

Chapter 3 Section 4

- Remember from Middle School ...
 - The Native Americans are the first people in what we now know as the United States.
 - In the 1400s, Europeans began to sail out to explore what they called “The New World.” The Europeans were motivated by opportunities to find wealth and new trade routes. Trade brought about an awareness of the outside world. They were also motivated by the renewed interest in learning and the advancement of knowledge.
 - The Europeans also became involved in the long-standing African slave trade about this same time. They would eventually bring these slaves to the Americas.
 - The Spanish established colonies in Mexico and the southwest U.S.
 - The French established colonies in Canada and the northeast U.S. and also Louisiana. They made friends with the Indians and established a lucrative fur trade.
 - The English established colonies along the Atlantic coast.
- By the mid-eighteenth century, the European powers began a struggle for empire. Britain’s greatest rival was France. Between 1689 and 1748, they began fighting a series of wars in Europe. This conflict will eventually spread to the colonies in America.
- Britain’s goal was to drive the French out of North America. (Why would they want to do this?) In order to accomplish this, they had to destroy France’s biggest advantage: their alliance with American Indians in the region. (The Indians benefited from this rivalry. Both the French and the British gave them lavish gifts in an effort to woo them. So, the Indians’ goal was to maintain a balance of power between Britain and France.)
- A large point of conflict between the British and the French was the fertile Ohio River Valley, which was claimed by both countries but was largely unsettled. To discourage British settlement, the French built Fort Duquesne (doo-KANE). This angered the British and so, in 1754, the governor of Virginia sent colonial troops, led by a young George Washington, to drive the French out. Washington eventually had to surrender and this set off a

chain of wars around the world. In Europe, it was called the Seven Years' War and in the American colonies it was called The French and Indian War.

- The French and Indian War lasted nine years and it ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1763. The French were forced to give up their claims in Canada, including forts around the Great Lakes. This was a major victory for the British because they accomplished their goal of driving the French out of North America.
- The British victory was devastating news to most Indians. In response, they surprised and captured most of the British forts in the Ohio River Valley and along the Great Lakes. They also raided settlements in western Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. The British call this uprising Pontiac's Rebellion, after the Ottawa chief who organized much of it.
 - The goal of the Indians in this rebellion was to weaken the British forces and lure the French back into North America. But they failed to capture the three largest British posts: Detroit, Niagara and Fort Pitt (formerly named Fort Duquesne) and so their rebellion died.
- The British recognized that respect for the Indians would be cheaper than military expeditions against them, so they made peace by promising the Indians they would restrain settlers from overrunning Indians lands. The Proclamation of 1763 stated that the British settlers would stay east of the Appalachian Mountains.
 - The colonists resent this proclamation. They see it as an effort to limit their expansion. (Remember, a government an ocean away is making these promises to the Indians. The colonists don't have any say in the matter...after they just fought an entire war and survived a rebellion with the Indians.) So, the colonists simply ignored it and moved into Indian lands to settle.
- The French and Indian War and Pontiac's Rebellion are important because they reveal the tensions between the British and their colonists in America. The British government saw the war as expensive, they were left with a large war debt, and they want the colonists to pay. How will they pay?
TAXES!

Chapter 4

- The French and Indian War almost doubled Britain's national debt and greatly expanded its colonial territories. Parliament needed to raise money to pay off the war debt and to protect their colonies in North America.
 - People in Britain paid far more taxes than the colonists. This seemed unfair, especially since the war had been fought mostly to protect the colonies. So, Parliament decided the colonists should pay the debt.
- Parliament went about collecting money from the colonists through taxes. They passed several acts to institute these taxes:
 - **Sugar Act** (1764)-this actually lowered the tax on foreign molasses, but it put duty officers into place as well as courts to enforce the act and ensure collection of the tax. (This was a blow to the colonial merchants because many of them had become wealthy by smuggling, bribing officials to avoid taxes on imports.)
 - **Quartering Act** (1765)-required the colonists to provide housing and supplies for British troops stationed there after the French and Indian War.
 - **Stamp Act** (1765)-required the colonists to pay a tax on almost all printed materials including newspapers, books, court documents, contracts and land deeds. (This was the first time Parliament had imposed a direct tax on the colonies.)
- The colonists angrily protested the Stamp Act. They claimed it threatened their prosperity and liberty. Colonial leaders argued that because the colonists had no direct representation in Parliament, then Parliament had no right to tax them ("Taxation without representation").
- Tax resistance among the colonists took three forms:
 - **Intellectual protest**
 - The protests of the colonists came out of Enlightenment ideas (writers such as Baron de Montesquieu and John Locke), which argued that people had divinely granted natural rights including life, liberty and property and a good government should protect these rights. If the government didn't protect their rights, then citizens had the right to protest.

- **Economic boycotts**
 - Nine colonies sent delegates to a Stamp Act Congress in New York City in October 1765. They agreed to battle the British through nonimportation agreements, which meant they agreed to stop all imports. This threatened British merchants and manufacturers with economic ruin.
- **Violent intimidation**
 - In the months following the passage of these acts, the colonists began to work together to fight them. This created a new sense of American unity. Those who opposed British taxes called themselves “Patriots.” To lead the popular protests, some men formed associations known as the Sons of Liberty.
 - Angry crowds assaulted other colonists who supported or helped to collect taxes. These groups were especially violent in Boston. By the end of the year, every tax collector in the colonies had resigned, leaving no one to collect the taxes.
- The **Townshend Acts** (1767)-placed new import taxes on everyday items like glass, lead, paint, paper and tea.
 - In response to these acts, the colonists revived their protests, violence and boycotts.
 - To punish the colonists, the British government denounced the Massachusetts legislature. He also sent 4,000 British troops into Boston to suppress violence. During an altercation in March of 1770, British soldiers fired into a crowd of colonists, killing 5. This became known as the Boston Massacre.
 - In response to the outrage, Britain once again backed down, pulled out troops and dropped most of the Townshend Acts, only leaving the tax on tea in place.
- Due to the tea tax, the colonists boycotted British tea and, instead, smuggled in Dutch tea. This boycott worsened financial problems for the British East India Company. To help the company and encourage the colonists to pay the tea tax, Parliament passed a law allowing the British

East India Company to sell directly to the colonists. This made British tea cheaper than the smuggled Dutch tea, even with the tax.

- Instead of buying the cheaper tea, the colonists protested that the British were trying to trick them into paying taxes. On the night of December 16, 1773, Boston Patriots dressed as Indians, boarded three British ships and dumped tea into the Boston Harbor. This event became known as the **Boston Tea Party**.
- Parliament and the King were outraged by the colonists' actions. To punish Boston, Parliament passed the **Coercive Acts**, which the colonists called the **Intolerable Acts**:
 - Closed Boston's port to trade until they paid for the tea and tax on it. To enforce this, they sent warships and troops to Boston.
 - Suspended the Massachusetts Assembly (the colonial government of Massachusetts)
 - Passed the Quebec Act which pushed the southern border of Canada, cutting off lands claimed by colonists.
 - Strengthened the Quartering Act (now colonists were required to house soldiers in their private homes, without compensation)
- The colonists opposed the Intolerable Acts and viewed them as a threat to their freedom. In 1774, all of the colonies except Georgia, sent delegates to the **First Continental Congress**. (This is where Patrick Henry made his famous speech "Give me liberty or give me death.") Here the Congress:
 - Renewed the boycott of all British goods
 - Created militias called Minute Men to arm the colonists to protect against potential British harm
- *Important leaders like John Adams felt that the colonists could unite against Britain and gain independence. He was ahead of most colonists though. Most colonists still hoped the king would side with them against Parliament.*

Section 2

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- Following the passage of the Coercive Acts, the British government named General Thomas Gage the new governor of Massachusetts. Colonial leaders John Hancock and John Adams then convened a Provincial Congress to govern Massachusetts without Gage. They also began to stockpile weapons and ammunition.
- On April 19, 1775, the Revolutionary War began with the Battle of Lexington and Concord when Gage sent British troops to arrest John Hancock and John Adams and to seize the stockpiled weapons. .
- The Minute Men militias rallied to stop the British and, after a skirmish, they ended up driving the British back to Boston. (British lost 200 men, Patriots lost only 8)

- In May 1775, delegates from all of the colonies assembled in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress.
- This Congress assumed responsibility for the war and they named George Washington the commander of the Continental Army.
- At this point, most colonists still hoped to reconcile with Britain (without paying taxes) and most thought they would. Only the radicals were ready to declare independence at this point.
- After three months of fighting, in July 1775, Congress sent an *Olive Branch Petition* to King George III. The petition reaffirmed the colonists' allegiance to the king but not to Parliament. The king rejected the petition and sent more troops to Boston.

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- In January 1776, Thomas Paine published a book called *Common Sense*, which swung popular opinion in the colonies in favor of independence.
 - In his book, Paine proposed a radical course of action for the colonies: independence from Britain, republican state governments, and a union of the new states.
 - He called for common people to elect all of their government. He depicted the king as the greatest enemy of American liberty.
 - Paine believed that by uniting to create a republic, Americans could create a model that would inspire common people everywhere to reject kings and aristocrats.

- Due to the large shift in public opinion, Congress selected a committee to draft a document declaring American independence and explaining reasons for it.
- On July 2, Congress voted that America was free and two days later, they approved the **Declaration of Independence**.
 - The Declaration was written by Thomas Jefferson and it drew upon Paine's ideas to denounce the king as a tyrant who made American independence necessary.
 - The Declaration also advanced the idea that "all men are created equal" and that all men were born with natural rights (John Locke) that cannot be taken away. (Jefferson calls them "unalienable rights")
 - It was signed on July 4, 1776
- Declaring independence and winning it would be two very different things. This war would put the unorganized colonists up against the greatest military power in the world at the time.

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- What kind advantages did the British have over the colonists?
 - At the time of the Revolutionary War, **Britain's population was about four times larger than the 2.5 million colonists**. About 1/5 of the colonists were Loyalists and another 1/5 were slaves.
 - **The British were leaders in manufacturing**, meaning they were producing more far more ships and weapons than the colonists.
 - **The British had an established government**.
 - **The British had the most powerful military in the world** (well-trained and well-stocked).
- So, at first, the British did not take the colonists seriously as an enemy.

Battle of Bunker Hill

- The Patriots fortified the hills outside of Boston, hoping to invade and push the British out. The British charged three times. The first two were bloodbaths for the British. The third charge, the British captured Bunker Hill only because the Patriots ran out of ammunition.
 - Technically, the British won this battle but they suffered more than twice the Patriot casualties. The Patriots won a psychological battle, proving they could stand up to the British army.
 - The colonists end up winning the city of Boston and driving the British out about six months later.
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- The British thought they were fighting a traditional European war, meaning they believed the colonists would surrender if the British could capture the Patriot capital (Philadelphia) and the major seaports.
 - The British never really understood that they were fighting a different type of war. For the Patriots, this was a struggle to win independence and to win over the hearts and minds of the civilian population. A Patriot victory would get everyone “on board” with a new American nation.
 - Instead of surrendering after setbacks, the Patriots kept fighting.
 - One of the biggest strengths of the colonists was the leadership of George Washington. The Continental Army was often outnumbered and outmaneuvered, but Washington’s skillful retreats saved his army to fight another day. Washington also inspired his soldiers. They were a very dedicated and tight-knit group and, because of this, they survived incredible hardships.

- The Revolutionary War was also difficult for the civilian colonists.
 - British blockades made many items scarce and expensive. So there was a major shortage of everyday items.
 - Women stepped in and ran the family farms or businesses so the men of the family could go fight.
 - The Patriots caused inflation by printing paper money called "Continental." This money would be worth nothing if the Patriots lost the war.

- After the British were driven from Boston, they moved to New York and captured New York City in September 1776.
- Washington and his army were forced to retreat across New Jersey.
- Washington led his army in a counter-attack on December 26. Crossing the Delaware River on Christmas night, he surprised the British at the **Battle of Trenton**. This modest victory raised the spirits of the troops and Patriot supporters at a critical moment in the war.
- In early 1777, Washington inflicted heavy casualties on General Charles Cornwallis's troops at the **Battle of Princeton**.
- Following the Battle of Princeton, the British fell into a Patriot trap at **Saratoga**. This was the greatest Patriot victory so far in the war and suggested that the United States might win the war.
 - The victory at Saratoga is important because it encouraged France to recognize American independence and to enter the war.

- France hates Great Britain and they welcomed the chance to get back at them.
- Earlier in the war, the French had been sending secret aid to the Patriots (ammunition and weapons). Also, French general Marquis de Lafayette had joined the Patriots and provided military expertise.
- After Saratoga, the French risked an open alliance with the United States and sent full aid including troops, a full navy and supplies.
- In 1779, Spain entered the war as a French ally. Spain was not an official American ally because they feared the colonial rebellion would inspire their own colonists to revolt. However, they provided money and supplies to the Patriots and prevented British ships from entering the Mississippi River at New Orleans.

- Most Native Americans sided with the British who promised to keep the colonists in the east. (Remember how the colonists ignored the Proclamation of 1763 and overran Indian lands?)
- With the British urging, Indians frequently attacked colonial settlements during the war. At the same time, white settlers attacked and killed neutral Native Americans. This began a cycle of revenge that would last for years.

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- Despite winning major battles, the British failed to control the southern countryside, where the Revolution became a brutal civil war between Patriot and Loyalist militias.
 - In October 1780, at **Kings Mountain** in South Carolina, the Patriots defeated the Loyalist militia and executed many prisoners. As the Loyalists continued to lose men and territory, neutral citizens dedicated themselves to the Patriots.
 - Also in the south, the Continental Army was led by two supreme commanders, Nathanael Greene and Daniel Morgan. They inflicted heavy losses on the British in the south.
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- Although it seemed unlikely at first, the Patriots ultimately won the war.
 - **Four main factors contributed to the Patriots' success:**
 - The British made tactical mistakes because they underestimated the Patriots.
 - The Patriots were highly motivated and benefited from Washington's leadership.
 - The Patriots received critical assistance from France.
 - *The British misunderstood the nature of the conflict.*
 - **This is the main reason the Patriots won the war.** The Patriots were fighting to win independence and to win over the civil population in the colonies.

- In the summer of 1781, Washington and his army trapped General Cornwallis and his army of 8,000 at **Yorktown**. The British army faced the Patriots on one side and the French navy on the other.
- On October 18, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at **Yorktown**.
- In 1783, the Treaty of Paris was negotiated by Benjamin Franklin. Its terms included:
 - The British recognize American independence
 - The British granted generous boundaries to the U.S. (Franklin negotiated for far more territory than the Patriots had won during the war.)
 - Florida is given to Spain
 - Britain withdraws troops from North America
- By making a separate peace with the British, the Americans strained their alliance with France, who had expected to control the negotiations.

Impacts of the Revolution:

- The greatest winners of the Revolutionary War were Patriot men of modest prosperity. The biggest losers were the Loyalists and the Native Americans who sided with the British.
- Most Loyalists relocated in the British northern colonies (this will later form Canada).
- The British abandoned the Native Americans that had fought with them. The Americans negotiated treaties with several Indian groups, forcing them to give up massive tracts of land. American settlers continued to move west. The Revolution was a disaster for Native Americans.
- Women gained few political rights from the Revolution. Legal and political rights were reserved for husbands. Wives were not allowed to own property or make contracts, much less vote.

- The greatest effect of the Revolution was to spread the idea of liberty, both at home and abroad.
- Over the next 300 years, the Patriots' principles would inspire revolutions around the world. Beginning with the French Revolution in 1789, then throughout the 1800s colonists in Latin America revolted for independence and in the 1900s, Africans and Asians began national liberation movements.