

Name:

Period:

Date:

AMERICAN REVOLUTION GUIDE

Video & Textbook Notes

APUSH
1775-1783
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
REVIEWED!

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

OR ANY APUSH BOOK COVERING THIS TIME PERIOD

Enlightenment ideas and philosophy inspired many American political thinkers to emphasize individual talent over hereditary privilege, while religion strengthened Americans' view of themselves as a people blessed with liberty.

Following Lexington & Concord...

SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

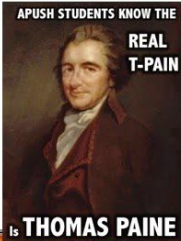
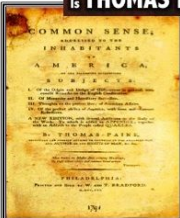


- **2nd Continental Congress** (May 1775) get together in Philly
 - **Division** amongst colonists as to whether or not to declare independence
 - Organized the **Continental Army** with **Washington** as commander in chief
- **Bunker Hill** (June 1775) British take hill, but colonists hold their own--Builds 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

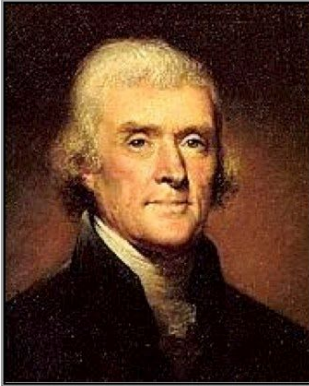
- **Enlightenment** ideas of **John Locke** and **Rousseau** strongly influenced the colonists
 - Locke said everyone has **natural rights** and the power of government is derived from **popular consent**
- **Thomas Paine's** pamphlet "**Common Sense**" (Jan 1776) argued for independence
 - Radical idea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

Big Idea(s) / Topics You Need Help With:

The colonists' belief in the superiority of republican forms of government based on the natural rights of the people found expression in Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and the Declaration of Independence. The ideas in these documents resonated throughout American history, shaping Americans' understanding of the ideals on which the nation was based.

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**)

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

Despite considerable loyalist opposition, as well as Great Britain's apparently overwhelming military and financial advantages, the Patriot cause succeeded because of the actions of colonial militias and the Continental Army, George Washington's military leadership, the colonists' ideological commitment and resilience, and assistance sent by France

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

- **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

FRANCE



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



The American Revolution and the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence reverberated in France, Haiti, and Latin America, inspiring future independence movements.

