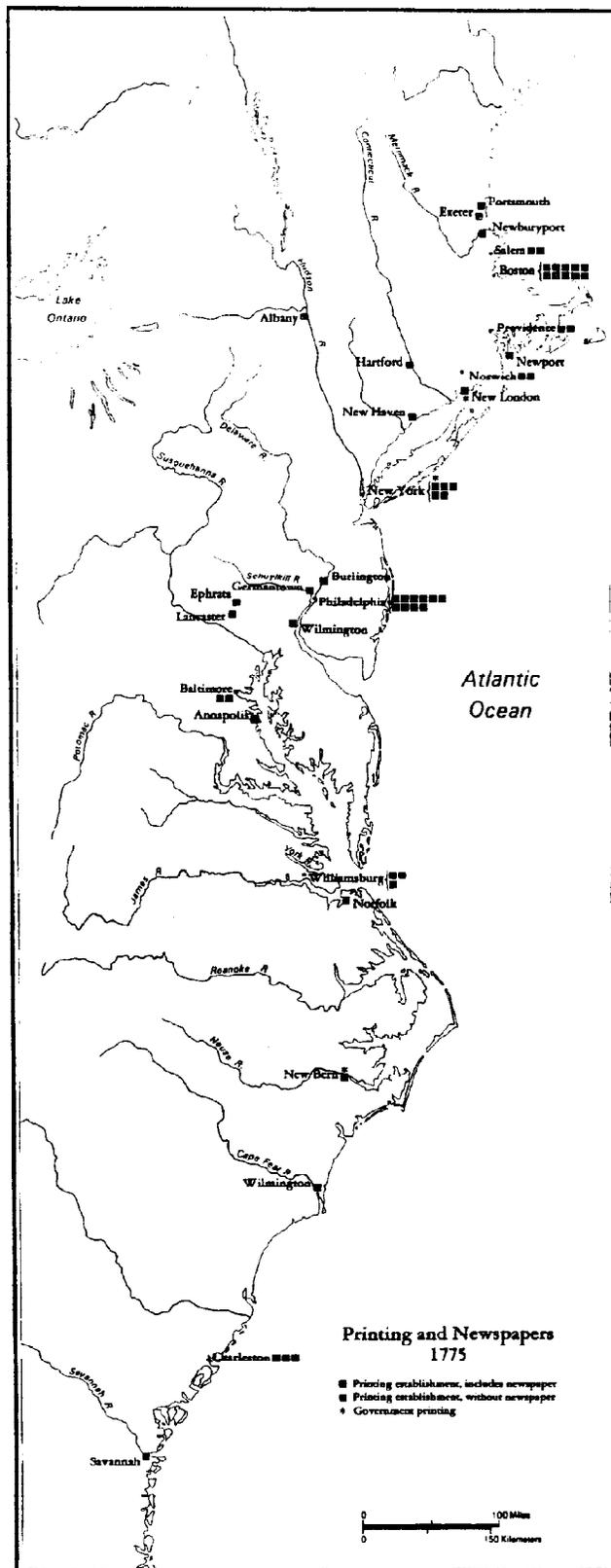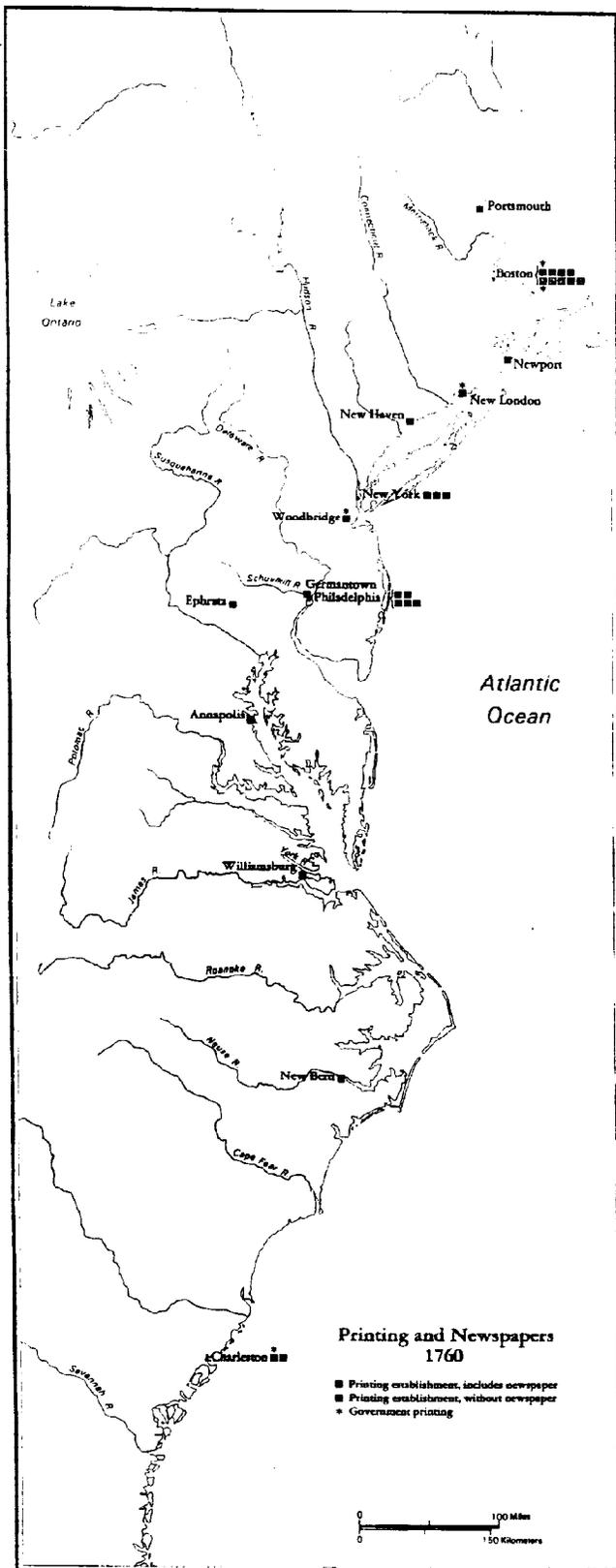
These two maps show the locations of all printing establishments (not individual printers) known to be operating in January of 1760 and 1775, respectively, in the thirteen colonies. Together the maps show the pre-war growth of the printing industry; the second displays the industry's situation before the outbreak of fighting. The war disrupted printing generally, and it is notable that in Massachusetts most establishments ceased operations or relocated shortly

after the battles at Lexington and Concord.

Printing for a colonial government (often an official monopoly) and publishing a newspaper are emphasized because they had long been special, profitable aspects of printing (beyond the usual production of forms, books, etc.) and after 1760 took on added political importance. In 1760 each branch of the Massachusetts government had its own official printer.