

The American Revolution

**The Creation of
the United States of America**

"Another attempt was made to save a little tea from the ruins of the cargo by a tall, aged man who wore a large cocked hat and white wig, which was fashionable at that time. He had sleightly slipped a little into his pocket, but being detected, they seized him and, taking his hat and wig from his head, threw them, together with the tea, of which they had emptied his pockets, into the water. In consideration of his advanced age, he was permitted to escape, with now and then a slight kick. "



Author unknown, Retrieved from http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/2005_winter_spring/boston_tea_party.htm

First Hand Account of Boston Tea Party

- From George Hewes, participant

The Beginning of the War

“The Shot heard round the World”

**Battle of
Lexington &
Concord**

April 1775

**Olive Branch
Petition**

July 1775

**Declaration of
Independence**

July 4, 1776

**Battle of
Yorktown**

October 1781

May 1775

**Second Continental
Congress**

1777

**Battle of
Saratoga**

1783

Treaty of Paris

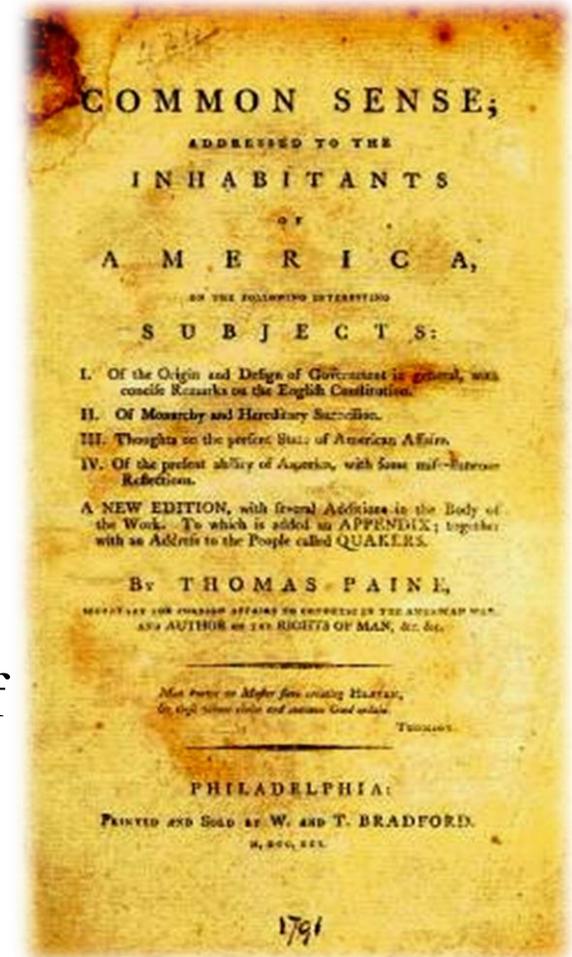
The American Revolution

Thomas Paine's Common Sense

Appealed to Natural Law: “An island should not reign over a continent.”

King George did not deserve respect for his brutality on his own people.

America had a moral obligation with the rest of the world to be democratic and free.



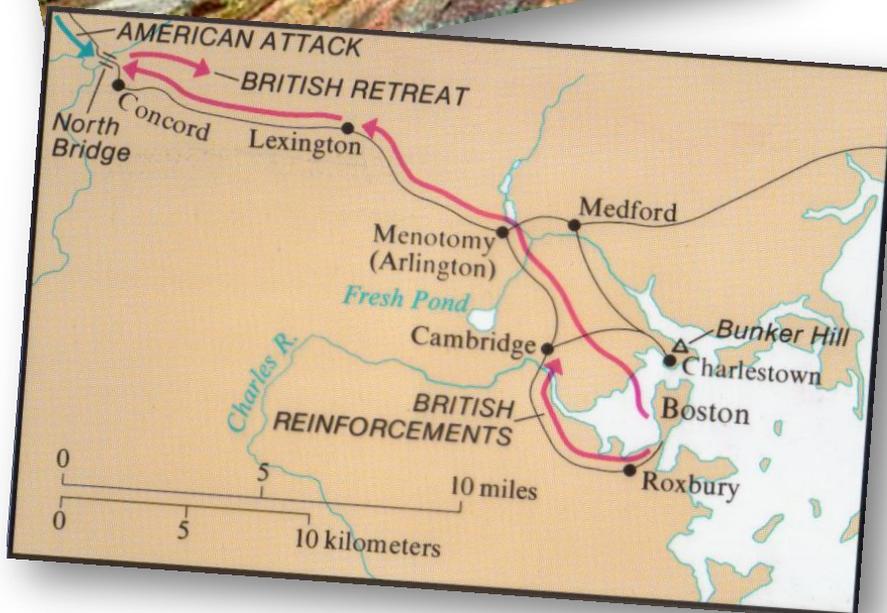
Common Sense
(Library of Congress)

Lexington and Concord



Retrieved from <http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/winter96/enlargement.html>

- April 19th 1775
- British's planned to attack Concord's arsenal.
- Paul Revere
- Americans lose at Lexington but win at Concord



Author Unknown. Retrieved from <http://qwickstep.com/search/what-caused-the-battle-of-lexington-and-concord.html>

"The shot heard around the world"

Second Continental Congress

All political leaders of the colonies and all the delegates of the first Continental Congress of 1774 were present in Philadelphia, except Georgia.

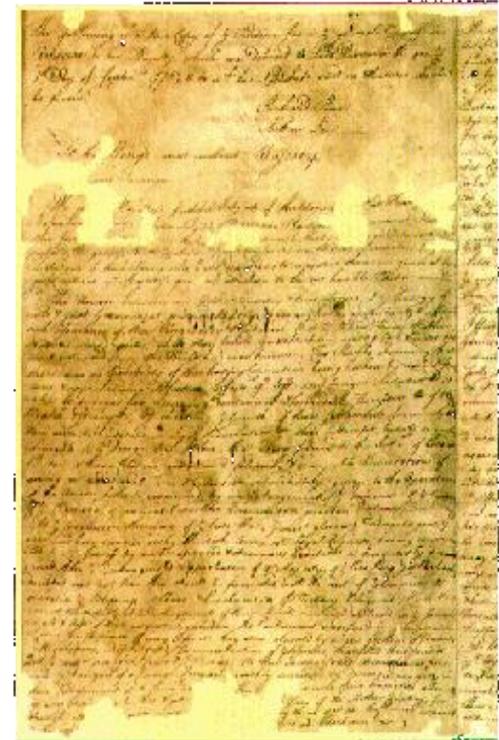
John Hancock chaired the second Congress which governed the colonies.

- It established a postal system.
- Created the Continental Army and appointed a general, George Washington.
- The **Olive Branch Petition** was sent to the English King.

Some delegates were separatist rebels or **Patriots**. Other delegates the **Loyalists**, were moderates and faithful to King George and wanted a peaceful reconciliation with England.

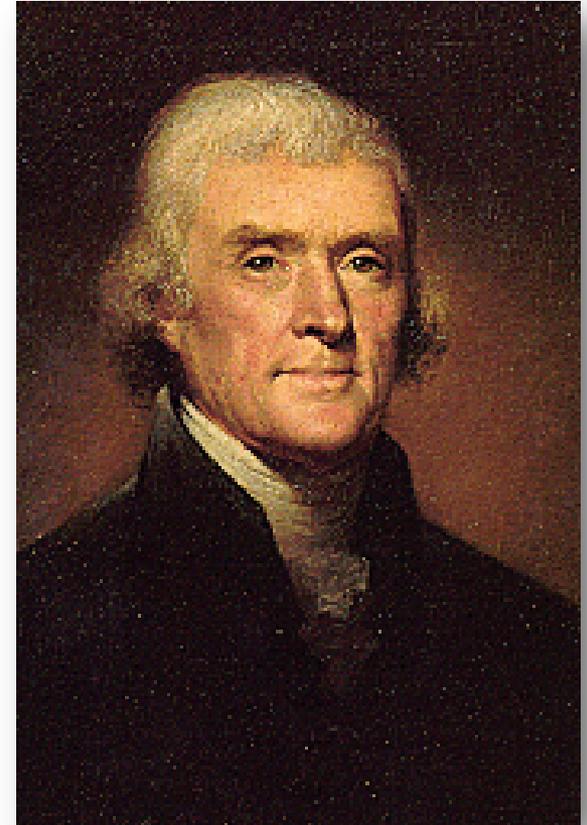
The Olive Branch Petition

- The delegates wanted to give England a chance to avoid war.
- The colonies would remain loyal to the King.
- They requested his help to end the conflict.
- King George III proclaimed the colonies in a State of rebellion and hired **Hessian** mercenaries to confront them and blocked the coast.



The American Revolution

- The States United
 - The Declaration of Independence
 - Thomas Jefferson wrote most of the document.
 - Formal independence declared
 - Congress adopted a plan for the Union, **the Articles of Confederation**



Thomas Jefferson
(Library of Congress)

The Declaration of Independence

Preamble

Explains why the Continental Congress drew up the Declaration.

Natural Rights

Declared the rights of people to life, liberty and property.

List of Grievances

Colonies complaints against the English and King George III.

Resolution of Independence

Declares the colonies free and independent states.

Key Players in the War

Patriots

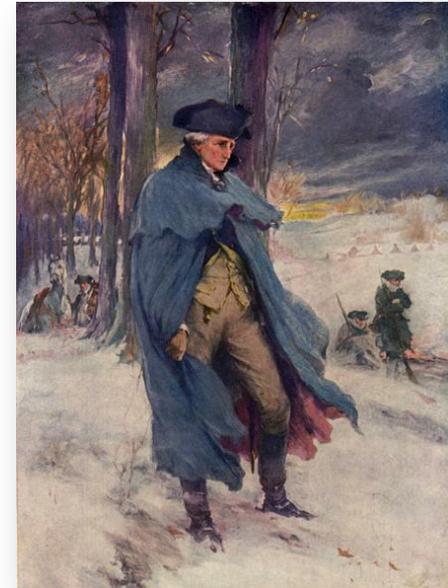
- freedom from British control.
- Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Paine.
- 40 to 45 percent of the white population
- “Whigs”

Loyalist

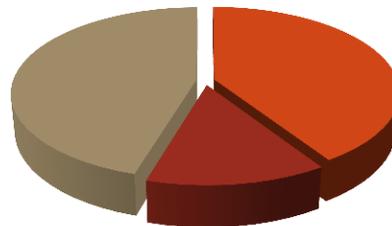
- not in favor of War
- About 15 to 20 percent of population
- “Tories” or “Royalist”

Neutralist

- Avoided taking sides
- About 50% of population
- Pacifism, Lack of Understanding or status as immigrant were all factors



George Washington at Valley Forge
(The Palma Collection / Getty Images)



■ Patriots ■ Loyalist ■ Neutral

England's Army

- **Powerful**
- **Excellent Navy**
- **Large, well-trained army**

- **Crossed ocean to war with colonists.**
- **Didn't know land.**

Continental Army

- **Strong commitment to the war.**
- **Knew land the land.**
- **Good leadership**
- **Foreign allies (France and Spain)**

- **Lacked weapons**
- **Lacked discipline**
- **Lacked supplies**
- **Small, un-trained.**

The First Phase: New England

Battle of Bunker Hill

Expensive victory for the English



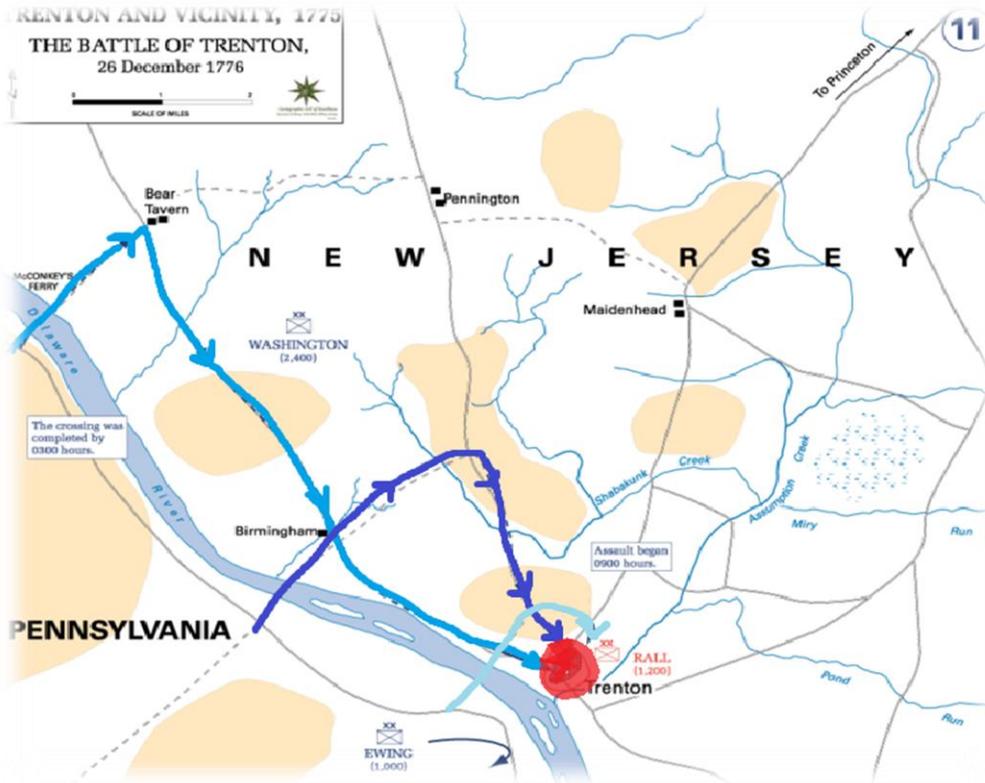
- British attack the American occupied “Breed’s Hill”
- 1775
- Ran out of ammunition
- *“Don’t shoot till you see the white of their eyes”.*
- Now renamed “Bunker Hill”

Moshu, V. Retrieved from <http://dumpendebat.net/2008/01/31/the-shrill-cry-of-internet-bugles/>



THE REVOLUTION IN THE NORTH, 1775-1776

Second Phase Battle of Trenton



- December 26, 1776
- Preceded by many defeats
- Three groups of American soldiers cross Delaware River and attack Hessians
- Huge victory and moral boost

Ketchum, R. *The Winter Soldiers: The Battles for Trenton and Princeton*

The Second Phase: The Mid-Atlantic Region

- General William Howe
- Trenton and Princeton
- Patriot victory at Saratoga

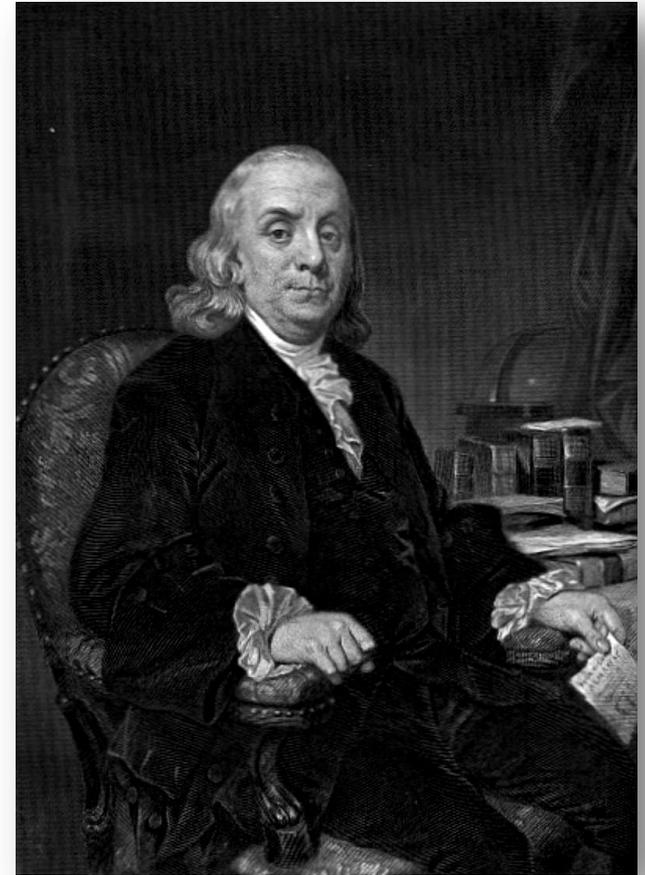


1777
Battle of Saratoga
New York

- Turning point in the war.
- The Colonists swarmed around British General Burgoyne's army for a triumphant victory at Saratoga.
- After Burgoyne's surrender, Spain & France decided to support the colonies and send funds, supplies and troops.

Securing Aid from Abroad

- **French diplomatic recognition**
- After the Battle of Saratoga and because of Lord North's offer of complete home rule within the empire.
- Formal recognition of the United States and expanded military assistance from **France.**



Benjamin Franklin
(Portrait Gallery)

The Final Phase: The South

■ Britain's southern strategy

British forces spent three years moving through the South (1778-1781)

- Many loyalists in the South
- “Revolutionary” conflict in the South: had the effect of mobilizing and politicizing the population in the South
- Guilford Court House, North Carolina, won by Cornwallis, but made him return to Virginia.
- Yorktown

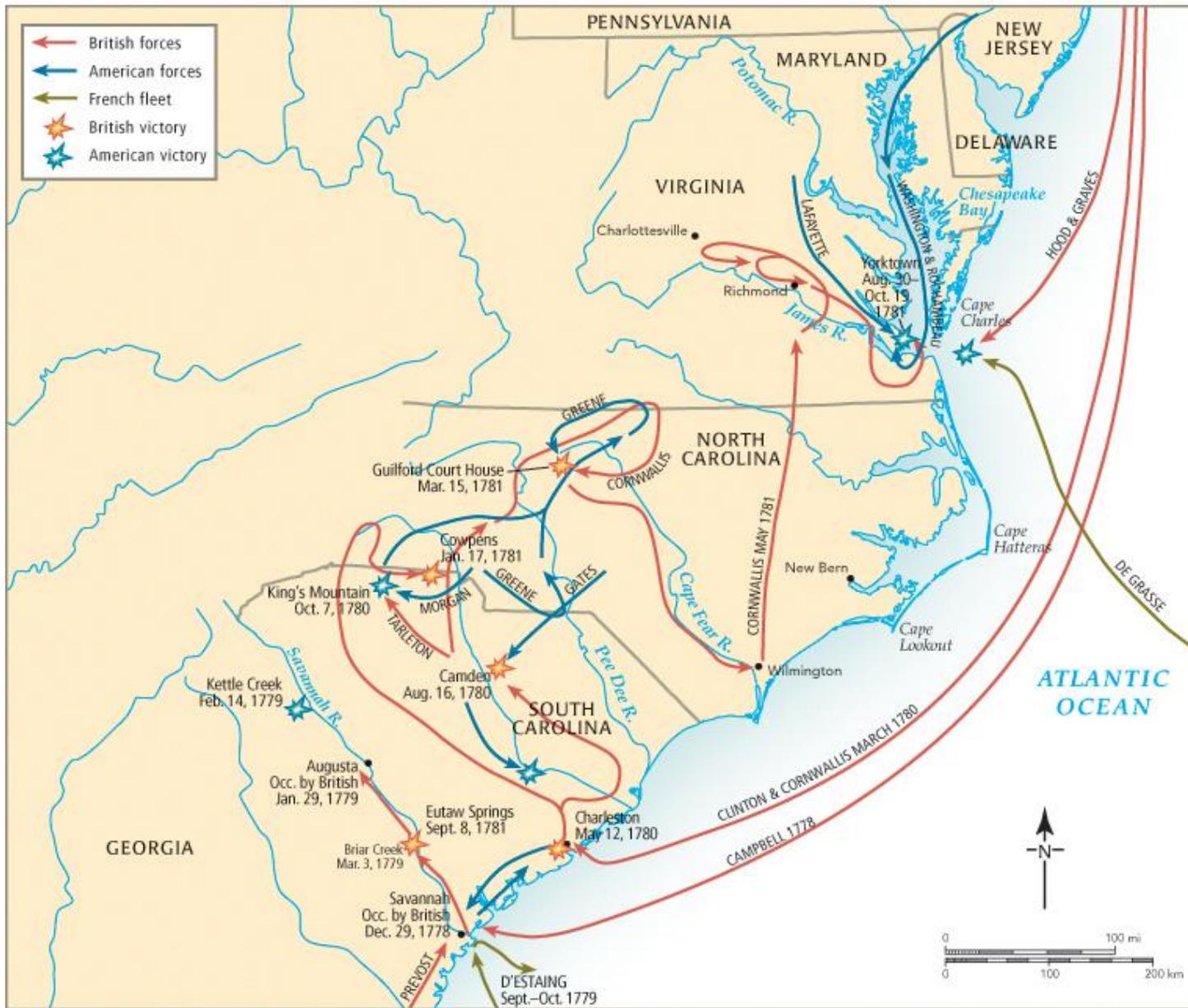
Battle of Yorktown, Virginia, 1783

- British **General Cornwallis** settled his troops in Yorktown.
- Colonists surrounded and attacked British troops.
- France is in the harbor and **Washington** is in Yorktown.
- England surrenders to colonies.
- “The world is upside down”.



British surrender to Washington
(Library of Congress)





THE REVOLUTION IN THE SOUTH, 1778-1781

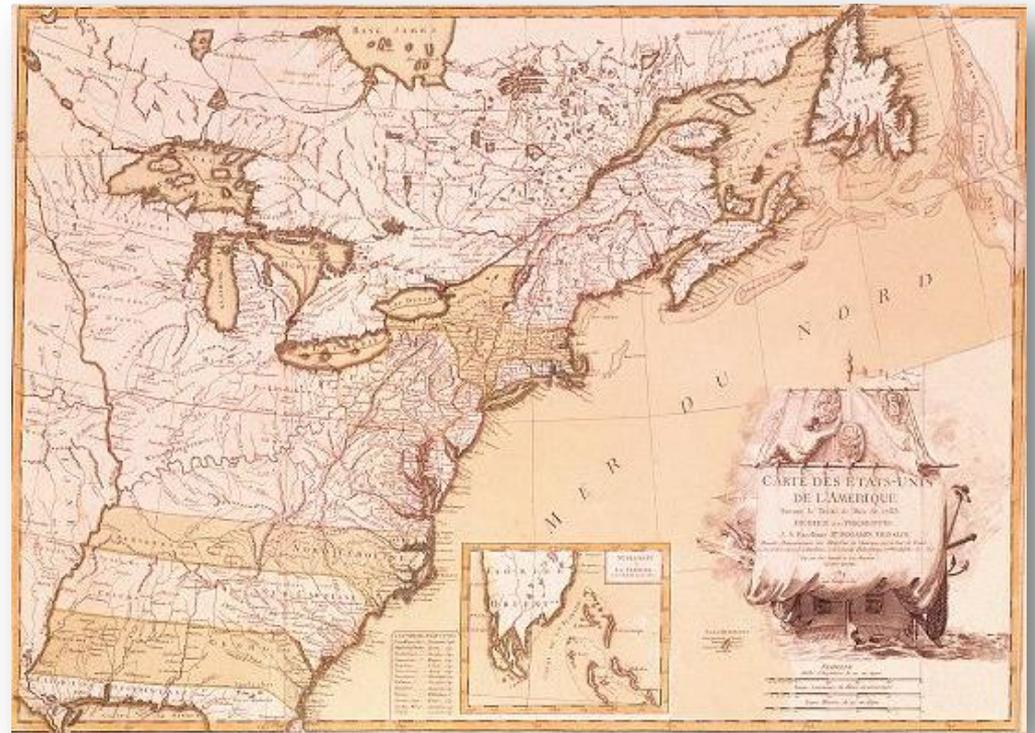
Winning the Peace

American diplomats in Paris:

- Benjamin Franklin
- John Adams
- John Jay

Signed treaty on September 3, 1783

- Recognition of independence
- Cession of territory
- British occupation forces gone.

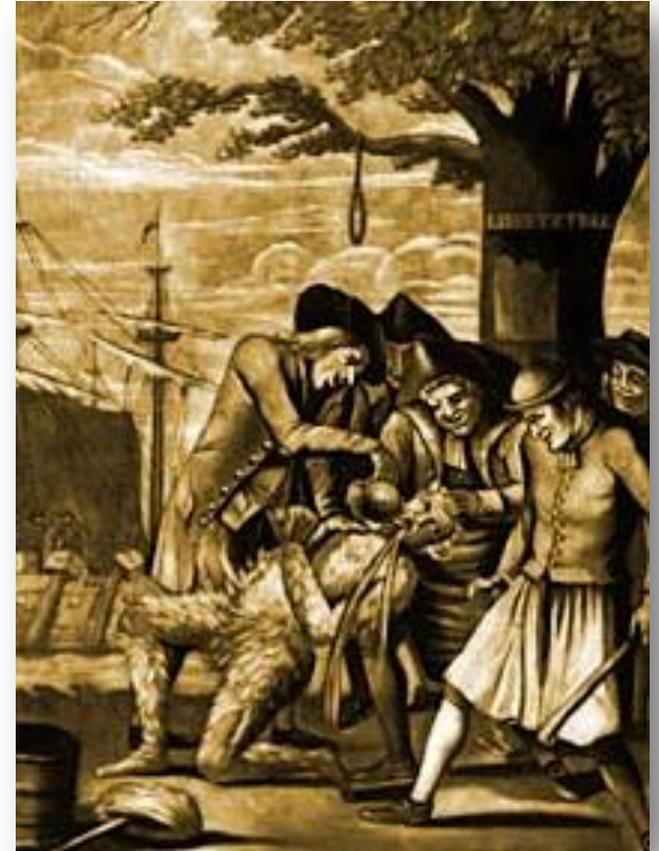


A map presented to Benjamin Franklin by the Royal Cartographer of France, showing the 1783 Treaty boundaries (Royalty-Free/CORBIS)

War and Society

Loyalists and Minorities' plight

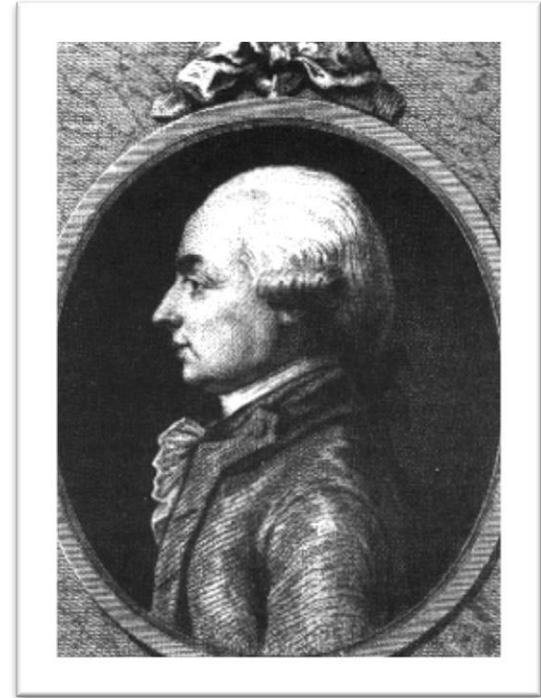
- Men often tarred & feathered, beaten, or killed.
- If they joined militia, property and possessions were confiscated.
 - Women and children impoverished and homeless
- 20% forced to flee



Tarring and Feathering
(Library of Congress)

“We never sit down either to dinner or supper, but the least noise immediately spreads a general alarm and prevents us from enjoying the comfort of our meals. The very appetite proceeding from labour and peace of mind is gone; we eat just enough to keep up alive: our sleep is disturbed by the most frightful dreams; sometimes I start awake, as if the great hour of danger was come; at other times the howling of our dogs seems to announce the arrival of the enemy: we leap out of bed and run to arms; my poor wife with panting bosom and silent tears, takes leave of me, as if we were to see each other no more; she snatches the youngest children from their beds, who, suddenly awakened, increase by their innocent questions the horror of the dreadful moment. She tries to hide them in the cellar, as if our cellar was inaccessible to the fire. I place all my servants at the windows, and myself at the door, where I am determined to perish.”

First Hand Loyalist Account



Author unknown, Retrieved from <http://africanamericanempowerment.blogspot.com/2009/05/unsung-african-american-heroes.html>

- J. Hector St. John De Crevecoeur in his book ***“Letters from an American Farmer”***

The War, Slavery and Minorities

- War and Society
 - Social as well as political revolution
 - War weakened religious groups
 - American catholics supported the patriots.
 - Exposure to liberty
 - Tension between liberty and slavery
 - Native Americans weakened



JAMES_ARMISTEAD
Patriot_Spy

Author Unknown. Retrieved from
<http://africanamericanempowerment.blogspot.com/2009/05/unsung-african-american-heroes.html>



Women of the Revolution
(Library of Congress)

- **Native Americans**
 - Torn on which side would support their cause
 - Many joined British
 - Viewed as “Savage” villains by patriots
- **African Americans**
 - Hope of freedom
 - British offered escaped slaves emancipation
 - Continental Army promised freedom
 - Still, freedom was more a hope than a reality
 - Hypocrisy
- **Women’s Rights**
 - Took on roles abandon by men
 - Often became impoverished
 - Flocked to army camps
 - Patriarchy strengthened

The War Economy

- War and Society
 - New commercial patterns of trade with the Caribbean and South America
 - New important trade with Asia
 - Modest increase in production and expectations

The Creation of Government

The Assumptions of Republicanism

- Rhetoric of equality
- Reality of inequality
- “All men are created equal.”

The First State Constitutions

- Curbing executive power

Revising State Governments

- Massachusetts constitution

State and National Governments

- The Creation of State Governments
 - Toleration and Slavery
 - Statute of Religious Liberty
 - Reasons for slavery's persistence
- The Search for a National Government
 - The Confederation
 - Limited power of the national government
 - Diplomatic Failures
 - Postwar problems with Britain
 - Regional differences over diplomatic policy

The articles of Confederation

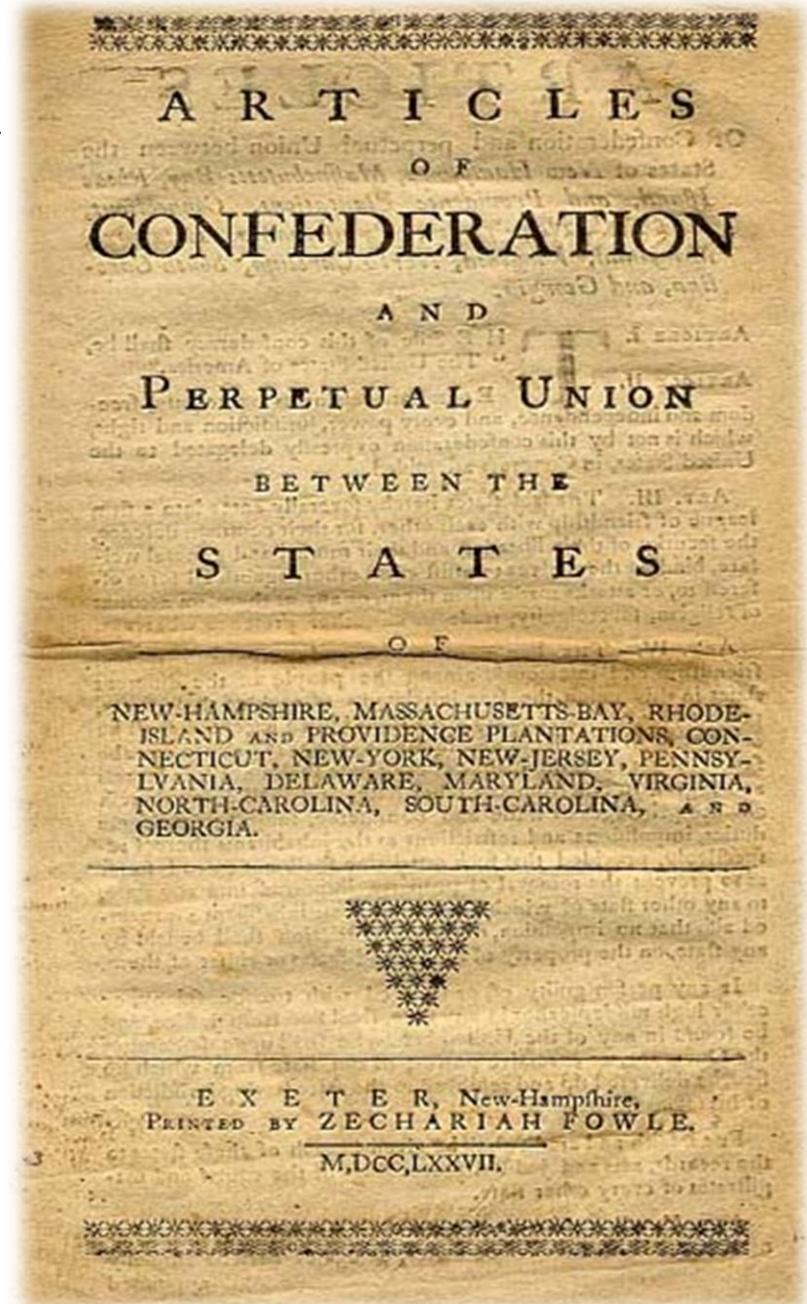
(March 1, 1781) was the first central Government of United States. The Congress was a unicameral legislature with delegates or representatives of each State.

The federal Government had authority to:

- Conduct foreign relations.
- Maintain its armed forces.
- Request borrowed money and issue money.

It could not:

- Regulate trade.
- Force citizens to enlist in the army.
- Propose Taxes



The articles of Confederation gave the Congress very limited authority:

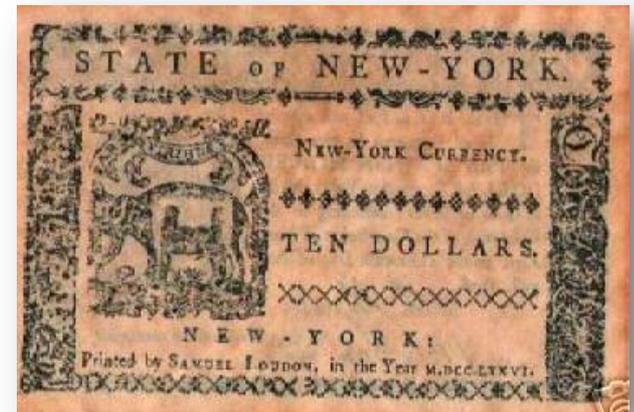
- Thirteen States had to approve all amendments.
- Nine States were needed to pass a federal law.
- The States had more power than the federal Government.

Problems:

The currency

Each state used different coins. There were no federal currencies. Without a common currency, trade and payment of debts was affected.

The national debt - the United States owed money to France, Spain, Holland and his own soldiers. Not being able to collect taxes to the States, it could not raise funds to pay debts.

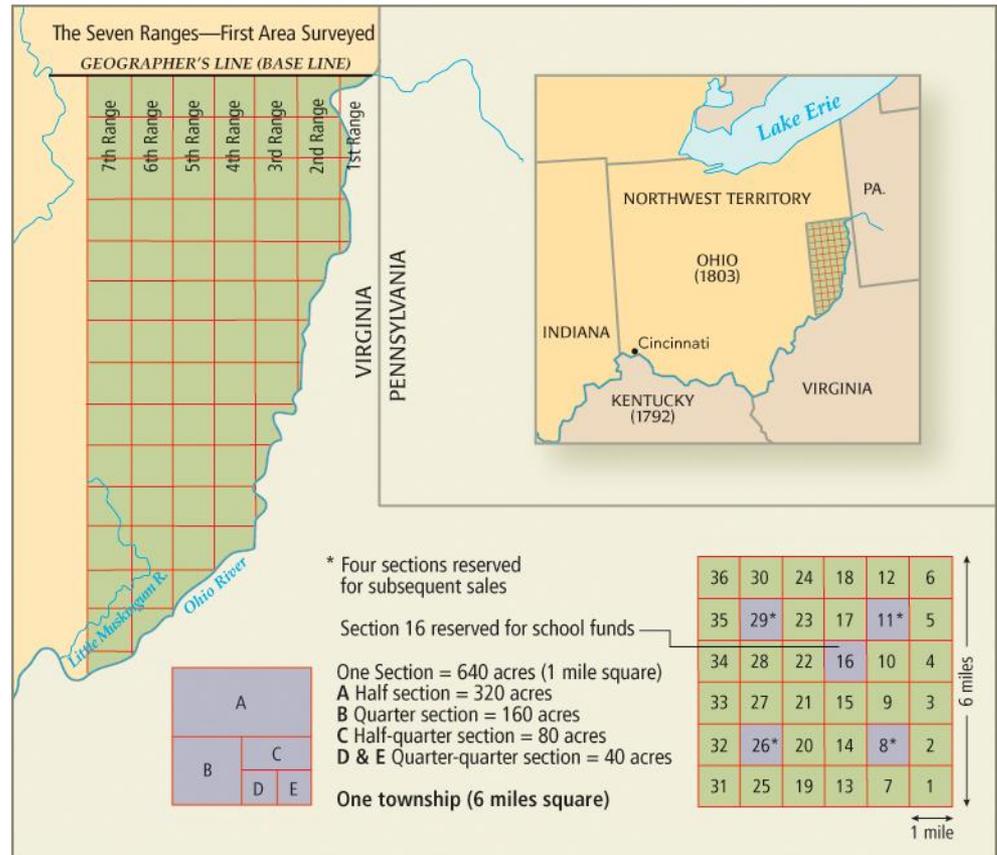


The Confederation and the Northwest

ORDINANCE OF 1785

The territory west of the Appalachians was divided into municipalities of six miles, divided in turn into 36 sections of 640 acres, which were sold at public auction. Unscrupulous people moved to these lands and forced the Government to redefine the rights of property.

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LAND SURVEY: ORDINANCE OF 1785

The “Northwest Ordinance” 1787

The territory would be divided into three to five small territories. Once it reached 60,000 inhabitants, they could apply to become a State.

It included a bill of rights for the colonists with freedom of religion, trial by jury and it prohibited slavery or involuntary servitude in the whole territory.



The Search for a National Government

Debts, Taxes, and Economic Depression

Problems with Great Britain

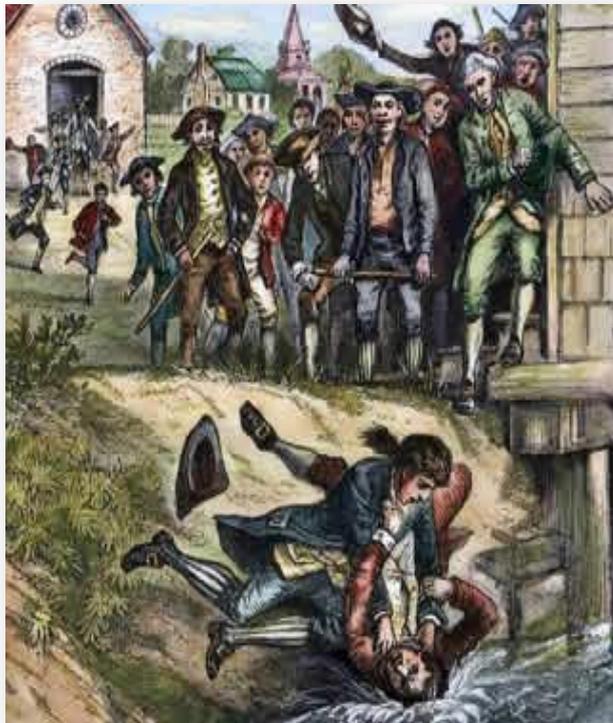
Great Britain prevented American trade with the islands of the Antilles stating that the agreement to pay the royalists' confiscated properties had not been fulfilled.

- Economic activity fell and increased unemployment.
- The farms of the South had been damaged in the war.
- The sale of rice fell without trade with the West Indies.
- The farmers were left with little money.
- As a result, States began to confiscate the lands of farmers to pay external debts.

Shay's Rebellion

In 1786 farmers led by Daniel Shays, took by force the Court of Massachusetts to prevent judges from confiscating land from farmers.

In 1787 they attacked the federal arsenal in Springfield in search of weapons and ammunition, being dispersed by the militia of Massachusetts, dying four rebels.



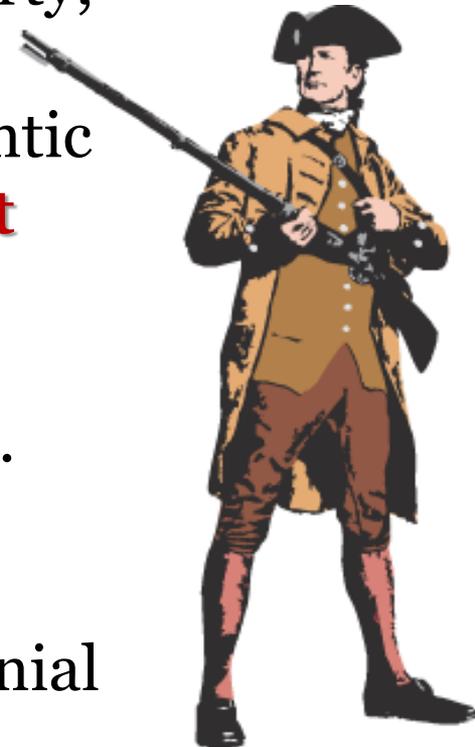
The Shays rebellion convinced many Americans of the need for a new and stronger government and the need to replace the **articles of Confederation**.

Thomas Jefferson expressed this view from France:
"A small rebellion from time to time, is a good thing."



The American Revolution Legacy

- ❑ The principles of freedom and the rights enshrined in the Declaration of Independence crossed the Atlantic and influenced the **French Revolution**.
- ❑ The French rebels fought in 1789 for their liberty, equality and fraternity.
- ❑ In 1791 the same ideals crossed again the Atlantic and the Caribbean to the French colony of **Saint Domingue**.
- ❑ Inspired by the speech of freedom, enslaved Africans rose up in arms against the French rule.
- ❑ In 1804 Saint Domingue, the current **Haiti** became the second nation in the new world to achieve their independence from European colonial rule.



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