APUSH
1775-1783
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
REVIEWS!
American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 8
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 5
America’s History (Henretta) Chapter 5, 6
Following Lexington & Concord....

SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

- 2nd Continental Congress (May 1775) get together in Philly
  - Division amongst colonists as to whether or not to declare independence
  - Organized the Continental Army with Washington as commander in chief
- Bunker Hill (June 1775) British take hill, but colonists hold their own---Builds confidence!
- At the same time sought peace by sending Olive Branch Petition to King George III (July 1775)
  - King dismissed the OBP and declared colonies in rebellion

Important: 1775 still no clear consensus for independence
DEEP ROOTS OF REVOLUTION

- Enlightenment ideas of John Locke and Rousseau strongly influenced the colonists
  - Locke said everyone has natural rights and the power of government is derived from popular consent
- Thomas Paine’s pamphlet “Common Sense” (Jan 1776) argued for independence
  - Radical idea at the time
  - Called for the creation of a republic (representative govt.) based on natural rights of the people
  - Strongly influenced by the Enlightenment
Thomas Jefferson drafted the formal Declaration of Independence.

Goals: Justify independence by listing grievances against King George III.
- Took out the one Jefferson wrote against slavery.

To rally support amongst the colonists.

To get the assistance from foreign nations.

Broad appeal by declaring “unalienable rights” (natural rights) and the power of government rest with the people (popular sovereignty).
## Colonial Unity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patriots</th>
<th>Loyalists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonists who fought against the British</td>
<td>Colonists loyal to the British</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Treated as traitors</td>
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<td>- Property seized, harassed</td>
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<td>- About 80,000 emigrated from the USA</td>
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Most colonists were neutral or apathetic
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLAND VS AMERICA</th>
<th>BRITISH STRENGTHS / COLONIAL WEAKNESSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Great Britain was militarily and economically superior to the colonies</td>
<td>• Colonists had greater familiarity with the land — Use of guerilla warfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Considerable loyalist opposition</td>
<td>• Resilient military and political leadership — (Washington at Valley Forge)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Weak government structure under the Continental Congress (&amp; eventually the Articles of Confederation)</td>
<td>• Ideological commitment</td>
<td>• Eventual support from European allies (FRANCE!) — Following Battle of Saratoga</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• France hoped to regain its power in North America and Europe
  – Remember the bad defeat in the 7 Years War
• Other reasons for France to support the colonists:
  – End of British mercantile policies means free to trade with colonies
  – Caught up in the idealism and Enlightenment ideas
• Benjamin Franklin helped negotiate the treaty
• Formal alliance (1778) followed the Battle of Saratoga
  – Colonists receive money, weapons, naval support, and soldiers
Significant Battles of the Revolution

- Lexington & Concord (April 1775)
- Bunker Hill (June 1775)
- Trenton (Dec. 26 1777)
  Washington crossed Delaware river and captured 1,000 Hessian soldiers
- Battle of Saratoga (Oct. 1777)
  British surrender
  - France joins the war on the side of the Americans
- Later in war England focused war effort on the South (loyalist and high slave population)
- Battle of Yorktown (Oct. 1781)
  General Cornwallis surrenders to American, French troops
  - French blockaded the sea
Treaty of Paris (1783)

- Ben Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay headed to Paris to negotiate an end to the war
- **Treaty of Paris** (1783)
  - England recognized United States independence
  - Boundary of the U.S. would extend to the Mississippi river to Great Lakes to Spanish Florida

American concessions:
- Must respect rights of loyalists
- Debts owed to British creditors would be paid
POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **State constitutions** abolished many old European laws and traditions
  - No titles of nobility could be granted
- Different ideas of what republicanism would mean
- Many states eliminated **property requirements** for voting- (e.g. Pennsylvania)
- However the **colonial elite** remained and other states restricted political involvement
  - Most states did not have full democracy
- American Revolution **inspired revolutions** in France, Haiti, and Latin America
SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **Women** played significant roles: maintaining farms & businesses while men away, nurses, cooks, etc.
- **Impact:** Abigail Adams “Remember the Ladies” called for greater rights for women
- Ideal of “republican motherhood” which called on women to teach republican values within the family
- **Native Americans** oftentimes fought on the side of the British
  - British limited colonial settlement
  - (Iroquois Confederation divided over the issue)
SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **African Americans** eventually were allowed to fight in the Continental Army
  - Royal Governor of Virginia Lord Dunmore promised freedom to any slave who fought for the British

- Following the American Revolution **gradual emancipation** in the northern and middle states
  - Pennsylvania Gradual Emancipation Law (1780)

- Later on slavery will expand in the south and adjacent western lands
  - This will create **distinct regional attitudes** towards slavery

- **Slavery will be protected in the Constitution**
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Mr. Jocz at Independence Hall in Philadelphia