

## AP U.S. History

### The Battle for Independence (Key battles and developments during the war)

#### Northern Campaigns 1776-1778

- A. fall 1776 British launched target sea born army (from Boston)- comdr. Howe
- B. Washington tried to defend N. Y. but had to flee across the Delaware into Pennsylvania
- C. 20,000 dwindled to a few thousand
- D. Trenton
  - Dec. 25 1776 Washington crossed icy Delaware and caught Hessians off guard.
    - a. over 1,000 Hessians killed or captured
    - b. needed war materials seized
  - then took Princeton = recruits swelled
- E. Philadelphia- 1777
  - British Gen. Howe wanted to take the capital and did
  - mistake:
    - Continental Congress just moved to York
    - Howe was supposed to be part of a three-prong isolation attack (along with Burgoyne from north, and St. Ledger from west) to meet at Albany
    - could have captured Washington
- F. Saratoga
  - British under Burgoyne moving south from Canada
  - could not live off land
  - Horatio Gates- led Americans defeated Burgoyne who needed but did not get help from General Howe.
  - Victory= French enter war (Ben Franklin convinced them that Americans could prevail)
  - Spain would also side with the colonists in 1779 (helped control mouth of the Mississippi River)
- G. Valley Forge, winter of 77-78
  - Washington and troops suffered through at with few supplies or rations
  - 2 foreign leaders came to Valley Forge to train soldiers
    - Baron Von Steuben (professional German drillmaster)
    - Marquis de Lafayette- French military leader
  - => Washington's troops emerged as an "army"

#### Southern Campaign 1778- 1781

- A. British turned to south under Lord Cornwallis
    - *expected* to have the support of:
      - large number of loyalists
      - slaves- 50,000
      - guides, spies, laborers
    - Seized: Savannah -'78
    - Charleston- '80
  - B. Partisans= local patriots who used guerrilla warfare- bloody!
    - Loyalists vs. Patriots (raids, etc.)
  - C. 1780 Nathaniel Green- General of American southern troops
    - used Francis Marion's Partisans in south Carolina to break down British frontier posts
    - Recruited well-
      - Cherokee Indians
      - offered mercy to former loyalists
- \*As in the north, the Americans lost the cities but controlled the vast countryside*

#### D. Yorktown

- partisan attacks and quick strikes weakened Cornwallis' troops= retreat to Yorktown
- French (7,000) under Rochambeau arrived in Rhode Island
- Washington and Rochambeau moved south
- Cornwallis hoped for British reinforcements at Yorktown-would have gotten but:
  - French fleet- De Grasse cut them off

#### E. Cornwallis trapped at Yorktown

- Washington and Rochambeau from north
- Lafayette from west
- French fleet from Atlantic
- why didn't Cornwallis flee to south? - nothing but country.
- 20 day siege on Yorktown
- Cornwallis surrendered on Oct. 17, 1781

#### **American Factors for Victory**

1. control of countryside
2. French and Spanish support
3. British were less committed
4. tactical mistakes by British
5. "genius" of U.S. generals

#### **TREATY OF PARIS 1783**

- negotiated by Americans Ben Franklin, John Jay, John Adams
- "played" France and Britain against each other to acquire more favorable conditions from Britain