

The Road to the War for Independence: 1763—1776

I. The Road to Revolution (1763-1776)

A. A quick look at two key concepts:

1. _____ - 1763-1787 – includes events leading to the war, the war itself, and the establishment of a new government
2. War for _____ - 1775-1783 – starting with the fighting at Lexington and Concord and ending with the British surrender at Yorktown

B. The end of the _____ (1763), marked the start of the road towards the War for Independence

1. From _____, key events occurred that slowly convinced colonists to sever ties with Britain and declare independence
2. Path to War Activity (see chart)
3. The “_____” & “Daughters of Liberty” were formed to protest British restrictions & became the leaders of colonial resistance
4. The colonial boycotts were _____ & Britain _____ the Stamp Act
5. Colonists created _____ of correspondence to communicate with each other

C. By December 1775, the British and American colonists were fighting an “_____ revolutionary war”...but:

1. Colonial leaders had not yet declared _____
2. In 1776, Thomas Paine’s _____ convinced many _____ colonists to support independence from Britain
3. By _____, colonists drafted the Declaration of _____

D. About the Declaration of Independence

1. It was based on the “_____” ideas of John Locke & explained why colonists were rebelling
2. _____ of Virginia was the principal author

The War for American Independence & The Treaty of Paris of 1783

I. Beginning of War

A. The Declaration of Independence was a _____ demand for separation, but the Revolutionary War had already begun in _____:

1. Lexington & Concord
2. Formation of a Continental _____ under George Washington
3. Americans were divided among Patriots, Loyalists, & Neutrals

B. By 1776, American colonists were divided into 3 groups:

1. _____ supported separation from Britain (_____)
2. _____ wanted to remain British colonies
3. Neutrals were _____ about which side to choose

C. The American Revolution was inspired by the _____

1. John Locke – all men are born with _____ (life, liberty, & property) & citizens can revolt from _____ governments
2. Rousseau believed that citizens have a _____ with their gov’t
3. _____ - separation of powers among three branches with checks & balances

II. The War for American Independence

- A. When the war began, the British had a clear advantage:
1. _____ % larger & more experienced army
 2. More money
 3. The world's most dominant _____
 4. Manufacturing to make _____
- B. But, the American colonists had:
1. Familiarity with the environment
 2. A _____ to win the war
 3. Short supply lines to their soldiers
 4. A _____ strategy to outlast the British
- C. As _____ of the Continental Army, George Washington was the symbol of the American cause:
1. He had to build a _____ & coordinate the militias
 2. Encouraged common _____ & volunteer soldiers to _____ the war even when the British seemed destined to _____ during the early years of the revolution
- D. The Americans & British had differing military strategies:
1. American Strategy: Outlast the British
 - a. Defend colonial lands & _____ the war
 - b. _____ tactics
 - c. Make an alliance with _____
 2. British strategy: Divide & Conquer
 - a. Use Loyalists, seize property, encourage _____ revolts
 - b. _____ the Northern & Southern colonies
 - c. _____ ports to prevent trade
 - d. As long as Britain did not _____ the Continental Army, England could not win

III. Fighting the Revolutionary War

- A. The American Revolution _____ at Lexington & Concord
- B. British victories from 1776-1777 made an American victory look _____
- C. On Christmas Eve 1776, Washington gave Americans hope by crossing the _____ River & surprising British troops in _____, NJ
- D. The French Alliance & Battle of Saratoga
1. From the beginning of the war, American diplomats, led by _____, tried to form an _____ with the French:
 - a. The French gov't was _____, but needed to see that the Americans had a _____ to win
 - b. The French agreed to join the American cause after the battle of _____ in 1777
 2. The " _____ " of the Revolution: The Battle of Saratoga, 1777
 - a. After Saratoga, French general _____ helped train American troops while the French _____ helped neutralize the British advantage on the high seas
 - b. When French troops arrived in the spring _____, the tide of the war shifted in favor of the Americans
- E. During the winter of 1777-78, Continental Army troops nearly starved at _____, PA but Washington & Lafayette _____ & _____ the troops to continue the fight
- F. From 1778-1781, both sides traded victories, but the war finally came to a conclusion at the Battle of _____
1. By 1781, Washington trapped the army of British General _____ between the Continental Army & the French navy
 2. General Cornwallis _____ to Washington in 1781, ending the American Revolution

IV. The Treaty of Paris, 1783

- A. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 ended the American Revolution
- B. The treaty gave America:
1. _____
 2. All territory east of _____, between Canada & FL
 3. The removal of the _____ from U.S. claims in America