

# Objectives

- Describe the methods the colonists used to protest British taxes.
- Understand the significance of the First Continental Congress in 1774.
- Assess why Congress declared independence and the ideas underlying the Declaration of Independence.
- Explain the advantages the British held at the start of the war, and Evaluate the major military turning points of the war.
  - Describe how the British were finally defeated.
  - List the terms of the peace treaty.
  - Explain how the war and the peace treaty affected minority groups and women.
  - Assess the impact of the American Revolution on other countries.



## **What caused the colonists to rebel against the British?**

Colonists enjoyed military protection, profits from trade, and political rights as British subjects.

When Britain imposed taxes, colonists protested. These protests grew into rebellion and eventually turned into war.

# Comparing British and Colonial Governments

Great Britain	American Colonies
<b>King</b> Inherited executive power	<b>Governor</b> Appointed by the King but paid by colonial legislature
<b>Parliament</b>	<b>Colonial Legislatures</b>
<b>House of Lords</b> Aristocrats with inherited legislative power	<b>Upper House or Council</b> Prominent citizens appointed by the governor
<b>House of Commons</b> Elected by the few wealthy property owners	<b>Lower House or Assembly</b> Elected property owners about two-thirds of colonists

**After the French and Indian War,  
Parliament decided to tax the colonists.**

- The war raised Britain's debt. Defending the colonies was expensive.
- People in Britain already paid higher taxes.
- By collecting taxes and paying royal governors directly, Parliament could take control away from the colonial assemblies.



# Grievances

Major Acts put on the colonists by King of England

\*\*Place grievances in the rain drops on your worksheet

- 1. Quartering Act: colonists must house British troops**
- 2. Sugar Act: placed a tax on sugar goods**
- 3. Stamp Act: tax on all paper goods**
- 4. Tea Act: import tax on tea arriving in colonies**
- 5. Townshend Acts: Necessary items from England were directly taxed at ports. (ex: lead, glass, cloth)**
- 6. Navigation Act: no trading with other countries**
- 7. Currency Act: no paper money**
- 8. Intolerable Act: British punished the colonists and placed military rule over Boston, Massachusetts**

**Parliament rejected colonist complaints by claiming:**



- Parliament represented, and could tax, any subject.
- Other citizens couldn't vote but still paid taxes.
- The revenue was necessary.
- The colonists could afford to pay their share.
- The colonists were selfish and narrow-minded.

**Colonists held the Stamp Act Congress (October 1765) and boycotted British goods.**

**Parliament repealed the Stamp Act but replaced it with the Townshend Acts (1767) that taxed glass, lead, paper, paint, and tea.**

**Boston rioted against corrupt customs officials and seizure of John Hancock's boat *Liberty*.**

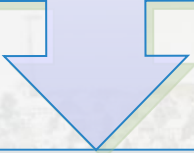
**The governor dissolved the Massachusetts legislature and 4,000 British troops were sent to Boston.**

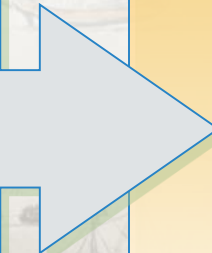


- ❖ Started as a protest against British government by colonists.
- ❖ Colonists threw snowballs at soldiers and taunted them by calling them names.
- ❖ Soldiers fired on crowd killing 5 colonists. Someone from the crowd yelled “fire.”



## Parliament passed the Coercive Acts to punish Boston.



- Closed the port of Boston
  - Quartered soldiers in Boston homes
  - Increased the governor's power at expense of legislature
  - Allowed British officials to be tried in Britain
- 

Colonists formed **committees of correspondence** to coordinate protests against these **Intolerable Acts.**

# Boston Tea Party



In 1774 the **First Continental Congress** met in Philadelphia. Patrick Henry demanded, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

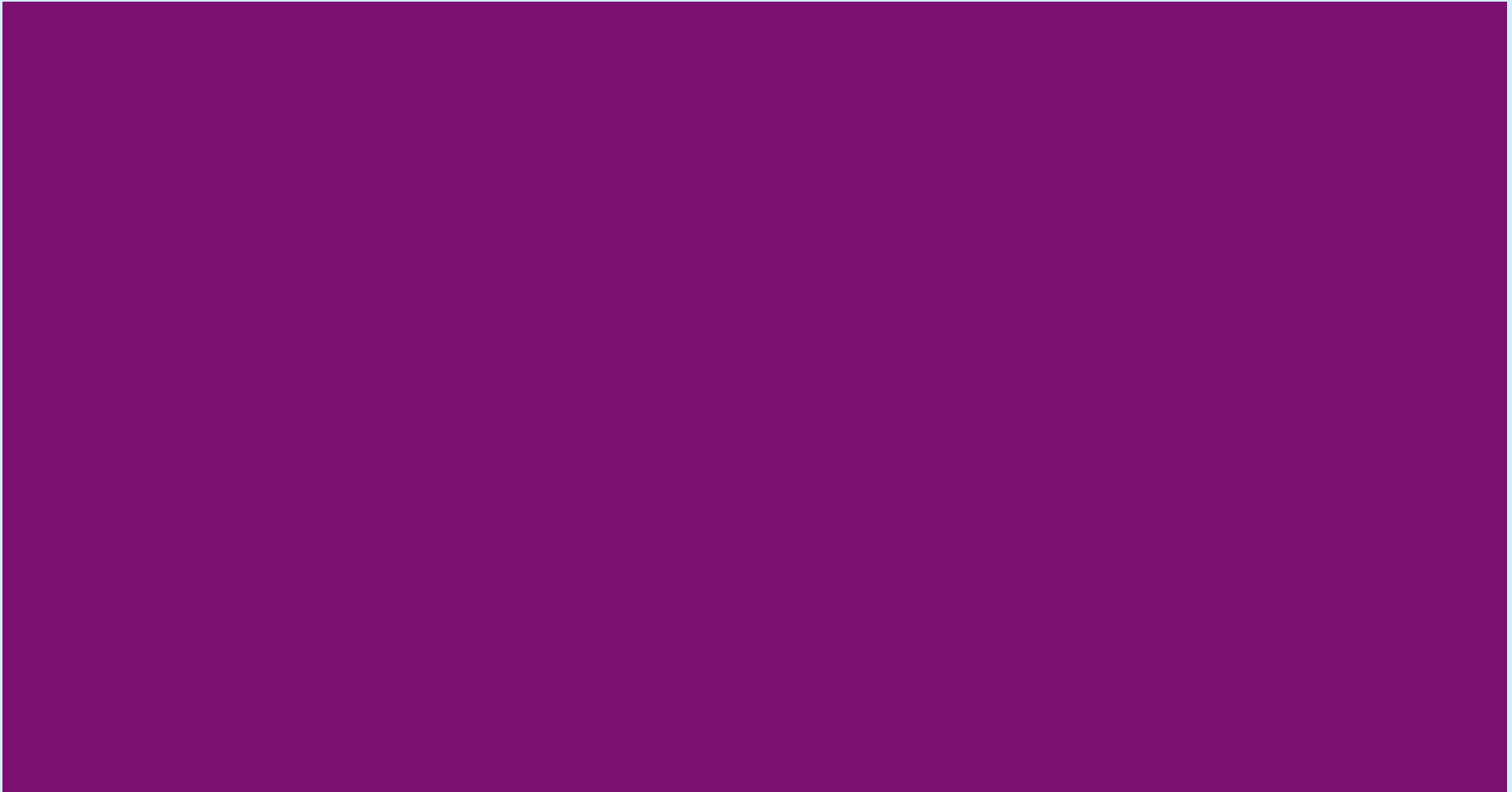
Most still hoped the king would side with them against Parliament.

Some, like **John Adams**, believed a new country was being born.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress

- The Continental Congress meets again.
- On July 4, 1776 Congress issued the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson





**What events led the colonists to declare their independence from Britain?**

**In 1776, colonists made three important decisions:**

- **To declare their independence**
- **To choose a republican model of government**
- **To confederate the thirteen colonies into the United States of America**

**Their strength surprised and changed the world.**

**In early 1775, Boston Patriots  
responded to the Intolerable Acts**



- **John Hancock** and **Samuel Adams** organized a Provincial Congress to run Massachusetts.
- The **Patriots** began to stockpile weapons and ammunition in towns outside of Boston.
- Colonial **militia** calling themselves **minutemen** began to organize.



Aroused by the events at Lexington and Concord, thousands of Patriots surrounded the British in Boston.

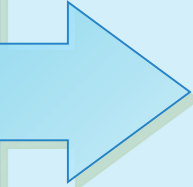
- Provincial assemblies seized control in the other New England colonies while colonial militia pinned down British troops in Boston.
- In May 1775 the **Second Continental Congress** met in Philadelphia to take control of the fighting.
- As volunteers arrived in Boston, **George Washington** was chosen to command the new **Continental Army**.





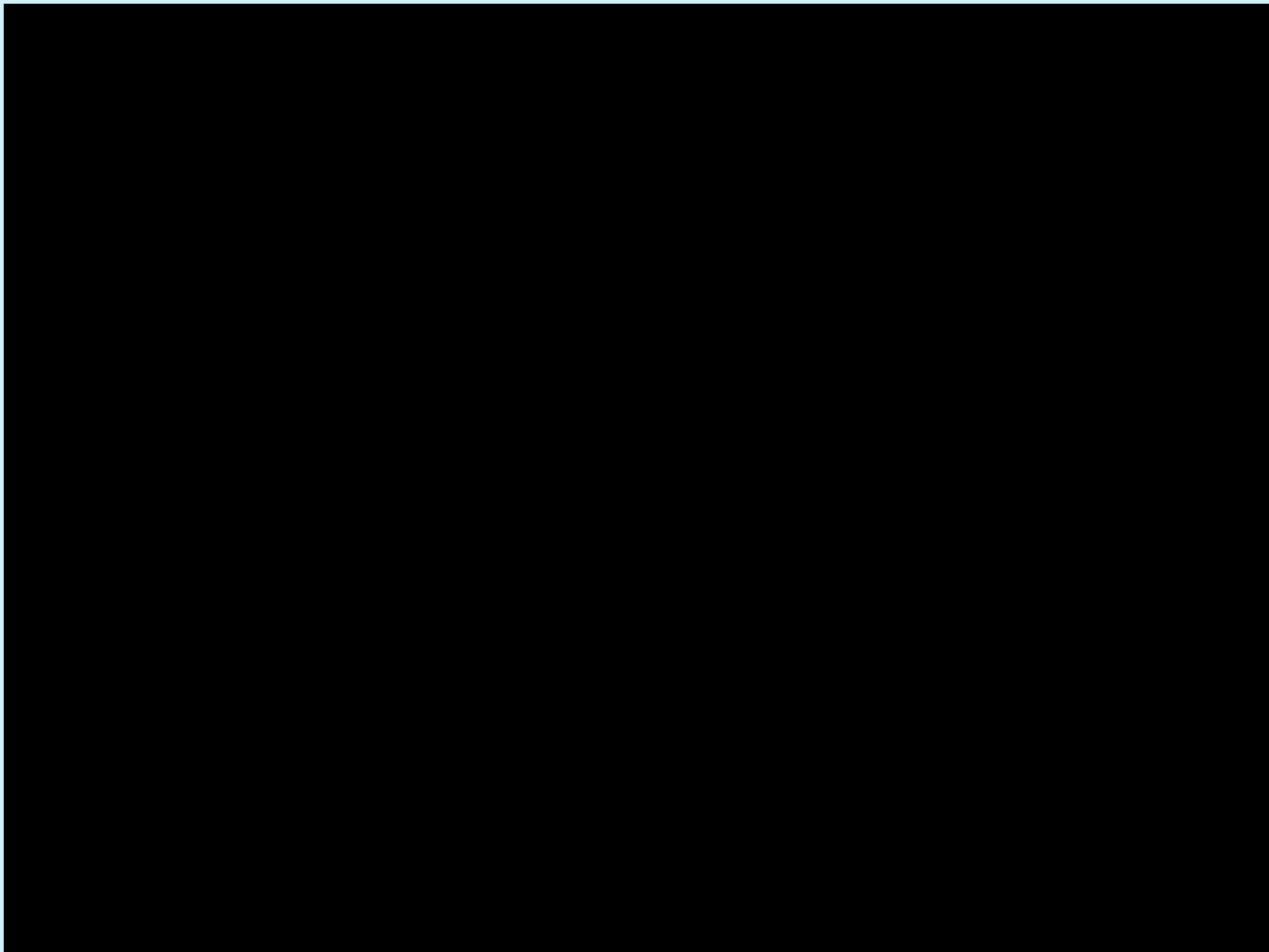
## **Congress made one final attempt at reconciliation in July 1775.**

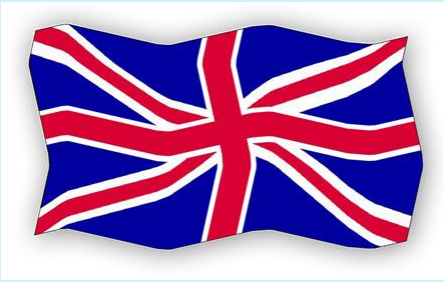
The **Olive Branch Petition** was sent to Britain reaffirming allegiance to King George, but not Parliament.



The petition was rejected.

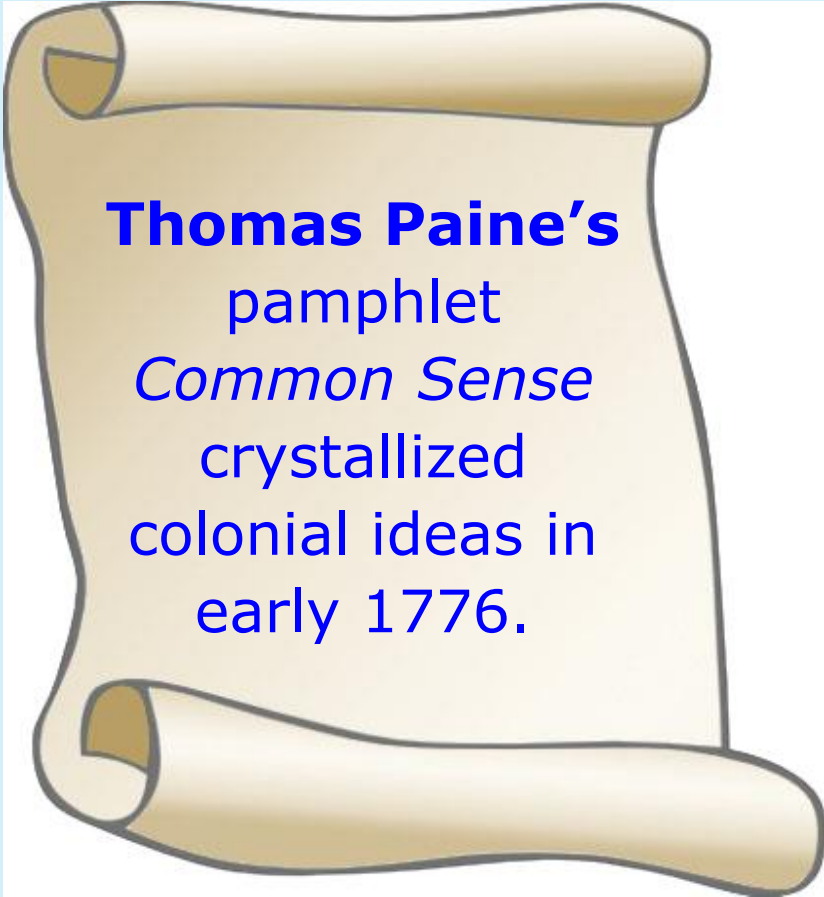
**Britain responded by sending more troops.**





## Not all colonists favored independence.

- About one-fifth remained British **Loyalists**.
- Some believed **Britain was too powerful** to beat.
- Some **feared a loss of business** and income.
- Some **feared abuse** from lawless Patriots.
- Some **resented Patriot taxes** and militia demands.
- **Native Americans** feared **settlers** moving westward.
- Many **slaves** hoped for **freedom** under the British.



**Thomas Paine's**  
pamphlet  
*Common Sense*  
crystallized  
colonial ideas in  
early 1776.

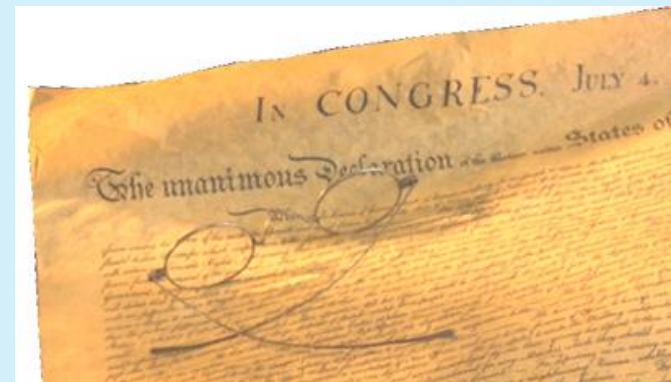
- Paine depicted the **king** as an **enemy** of liberty.
- He called for a **republic** where opportunity is based on merit not on inherited privilege.
- He said the government should be **elected by the common people**.
- Paine reinforced the **Enlightenment idea** that all men have **natural rights**.

In the spring of 1776, Congress selected a committee to declare, and explain reasons for, independence.

So **Thomas Jefferson** drafted the **Declaration of Independence.**

Congress approved it on **July 4, 1776.**

It stated that "All men are created equal."



## **The Declaration was organized into four sections:**

- The **Preamble** stated the reasons for writing the Declaration.
- The second paragraph stated the **purpose** of government – to protect people’s rights.
- Then came a long list of **grievances against the King**.
- The final paragraph actually **declared independence**.



## What factors helped the Patriots win the war?

The Patriots needed to overcome a powerful empire with nearly four times their population.

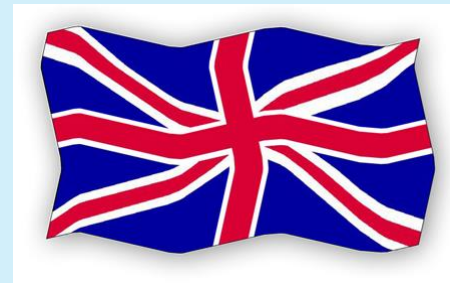
The Colonists were:

20% Loyalists **plus** 20% slaves

**plus** many who remained neutral

## British commanders made major mistakes.

- British generals **didn't take Patriots seriously.**
- The British **battle tactics were unsuited** for fighting in America.
- The hiring of brutal Hessian **mercenaries** angered colonists.
- The British failed to see that the **real struggle was for the hearts and minds** of the citizens.





## The odds were against the Patriots.

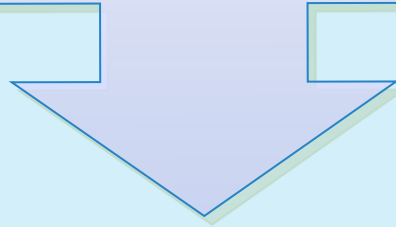
### **Britain –**

- Well-organized, long established government.
- Produced many more ships and weapons.
- British troops were well trained and supplied.

### **Colonists –**

- Continental Congress just starting out.
- The Continental Congress had no money nor authority to tax.
- Continental soldiers were cold, hungry, and poorly equipped.

British commander **William Howe** made a costly mistake at **Bunker Hill**. To show British invincibility, he ordered a **frontal assault**.



The Redcoats took the hill, but they **suffered heavy casualties**.

In early 1776, cannons captured by **Continental**s at **Fort Ticonderoga** were dragged to Boston to fire on the British. They soon evacuated.

## The colonists endured despite hard times.

- The Continental Congress could only pay farmers and soldiers with paper money, causing inflation.
- The British **blockade meant shortages of goods**. Some profiteers sold items at inflated prices.
- Washington's troops spent the cold winter of 1777-78 at **Valley Forge**. There was **disease and hunger**; a third of the men were **without shoes or coats**.

## Britain's European enemies sent assistance.

- **Benjamin Franklin** persuaded France to send supplies and, after Saratoga, troops and a navy.
- French nobleman **Marquis de Lafayette** volunteered to help Washington.
- **Baron Von Steuben**, a German, volunteered to train and drill Washington's men in 1777.
- The Spanish in New Orleans kept the British from entering the Mississippi River in 1779.

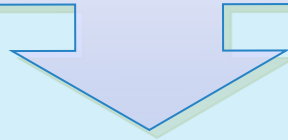


## **What did the Revolution accomplish, and what ideas did it set in motion?**

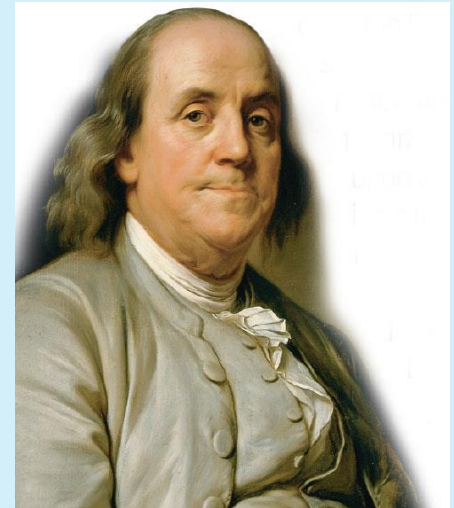
For the first time, overseas colonies rejected their empire in favor of creating a republican union.

The Patriots defied conventional wisdom and aimed to create a more equal society.

## The American-French victory at Yorktown led to the end of the war.



- After seven years of fighting, the British were tired and sought peace with their former colonists.
- In 1783, Benjamin Franklin negotiated the **Treaty of Paris** that officially recognized American independence.
- Franklin gained **more territory for the United States than the Americans actually won** on the battlefield.



A yellow scroll with a dark outline, partially unrolled at the top and bottom. The text is written in blue, bold, sans-serif font.

**The Treaty  
of Paris  
recognized  
American  
independence.  
But —**

- Women gained few political or legal rights.
- About 90,000 **Loyalists** became **refugees**. Some resettled in Canada.
- Many **African Americans** were **re-enslaved** and sent to the British West Indies.
- **Native Americans** were ignored by the treaty and **abandoned** by Britain.
  - **Frontiersmen** forced Native Americans to sign treaties and **took huge tracts of land**.

The Revolution inspired many slaves to demand their freedom.

- In the North, **some slaves petitioned or sued** for freedom. Thousands of African Americans volunteered to fight the British.
- In the South, **some planters voluntarily freed their slaves** in an action called **manumission**. However, southern whites feared black reprisals.
- The Revolution led to **emancipation in the North but not the South**, where slaves were a third of the population.



The **American Revolution** inspired other revolutions around the world.

First was the French Revolution in 1789.

Others followed in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

**The American Revolution changed the world.**