American Revolution

Lesson Two

The Road to Revolution

- •The Proclamation on 1763 and later British actions convince the colonists that the British government does not care about their needs
- •1764—British Parliament wants to reduce debt from French and Indian War, enacts Sugar Act
 - —act changes taxes on imports
- Violators tried by vice-admiralty court, not colonial court

- •1765—Stamp Act taxes printed items like wills and newspapers
- Colonial assemblies protest lack of representation in Parliament
- •Merchants in New York, Boston, Philadelphia boycott British goods
- •1766—Parliament repeals Stamp Act, passes Declaratory Act same day

—full right "to bind t whatsoever"

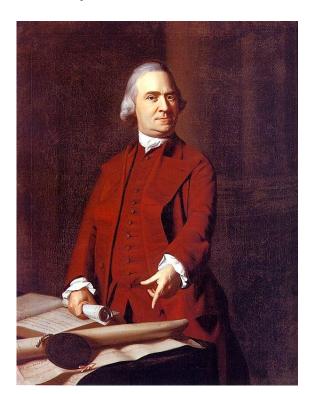


•Townshend Acts tax imports from Britain, like paint, paper, tea

•Samuel Adams, a founder of the Sons of Liberty, leads new

boycott



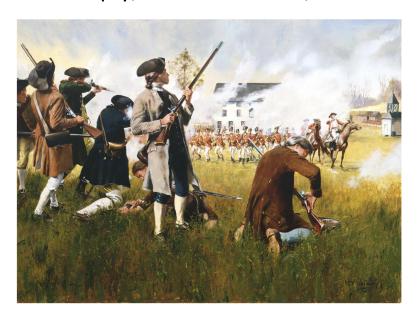


- Hostilities between colonists and British mount; Boston grows tense
- •Boston Massacre—British guards fire on a colonial mob, kill five
- •Lord North, prime minister, repeals the Townshend Acts—except the tax on tea
- •Tensions rise again; group of Rhode Island colonists destroy British customs schooner
- King George III wants to find suspects for trial in England
- •Massachusetts and Virginia create committees of correspondence to track British threats

- •1773—Lord North devises Tea Act; lets British East India Company avoid tax, undercuts colonists
- •Disguised Boston rebels dump tea into Boston harbor—Boston Tea Party
- •King George pressures Parliament; enact Intolerable Acts—harbor closes, city under martial law
- •1774—First Continental Congress forms, meets to declare colonial rights



- •Civilian soldiers known as minutemen pledge to fight the British on a minute's notice
- Minutemen begin to stockpile firearms and gunpowder
- •700 British troops march to Concord to disarm colonial militia
- •At Lexington, British soldiers fight 70 minutemen, 8 colonists killed
- •British find Concord's arsenal empty; return to Boston, are ambushed



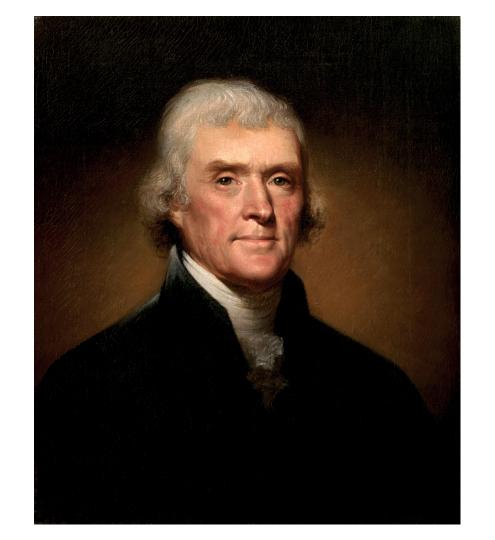
- •May 1775—Colonial leaders call Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia
- Congress forms Continental Army;George Washington in command
- •2,400 British battle militia on Breed's Hill, suffer 1,000 casualties
- King George III rejects Continental
 Congress's Olive Branch Petition



Declaring Independence

- •1760s to 1770s—Enlightenment ideas spread throughout colonies
- •John Locke, English philosopher, influences colonists:
 - people have natural rights to life, liberty, property
 - people consent to obey a government that protects these rights
 - people can resist or overthrow government
- •British have religious, legal tradition of civil and property rights
- •Thomas Paine writes *Common Sense*—pamphlet attacking King George and monarchy
- Argues for independence, influences many colonists

- •Congress appoints committee to prepare declaration to Britain
- •Thomas Jefferson, Virginia lawyer, writes final draft
- Declaration of Independence is colonies' formal statement of freedom
- •Lists British violations and colonists' rights as citizens
- •One of the most important, influential legal documents of modern times, written by Thomas Jefferson
- •Continuing relevance, inspires leaders in the struggle for democratic ideals, civil and human rights



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the America States of Homerica.

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In Congress, July 4, 1776

- •Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled
- •When necessary for one people to dissolve political bands with another, respect opinions, declare causes which impel them to separation
- •All people are equal in having the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

- Main purpose of government is to protect rights of the people who consent to be governed by it
- •These rights cannot be taken away; if government tries, people have the right to change or do away with it
- •The people can form a new government that respect these rights
- Patient sufferance of colonies; repeated injuries and usurpations, Tyranny over the States

- Charges against King George:
- mistreatment of colonists, in order to gain total control over colonies
- rejects many laws passed by colonial legislatures
- —makes colonial legislatures meet at inconvenient times and locations
- king and his governors often dissolve
 colonial legislatures for disobeying orders
- —stops people from moving to the colonies and into western lands
- prevents colonists from choosing their own judges; king selects and keeps only when satisfied



- —hires people to help collect taxes in the colonies
- —appointment of General Thomas Gage as governor of Massachusetts
- —expects colonists to provide housing and supplies for British soldiers in the colonies
- —demands that colonists pay many taxes when colonists did not agree to do so
- —British naval courts try colonists without juries
- —accused colonists sent to Britain for treason trials
- —allows General Gage to take military action to enforce British laws in the colonies
- —hires and sends Hessian mercenaries to fight colonists
- —king's governor in Virginia promises freedom to enslaved people that join British forces
- —creates plan to use Indians to fight colonists

- •Declaration explains the efforts of the colonists to avoid separation from Britain
- Colonists state that the king ignores their protests
- •The writers of the Declaration conclude that the king is not fit to rule free people
- •The writers declare that the colonies are now free, independent states
- •All ties with Britain are broken
- •States claim right to make war and peace, to trade, do all things free countries can do
- •To support declaration, signers promise one another their lives, fortunes, honor
- •Members of Continental Congress state that copies of the Declaration are to be sent to:
 - —all Committees of Correspondence, commanders of troops
- •The Declaration should be read in every state



The Revolutionary War

- Americans on different sides as war begins
- Loyalists—colonists who support King George III and Britain
- •Patriots—colonists in favor of independence from Britain
- Many Americans also remain neutral





- •British take New York in 1776; Washington retreats to Pennsylvania
- •Washington takes Trenton; British take Philadelphia in 1777
- •British general John Burgoyne surrenders to American troops at Saratoga
- •Patriot's victory convinces French to aid Continental Army
- •1778—Washington and his army lose over 2,000 soldiers at Valley Forge winter camp

- •Congress needs to pay troops; prints paper money, causing inflation
- Robert Morris and Haym Salomon raise money to pay Continental Army
- •Women manage homes, businesses; some fight in war
- Many slaves escape during the war; about 5,000 join Continental
 Army

- •Winter 1778—American troops begin transformation
- Friedrich von Steuben, Prussian captain and drillmaster helps train the Continental Army
- Marquis de Lafayette—encourages France to send reinforcements, 1779





- •British shift operations to the South; Charles Cornwallis, British general, wins many victories
- •He camps at Yorktown, plans to take Virginia
- •Cornwallis is surrounded at Yorktown, surrenders in October 1781
- •1783—Treaty of Paris establishes colonial independence and

borders



- War stimulates egalitarianism—belief in equality of all people
- •In 1780s, egalitarianism applies to white men only
- •Women have few legal or political rights
- African Americans still face slavery or discrimination
- Native Americans continue to be pushed off their land by settlers
- •June 1782—Continental Congress approves official seal of the United States