

# IMPORTANT IDEAS

- A. Britain defeated France in the **French and Indian Wars**. After the war, the colonists felt more secure, but Britain was left with a large debt in fighting the war.
- B. Some colonists hoped to settle in new western lands, but the British barred settlement west of the Appalachians in the **Proclamation of 1763**.
- C. The British passed the **Sugar Act of 1764**, reducing duties on sugar but enforcing laws against smugglers.
- D. The British imposed a series of new taxes on the colonists: the **Stamp Act**, the **Townshend Duties**, and the tea duty. In each of these, Parliament acted without consulting the colonists. The colonists saw “**taxation without representation**” as tyranny, believing such laws violated their rights as Englishmen. They protested in their colonial assemblies, boycotted British goods, and formed the **Sons of Liberty**.
- E. The British government sent more troops to the colonies to restore order and enforce their measures. A dispute between British soldiers and colonists in 1770 led to the “**Boston Massacre**.”
- F. In December 1773, colonists threw tea overboard in the **Boston Tea Party** to protest the tea duty. Parliament responded with the **Intolerable Acts**, closing Boston Harbor. Most colonists sided with Massachusetts. In Philadelphia, colonial representatives met for the **First** and **Second Continental Congress**.
- G. Fighting broke out in **Lexington and Concord** in 1775, starting the **American Revolution**.
- H. The **Second Continental Congress** chose **George Washington** to lead the **Continental Army**. Washington successfully chased the British from Boston. The British went to New York, where Washington was unable to defeat them.
- I. Washington retreated to **Valley Forge** during the first winter of the war. Foreign officers like **Steuben**, **Lafayette** and Pulaski trained the colonial troops.
- J. In 1776, **Thomas Paine** argued in **Common Sense** that the Colonies should declare independence. In 1776, the Second Continental Congress declared independence. **Thomas Jefferson** wrote most of the **Declaration of Independence**.
- K. In 1777, colonial forces defeated a British army at **Saratoga**, preventing a British plan to divide the colonies. After this victory, France joined on the side of the Americans. In 1781, Washington defeated the British at **Yorktown**, bringing the war to an end.
- L. The British recognized American independence in the **Treaty of Paris** in 1783.