

Ch. 8 Study Guide

AP US History

America Secedes from the Empire, 1775-1783

Theme: When hostilities began in 1775, the colonists were still fighting for their rights as British citizens within the empire, but in 1776 they declared their independence, based on a proclamation of universal, “self-evident” truths. Inspired by revolutionary idealism, they also fought for an end to monarchy and the establishment of a free republic.

Theme: A combination of Washington’s general ship and British bungling in 1776-1777 prevented a quick British victory and brought French assistance, which enabled the Patriots to achieve victory after several more years of struggle.

Summary: Even after Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress did not at first pursue independence. The Congress’s most important action was selecting George Washington as military commander.

After further armed clashes, George III formally proclaimed the colonists in rebellion, and Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* finally persuaded Americans to fight for independence as well as liberty. Paine and other leaders promoted the revolution as an opportunity for self-government by the people, though more conservative republicans wanted to retain political hierarchy without monarchy. Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence deepened the meaning of the struggle by proclaiming its foundation in self-evident and universal human rights.

The committed Patriots, only a minority of the American population, had to fight both Loyalist Americans and the British. Loyalists were strongest among conservatives, city-dwellers, and Anglicans (except in Virginia), while Patriots were strongest in New England and among Presbyterians and Congregationalists.

In the first phase of the war, Washington stalemated the British, who botched their plan to quash the rebellion quickly at Saratoga. When the French and others then aided the Americans, the Revolutionary War became a world war.

American fortunes fell badly in 1780-1781, but the colonial army in the South held on until Cornwallis stumbled into a French-American trap at Yorktown. Lord North’s ministry collapsed in Britain, and American negotiators achieved an extremely generous settlement from the Whigs.

Thought Provokers

1. Did the colonists commit to revolution with the creation of The Association and other actions taken at the First Continental Congress (chapter 7), or was there a viable possibility for peace and reconciliation up to July 4, 1776?
2. How did *Common Sense* and the Declaration of Independence change the *meaning* of the fighting? Explain why even Patriots were at first reluctant to proclaim independence and how they eventually came to link their struggle for rights with the break from Britain.
3. Was military strategy or politics the key to American victory in the war? How did the two coincide?
4. Did the Loyalists deserve to be persecuted and driven out of the country? What difference does it make to understand the Revolution as a civil war between Americans as well as a war against the British?
5. To what extent did America assert herself at war’s end? What steps were taken to establish and legitimize this new “nation?”

Identification *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.*

- _____ 1. The body that chose George Washington commander of the Continental Army
- _____ 2. The British colony that Americans invaded in hopes of adding it to the rebellious thirteen
- _____ 3. The inflammatory pamphlet that demanded independence and heaped scorn on “the Royal Brute of Great Britain”
- _____ 4. The document that provided a lengthy explanation and justification of Richard Henry Lee’s resolution, approved by Congress on July 2, 1776
- _____ 5. The term by which the American Patriots were commonly known, to distinguish them from the American “Tories”
- _____ 6. Another name from the American Tories

- _____ 7. The church body most closely linked with Tory sentiment, except in Virginia

- _____ 8. The river valley that was the focus of Britain’s early military strategy and the scene of Burgoyne’s surrender at Saratoga in 1777
- _____ 9. Term for the alliance of Catherine the Great of Russia and other European power who did not declare war but assumed a hostile neutrality toward Britain
- _____ 10. The region that saw some of the Revolution’s most bitter fighting, from 1780 to 1782, American General Greene and British General Cornwallis
- _____ 11. “Legalized Pirates,” more than a thousand strong, who inflicted heavy damage on British shipping
- _____ 12. British political party that replaced Lord North’s Tories in 1782 and made a generous treaty with the United States
- _____ 13. The western boundary of the United States established in the Treaty of Paris
- _____ 14. The irregular American troops who played a crucial role in swaying the neutral civilian population toward the Patriot cause
- _____ 15. The other European nation besides France and Spain that supported the American Revolution by declaring war on Britain

Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them 1 to 10

- _____ Lord North’s military collapses, and Britain’s Whigs take power ready to make peace

- _____ Thomas Jefferson writes an eloquent justification of Richard Henry Lee’s resolution

- _____ Burgoyne and Howe are defeated both by the general ship of Washington and Arnold and by their own blundering

- _____ The Treaty of Paris is signed, guaranteeing American Independence

- _____ The British launch a frontal attack on entrenched American forces near Boston and suffer drastic losses in their “victory”

- _____ Washington’s army and the French navy trap General Cornwallis, spelling the end for the British

Matching People, Places and Events

Match the person, place or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. George Washington | D. Author of an explanatory indictment, signed on July 4, 1776, that accused George III of establishing a military dictatorship |
| ___ 2. Bunker Hill | |
| ___ 3. Benedict Arnold | E. Shrewd American diplomat who established the French alliance and worked with Jay and Adams to win a generous peace treaty |
| ___ 4. Thomas Paine | |
| ___ 5. Richard Henry Lee | F. Mohawk chief who led many Iroquois to fight with Britain against American Revolutionaries |
| ___ 6. Thomas Jefferson | |
| ___ 7. Loyalists | G. The decisive early battle of the American Revolution that led to the alliance with France |
| ___ 8. General Burgoyne | |
| ___ 9. General Howe | H. Military engagement that, although technically a British victory, cost the redcoats heavily and led the king to declare the colonists in revolt |
| ___ 10. Benjamin Franklin | |
| ___ 11. George Rogers Clark | I. American who fought for King George and earned the contempt of Patriots |
| ___ 12. John Paul Jones | |
| ___ 13. Saratoga | J. A wealthy Virginian of great character and leadership abilities who served his country without pay |
| ___ 14. Yorktown | |
| ___ 15. Joseph Brant | K. The British defeat that led to the fall of North's government and the end of the war |
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- | | |
|---|--|
| A. British general who chose to relax in New York and Philadelphia rather than march up the Hudson to battle | L. Leader whose small force conquered British forts in the West |
| B. Brilliant American general who invaded Canada, foiled Burgoyne's invasion, and in 1780 betrayed his country | M. A radical British immigrant who put an end to American toasts to King George |
| C. American naval commander who harassed British shipping | N. Fiery Virginian and author of the official resolution of July 2, 1776, formally authorizing the colonies' independence |
| | O. Blundering British general whose slow progress south from Canada ended in disaster at Saratoga |

Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause

- ___1. The Battle of Bunker Hill
- ___2. Thomas Paine's Common Sense
- ___3. Jefferson's Declaration of Independence
- ___4. The Patriot militia's political education and recruitment
- ___5. The blundering of Burgoyne and Howe and the superb military strategy of Arnold and Washington
- ___6. The Battle of Saratoga
- ___7. Clark's military conquests and Jay's diplomacy
- ___8. The trapping of Cornwallis between Washington's army and de Grasse's navy
- ___9. The collapse of the North ministry and the Whig takeover of the British government
- ___10. Jay's secret and separate negotiations with Britain

Effect

- A.** Led to American acquisitions of the West up to the Mississippi River
- B.** Caused King George to proclaim the colonies in revolt and import Hessian troops to crush them
- C.** Led to a favorable peace treaty for the United States and the end of French scheme for a small, weaker America
- D.** Caused the British to begin peace negotiations in Paris
- E.** Inspired universal awareness of the American Revolution as a fight for the belief that "all men are created equal"
- F.** Caused the British defeat at Yorktown and the collapse of North's Tory government
- G.** Led to the failure of Britain's grand strategy and the crucial American victory at Saratoga
- H.** Made France willing to become an ally of the United States
- I.** Created growing colonial support for declaring independence from Britain
- J.** Won neutral or apathetic Americans over to the Patriot cause

Answers:

Identification: 1. Continental Congress 2. Canada 3. Common Sense 4. Declaration of Independence 5. Whigs 6. Loyalists 7. Anglican 8. Hudson Valley 9. armed neutrality 10. South 11. privateers 12. Whigs 13. Mississippi River 14. militia 15. Holland

People, Places and Events:

1. J 2. H 3. B 4. M 5. N 6. D 7. I 8. O 9. A 10. E 11. L 12. C
13. G 14. K 15. F

Matching Cause & Effect:

1. B 2. I 3. E 4. J 5. G 6. H 7. A 8. F 9. D 10. C

Putting things in order:

5 2 3 6 1 4