

Revolutionary War Nuts and Bolts

Revolutionary War

Colonial Resistance

Colonists were angered by the sudden enforcement of mercantilism and the passing of new taxes and trade restrictions.

No Taxation without representation: the colonists' primary argument against these laws'; since colonists had no representatives in the British Parliament, the British government had no right to tax them. Consent of the governed.

Colonists were also angry over other things, such as the British forcibly quartering their troops in colonists' homes and the **Proclamation of 1763**, which forbade colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Colonists resisted these British measures in many ways, including the following:

1. Boycotts
2. Committees of Correspondence
3. Sons of Liberty (Organized the Boston Tea Party)
4. Organized Protests
5. **Common Sense** by Thomas Paine
6. First and Second Continental Congress

Colonists who supported the independence movement were called **Patriots**. Those who wanted to remain part of Britain were called **Loyalists**.

Common Sense by Thomas Paine

A publication persuading the American colonists to support colonial independence. Help the American cause in the Revolutionary War because it persuaded individuals who were undecided to support independence.

Winning Independence

Declaration of Independence

On July 4, 1776, members of the Second Continental Congress signed the **Declaration of independence**, which stated that the colonies were forming their own country. Most of the Declaration was written by **Thomas Jefferson**.

Influence of Enlightenment philosopher John Locke:

1. **Natural rights** ("life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness")
2. **Consent of the governed** ("No Taxation without Representation")

Causes of the American Revolution

Proclamation Line of 1763: Forbid the colonists from settling on land west of the Appalachian Mountains

Stamp Act: Required the colonists to pay a tax on all printed materials. Colonists reacted with a boycott.

Quartering Act: Required colonists to allow British soldiers to stay in their homes.

Boston Massacre: Colonists in Boston began to harass British troops. The soldiers responded by firing on the colonists, killing five people.

Boston Tea Party: Organized by the Sons of Liberty to protest the Tea Act. Colonists raided British ships and dumped hundreds of cases of tea into Boston Harbor

American Revolution

The first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775.

Major military leaders:

- American: General George Washington
- British: Lord Charles Cornwallis

British Advantages: more money and supplies; experienced leadership; professional soldiers; more troops.

American Advantages: familiar with the land; volunteer army dedicated to the cause; easier access to supplies; aid from the French.

Events

Lexington and Concord: first shots fired, April 19, 1775.

Saratoga: October 1777; France and Spain enter war on the American side; Turning point of the war.

Winter at Valley Forge: Winter 1777-1778; Severe conditions: no food, lack of supplies, no blankets or uniforms; Marquis de Lafayette; Donations from volunteers, clothing, food and ammunition to troops.

Yorktown: 1781; Washington and French troops trap British troops in Virginia; French ships attack from water; General Cornwallis surrenders to General Washington; British are defeated, British support for war ends.

Treaty of Paris: 1783; Representatives from U.S. and Great Britain meet; U.S. recognized as independent nation; Great Britain gives up claims to land between the Atlantic and Mississippi River; U.S. agrees to give Loyalist back property.

Important People

George Washington: Commander of Continental Army; member of Virginia House of burgesses

Thomas Jefferson: wrote Declaration of Independence 1776; studied John Locke (Natural Rights).

Patrick Henry: spoke against the taxes; member of 1st continental congress; speech "Give me Liberty or Give me Death".

Samuel Adams: encouraged boycott of taxes; leader of Sons of Liberty

John Adams: served on committee that wrote Declaration of Independence; represented America at the Treaty of Paris.

Abigail Adams: wife of John Adams; wrote letters to Adams standing up for women's rights "Remember the Ladies"

Benjamin Franklin: represented America at Treaty of Paris 1783; committee Declaration of Independence; traveled to England and expressed colonial grievances.

Thomas Paine: wrote *Common Sense* which was a pamphlet that tried to convince the colonist to break away from England.

Marquis de Lafayette: French soldier that helped colonists; worked very closely with Washington.

King George III: King of England whose taxes lead to the American Revolution.

Wentworth Cheswell: 1st African American to be elected to public office 1768; fought in the Battle of Saratoga.

Mercy Otis Warren: America's first female playwright, wrote propaganda plays. Correspondent and adviser for many political leaders including Washington and John Adams.

James Armistead: African American spy during Revolution; posed as a runaway slave and infiltrated Cornwallis' and Benedict Arnold's camp and learned about British movements; this information was essential to the American victory at Yorktown.

Bernardo De Galvez: worked with Patriot leaders to secure the port of New Orleans for only French, Spanish, and American ships.

Hayam Salomon: Jewish American who helped finance the war.

Crispus Attucks: African/Native American who was the first casualty of the War when he was shot and killed in the Boston Massacre.