

RESISTANCE AND REVOLUTION



DIRECTIONS: *Listed below are several key events in the American revolutionary process. First, supply each incident with the correct year of occurrence (if needed). Then match the events with the descriptions that follow.*

Proclamation of 1763

Sugar Act (_____)

Stamp Act (_____)

Townshend Acts (_____)

Boston Massacre (_____)

Gaspee incident (_____)

Tea Act (_____)

Boston Tea Party (_____)

Intolerable Acts (_____)

_____ Britain attempted to check westward expansion of its thirteen North American colonies in order to maintain control over its newly-acquired vast territory.

_____ One of the first acts of Parliament passed for the specific purpose of raising money in the colonies rather than simply regulating trade.

_____ An earlier similar tax levied in England had generated about £100,000 annually; hence, the hope that this tax would likewise produce huge revenue.

_____ Resulted in severe retaliation by Parliament.

_____ A body of delegates from nine of the colonies angrily responded by calling the measure “taxation without representation.”

_____ The first major act of tyranny against the colonies by the Crown.

_____ Highly propagandized event which nourished the idea that the Redcoats were nothing but ruthless soldiers.

_____ Resulted in the deaths of five civilian colonists.

_____ Enacted by Parliament to punish the colonists for the Boston Tea Party.

_____ Led directly to a meeting in Philadelphia of representatives from 12 colonies that came to be known as the First Continental Congress.

_____ Passed in part by Parliament to pacify some Indian tribes.

_____ Among other things, this measure provided for the creation of three more colonies—Quebec, East Florida, and West Florida.

List two important ways the Second Continental Congress (May 1775) differed from the First Continental Congress (September 1774).

- ①
- ②

What two events, both occurring in January of 1776, pushed many of the reserved colonists toward independence?

- ①
- ②

What factors made a British war victory likely? What conditions favored a Patriot win?

Identify the Revolutionary War battle that fits each of the following descriptions.

- _____ Marked the point of no return for the colonists due to this battle's significant bloodshed.
- _____ Referred to as "the shot heard round the world" by poet Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- _____ The first major triumph for the Continental Army, occurring in December of 1776.
- _____ Considered the war's turning point because it persuaded France to ally with the colonists.
- _____ A flurry of gunfire between some 800 crack British regulars challenged by some 80 Minutemen.
- _____ Events leading up to the battle were immortalized on canvas by Emanuel Leutze.
- _____ General Cornwallis was forced to surrender his force of about 8,000, effectively ending the war.
- _____ One of the generals responsible for this key American victory was Benedict Arnold.

List the four content areas of the Declaration of Independence.

- ①
- ②
- ③
- ④

What percentage of colonists remained loyal to Britain during the war? What role did they play during the war? How did General Cornwallis refer to Virginia Loyalists?

Explain why your instructor thinks each the following Revolutionary War paintings are ultra cool.

Benjamin West, *Treaty of Paris* (1783)

John Trumbull, *Declaration of Independence* (1817)

Emanuel Leutze, *Washington Crossing the Delaware* (1851)

List four reasons why the British lost the war. Place a star by the most important one.

- ①
- ②
- ③
- ④

1. The Proclamation Line of 1763 was located along the:
 - a. Great Lakes
 - b. western frontier borders of Virginia and North Carolina
 - c. St. Lawrence River
 - d. Appalachian Mountains

2. The most pressing problem facing Great Britain after the French and Indian War was:
 - a. hostile Indian tribes residing in the Ohio River Valley region
 - b. the government's excessive war debt
 - c. establishing legal authority over French settlers along the St. Lawrence River
 - d. the issue of slavery in its North American colonies

3. The event which greatly reduced the possibility for negotiated agreement between Great Britain and its North American colonies was the:
 - a. Boston Massacre
 - b. Battle of Bunker Hill
 - c. 1776 Rose Bowl
 - d. Green Olive Branch Petition

4. The primary means by which Congress financed the Revolution was:
 - a. printing paper money as needed
 - b. taxing the wealthy
 - c. borrowing from other nations, especially France and Germany
 - d. numerous raffles and rummage sales

5. The mission of the British military advance on Concord, Massachusetts, in April of 1775 was to:
 - a. attend one of the various rummage sales held throughout the colonies to help finance the war effort
 - b. force Massachusetts leaders to pay for tea dumped into the Boston Harbor
 - c. track down the persons responsible for burning the *Gaspee*
 - d. seize war supplies and capture key colonial leaders

6. Throughout the Revolution, the Continental Army was plagued with all of the following except:
 - a. desertions and expiring enlistments
 - b. lack of training and discipline
 - c. inadequate pay
 - d. shortage of food, clothing, and medical supplies

7. The British strategy in the South, adopted midway through the Revolutionary War, relied on all of the following elements except:
 - a. expanded use of Loyalist forces in the region
 - b. possibility of aid from area slaves who were offered freedom in exchange for fighting
 - c. presence of superior sea power
 - d. scheduling rummage sales with prices that would undercut those of the American rummage sales

8. The surrender of General George Cornwallis at Yorktown clearly demonstrated the:
 - a. superiority of American military strategy over that of the British
 - b. significance of French aid to the American cause
 - c. inability of Britain to adequately support its military forces abroad
 - d. miscalculated emphasis British officials placed on southern Loyalist support

9. The argument between Great Britain and its American colonies during the 1760s and 1770s over "virtual representation" concerned:
 - a. patterns of legislative apportionment in the colonial assemblies
 - b. the marked lack of colonial participation in negotiation of the Treaty of Paris
 - c. Parliament's ability to reflect colonial interests
 - d. increasing use of juryless admiralty courts in the colonies

10. The major consequence of the Revolutionary War for the Iroquois Confederacy was:
 - a. unified support for the British in hopes that it would help Indians resist white settlement of their land after the war
 - b. division among the tribes as some abandoned the Confederacy's traditional policy of neutrality by supporting the British against the Americans
 - c. total disaster as both American and British forces attacked Iroquois villages which refused to provide military alliance
 - d. insignificant because the Iroquois remained staunchly neutral and therefore were unaffected by warfare between the colonists and the British

11. There is no question #11. Please proceed to question #12.

12. The Gadsden Purchase of 1853 added territory to the eventual states of:
 - a. Maine and Massachusetts
 - b. the Carolinas and Georgia
 - c. Arizona and New Mexico
 - d. Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

The British Colonial System. Before 1763 English colonial policy in North America lacked coordination and centralization. Within this vacuum a colonial political pattern developed in which Americans actively participated in their own government. Each colony had a governor, and there was a two-house legislature in most colonies: an appointed, upper house and a popularly elected lower house which usually controlled policy making through "purse-string" power. In the courts, colonial juries tended to interpret law according to their own conceptions of justice without an overconcern for the English precedents.

During the 1600s, the king's Privy Council made English colonial policy, but in 1696 the Board of Trade became the reviewing authority for colonial legislation. Its power was great in that the king and the Privy Council seldom questioned its rulings, but the Board usually accepted laws passed by colonial legislatures. The Board also served as a lobbying center for colonial agents representing American interests in England. The crown's failure to establish centralized colonial authority stimulated the origins of a federal government system in America.

Mercantilism. Mercantilism (a theory that national self-sufficiency best results from a favorable balance of trade) became the economic theory that supported European colonization efforts throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Although colonies might not have gold and silver, they could produce raw materials and serve as markets for the mother country.

The Navigation Acts. The Navigation Acts originated in the 1650s when England tried to legislate a system to break Dutch dominance of international trade. These acts barred foreign ships from British coastal and colonial trade, limited the exportation of enumerated articles, and required that all ship captains and three-fourths of the crews be English. The grand design of these mercantilistic acts was to allow England to specialize in manufacturing and exporting while her colonies provided raw materials. Certain colonial industries (woolen goods, hats, iron) were therefore restricted to protect English manufacturers.

The Effects of Mercantilism. The overall effects of mercantilism were beneficial to both England and her American colonies. While the Navigation Acts limited some aspects of colonial commerce, England's inefficiency in enforcement created a condition of "salutary neglect," whereby colonists resorted to smuggling and bribery to bypass Parliamentary regulations. Mercantilistic laws merely steered American economy toward England, and the colonies enjoyed almost continuous prosperity from 1650 until the Revolution.

Early Colonial Wars. Mercantilistic competition among European powers for control of colonial markets and raw materials resulted in near constant warfare in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. Colonists were affected by these hostilities as American resources (particularly the North Atlantic fisheries, furs, and Ohio Valley land claims) became the objects of French and English designs. They were not involved in large numbers and only small territorial changes occurred, but bad feelings increased between settlers north and south of the St. Lawrence.

The Great War for the Empire. In 1754 the showdown battle for control of North America erupted between the French and the English. The French and Indian War (1754-1763) started when American fur traders and land speculators pushed their operations into the Ohio Valley where the French held a trading monopoly. After several frontier skirmishes, George Washington led an unsuccessful British military expedition against Fort Duquesne. Not until William Pitt took over the British war effort did fortunes improve. Pitt recognized the potential value of North America, promoted talented young officers, and financially supported the war. In 1763 the Treaty of Paris ended hostilities and gave England dominance in North America.

Putting the Empire Right. With the ouster of the French from North America, England inherited an expanded geographical empire which posed difficult imperial questions. Who would bear the cost of the war that had largely been fought on credit? What policy would govern western expansion in view of conflicting land claims? And how were colonists to be protected from unpacified Indians? The British government largely failed to solve these problems because it was ignorant of American conditions. Resentment grew as colonists were generally regarded by British as uncouth and inferior beings.

Tightening Imperial Controls. During the French and Indian War, British authorities decided to intervene more actively in American affairs. In 1759 Virginia and South Carolina had important laws disallowed by the Board of Trade, royal control of colonial courts was tightened, and the use of general search warrants was authorized in Massachusetts. After Pontiac's Rebellion, the English issued a new western policy, the Proclamation of 1763. No settlers were to cross the Appalachian divide, only licensed traders could do business in that area, and the purchase of Indian land was outlawed.

The Sugar Act. The passage of the Sugar Act (1764), which placed tariffs on sugar, coffee, wines, and other imported products, was denounced by the colonists as taxation without representation. Also in 1764, the government in London restricted the printing, although not the use of, paper money in the colonies.

"Essential Rights and Liberties." The colonists would not accept the British concept of virtual representation, that every member of Parliament stood for the interests of the entire empire. They failed, however, to agree upon a common plan of resistance to the Sugar Act.

The Pot Set to Boiling. In 1765 Parliament provided the catalyst for uniting colonial opposition against imperial controls by passing the Stamp Act, which taxed many kinds of printed matter, including newspapers, legal documents, and licenses. The Sugar Act had been related to Parliament's power to control colonial trade, but the Stamp Act was a direct tax. An intercolonial Stamp Act Congress passed resolutions of protest, and relations were further strained as colonists burned the stamps, boycotted British goods, and the Sons of Liberty resorted to some violence. Parliament responded by repealing the Stamp Act (1766).

The Declaratory Act. On the same day Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, it passed a Declaratory Act establishing its right to enact any colonial legislation it deemed proper. The Declaratory Act highlighted the degree to which British and Americans had drifted apart on the concepts of representation, constitution, and sovereignty.

The Townshend Acts. Facing the possibility of a deficit budget, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts (1767) which placed new taxes on glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea. Colonists immediately began boycotting British imports and influential Americans began questioning the basis of the British colonial system. The spectrum of debate ranged from the moderate views of John Dickinson to the radical opinions of Samuel Adams.

The Boston Massacre. On March 5, 1770, idlers tossed snowballs at Redcoats guarding the Boston Custom House, and panicking soldiers fired their muskets into the crowd, killing five. Although radicals like Samuel Adams played up the incident, cooler heads prevailed and a post-massacre truce settled over British America.

The Pot Spills Over. The informal truce ended in 1772 when the British patrol boat *Gaspee* ran aground south of Providence and the locals put it to the torch. Then in Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson announced that henceforth the Crown rather than the local legislature would pay his salary.

The Tea Act Crisis. The final crisis in the ongoing conflict over imperial control surfaced in 1773 when Parliament, in attempting to save the corrupt and inefficient British East India Company from bankruptcy, gave the company a monopoly on colonial tea trade. Although this action reduced the price of tea (middlemen were eliminated), Americans regarded it as a sly attempt to trap them into paying the tea tax. In Boston the situation deteriorated as Samuel Adams and other propagandists inflamed the public to a point that on December 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party occurred. This event signaled the beginning of an era in which loyal colonists would become active revolutionaries.

From Resistance to Revolution. Parliament decided to punish the colony of Massachusetts (not just the guilty persons) for the destruction of the tea, thus making an example to other colonies. A series of Coercive Acts was passed in 1774, known to the colonists as the "Intolerable Acts," that drastically weakened colonial legislative and judicial powers. The colonies, recognizing their common interests, sent delegates to Philadelphia in September 1774 to the First Continental Congress. A declaration of grievances was passed which condemned all British actions since 1763, and the Congress endorsed a proposal that people arm themselves to defend their rights. A "Continental Association" was organized to boycott all British imports. While few colonists in 1774 desired a total rupture with king and Parliament, they had decided that drastic changes must be made.

"The Shot Heard Round the World." Debate in England in late 1774 focused on whether the upstart Americans should be crushed by force. Spokesmen for moderation and conciliation, such as Edmund Burke, had little effect on British policy, for in January 1775 the king decided to send troops against his rebellious American subjects in Massachusetts. Colonists had been accumulating arms at Concord and General Gage decided to seize these supplies. On April 19, on the way to Concord, British Redcoats became involved in a fight at Lexington in which eight Americans were killed. The British marched on to Concord, where after a skirmish at the North Bridge, they retreated to Boston. Colonists responded to Massachusetts' plight immediately and some began to make preparations for war.

The Second Continental Congress. On May 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress met at Philadelphia to consider diplomatic strategy for convincing the king and Parliament to amend imperial policies. The Congress, which had no legal authority, was particularly concerned with Massachusetts' fate following the Lexington-Concord skirmishes. George Washington was appointed commander in chief of the Continental Army and Congress began requisitioning men and supplies. Meanwhile, American and British forces fought the Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17) which resulted in much bloodshed and reduced the hope for a negotiated settlement. Sober segments of society were concerned about breaking all ties to England, about their fate as traitors should they lose, and about Americans' ability to govern themselves.

The Great Declaration. In January 1776 two events occurred that permanently crippled chances for reconciliation: Hessian mercenaries were hired to join British forces in America, and Thomas Paine's tract *Common Sense*, characterizing George III as a tyrannical brute, was published. *Common Sense*, stressing the natural right of self-government, had the effect of prodding Congress into bold actions. On June 7, Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution of independence advocating the dissolution of all political ties to the Crown. Congress appointed a committee to draft a justification for Lee's resolution. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776, outlining the theory of the revolution and listing specific charges of indictment against George III.

1776: The Balance of Forces. Americans had several distinct advantages in their struggle for independence: fighting on familiar terrain, the inefficiency of the British army, and the division in British public opinion. The British, however, possessed superior resources for conducting war: larger population, stocks of war materials, industrial capacity, and mastery of the seas.

Loyalists. Internal division among Americans also aided the British. John Adams estimated that a third of the people were Patriots, another third loyal to Great Britain, and the rest neutral. Most historians think a fifth of the people were Loyalists and about two-fifths Patriots. But the Tories lacked effective leadership and organization.

Early Defeats. General William Howe's campaign against New York (1776-1777) showed that Americans lacked military experience. George Washington's army could have been destroyed or captured on several occasions, but good fortune and British hesitation to consolidate gains allowed the Revolution to continue. However, the colonial army won engagements at Trenton (Dec 1776) and Princeton (Jan 1777) which bolstered American morale beyond the strategic value of the victories.

Saratoga and the French Alliance. British military strategy in 1777 focused on dividing New England from the rest of the colonies. However, British plans were disjointed and the British generals failed to coordinate their campaigns. While General Howe tried to trap Washington's army near Philadelphia, General Burgoyne was defeated at Saratoga (October 17) by American militia and surrendered an army of 5,700 soldiers. France responded to the Saratoga triumph by recognizing the United States, and in February 1778 the two nations signed treaties of commerce and alliance. Lord North, recognizing the inherent danger in a Franco-American alliance, proposed giving in completely on all issues that had agitated the colonies before 1775. But the British government failed to act in time to prevent Congress from ratifying the French agreements.

The War Moves South. After failing to win the New England campaign the British shifted their attention to the South, believing sea power and hoped-for Tory support would finally combine to defeat the colonials. For two years (1778-1780) the British succeeded in their southern engagements which saw Savannah, Charleston, and Camden captured. By late 1780, Congress replaced the bungling General Horatio Gates with General Nathanael Greene who avoided major battles against overwhelming numbers of Redcoats, choosing instead to raid scattered British forces. In 1781, after suffering defeats at the Battle of Cowpens and Guilford Court House, General Cornwallis moved his forces to the North Carolina coast leaving Greene's forces in control of the backcountry.

Victory at Yorktown. By 1781 it had become clear that British military success depended upon coordinated action between land and naval forces. Realizing this, General Cornwallis moved his army north to Yorktown, Virginia, located on a peninsula projecting into Chesapeake Bay. The move proved unwise as George Washington quickly stationed his army before Yorktown as a French naval squadron sealed off British escape by sea. Cornwallis was trapped and surrendered his army in October 1781.

The Peace of Paris. The American commissioners disregarded their promise to France not to make a separate treaty. They negotiated the Peace of Paris (1783) with England, which recognized American independence and established generous boundaries.

Forming a National Government. Delegates to the Continental Congress recognized that it was a legislative body rather than a complete government, but it was not until November 1777 that the Articles of Confederation were submitted to the states for the required unanimous ratification. Maryland held out until 1781, arguing with Virginia over land claims west of the Appalachians. Under the Articles each state had one vote, and the union it created was only a "league of friendship." The government had no way to enforce its authority.

Financing the War. The Continental Army was supported by the Continental Congress; the states raised militia for short-term service. Congress financed the war by requisitioning hard money and supplies from the states, and by borrowing from foreign governments, especially France. In addition, Congress issued over \$240 million in paper money, the states over \$200 million more, resulting in rapid inflation. But the country got back on a specie basis under Robert Morris, first superintendent of finance under the newly ratified Articles.

State Governments. In the state constitutions, power was concentrated in the elected legislature, based on actual, not virtual, representation. The elected governors had limited authority and Pennsylvania abolished that office altogether, replacing it with an elected council of 12. The most remarkable achievement is that in the midst of violence, the states changed their frames of government in an orderly, legal manner.

Social Reform. As Carl Becker wrote, the American Revolution was not merely a fight for "home rule," but a fight to determine "who should rule at home." Many states used the occasion of constitution making to introduce important reforms, such as legislature reapportionment and the abolition of primogeniture, entail, and quitrents where they still existed. Steps toward freedom of religion, such as Jefferson's Statute of Religious Liberty (1786), were taken.

The status of blacks improved as all northern states made provisions for gradual emancipation of their slaves, beginning with Pennsylvania in 1780. In most southern states, the governments removed restrictions on freeing slaves, and in Virginia between 1782 and 1790, 10,000 blacks were freed. But no general social or economic revolution accompanied the war, and the new state governments were usually controlled by the same privileged class that had dominated colonial politics.

Growth of a National Spirit. The American Revolution had the unique effect of giving birth to a spirit of nationalism (historically, nationalism fosters revolution). Europeans were particularly surprised that the thirteen states remained united after the war. People became Americans, as well as just citizens of their respective states.

The Great Land Ordinances. Nationalism was further stimulated when the Confederation Congress passed the Land Ordinance (1785) authorizing the surveying of western territories into township divisions. The terms for selling the land favored speculators, but western lands were effectively opened to settlement. Congress, interested in providing political stability to developing western territories, passed the Northwest Ordinance (1787) enabling territories to organize governments which became eligible for statehood after a "tutelage" period. This system served as the statehood model for most western territories. These laws recognized land as a national asset above all others.

National Heroes. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, each a man of many talents, became widely known through public service, but it was George Washington who became the nation's heroic model.

A National Culture. Americans expressed their growing sense of common identity in the fields of religion, education, and the arts and sciences. The Anglican Church became the Protestant Episcopal Church, school texts emphasized nationalism through the use of American literary forms and subjects, new colleges appeared, and artists and writers attempted to glorify America. While the typical citizen gave his first loyalty to his state, people were increasingly aware of their common heritage.

Border Problems. If Americans believed that their problems were over with the signing of the Peace of Paris, they soon realized that foreign powers were still determined to disrupt the new nation's tranquility and limit its westward expansion. England refused to evacuate frontier forts in American territory, citing the United States failure in restoring Tory assets and collecting prewar debts as reason for her actions. In the Southwest, Spain encouraged Indian uprisings, fostered discontent among American settlers, and controlled Mississippi River trade. When the Confederation government was unable to check these foreign threats, many Americans realized that the powers of the central government would have to be increased to protect national interests.