

## The Road to Independence

### English Colonies expand

- ❖ The 13 British colonies established on the East Coast of America were beginning to swell.
- ❖ Most settlements were near the coast.
- ❖ New settlers began to move West, in many cases into lands settled by Native Americans and French settlers.

### Native American Response

- ❖ Near the Ohio River and Susquehanna River valleys lived the Delaware, Shawnee, and Huron people.
- ❖ Also affected were the Iroquois around New York and The Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, and Choctaw tribes in the south.
- ❖ These tribes began a posture of war while playing the French and British against each other.

### French Actions

- ❖ There were french settlers and soldiers in the area as well.
- ❖ The french fortified their bases, built more forts, and sent troops to seize the Ohio River Valley.
- ❖ Tensions were mounting!

### Discussion

- ❖ What do you think happens next? What started the French and Indian War?

### Start of the War

- ❖ 1754 - George Washington leads a small band of colonists against a French scouting party in Pennsylvania.
- ❖ The French and Indian War eventually spread to Europe, and was called the Seven Years War.
- ❖ The French were allied with many of the Native American nations against the British, who were attempting to take their land.

### Early British Losses

- ❖ French and Native American forces were badly outnumbered.
- ❖ Despite their numbers, British fought in the open and in straight lines, while the French and Native Americans fought with ambush tactics.
- ❖ There was disagreement between the British colonists and the army.

### Discussion

- ❖ Why did most of the Native American tribes involved in the war side with France?

### British get serious

- ❖ Britain declared war on France in 1756.
- ❖ After severe losses in Europe and America, the British called up more troops, borrowed money and raised taxes to better prosecute the war.
- ❖ Attack French Forts along the frontier.
- ❖ The Iriquois abandoned France and sided with the British.

### The last throes

- ❖ Spring 1759 - British lead invasion of New France and capture the capitol of Quebec.
- ❖ Quebec fell after a major siege, and a few months later, the British took Montreal, and control of New France.



### End of the War

- ❖ 1763 - The Treaty of Paris. Between the British, French and Spanish (ally of French).
- ❖ French surrendered their claims in the new world, except New Orleans, which they gave to Spain before the end of the war.
- ❖ British returned Cuba to Spain in exchange for Florida.

### Discussion

- ❖ What, do you think, were the results and effects of the French and Indian War?

### Effects of the war

- ❖ French were (for the moment) out of the picture in North America, leaving a large number of French colonists.
- ❖ British colonists continued to advance into Native American lands, leading to further skirmishes
- ❖ British colonists had less respect for British army and leadership.



### The Albany Plan of Union

- ❖ Benjamin Franklin proposed a permanent union of the British colonies in 1754, at a meeting in Albany. Plan rejected by legislatures.
  - ❖ Grand council elected by legislatures.
  - ❖ Headed by President-General appointed by king
  - ❖ Modeled after Iriquois Confederacy.
- ❖ The Northern Colonies were also planning coordinated war effort.

### British policy changes

- ❖ British end trade and gift giving with Native American tribes after tribes complained about increased settlement around the great lakes.
  - ❖ **Pontiac's Rebellion** (spring 1763) - Great Lakes tribes destroyed British forts & killed or captured over 2000 colonists
  - ❖ **Proclamation of 1763** - King George closed west of Appalachians to settlement.



### Discussion

- ❖ Why, do you think, did Native American tribes rise up, such as in Pontiac's Rebellion?

### More Changes

- ❖ Britain began to seek greater financial support from the colonists.
  - ❖ began to enforce import **duties** with the help of the British Navy.
  - ❖ **Sugar Act** (1764) - reduced tax on molasses, but increased taxes on other goods, and began stricter enforcement.

### Yet more changes

- ❖ Smuggling cases, under the new law, would be tried in British courts, not colonial courts.
- ❖ **The Quartering Act** - Colonists had to provide shelter for British troops in their homes.
- ❖ All of these changes, while not liked, were tolerated.

### Ye Olde Discussion

- ❖ If the government passed a law declaring that you had to provide lodging, food and other supplies to soldiers in your home, would you comply?

### Stamp Act

- ❖ **The Stamp Act** (1765) - Tax on most printed materials. Official stamp had to be placed on these materials.
- ❖ This act had effect on nearly all colonists, unlike prior measures.

### Stamp Act Congress & The Sons of Liberty

- ❖ 1765, delegates from nine colonies met in New York. **The Stamp Act Congress.**
- ❖ Passed resolution asserting the colonists had the same rights as other British citizens.
- ❖ Sons and Daughters of Liberty organizations were formed to fight the stamp act.
- ❖ Used intimidation against British tax collectors and stamp officials.

### Discussion

- ❖ Do you feel that the actions of the Sons of Liberty were justified and necessary? Why or why not?

### Repeal

- ❖ The Stamp Act repealed in 1766 after colonists boycotted British goods and stamp collectors resigned in face of intimidation.
- ❖ Parliament passed the **Declaratory Act**, reasserting its power over the colonies, in the same year.
- ❖ Main issue: taxation without representation.

### Declaratory Act - 1767

### Townsend Acts - 1767

- ❖ A series of laws relating to governing the colonies.
- ❖ Import duties on paper, paint, glass & tea to support government in the colonies, including royal governors.
- ❖ Colonists again began a boycott of British goods.

### Townsend Acts

### Boston

- ❖ Boston was a center of colonial protest.
- ❖ Boston Massacre - March 5, 1770. Sons of Liberty threatened a group of inexperienced soldiers, who fired back.
- ❖ Soldiers were acquitted of murder
- ❖ Parliament repealed Townsend Acts after. Kept tax on tea.
- ❖ **Boston Tea Party** - December 16, 1773. Response to Tea Act

### Discussion

- ❖ Do you agree with John Adams' representation of the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre? What was the reason Adams took the case?

### Coercive and Intolerable Acts

- ❖ Coercive Acts (1774) - punish Massachusetts by limiting free assembly and other rights.
- ❖ Parliament extended Canadian boundaries to cut off colonial expansion.
- ❖ To respond to continued actions of Parliament, colonies assembled in **The First Continental Congress.**

Coercive Acts - 1774  
(Intolerable Acts)  
Congress

- ❖ The First Continental Congress renewed the boycott of British goods, and encouraged colonies to form militias to defend themselves.
- ❖ Also asked King George to address their concerns so that they could reconcile with Britain.

First Continental Congress - 1774

Second Continental Congress: 1775-1781

The first shots

- ❖ Lexington and Concord Massachusetts
  - ❖ 800 British troops sent to seize colonists weapons.
  - ❖ Colonists responded. Called themselves The Minutemen.

Discussion

- ❖ Were the colonists justified in defending their guns, or should they, as British subjects, have surrendered them?

Ideas behind the Revolution

- ❖ Thomas Paine - *Common Sense*
  - ❖ Written in a simple and clear style without references to Greek and Latin works. Sermon-like
  - ❖ Paine's writing appealed to the masses, and persuaded many to the cause of independence.
  - ❖ Most successful book or pamphlet in the colonies.

Ideas & thinkers behind the revolution

Hobbes - Social Contract  
John Locke - Natural Rights

- ❖ "Every quiet method for peace hath been ineffectual. Our prayers have been rejected with disdain; and only tended to convince us, that nothing flatters vanity, or confirms obstinacy in kings more than repeated petitioning- and nothing hath contributed more than that very measure to make the kings of Europe absolute: Witness Denmark and Sweden. Wherefore since nothing but blows will do, for God's sake, let us come to a final separation, and not leave the next generation to be cutting throats, under the violated unmeaning names of parent and child." --Thomas Paine  
Common Sense

Ideas behind the Revolution

- ❖ Ancient Greece - 500 BC - First democratic government
- ❖ Magna Carta - 1215 AD - Became the rights of all Englishmen.
- ❖ The Petition of Right - 1626 - Limited power of Monarchy. Protections against imprisonment without jury trial, martial law during peace-time, mandatory troop quartering & taxation without parliament's consent.

Discussion

Why was Paine's *Common Sense* so well received by the American colonists?

## Ideas



English Bill of Rights - 1689 - increased requirements for parliamentary consent, right to fair and speedy trial, prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment



Thomas Hobbes - Social Contract Theory - relationship between state and its people is a social contract. People surrender their will, state saves people from anarchy.



## Ideas



John Locke - Natural Rights - State exists to guarantee its citizens the rights of life, liberty and property. If a government fails to do this, its citizens can rise up against it.

## Patrick Henry



**"It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, "Peace! Peace!" -- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"**

**Colonies extend the Olive Branch**

**2nd Continental Congress had sent King George an "Olive Branch petition" asking for a reconciliation and redress of grievances.**



**King George rejected the petition.**



**After nearly a year of fighting, a motion was introduced to sever ties with Britain.**

**Discussion**

**Why do you think King George rejected the Olive Branch petition?**

**Declaration**

**Congress appointed a committee to pen a statement telling the world why the colonies were separating from Britain.**



**John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Benjamin Franklin & Thomas Jefferson.**



**Jefferson was chosen to write the statement.**

**Declaration**

**4 Parts:**



**Preamble (Introduction)**



**Declaration of Rights**



**List of Grievances against the King**



**Resolution of Independence**

### British Strengths

- ❖ **Well equipped and trained army with the world's best navy.**
- ❖ Help from 50,000 colonial **Loyalists**, and many slaves in the south.
- ❖ Support of Native American Tribes in many areas.
- ❖ 30,000 "Hessian" (German) **mercenaries**.

### American Strengths

- ❖ **Familiar with territory and new world fighting tactics.**
- ❖ **Support of most of the colonists and free blacks.**
- ❖ **Fighting against an "invader".**

### American Weaknesses

- ❖ **But Americans were less trained and more poorly supplied than the British.**
- ❖ **Often could not afford to pay their soldiers.**
- ❖ **Suffered from lack of morale throughout the war.**
- ❖ **Civilians suffered greatly.**

### The Siege of Boston

- ❖ *April 1775* After Lexington and Concord, the British regrouped in Boston.
- ❖ 6,000 British soldiers were surrounded by nearly 20,000 armed **Patriots**.
- ❖ The colonial army was disorganized, but Vermont militia crossed lake Champlain to capture Fort Ticonderoga and gain cannons to continue the fight in Boston.

#### More fighting in Boston

- ❖ **The Battle of Bunker Hill** - June 1775 - British attack patriot positions north of Boston. Attacked Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill.
- ❖ After fierce resistance, the British prevailed, but lost 1,100 of over 2000 soldiers. The Patriots lost 400.

#### British get out of Boston

- ❖ The Colonial army, with the guns from Fort Ticonderoga, strengthened their positions in the heights of Boston, and could fire on soldiers and ships.
- ❖ After months of being pinned down, the British forces left for Halifax in March of 1776, with 1,000 **Loyalists** who did not want to be left behind to be punished by the rebels.

#### New Jersey

- ❖ Washington was losing badly. Took his army on Christmas and attacked the British forces in Trenton, NJ.
- ❖ Days later attacked Princeton.
- ❖ Pushed the British army back, raising Morale of the American side.

#### Saratoga

- ❖ Washington was still outnumbered despite greater recruitment to the army. Americans pushed British from Philadelphia, but then lost in Germantown.
- ❖ **Battle of Saratoga** - major american victory over British forces in New York.
- ❖ Helped convince the French to enter the war to help the Americans

Brits let the hammer down

- ❖ **Blockade** - Navy refused to allow ships to supply the colonies.
- ❖ **Profiteering** - Selling scarce goods for a largely marked-up price
- ❖ **Inflation** - Increase in prices over time relative to the value of currency.

#### Yorktown, Virginia

- ❖ French joined with the American army.
- ❖ French Navy was blockading the Virginia coast.
- ❖ Washington's forces met up with Lafayette's, now outnumbering the British.
- ❖ **The Battle of Yorktown** - American victory October 19, 1781. Ultimately ended the war.

#### Treaty of Paris (1783)

- ❖ Signed between Britain, France, Spain and the United States.
  - ❖ Britain recognized U.S. Independence
  - ❖ Set border between British Canada & US
  - ❖ Mississippi River set as boundary with Spanish
  - ❖ Florida returned to Spain
  - ❖ Britain withdraws troops
  - ❖ States returned Loyalist property.

#### Effects of the Revolution

- ❖ Spread of ideas of liberty in America & the world
- ❖ Anti-slavery sentiment grew in the North, but the South became more restrictive to blacks.
- ❖ Iriquois league destroyed, Native Americans were weakened.
- ❖
- ❖