

# APUSH 1775-1783 AMERICAN REVOLUTION REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 8  
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 5  
America's History (Henretta) Chapter 5,6

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Following Lexington & Concord....

## SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS



- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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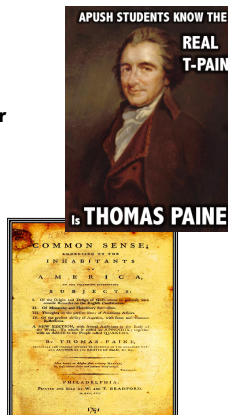
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## DEEP ROOTS OF REVOLUTION

- 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




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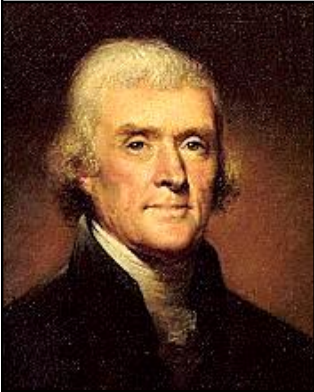
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## Declaration of Independence



- 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)

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## COLONIAL UNITY?

### Patriots

- Colonists who fought against the British



### Loyalists

- Colonists loyal to the British
  - Treated as traitors
    - Property seized, harassed
  - About 80,000 emigrated from the USA

**Most colonists were neutral or apathetic**

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## ENGLAND VS AMERICA

### BRITISH STRENGTHS / COLONIAL WEAKNESSES

- Great Britain was militarily and economically superior to the colonies
- Considerable loyalist opposition
- Weak government structure under the Continental Congress (& eventually the Articles of Confederation)

### COLONIAL STRENGTHS / BRITISH WEAKNESSES

- Colonists had greater familiarity with the land
  - Use of guerilla warfare
- Resilient military and political leadership
  - (Washington at Valley Forge)
- Ideological commitment
- Eventual support from European allies (FRANCE!)
  - Following Battle of Saratoga

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## 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




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## 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)




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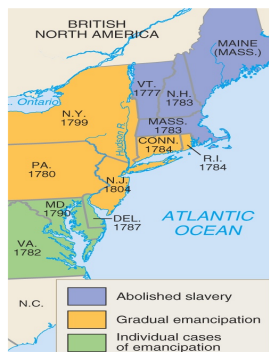
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## SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- 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

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