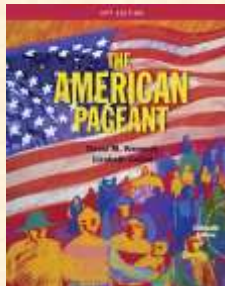


Chapter 8

America Secedes from the Empire, 1775–1783



I. Congress Drafts George Washington

- **Second Continental Congress** meets in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775:
 - Most important single action—selected George Washington to head army:
 - Choice was made with considerable misgivings
 - He never rose above the rank of colonel
 - His largest command had numbered only 1,200
 - Falling short of true military genius, he would actually lose more battles than he won

2nd CONTINENTAL CONGRESS



•Came together again after the battles of Lexington and Concord, May 10, 1775.

•Organized first American army called the Continental Army and appointed George Washington as our Commanding General.

•Willing to stay part of the empire but King must “redress our grievances”

•Congress prepares for war.....

OUR FIRST GENERAL



George Washington

VS



John Hancock

Who would be our first commanding general?

•2nd Continental Congress based their decision on the following:

- Political
- Economic
- Military
- Social

George Washington was chosen based on his qualifications.

CONTINENTAL ARMY



•First US Army made up of volunteers, militias and Minutemen.

•George Washington chosen as the first Commanding General.

•Not an army of professionals but mostly farmers.

•Lacked the discipline of a professional army at first....

•Lacked resources, men weren't paid and some quit after the first few battles.

•2nd Continental Congress lacked \$\$\$\$ to supply army...

I. Congress Drafts George Washington (cont.)

- He was gifted with outstanding powers of leadership and immense strength of character
- He radiated patience, courage, self-discipline, and a sense of justice
- He was trusted and insisted on serving without pay
- He kept, however, a careful list of expenses-\$100,000.
- Continental Congress chose more wisely than it knew.




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II. Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings

- War of inconsistency was fought for 14 months—April 1775 to July 1776—before fateful plunge into independence.
- Gradually tempo of warfare increased:
 - May 1775 Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured garrisons at Ticonderoga and Crown Point in upper New York
 - June 1775 the colonists seized **Bunker Hill**

II. Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings (cont.)

- July 1775, Congress adopted **Olive Branch Petition**:
 - professed loyalty to crown and begged king to prevent further hostilities
- King George III slammed door on all hope of reconciliation:
 - August 1775 he proclaimed colonies in rebellion
 - skirmishes were now treason, a hanging crime




OLIVE BRANCH PETITION

- Colonial leaders met in Philadelphia, PA to discuss their options in response to the Intolerable Acts.
- The decision was to negotiate with King George III and send him a declaration of their willingness to remain British.
- BUT, they have grievances (problems) which they want the King and Parliament to address.
- AND, they instructed the local militias in each town to begin preparing for war with the **MINUTEMEN**!

II. Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings (cont.)

- He next hired 1000s of German troops
- George III needed the men
- Because most of these soldiers came from German principality of Hesse, Americans called all European mercenaries Hessians
- News of Hessian deal shocked colonists
- Hessian hirelings proved good soldiers



BUNKER HILL

- June 17, 1775
- The British suffered over 40% casualties.
 - 2,250 men
 - 1,054 injured
 - 226 killed
- Americans: Moral victory
 - 800 men
 - 140 killed
 - 271 wounded
- King George sends 10,000 **Hessian** soldiers to help put down the rebellion.

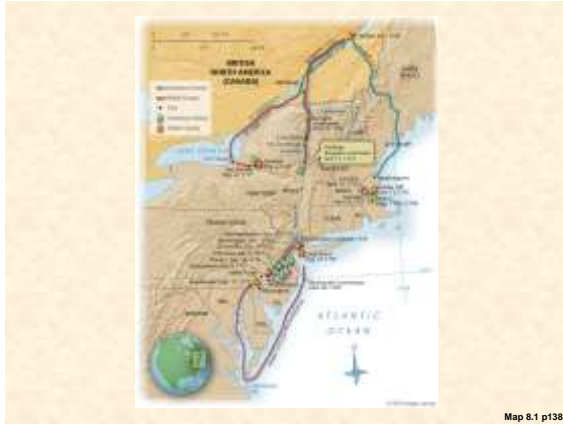


- October 1775, British burned Falmouth (Portland), Maine
- In autumn, rebels undertook a two-pronged invasion of Canada:
 - Successful assault on Canada would add a 14th colony and deprive Britain of valuable base for striking the colonies in revolt
 - Invasion north was undisguised offensive warfare

- Invasion of Canada almost successful (Map 8.1)
 - General Richard Montgomery captured Montreal
 - At Quebec, he was joined by army of General Benedict Arnold
 - Assault on Quebec was launched on last day of 1775
 - Montgomery was killed
 - Arnold was wounded

- Bitter fighting persisted in colonies:
 - January 1776 British set fire to Norfolk, Va.
 - March 1776 British forced to evacuate Boston
- In South, rebels won two victories:
 - February 1776 against 15,000 Loyalists at Moore's Creek Bridge in North Carolina
 - June 1776 against an invading fleet at Charleston harbor

- **Loyalty to the empire was deeply ingrained:**
 - Americans continued to believe they were part of a transatlantic community
 - Colonial unity was weak
 - Open rebellion was dangerous
 - As late as January 1776, the king's health was being toasted—"God save the king"
- Gradually colonists were shocked into recognizing necessity to separate.



IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense (cont.)

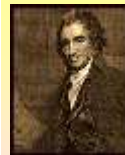
- 1776 **Common Sense** by Thomas Paine:
 - One of most influential pamphlets ever published
 - Began with treatise on nature of government
 - Argued only lawful states were those that derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed”
 - As for king, he was nothing but “the Royal Brute of Great Britain”
 - 120,000 copies were sold in one week

COMMON SENSE



- Written by Thomas Paine in Jan. 1776.....
- Came to America in 1774 from England and got caught up in the Revolutionary Spirit
- Wrote a 50 page pamphlet that would convince many Americans that **King George** was a **tyrant** and declaring **independence** from Great Britain was our only choice.

COMMON SENSE



In the following pages I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and **common sense**.....The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth. “Tis not the concern of a day, a year, or an age; posterity (future generations) are involved in the contest.....

Much has been said for the advantages of **reconciliation** with England. I have heard it asserted by some, that as America hath flourished under her former connection with Great Britain, that the same connection is necessary towards her future happiness.....Nothing can be more wrong. We may as well assert, that because a child has thrived upon milk, that it is never to have meat.

COMMON SENSE



But Britain is the parent country, say some. Then the more shame upon her conduct. Even brutes do not devour their young, nor savages make war upon their families.....

I challenge the warmest advocate for reconciliation to show a single advantage that this continent can reap by being connected with Great Britain. Should an island rule a continent?

Our corn will fetch its price in any market in Europe....

But the injuries and disadvantages we sustain by that connection are without number....

COMMON SENSE




Any dependence on Great Britain tends directly involve this continent in European wars and quarrels, and sets us at odds with nations who would otherwise seek our friendship.....

Everything that is right or natural pleads for separation...**“TIS TIME TO PART”**...


The king has shown himself an enemy to liberty and discovered a thirst for **arbitrary** power. Is he, or is he not, a proper man to say to the colonies. “You shall make no laws but what I please”? The whole power of the crown will be exerted to keep this continent as low and humble as possible.....

Reconciliation and ruin are nearly related....
TIS TIME TO PART

COMMON SENSE



- Paine not only called for independence, but for a new kind of political society: a **democratic republic**.
- Power should be derived from popular consent.
- Colonists' experience in self-government prepared them for creation of **republic**.
- Also, absence of hereditary aristocracy and equality among land-owning farmers contributed to idea of **republic**.
- Believed civic virtue vital to **republican** form: if no king, then individuals must sacrifice for public good.
- Some wanted "natural (talent) aristocracy" instead to keep power from "lower orders."



"To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead."

Thomas Paine
English-American political activist, writer and revolutionary.

IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense (cont.)

- Tried to convince colonists that true cause was independence, not reconciliation with Britain:
 - Nowhere in physical universe did smaller heavenly bodies control larger ones
 - So why should tiny island of Britain control vast continent of America

IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense (cont.)

- Paine drafted foundational document:
 - American independence
 - American foreign policy
 - Only with independence, could colonies hope to gain foreign assistance

V. Paine and the Idea of "Republicanism" (cont.)

- Paine also called for a *republic*:
 - Creation of a new kind of political society where power flowed from the people
 - In biblical imagery, he argued all government officials—governors, senators, judges—should derive authority from popular consent

V. Paine and the Idea of "Republicanism" (cont.)

- Paine was not first to champion republican government:
 - Classical Greece and Rome
 - Revived in 17th century Renaissance
 - Appealed to British politicians critical of excessive power in hands of king and his advisers
 - American colonists interpreted royal acts as part of monarchical conspiracy

V. Paine and the Idea of "Republicanism" (cont.)

- Paine's summons to create a republic fell on receptive ears:
 - New Englanders practiced a kind of republicanism in town meetings and annual elections
- Most Americans considered citizen "virtue" fundamental to any successful republican government

V. Paine and the Idea of "Republicanism" (cont.)

- Individuals in a republic:
 - must sacrifice personal self-interest to public good
 - collective good of "the people" mattered more than private rights and interests of individuals
- Paine inspired contemporaries to view America as fertile ground for cultivation of civic virtue.

V. Paine and the Idea of Republicanism (cont.)

- Not all Patriots agreed with Paine's ultra-democratic republicanism:
 - Some favored republic ruled by a "natural aristocracy" of talent
 - wanted an end to hereditary aristocracy, but not an end to all social hierarchy
 - were conservative republicans who wanted stability of social order
- Contest over American republicanism would continue for next 100 years

VI. Jefferson's "Explanation" of Independence

- On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia moved:
 - "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states"
 - motion was adopted on July 2, 1776
 - motion was formal "declaration" of independence by colonies

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death



Patrick Henry (1736-1799)
Revolutionary War orator, radical and statesman. In a speech urging armed resistance against the British. Speech was given in March of 1775.

There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace -- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms!

Library



Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death



Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God!

I know not what course others may take but as for me:

"Give me liberty or give me death".

Library



VI. Jefferson's "Explanation" of Independence (cont.)

- An inspirational appeal was needed:
 - To enlist other British colonies in the Americas
 - To invite assistance from foreign nations
 - To rally resistance at home
- Congress appointed a committee to prepare a formal statement:
 - Task of drafting fell to Thomas Jefferson
 - He was fully qualified for it



VI. Jefferson's "Explanation" of Independence (cont.)

- The **Declaration of Independence**:
 - Formally approved by Congress on July 4, 1776
 - Had universal appeal by invoking "natural rights" of humankind—not just British rights
 - Argued that because king had flouted these rights, the colonists were justified in cutting ties
 - Set forth long list of presumably tyrannous misdeeds of George III
 - Declaration had universal impact

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and... that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations... evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government...

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies... The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

THOMAS JEFFERSON



- Plantation owner from Virginia
- Renaissance man
- Owned slaves
- Representative to the 2nd Continental Congress from Virginia
- Father of the Declaration of Independence.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- Explain to the world why separation from England was necessary
- **New theory of government** (democracy---people rule)
- **27 grievances** listed against King George
- **Declaration of War**
- We became the United States of America

ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS

Rights Colonists possessed as English citizens from the English Bill of Rights in 1689. They believed King George and Parliament had violated these.

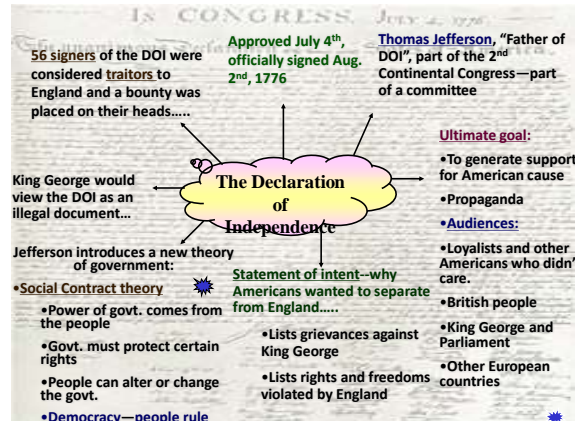
- Trial by Jury
- Due Process
- Private Property
- No Cruel Punishment
- No excessive bail or fines
- Right to bear arms
- Right to petition



UNITED STATES BILL OF RIGHTS

Not only did we fight for our independence, but we fought for rights we believed we had as Englishmen. These rights would be included in our Constitution in 1791 as the first 10 Amendments or Bill of Rights.

- Trial by jury
- Due process
- Private property
- No unreasonable search and seizure
- No cruel punishment
- Right to bear arms
- Right to petition
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press
- Freedom of religion



SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

John Locke

Declaration of Independence

Authority of Government

A government's power comes from the consent of the people.

The people have the right to abolish an oppressive government and establish a new one.

Natural Rights

All people are born free and equal with natural rights to life, liberty and property

All men are endowed with certain unalienable rights among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Purpose of Government

To preserve himself, his liberty and property

To secure these rights

Limited Government

Government of laws not man

History of the present King of England is repeated injuries

Equality

Men being by nature all free, equal and independent

All men are created equal

SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY



• John Locke was an English philosopher during the late 1680s.

• He wrote several books on how people should be governed.

• His ideas influenced Thomas Jefferson.

• The power of government comes from the people.... We give the government certain powers to force people to do things for the common good of the community..... If the government does not reflect the will of the people, then the people can change it.....

VII. Patriots and Loyalists

- War of Independence was a war within a war:
 - Loyalists**—colonists loyal to king who fought American rebels
 - called “Tories” after dominant political factions in Britain
 - Patriots**—rebels who also fought British redcoats
 - called “Whigs” after opposition factions in Britain



Patriots
Americans who supported the Rebels.... controlled the countryside.

Loyalists
Americans who supported England... controlled the cities...

AMERICAN LEADERS

US leaders



George Washington Horatio Gates Ben Franklin Nathan Hale Thomas Jefferson



John Adams Marquis de Lafayette Baron von Steuben Count Casimir Pulaski John Paul Jones

BRITISH LEADERS

GB leaders



King George III General John Burgoyne General William Howe



General Charles Cornwallis Benedict Arnold

British vs. United States

Factors	Great Britain	United States
Population	Approximately 12 million	Approximately 3 million and 1/3 loyal to England.
Manufacturing	Highly developed	Practically none
Money	Richest country in the world	No \$\$\$ to support the war
Army	Large, well trained army plus Hessians	Volunteers, poorly equipped
Leaders	Few officers capable of leading	Dedicated officers plus foreign leaders
Geography	Strange land—difficult to re-supply troops	Familiar land, easy access to supplies
Navy	Naval world power	No navy
Will to Fight	Trained soldiers—but no heart	Defending homeland—will to fight

MILITARY STRATEGIES

The Americans

- Attrition [the Brits had a long supply line].
- Guerilla tactics [fight an insurgent war → you don't have to win a battle, just wear the British down]
- Make an alliance with one of Britain's enemies.

The British

- Break the colonies in half by getting between the No. & the So.
- Blockade the ports to prevent the flow of goods and supplies from an ally.
- “Divide and Conquer” → use the Loyalists.



VII. Patriots and Loyalists (cont.)

- American Revolution was a minority movement:
 - Many colonists either apathetic or neutral
 - Patriot militias played critical role:
 - took on task of “political education,” sometimes by coercion
 - served as agents of Revolutionary ideas

VII. Patriots and Loyalists (cont.)

- **Loyalists:**
 - About 16 percent of American people
 - Families were often split
 - Many were people of education and wealth
 - More numerous among older generation
 - Included king's officers and beneficiaries
 - Included Anglican clergy and congregations
 - Virginia was notable exception

VII. Patriots and Loyalists (cont.)

- **Loyalists entrenched in:**
 - aristocratic New York City and Charlestown
 - Quaker Pennsylvania and New Jersey
 - were less numerous in New England
- **Rebels most numerous where Presbyterianism and Congregationalism flourished**

[illegible]

VIII. The Loyalist Exodus

- Before Declaration in 1776, persecution of Loyalists was relatively mild:
 - Some faced brutality (tarring and feathering; riding astride fence rails)
 - Harsher treatment began after Declaration
 - were regarded as traitors
 - were roughly handled; some imprisoned; a few noncombatants hung
 - No wholesale reign of terror

VIII. The Loyalists Exodus (cont.)

- 80 thousand Loyalists were driven out or fled
- Several hundred thousand were permitted to stay
- Estates of fugitives were confiscated and sold
- Some 50,000 Loyalists fought for British:
 - Helped King's cause by serving as spies
 - by inciting Indians
- British did not make effective use of Loyalists

IX. General Washington at Bay

- Washington:
 - Could only muster 18,000 ill-trained troops to meet British invaders at New York, March 1776
 - Disaster befell Americans at **Battle of Long Island**, summer and fall of 1776
 - Washington escaped to Manhattan Island, finally reaching Delaware River
 - Patriot cause was at low ebb as rebels fled across river

CONTINENTAL ARMY



- First US Army made up of volunteers, militias and Minutemen.
- George Washington chosen as the first Commanding General.
- Not an army of professionals but mostly farmers.

- Lacked the discipline of a professional army at first....
- Lacked resources, men weren't paid and some quit after the first few battles.
- 2nd Continental Congress lacked \$\$\$\$ to supply army... ☀

IX. General Washington at Bay (cont.)

- General William Howe did not speedily crush demoralized American forces
- Washington stealthily recrossed Delaware River at **Trenton** on December 26, 1776
- Surprised and captured 1,000 Hessians
- A week later he defeated small British force at Princeton
- These two lifesaving victories revealed "Old Fox" Washington at his military best

BATTLE OF TRENTON



- Referred to as the "ten crucial days"...Dec. 25th to Jan. 3rd
- First major victory for the Continental Army and Washington
- Raised the morale of the American troops as well as the country

- Led to soldiers re-enlisting and future enlistments
- Captured over 1,000 Hessian soldiers, weapons, food and etc.
- American Army re-crossed the Delaware to Valley Forge in Pennsylvania



Mort Künstler, Washington's Crossing, 2011

Image courtesy of the artist. <https://www.artipedia.org/en/entry/american-history-painting-facts-1776>



X. Burgoyne's Blundering Invasion

- London officials adopted intricate scheme to capture Hudson River valley in 1777:
 - If successful, would sever New England from rest of the states and paralyze American cause:
 - General John Burgoyne would push down Lake Champlain route from Canada
 - General Howe's troops would advance up Hudson and meet Burgoyne near Albany
 - A third force, under Colonel Barry St. Leger, would come from west via Lake Ontario and Mohawk valley

X. Burgoyne's Blundering Invasion (cont.)


- British did not reckon with General Arnold:
 - came along St. Lawrence to Lake Champlain area where he assembled a small fleet
 - his fleet was destroyed, but time had been won
- Without Arnold, British would have recaptured Fort Ticonderoga:
 - if Burgoyne could have started there (instead of Montreal) he would have been successful

X. Burgoyne's Blundering Invasion (cont.)



- Washington transferred army to vicinity of Philadelphia:
 - There he was defeated in two battles at Brandywine Creek and at Germantown
 - General Howe settled down in Philadelphia and left Burgoyne to flounder in upper New York
 - Washington retired to Valley Forge
- Trapped, Burgoyne surrendered at **Saratoga** to Gen. Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777

BATTLE OF SARATOGA

The Americans




-  Guerilla tactics [fight an insurgent war → you don't have to win a battle, just wear the British down]

The British


-  1777, separate and control New England.
-  Break the colonies in half by getting between the North and South.

BATTLE OF SARATOGA



-  General Horatio Gates surrounds the British with the help of Benedict Arnold
-  British defeat stopped them from cutting off New England from the rest of the country and ending the war.
-  British lacked knowledge of geography and failed at communications.

 Oct. 1777, British General, John Burgoyne was surrounded by US General Horatio Gates and forced to surrender 6,000 British troops.

 Led to a military alliance with France providing soldiers, naval fleet and \$\$\$\$\$. (Franco-American alliance, 1778)



BATTLE OF SARATOGA



SURRENDER AT SARATOGA



X. Burgoyne's Blundering Invasion (cont.)

- Saratoga ranks high among decisive battles of both America and world history:
 - Victory revived faltering colonial cause
 - Even more important, made possible urgently needed foreign aid from France, which in turn helped ensure American independence

XI. Revolution in Diplomacy?

- France's role in the Revolution:
 - France hoped to regain former prestige:
 - loss in Seven Years' War rankled deeply
 - America's revolutionaries badly needed help to throw off British:
 - needed to seal an alliance with France against common foe

XI. Revolution in Diplomacy? (cont.)

- American rebels also harbored revolutionary ideas about international affairs:
 - wanted end to colonialism and mercantilism
 - supported free trade and freedom of seas
 - wanted rule of law, not raw power, to arbitrate affairs of nations

XI. Revolution in Diplomacy? (cont.)

- Summer of 1776, Continental Congress drafted a **Model Treaty**:
 - Guide commissioners dispatched to France
 - John Adams, one of chief authors, described basic principles:
 - "1. No political connection. . . 2. No military connection. . . 3. Only a commercial connection."
 - These were remarkable self-denying restrictions
 - Infused idealism into American foreign policy

XI. Revolution in Diplomacy? (cont.)

- Benjamin Franklin negotiated treaty in Paris:
 - He was determined that his appearance should herald diplomatic revolution
 - He shocked royal court
 - Ordinary Parisians adored him as a specimen of new democratic social order
- The British now offered a measure allowing American home rule within the empire

This was essentially what colonists had asked for—except independence:

- On February 6, 1778, France offered a treaty of alliance
- Young republic concluded its first entangling military alliance and would soon regret it
- Treaty with France constituted official recognition of America's independence
- Both bound themselves to secure America's freedom

- England and France came to blows in 1778
- Shot fired at Lexington widened into global conflagration:
 - Spain entered in 1779 as did Holland
 - weak maritime neutrals of Europe began to demand their rights (see Table 8.1)
 - Russia's Catherine the Great organized **Armed Neutrality**—lined up remaining European neutrals in an attitude of passive hostility toward Britain

Whigs and Tories	Enemy as Unfriendly Powers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Seven Loyalties and Values 30,000,000 Members Over 100 populations as Britain's subjects A world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belgium Threat goes before war, 20.2 million United States, 1779-1780 France, 1756-1765 Spain, 1779-1785 Holland, 1718-1719 United States Spain, 1700 Continental Europe, 1710 Sweden, 1700 Holy Roman Empire, 1710 France, 1710 Portugal, 1710 East India, 1700 (other powers against)

Table 8.1 p150

- Fighting in Europe and North America as well as South America, Caribbean, and Asia:
 - Americans deserve credit for keeping war going until 1778 with secret French aid
 - their independence not achieved until conflict became a multipower world war too much for Britain to handle
 - from 1778 to 1783, France provided rebels with guns, money, equipment, and armed forces

- France's entrance:
 - Forced British to change basic strategy
 - They had counted on blockading colonial coast and commanding seas
 - French now had powerful fleet in American waters
 - British decided to evacuate Philadelphia and concentrate strength in New York City
 - In June 1778, redcoats were attacked by Washington
 - Battle was indecisive and Washington remained in New York area

XIII. Blow and Counterblow

- 1780: French army of 6000 regular troops, under commander Comte de Rochambeau arrived in Newport
 - French gold and goodwill help melt suspicions
 - No real military advantage yet from French reinforcements
 - 1780 General Benedict Arnold turned traitor
 - British planned to roll up colonies, starting in Loyalist South (See Map 8.2).



Map 8.2 p151

XIII. Blow and Counterblow (cont.)

- Georgia overrun in 1778-1779
- Charleston fell in 1780
- Warfare intensified in Carolinas
- 1781: American riflemen wiped out British at King's Mountain, then defeated a smaller force at Cowpens
- In Carolina campaign, General Nathaniel Greene distinguished himself by strategy of delay

XIII. Blow and Counterblow (cont.)

- By standing and then retreating, he exhausted his foe, General Cornwallis, in vain pursuit
- Greene succeeded in clearing most of Georgia and South Carolina of British troops

XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier

- West was ablaze during war:
 - Indian allies of England attacked colonists
 - 1777 was known as "bloody year" on frontier:
 - Two nations of Iroquois Confederacy, Oneidas and Tuscarora, sided with Americans
 - Senecas, Mohawks, Cayugas, and Onondagas joined British
 - Encouraged by chief Joseph Brant, who believed victorious Britain would restrain white expansion west



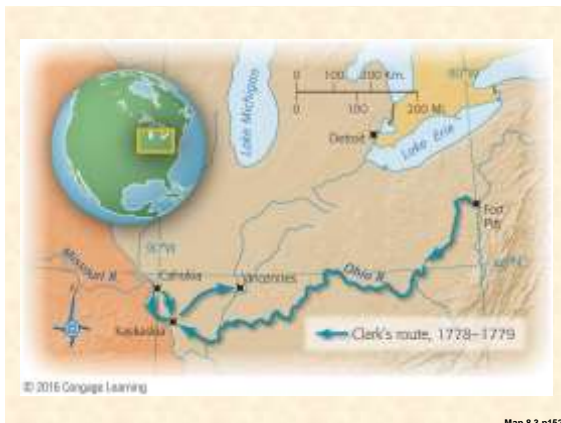
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XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier (cont.)

- In 1784, pro-British Iroquois forced to sign **Treaty of Fort Stanwix:**
 - First treaty between United States and an Indian nation
 - Under its terms, Indians ceded most of their land

XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier (cont.)

- In Illinois, British were vulnerable to attack:
 - They held only scattered posts captured from French
 - George Rogers Clark conceived idea of seizing these forts by surprise
 - 1778-1779, he quickly captured Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes (see Map 8.3)
 - Clark's admirers have argued his success later forced British to cede region north of Ohio River to United States at peace table in Paris



XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier (cont.)

- America's infant navy under Scotsman John Paul Jones:
 - Tiny force never made dent in Britain's massive fleet
 - Chief contribution was destroying British merchant shipping
 - Carried war into waters around British Isles

XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier (cont.)

- **Privateers:**
 - Privately owned armed ships—legalized pirates
 - Authorized by Congress to attack enemy ships
 - 1,000 American privateers responded to call of patriotism and profit, with about 70,000 men
 - Captured some 600 British prizes, while British captured same number of merchantmen and privateers

XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier (cont.)

- Privateering was not an unalloyed asset:
 - Diverted manpower from main war
 - Involved Americans in speculation and graft
- Privateering was also good:
 - Brought in urgently needed gold
 - Harassed enemy
 - Raised American morale
 - Ruined British shipping
 - Shippers and manufacturers wanted to end war

XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain

- One of darkest periods of war was 1780-1781, before last decisive victory:
 - Government was virtually bankrupt
 - declared it would repay debt at only 2.5 cents per dollar
 - Despair prevailed:
 - sense of unity withered
 - mutinous sentiments infected army

XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain (cont.)

- Cornwallis blundered into a trap:
 - After futile operations in Virginia, he fell back to Chesapeake Bay at **Yorktown**:
 - Awaited seaborne supplies and reinforcements
 - Assumed Britain still controlled seas
 - During this period British naval superiority slipped away

Britain's "Southern Strategy"

- 🇬🇧 Britain thought that there were more Loyalists in the South.
- 🇬🇧 Southern resources were more valuable/worth preserving.
- 🇬🇧 The British win a number of small victories, but cannot pacify the countryside [similar to U. S. failures in Vietnam!]

Phase III: The Southern Strategy [1780-1781]



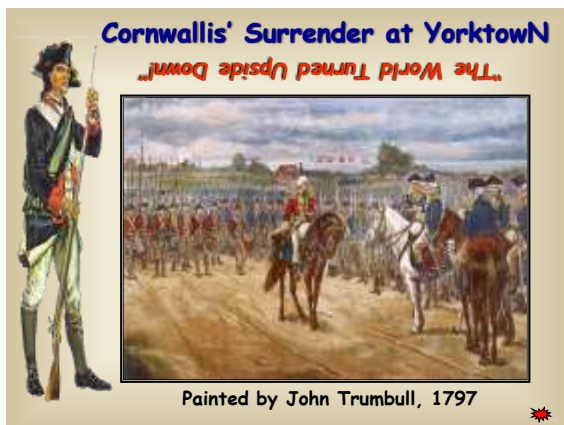
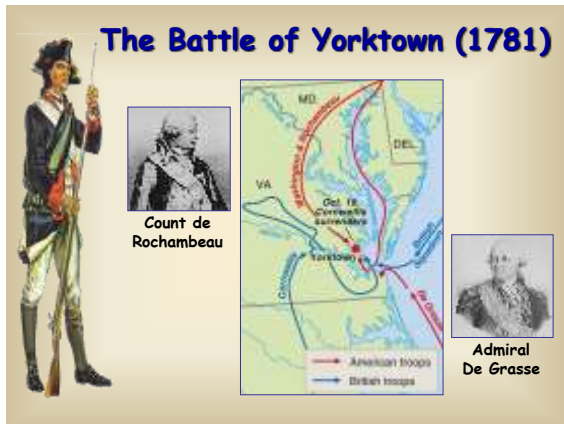
Battle of Yorktown

- British General Charles Cornwallis wanted to winter his troops in the South believing the war would be won in the Spring....
- Yorktown was chosen because it provided easy access to be reinforced and re-supplied
- General Washington learned of the British decision to winter their main troops in Yorktown.



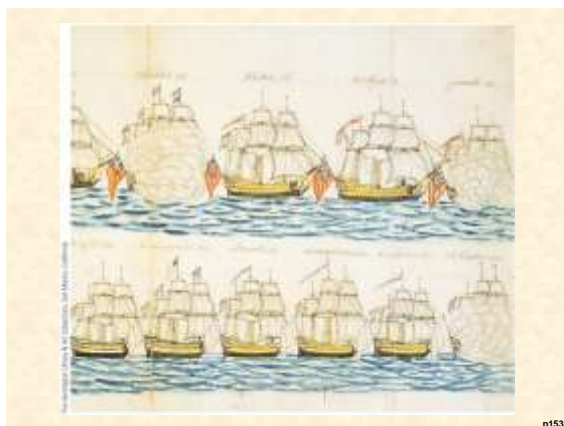
Battle of Yorktown

- Strategy included the use of the French navy, French troops and American troops.
- French navy under the direction of Admiral de Grasse, placed a blockade around the Chesapeake Bay.
- 15,000 American and French troops surrounded 8,000 British troops.....
- General Cornwallis is trapped and is forced to his surrender his troops to Washington
- Brings war to an end



XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain (cont.)

- French actions:
 - Admiral de Grasse informed Americans he could join them against Cornwallis at Yorktown
 - Washington makes a swift march of 300 miles from New York to Chesapeake
 - Accompanied by Rochambeau's French army, Washington besets British at land
 - While de Grasse blockaded sea



XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain (cont.)

- Cornered, Cornwallis surrendered entire force of 7000 men on October 19, 1781
- George III planned to continue struggle:
 - Fighting continued for a year after Yorktown, with savage Patriot-Loyalist warfare in South
 - Washington's most valuable contributions were to keep cause alive, army in the field, and states together



Why did the British Lose???

- Controlled cities but not countryside
- Generals made key mistakes
 - Communication
 - No respect
- US had the will to fight
- Alliances with Spain, France and the Netherlands.



XVI. Peace at Paris

- Aftermath of war:
 - Many Britons weary of war
 - Suffered losses in India and West Indies
 - Island of Minorca in Mediterranean fell
 - Lord North's ministry collapsed in March 1782 temporarily ending George III's personal rule
 - Whig ministry, favorable to Americans, replaced Tory regime of Lord North

XVI. Peace at Paris (cont.)

- American negotiators Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay gathered at Paris:
 - Instructed to make no separate peace and to consult with French allies at all stages
 - American representatives chafed under directive
 - Knew it had been written by subservient Congress under pressure from French Foreign Office

XVI. Peace at Paris (cont.)

- France in difficult position:
 - Had induced Spain to enter war
 - Spain coveted immense trans-Allegheny area
 - France desired independent United States, but wanted to keep New Republic east of Allegheny Mountains
 - A weak America would be easier to manage in promoting French interests and policy
 - France was paying heavy price to win America's independence and wanted her money's worth

XVI. Peace at Paris (cont.)

John Jay was unwilling to play French game:

- Secretly made overtures to London
- London came to terms with Americans
- Preliminary treaty signed in 1782

Formal Treaty of Paris signed in 1783:

- Britain recognized independence of United States
- Granted generous boundaries: to Mississippi (west), to Great Lakes (north), and to Spanish Florida (south)
- Yankees retained access to fisheries of Newfoundland

Treaty of Paris

- The Patriot victory at Yorktown, however, convinced the British that the war was too costly.
- In March 1782, King George III appointed new ministers who were prepared to give Americans their independence.
- **Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay** represented the United States in the peace talks in Paris.
- The talks began in April 1782, and six months later the British accepted a preliminary agreement written by the Americans. ↓
- The American Congress **ratified**, or approved, a preliminary treaty in April 1783.



Treaty of Paris, continued

- Under the treaty, the United States...
 - agreed that British merchants could collect debts owed by Americans.
 - stated that the Congress would “earnestly recommend” to the states that property taken from Loyalists be returned to them. Most of this property was never returned, however.

XVI. Peace at Paris (cont.)

- American concessions:
 - Loyalists not to be further persecuted
 - Congress was to *recommend* to states that:
 - confiscated Loyalist property be restored
 - debts owed to British creditors be paid
- British concessions:
 - Accept defeat in North America
 - Ending war allowed England to rebuild

XVII. A New Nation Legitimized

- British terms were liberal:
 - Granted enormous trans-Appalachian area
 - In spirit, Americans made a separate peace—contrary to French alliance
 - France relieved with end of costly conflict
 - America alone gained from world-girdling war:
 - Began national career with splendid territorial birthright and priceless heritage



CHRONOLOGY

1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord Second Continental Congress Americans capture British garrisons at Fort Mifflin and Fort Mifflin Battle of Fort Mifflin King George III issues Proclamation in response to rebellious colonies in rebellion Failed invasion of Canada	1778	Declaration of French-American alliance Battle of Monmouth
1776	Father's Common Sense Declaration of Independence Battle of Brandywine	1778-1779	Clark's victories in the West Battle of Red Bank Battle of Germantown British evacuate Philadelphia British and Americans flee to Lancaster to winter at York
1777	Battle of Brandywine Battle of Germantown Battle of Red Bank	1780	British occupy Philadelphia British evacuate Philadelphia British and Americans flee to Lancaster to winter at York
		1781	Battle of Red Bank Battle of Germantown British evacuate Philadelphia British and Americans flee to Lancaster to winter at York
		1782	British occupy Philadelphia British evacuate Philadelphia British and Americans flee to Lancaster to winter at York
		1783	Treaty of Paris
		1784	Treaty of Fort Stanwix

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