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APUSH P.1

Unit 2: Chapters 4-5

The Empire in Transition
The American Revolution



Prompt

To what extent had the colonists developed a sense of their identity and unity as Americans by the eve of the Revolution?

Translation:

To what degree did the colonists form their own identity and unity by the start of the Revolutionary War?

Introduction

Between the years of 1750 and 1776, American colonists endured a period of significant changes and transitions. These alterations and advancements in colonial life established a foundation that contributed to the rapid development of an independent American identity. In order to gain the recognition as an independent union that was passionately desired by the colonists, drastic actions were made, which ultimately led to the American Revolution. By the eve of the Revolution, American colonists developed a sense of their identity and unity by the formation of organizations for self-liberty, the radical ideas to advocate independence, and the American opposition against the British.

Formation of Organizations for Self-Liberty

1. First Continental Congress

- In September 1774, the First Continental Congress convened in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia.
- Delegates from all thirteen colonies were a part of this convention.
- They rejected a plan for a colonial union under British authority.
- They agreed to nonimportation, nonexportation, and nonconsumption.
- Analysis: This demonstrated how the Americans developed their unity for the benefit of the colonies; they addressed a set of grievances against the British government.

2. Second Continental Congress

- Three weeks after the battles of Lexington and Concord delegates except from Georgia, met in the State House in Philadelphia .
- The members agreed to support the war, but disagreed about its purpose.
- They agreed to form a Continental Army.
- Analysis: The Second Continental Congress had the same intention as the First Continental Congress, they sought to establish America as its own sovereign nation through separation from Britain.

Formation of Organizations for Self-Liberty (continued)

3. Albany Plan of Union

- A plan by which, Parliament would set up in America "one general government" for all the colonies (except Georgia and Nova Scotia).
- Each colony would "retain its present constitution".
- However, this would then grant the new general government powers to govern all relations with the Indians.
- Analysis: Britain began encroaching on the Americans

4. Declaration of Independence

- On July 4, 1776, Congress approved the Declaration.
- Theory of John Locke: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.
- Endorsed the idea that "All men are created equal."
- It encouraged the Americans to oppose British Authority.
- Analysis: The Declaration was created in order to unite the American people by ensuring equal rights to all white men.

Documents

1. Document A (Albany Plan of Union)

- Displays propaganda of a snake representing the colonies.
- The colonies represented in the picture exhibit which colonies who have united in order to fight in the French and Indian War.
- The message is to intimidate the other colonies into joining their alliance.
- Analysis: This propaganda helped determine the unity between the colonies against the French and Indians. It also affected the Albany Plan which was a formed government that handled Indian related issues, specifically the Iroquois.

2. Document C (First/Second Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence)

- Expresses the firm belief that England is determined to ruin both themselves and America.
- States how action is needed in order to prevent the decline of America, and that men are "united" and ready to "defend their liberties" against anyone who attempts to take them.
- "Repelling force by force are universally adopting" translates to that everyone is getting accustomed to taking action in order to protect. ex. war.
- Analysis: Americans are finally ready to take a stance against England, and identify themselves as a separate union.

Documents (continued)

3. Document E (First/Second Continental Congress)

- In this document, it suggests that the colonies have the right to be freemen and not men under the rule of Great Britain
- The Continental Congress provides the idea that the colonies are not trying to separate from Great Britain but rather establish independence for themselves
- The meeting in Philadelphia was to discuss the colonies opportunities of preserving their liberties and being freemen.
- Analysis: This document can suggest that the colonies were able to declare themselves as freemen if allowed to establish themselves as independent states. Not only that, but this document provides the idea that colonists became united for their hope for independence.

4. Document H (Declaration of Independence)

- Americans are a blend of various races.
- People come to America abandoning their old European prejudices.
- America is not a race, but it is an attitude and mentality.
- Analysis: America begins to create their own identity and mentalities as unprejudiced people.

Why Does This Matter?

Clincher: The development of organizations for self-liberty caused the colonists to assert their rights in order to oppose British authority; this contributed to the significant growth and formation of an independent American identity.

The Radical Ideas to Advocate Independence

1. Salutary Neglect

- It was an unwritten British policy governing the American colonies.
- This helped keep the Americans obedient to Great Britain.
- Trade relations under Salutary Neglect became tolerant.
- A government system, which in turn, allowed ample American resentment to build up.
- Analysis: Due to the act of salutary neglect, the colonists began to govern themselves, which led to realizing that British had too much power.

2. Boston Massacre

- An incident that occurred in March 5, 1770, in which several British soldiers killed 5 people.
- This incident became a graphic symbol of British oppression and brutality.
- The British soldiers were guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to a token punishment.
- Analysis: This incident served as an example of British oppression that spread all throughout America, influencing people to support in the cause to separate from Britain.

3. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*

- A pamphlet that was considered to be a revelation.
- Paine proved to be a successful Revolutionary propagandist.
- It changed the American outlook towards the war.
- Analysis: *Common Sense* served as a revelation for the colonists, this pamphlet encouraged the colonists to rebel against the British monarchy and to proclaim their independence.

Documents

1. Document B (Salutary Neglect)

- Explains how the only thing that separates America from England is the ocean, which complicates their rule over them.
- Expresses Parliaments hopes that the British will take their attitudes into America and spread them.
- Shows how Britain wants to expand through America
- Analysis: Expands on the fact that Britain's desire to expand their empire into America is continuous.

2.Document C (Thomas Paine's Common Sense)

- Expresses the firm belief that England's government (Parliament) is determined to ruin both themselves and America.
- The Second Continental Congress member states how action is needed in order to prevent the decline of America, and that men are "united" and ready to "defend their liberties" against anyone who attempts to take them.
- The most significant thing being done is instilling and following the Association .
- Analysis: Americans are finally ready to take a stance against England and other supreme powers in order and identify themselves as a separate independent union.

Documents (continued)

3. Document E (Boston Massacre)

- States that they will fight to gain and manufacture their freedoms rather than die under the authority of England.
- They reassure the English who have maintained a good relationship with the Americans that we are not against them, and do not wish to destroy the English Empire.
- They want the English to be restored for the better.
- Analysis: Colonists passionately wish to be separated from the English, but hope that they will reform in order to become a better Empire.

Why Does This Matter?

Clincher: The radical ideas to advocate independence resulted in the American development of social awareness, this encouraged the colonists to revolt against the British monarchy and to pursue a liberal nation.

American Opposition Against the British

1. Sons of Liberty

- First began rioting in the summer of 1765.
- Terrorized stamp agents and burned the stamps.
- Mainly consisted of American citizens that opposed the Stamp Act.
- Stamp Act/ "No taxation without representation"
- Direct attack by England to raise revenue in the colonies without the consent of the colonial assemblies.
- Members of Parliament represented the whole nation and thus individuals believed that they were being taxed without their consent.
- Analysis: The Sons of Liberty sought to stop the actions done by the Stamp Act by boycotting; they wanted to be represented in the government.

2. Boston Tea Party

- Occurred in December 16, 1773.
- A group of men dress as Mohawks went aboard three ships, broke open tea chests, and dumped the tea into the harbor.
- The Boston Tea Party served as an act of resistance, a way to boycott the Tea Act.
- Analysis: The Boston Tea Party became a powerful symbol of anti-British feeling, the "tea party" eventually led to other forms of opposition.

American Opposition Against the British (continued)

3. Lexington and Concord

- General Gage's purpose in entering Lexington was to capture colonial leader, John Hancock and Samuel Adams.
- In Concord, he sought to seize gunpowder.
- He intended to surprise the colonials and seize the illegal supplies without bloodshed.
- During the night, William Dawes and Paul Revere, rode out to warn the villages and farms.
- The British had lost almost three times as many men as the Americans.
- Analysis: Lexington and Concord were known to be the first battles of the Revolutionary War, this series of skirmishes stirred up the war for independence.

4. Bunker Hill

- American forces ambushed the army of General Thomas Gage in Boston.
- On June 17, 1775 the Patriots suffered severe casualties in this battle (the battle actually took place in Breed's Hill).
- However, the Patriots inflicted much greater losses on the enemy than the enemy inflicted on them.
- Analysis: The battle at Bunker Hill was a significant event, which showed that the colonists could still revolt against the British; it increased the morale of the colonists.

Documents

1. Document A (Sons of Liberty, Boston Tea Party, Bunker Hill)

- Displays propaganda of a snake representing the colonies.
- This document signifies the idea that the colonies were slowly becoming unified during this time against the British.
- The image of the snake cut up, provided an incentive for the colonies during the French and Indian War
- Analysis: This propaganda help the colonies gather men in order to successfully show how the colonies became united through various battles they became involved with.

2. Document G (Boston Tea Party)

- The document provides information that the states contributed merchandise in order to help one another during the taxes made by Great Britain
- Some states had become united by donating supplies to other states that needed support
- Analysis: The document provides information that can show that the colonies developed unity
- in order to protest the Tea Act.

"Idiot Paragraph"- disunity, lack of identity

1. Olive Branch Petition

- A declaration adopted in a quick succession.
- A direct appeal to King George III.
- It was an attempt to have a peaceful resolution and declare the American's loyalty to the crown.
- Analysis: The Olive Branch Petition was one last attempt in order to prevent a war with Great Britain, it was meant for the colonists to maintain their loyalty with the British crown.

2. Regulator Movement (1771)

- A small civil war broke out due to the fact that the western counties were underrepresented in the colonial assembly.
- The Regulators were a group of farmers of the Carolina upcountry that opposed the high taxes that local sheriffs collected.
- They armed themselves and Governor William Tryon raised an army of militiamen to fight them.
- Nine on each side were killed and many others were wounded.
- Analysis: This event demonstrated the lack of unity among the Americans due to the fact that some people were growing tired of Britain while others tried to hang onto their ties with Britain.

3. Invasion of Canada (Battle of Quebec)

- The Americans launched an invasion on Canada in hopes of removing the British threat and gaining the Canadians support.
- Benedict Arnold and Richard Montgomery took command of the American force.
- The Quebec campaign ended in frustration due to the fact that Montgomery died during the assault and Arnold was wounded.
- Congress then sent a civilian commission to Canada, headed by Benjamin Franklin.
- Analysis: The invasion of Canada was a failed endeavor due to the fact that the Americans failed to gain allegiance with the northern colonists; displaying a lack of unity.

"Idiot Paragraph" (continued)

Document D (Olive Branch Petition)

- "Tory" translates to an American colonist who supported the British during the American Revolution.
- People refer to Mather Byles (the writer of this document) as an ignorant supporter of the British, but he believes that it would be better to have one ruler that is separated from them by the ocean, rather than having "thousands" of democracy-crazed men there in America.
- Shows a negative view on a democracy coming from an English supporter.
- He states that nothing politically has changed.
- Analysis: A supportive viewpoint of the British gives logical reason as to why supporting one ruler (King) is better than having many.

Document F (Olive Branch Petition)

- England= parent, protector
- Colonies=obedient children
- Shows a negative view of how the colonists no longer obey the mother country.
- Shows that originally American acts against the British to gain freedom was primarily for their happiness but transitioned into a rebellion based off of resentment.
- Analysis: This gives an overview of how the Americans are violating the English, the Americans took advantage of their freedom and liberties.

"Idiot Paragraph" (continued)

Document E (Olive Branch Petition)

- **(Can be used for both stances)**
- The conclusion of the document from the Continental Congress exhibits how the Americans do not wish to ruin the English who have acted as their mother country for centuries.
- Americans still showed their loyalty as long as the English were driven to reform.
- Analysis: Although Americans were quick to defend their liberties against England they continued to maintain a hopeful relationship with them and had well wishes for their future as an empire.

Why Does This Matter?

Clincher: The American opposition against the British contributed to the significant morale boost for the colonists, the Americans foresaw their ideal vision for a just, thriving society.

Conclusion

As a result, the formation of organizations for self-liberty, the assertion of radical ideals, as well as the American opposition for freedom have all caused the Americans to develop a sense of their identity and unity. Between the years of 1750-1776, the growing tensions between Americans and the British led to the Revolutionary War. The colonists developed their identity and unity by affirming their rights as individuals, creating awareness, and the morale boost due to the American's success. Furthermore, the Revolutionary War's purpose was to protest the injustice done by the English government.