

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

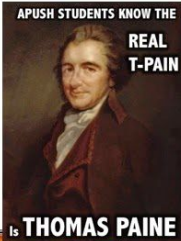
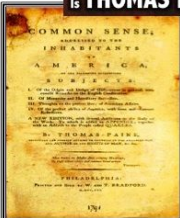


- **2nd Continental Congress** (May 1775) get together in Philly
 - **Division** amongst colonists as to whether or not to declare independence
 - Organized the **Continental Army** with **Washington** as commander in chief
- **Bunker Hill** (June 1775) British take hill, but colonists hold their own--Builds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

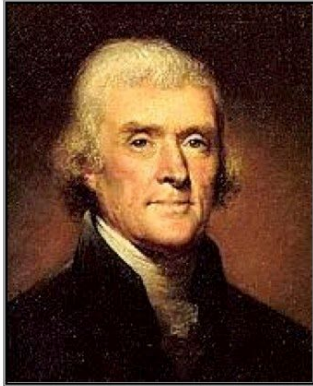
- **Enlightenment** ideas of **John Locke** and **Rousseau** strongly influenced the colonists
 - Locke said everyone has **natural rights** and the power of government is derived from **popular consent**
- **Thomas Paine's** pamphlet "**Common Sense**" (Jan 1776) argued for independence
 - Radical idea 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

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



the family and granted women a new importance in American political culture.

Video & Textbook Notes

During and after the American Revolution, an increased awareness of inequalities in society motivated some individuals and groups to call for the abolition of slavery and greater political democracy in the new state and national governments.

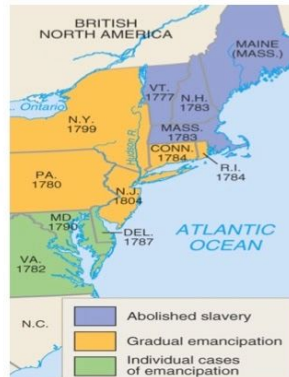
SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **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**



In response to women’s participation in the American Revolution, Enlightenment ideas, and women’s appeals for expanded roles, an ideal of “republican motherhood” gained popularity. It called on women to teach republican values within

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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