

Chapter 4

The War for Independence

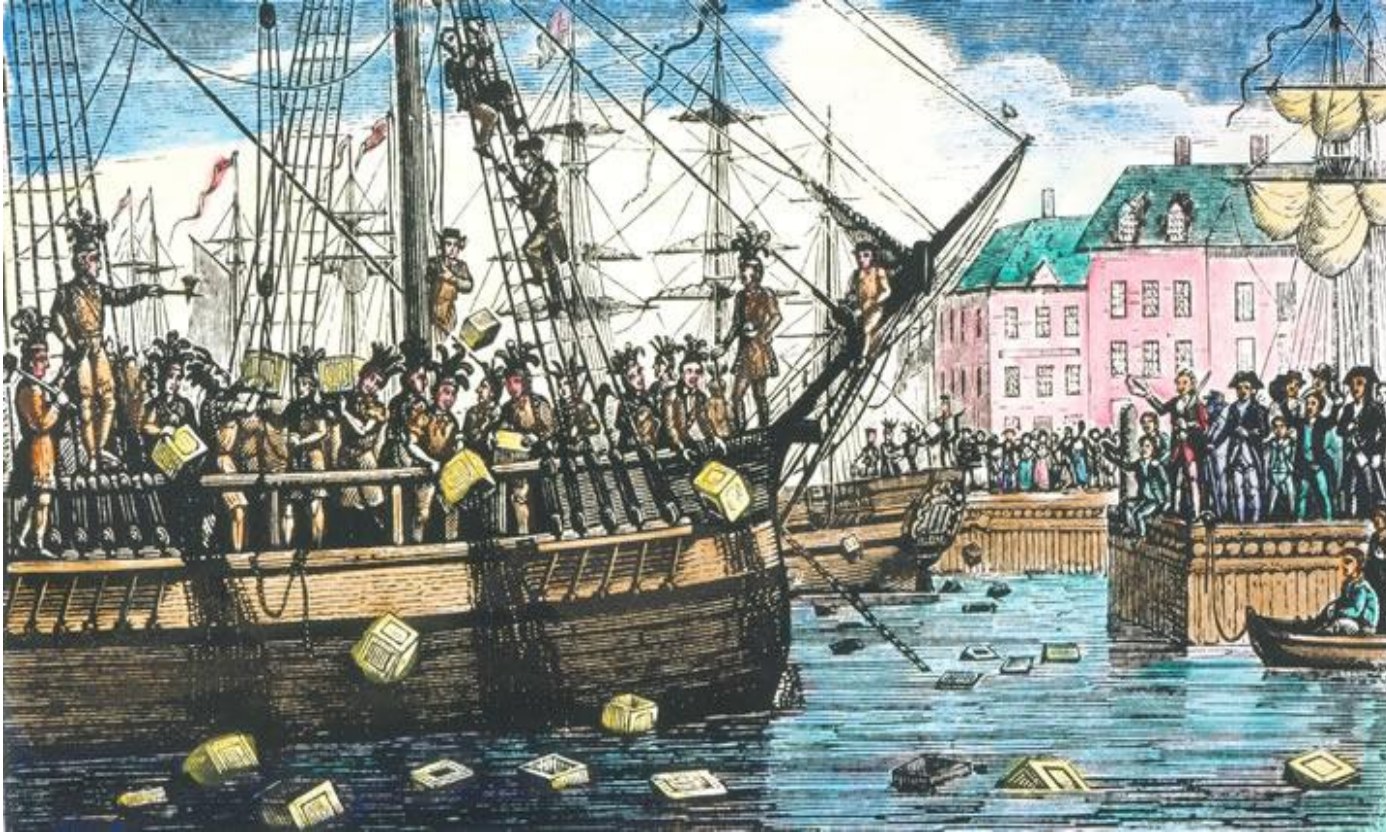
Thomas Jefferson draws on Enlightenment ideas in drafting the Declaration of Independence. The colonies defeat Great Britain in the Revolutionary War.



George Washington

Section 1

The Stirrings of Rebellion



Conflict between Great Britain and the American colonies grows over issues of taxation, representation, and liberty.

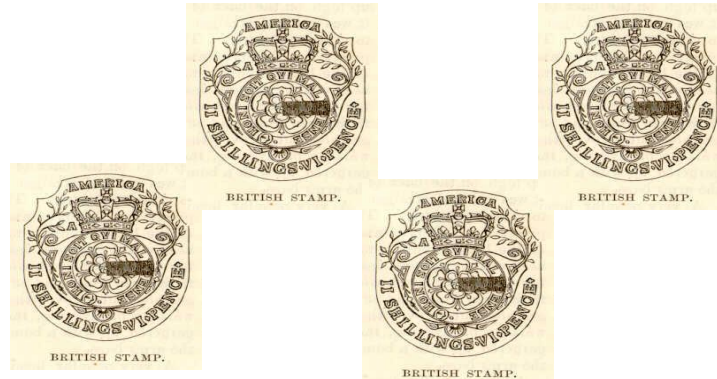
The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain

The Stamp Act

- **Stamp Act** (1765)—required stamped paper for documents, printed items

Stamp Act Protests

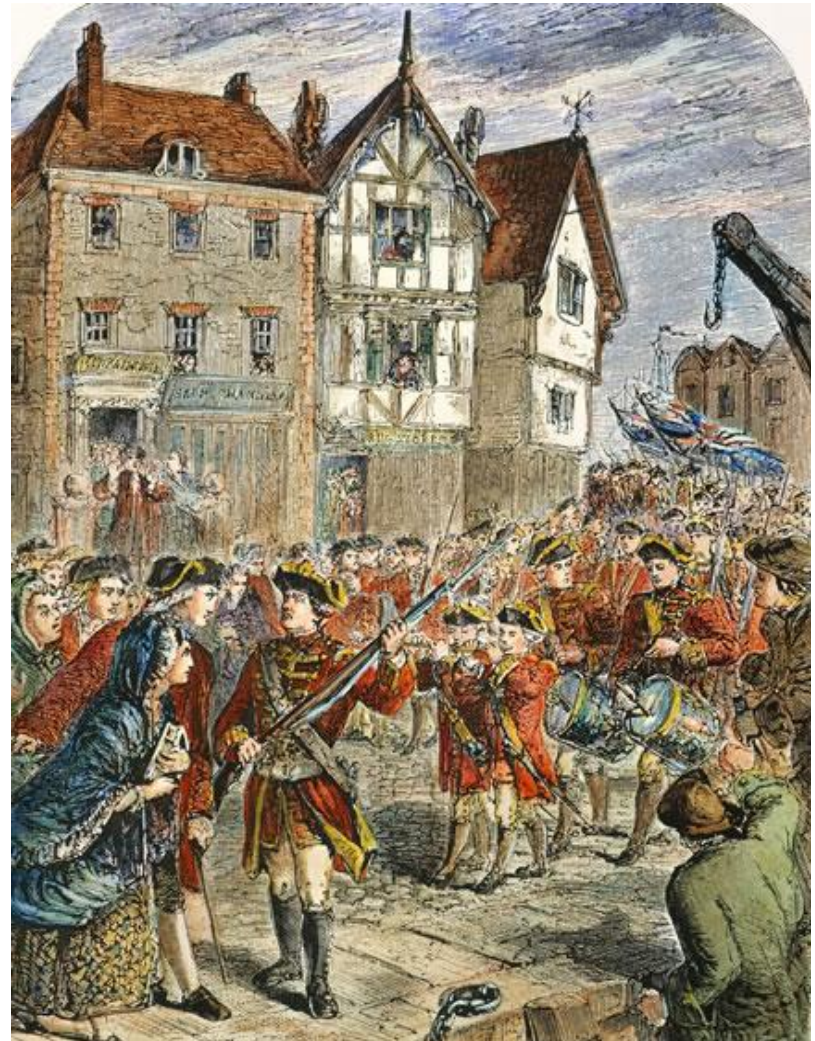
- **Samuel Adams** helped found Sons of Liberty, secret resistance group:
 - harassed customs workers, stamp agents, royal governors
- Stamp Act Congress—colonies can't be taxed without representation
- Colonial merchants boycotted British goods until Stamp Act repealed
- Parliament repealed Stamp Act; passed Declaratory Act same day (1766)



The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain

The Townshend Acts

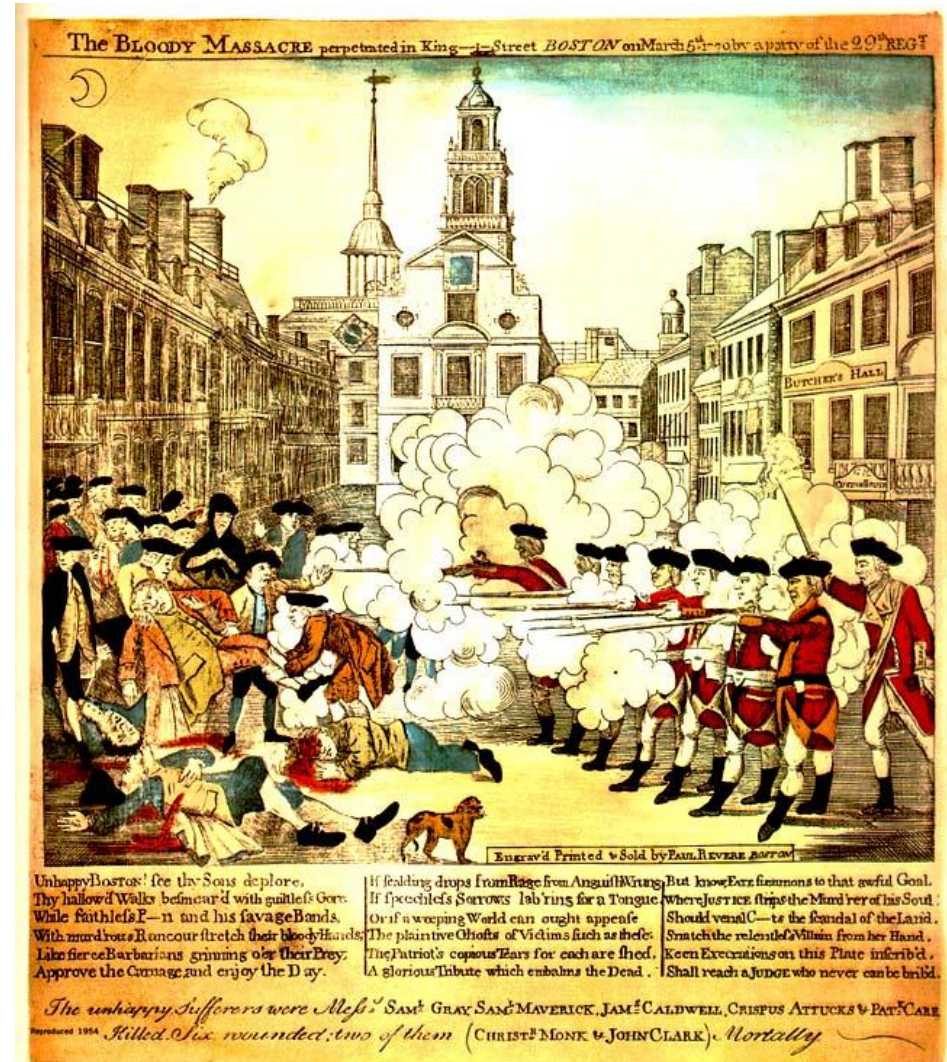
- **Townshend Acts** (1767) levied duties on imported materials, tea
- Colonists enraged; Samuel Adams organized boycott
- Women stopped buying British luxuries; joined spinning bees; boycotted tea
- Customs agents seized John Hancock's ship *Liberty* for unpaid taxes
- Colonists rioted; 2,000 British soldiers stationed in Boston



Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

The Boston Massacre

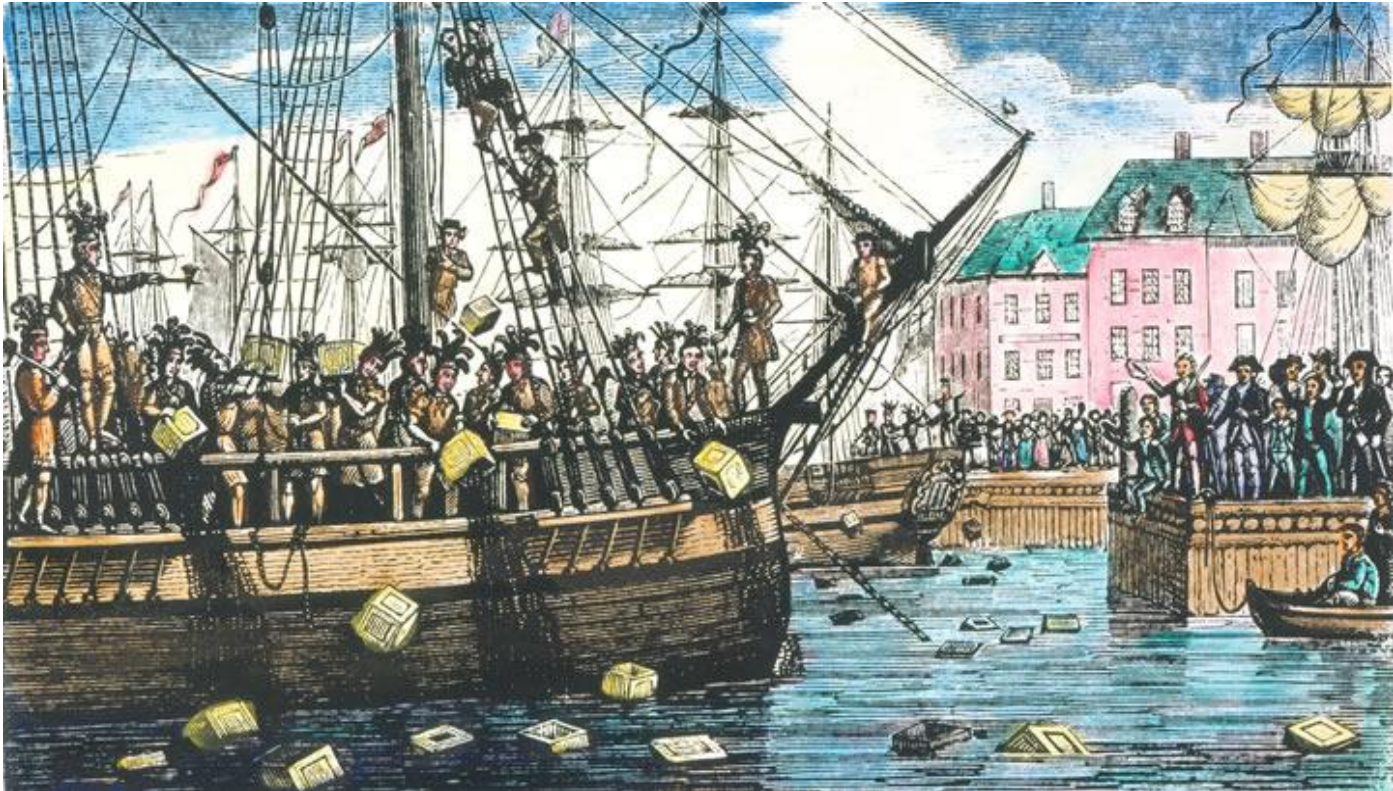
- Soldiers competed with colonists for shipyard jobs
- **Boston Massacre** (1770)-mob threw stones, British fired, killed five
- 1772, colonists burned customs ship; suspects were to be tried in Britain
- **Committees of Correspondence** discussed threat to freedom, formed network



Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

The Boston Tea Party

- 1773 Tea Act lets East India Company avoid tax, undersold colonists
- **Boston Tea Party**—disguised colonists dumped 18,000 lbs. tea in harbor



Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

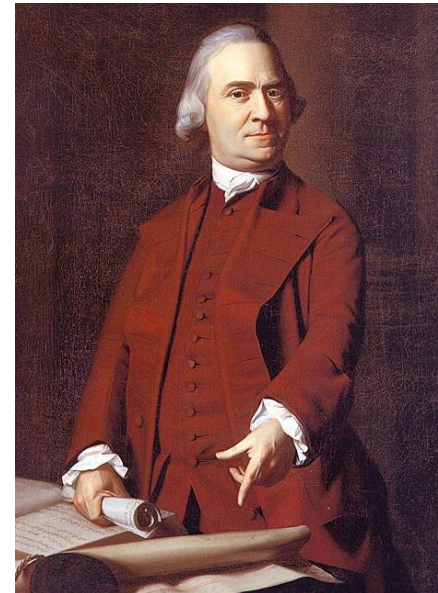
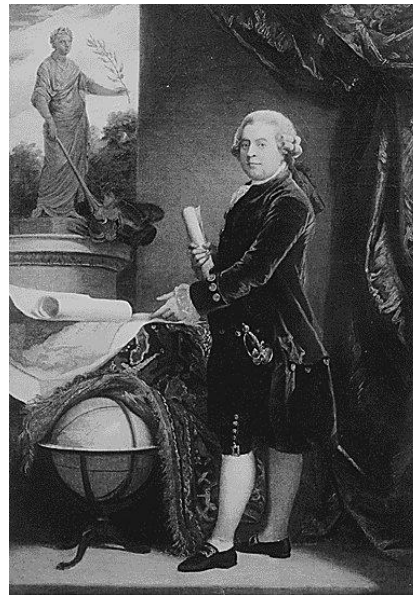
The Intolerable Acts

- **King George III**, British king, is angered by destruction of tea
- 1774, Parliament passed **Intolerable Acts** as response to Tea Party
- Acts closed Boston Harbor, quartered soldiers in empty homes, buildings
- General Thomas Gage put Boston under **martial law** (rule by military)
- First Continental Congress claimed colonial rights, supported protests

Fighting Erupts at Lexington and Concord

To Concord, By the Lexington Road

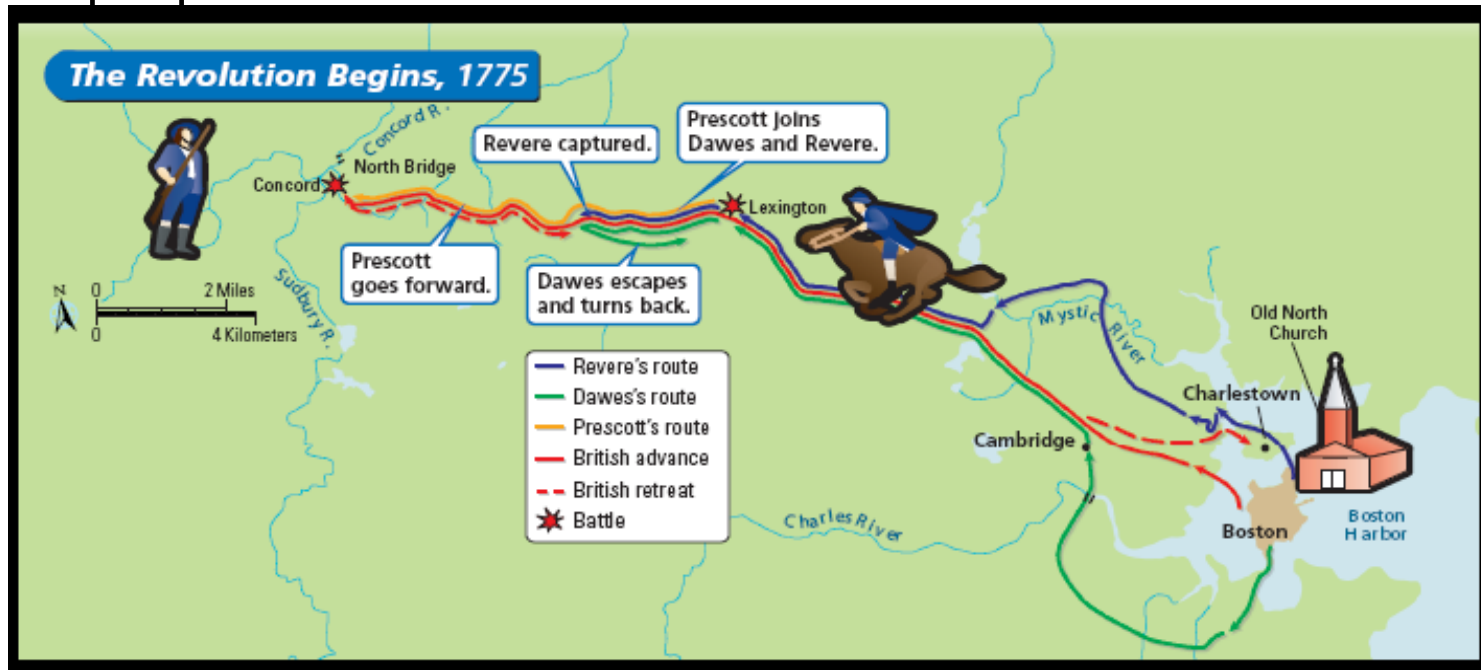
- Civilian militia or **minutemen** began to stockpile firearms, 1775
- Resistance leaders John Hancock, Samuel Adams hid in Lexington



Fighting Erupts at Lexington and Concord

“The Regulars Are Coming!”

- 700 redcoats sent to capture leaders, destroy munitions, April 1775
- Paul Revere, William Dawes, Samuel Prescott warned leaders, townspeople



“A Glorious Day for America”

- British shot minutemen in Lexington; killed eight
- 3,000–4,000 minutemen ambushed British in Concord, killed dozens

Section 2

Ideas Help Start a Revolution



Tensions increase throughout the colonies until the Continental Congress declares independence on July 4, 1776.

The Colonies Hover Between Peace and War

The Second Continental Congress

- **Second Continental Congress** met May-June 1775 in Philadelphia:
 - debated independence
 - recognized militiamen as Continental Army
 - appointed George Washington commander
 - printed paper money to pay troops



The Colonies Hover Between Peace and War

The Battle of Bunker Hill

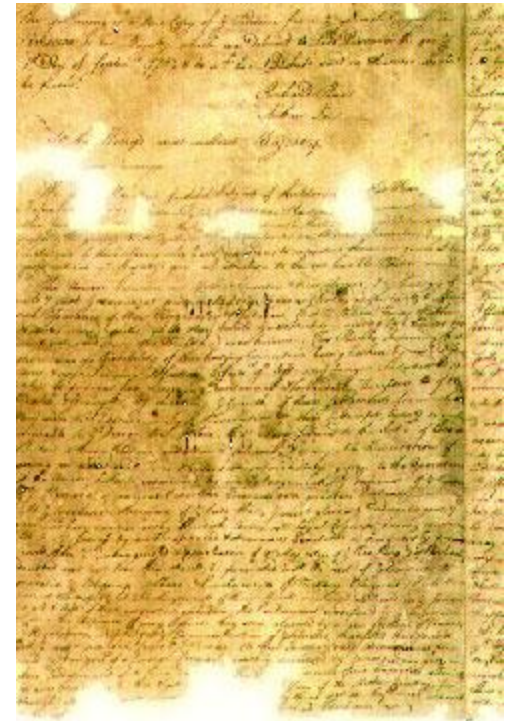
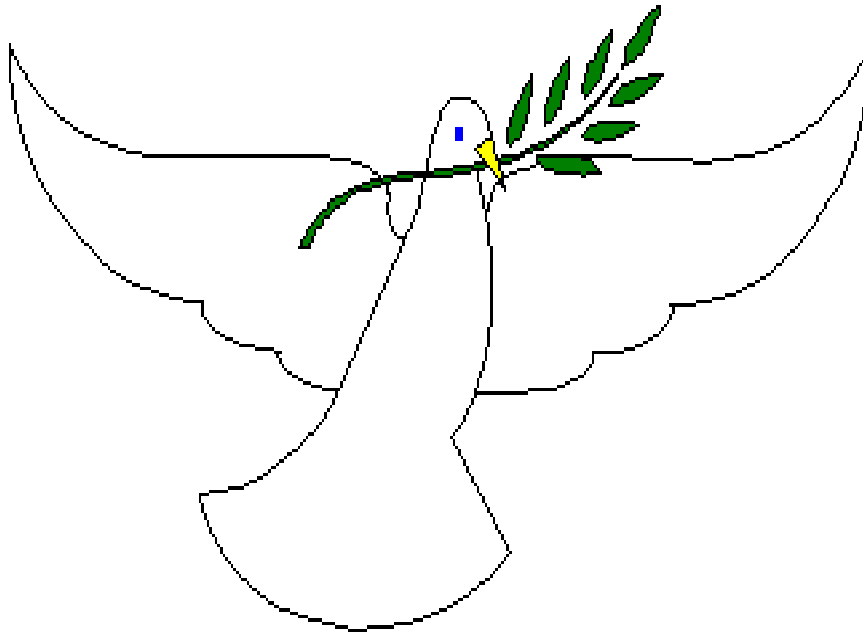
- British troops attacked militia north of Boston, June 1775
- Costly British win: 450 colonist and over 1,000 British casualties



The Colonies Hover Between Peace and War

The Olive Branch Petition

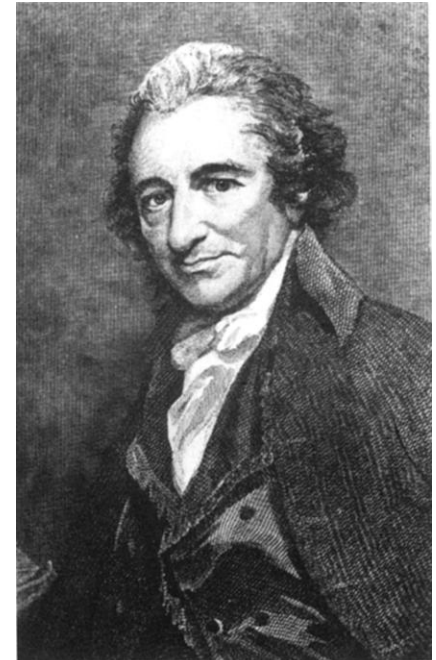
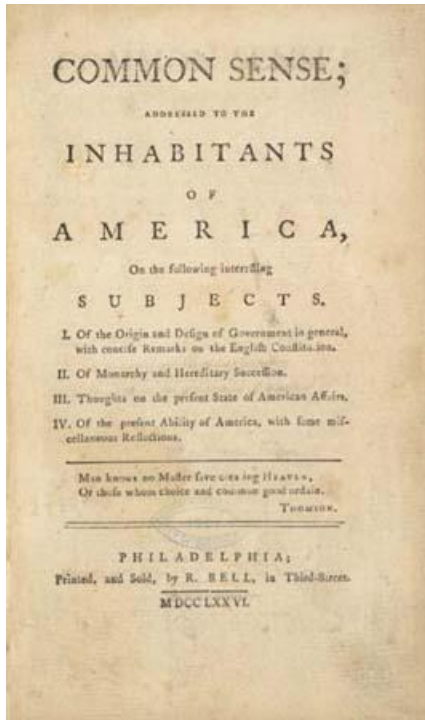
- July, Congress sent **Olive Branch Petition** to restore “harmony”
- George III rejected petition, ordered naval blockade



The Patriots Declare Independence

“Common Sense”

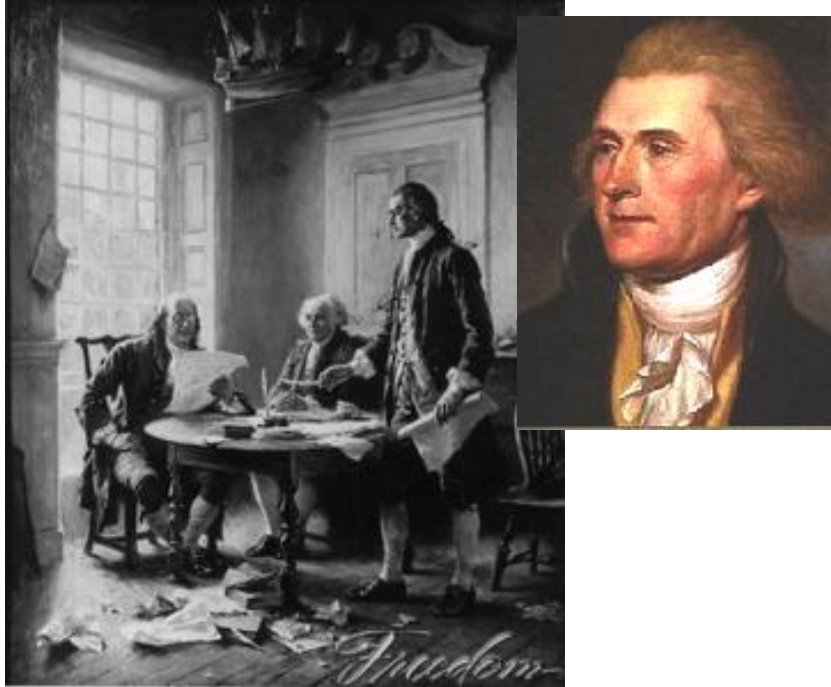
- Thomas Paine’s pamphlet *Common Sense* attacked king
- Argued independence would allow free trade and foreign aid
- Independence could give equal social, economic opportunities to all
- Almost 500,000 copies of pamphlet sold; convinced many colonists



The Patriots Declare Independence

Declaring Independence

- Congress urged each colony to form own government
- Congress appointed committee to prepare formal declaration
- Virginia lawyer **Thomas Jefferson** was chosen to write it
- **Declaration of Independence**-formal statement of separation



A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

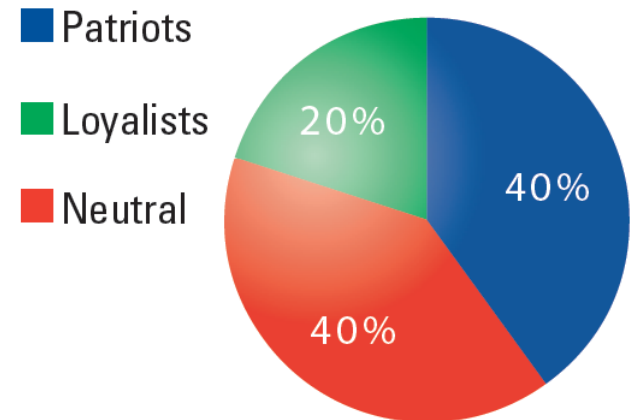
When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for ^{one} people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to ~~assume among the powers of the earth the~~ ^{separate and equal} ~~station to~~ which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to ~~the~~ ^{the} separation.

Americans Choose Sides

Loyalists and Patriots

- **Loyalists**-opposed independence, loyal to Crown for different reasons:
 - worked in government, unaware of events, trusted crown to protect rights
- **Patriots**, almost half of population, supported independence:
 - thought independence would mean economic opportunity

Choosing Sides



Source: Blackwell Encyclopedia of the American Revolution

Taking Sides

- Groups divided: Quakers, African Americans on both sides
- Native Americans support British; colonists threaten their lands

Section 3

Struggling Toward Saratoga



After a series of setbacks, American forces win at Saratoga and survive.

The War Moves to the Middle States

Defeat in New York

- British decided to stop rebellion by isolating New England
- 32,000 British soldiers and Hessians took New York, summer 1776
- Many of Washington's recruits killed; retreated to Pennsylvania

The Battle of Trenton

- Christmas 1776, Washington crossed Delaware River into New Jersey
- Washington surprised Hessian garrison, won **Battle of Trenton**
- Eight days later, Americans won **Battle of Princeton** against British



SECTION

3

The Fight for Philadelphia

- Gen. William Howe beat Washington at **Brandywine**, PA, summer 1777
- Howe took U.S. capital, Philadelphia; Continental Congress fled



Victory at Saratoga

- Gen. John Burgoyne led British, allies south from Canada
- Burgoyne lost repeatedly to Continental Army, militia
- Surrounded at **Saratoga**, Burgoyne surrendered to Gen. Horatio Gates



SECTION

3

A Turning Point

- Since 1776, French secretly sent weapons to Americans
- French recognized American independence, signed treaty, Feb 1778
- France agreed no peace until Britain recognized U.S. independence

Winter at Valley Forge

- **Valley Forge** - site of Continental Army's winter camp (1777–1778)
- Of 10,000 soldiers, more than 2,000 die of cold and hunger



Colonial Life During the Revolution

Financing the War

- To get money, Congress sold bonds to investors, foreign governments
- Printed paper money (Continental), caused **inflation** (rising prices)
- Few U.S. munitions factories; ran arms through naval blockade
- Some officials engaged in **profiteering** (sell scarce goods for profit)
- Robert Morris, Haym Salomon used own credit to raise money, pay army

Colonial Life During the Revolution

Civilians at War

- While husbands fought, women managed homes, businesses
- Many women went with troops to wash, cook, mend; some fought
- Thousands of African-American slaves escaped to cities, frontier
- About 5,000 African Americans served in Continental Army
- Most Native Americans stayed out of the conflict



Section 4

Winning the War



Strategic victories in the South and at Yorktown enable the Americans to defeat the British.

Allies Shift the Balance

Training the Continental Army

- 1778, Prussian captain **Friedrich von Steuben** went to Valley Forge
- Trained colonists in fighting skills, field maneuvers of regular army; “make regulars...out of country bumpkins”



Lafayette and the French

- **Marquis de Lafayette**—aristocrat, joined Washington at Valley Forge
- Lobbied for French troops, 1779; led command in last years of war



SECTION

4

Allies Shift the Balance

Thaddeus Kosciuszko: planned the defense for Saratoga. The Battle of Saratoga became known as one of military history's most famous struggles for independence and proved to be a turning point in the war.



Casimir Pulaski: was named the "Father of the American Cavalry", and remains one of the well known figures of the American Revolutionary War.

The British Move South



The British Move South

Early British Success in the South

- 1778, British took Savannah; royal governor reinstated in Georgia
- British armies captured Charles Town, 1780 - greatest victory of war
- British commander **Charles Cornwallis** smashed through South Carolina
- African Americans escaped Patriot owners, joined British to win freedom

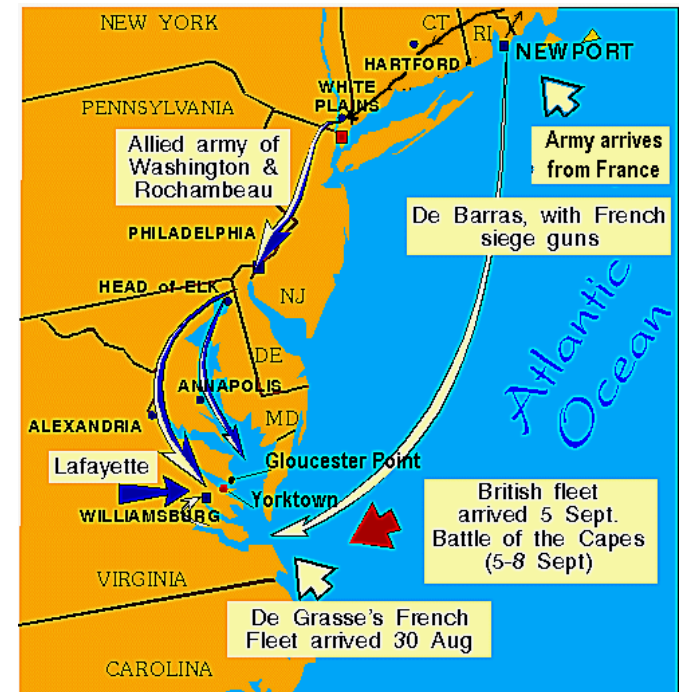
British Losses in 1781

- 1781, Cornwallis fought Daniel Morgan and Nathaniel Greene in Carolinas (Camden, Cowpens, King's Mountain, Guilford Courthouse)
- Weakened, Cornwallis got reinforcements; camped at Yorktown

The British Surrender at Yorktown

Victory at Yorktown

- French army landed in Newport, Rhode Island in 1780
- Lafayette's plan: French, Americans would attack British at Yorktown
- French navy defeated British, blockaded Chesapeake Bay
- American, French siege **Yorktown**, shelled British for three weeks
- Cornwallis surrendered October 1781



The British Surrender at Yorktown

Seeking Peace

- 1782 peace talks included United States, Britain, France, Spain
- American negotiators: John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay
- **Treaty of Paris** signed September 1783:
 - confirmed U.S. independence
 - set boundaries for the US
 - ignored Native American rights
 - promised repayment of debts
 - no date was set for British evacuation of forts in U.S.



The War Becomes a Symbol of Liberty

The Impact on American Society

- War stimulated **egalitarianism** - belief in equality of all people
- Equality for white men; women do not gain legal or political rights
- African Americans still enslaved; those free faced discrimination
- Planters in upper South debated morality of slavery; some freed slaves
- Native Americans continued to be forced off their lands by settlers

The Challenge of Creating a Government

- U.S. attempted to create government by the people, not by a king