

Chapter 2
Revolution and the Early
Republic
1763 - 1800

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Revolution and the Early Republic, 1763–1800

Colonists declare their independence and win a war to gain the right to govern themselves. Leaders meet to write the Constitution. George Washington guides the new nation as two major political parties emerge. The country also faces conflict with European nations.



General George Washington.

Section 1

Colonial Resistance and Rebellion

Conflicts between Great Britain and the American colonies escalate, until the colonists finally declare their independence.

The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain

The Sugar Act

- **King George III**—British king during the American Revolution *[Visual]*
- Writs of assistance allow searches for smuggled goods, even in homes
- Prime Minister Grenville passes Sugar Act to end colonial smuggling
- **Sugar Act**—taxes on imports changed
- Violators tried by vice-admiralty court, not colonial court
- Merchants and traders fear reduced profits

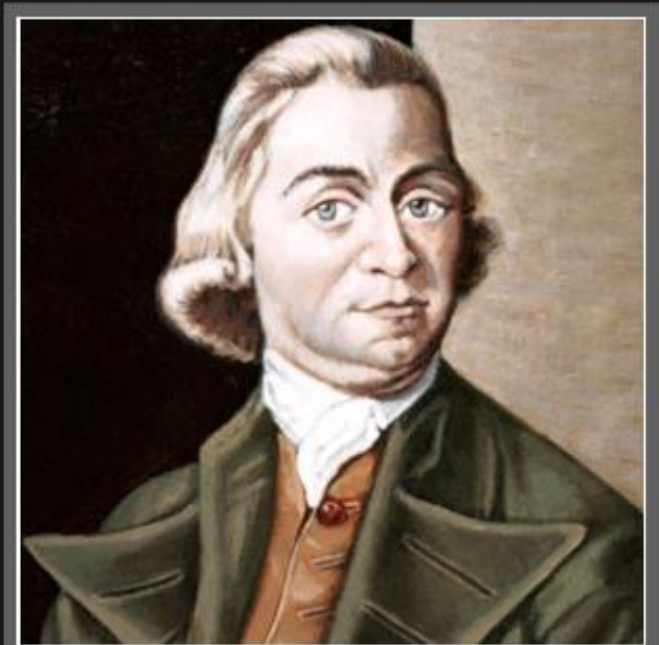


King George III of England.

The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain

The Stamp Act

- **Stamp Act** (1765) taxes printed items like wills and newspapers
- Colonial assemblies protest lack of representation in Parliament
- Merchants in New York, Boston, Philadelphia boycott British goods
- Parliament repeals Stamp Act (1766), passes Declaratory Act same day
- Townshend Acts tax imports from Britain, like paint, paper, tea
- Samuel Adams, a founder of the Sons of Liberty, leads new boycott *[Visual]*



Samuel Adams.

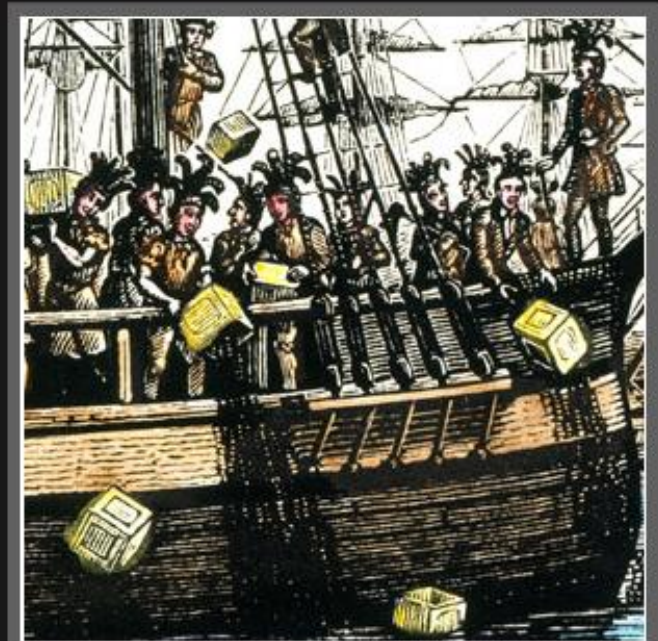
Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

Violence Erupts in Boston

- **Boston Massacre**—British guards fire on a colonial mob, kill five
- Lord North, prime minister, has most of the Townshend Acts repealed

The Boston Tea Party

- Tea Act lets British East India Co. avoid tax; undercuts colonists
- **Boston Tea Party**—disguised Boston rebels dump tea into Boston harbor *[Visual]*



 The Boston tea party.

Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

The Intolerable Acts

- Intolerable Acts close Boston harbor; place Boston under martial law
- In 1774 First Continental Congress meets, declares colonial rights

The Road to Revolution


Fighting at Lexington and Concord *[Visual]*

- 700 British troops march to Concord to disarm colonial militia
- At Lexington, British soldiers fight 70 minutemen, 8 colonists killed
- British find Concord's arsenal empty; return to Boston, are ambushed

The Second Continental Congress

- Congress forms Continental Army; George Washington in command



 The Battle of Lexington.

The Road to Revolution

The Battle of Bunker Hill

- 2,400 British battle militia on Breed's Hill, suffer 1,000 casualties
- King George III rejects Continental Congress's Olive Branch Petition

The Patriots Declare Independence

The Ideas Behind the Revolution

- 1760s to 1770s— Enlightenment ideas spread throughout colonies
- **John Locke**, English philosopher, influences colonists:
 - people have natural rights to life, liberty, property
 - people consent to obey a government that protects these rights
 - people can resist or overthrow government
- British have religious, legal tradition of civil and property rights

The Patriots Declare Independence

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*


- *Common Sense*—pamphlet attacking King George and monarchy
- Argues for independence, influences many colonists

The Patriots Declare Independence

Declaring Independence

- Congress appoints committee to prepare declaration to Britain *[Visual]*
- **Thomas Jefferson**, Virginia lawyer, writes document
- **Declaration of Independence** is colonies' formal statement of freedom
- Lists British violations and colonists' rights as citizens
- July 4, 1776 delegates adopt declaration



 The assembly room at Independence Hall.

Section 2

The War for Independence

Key American victories reverse British advances during the American Revolutionary War.

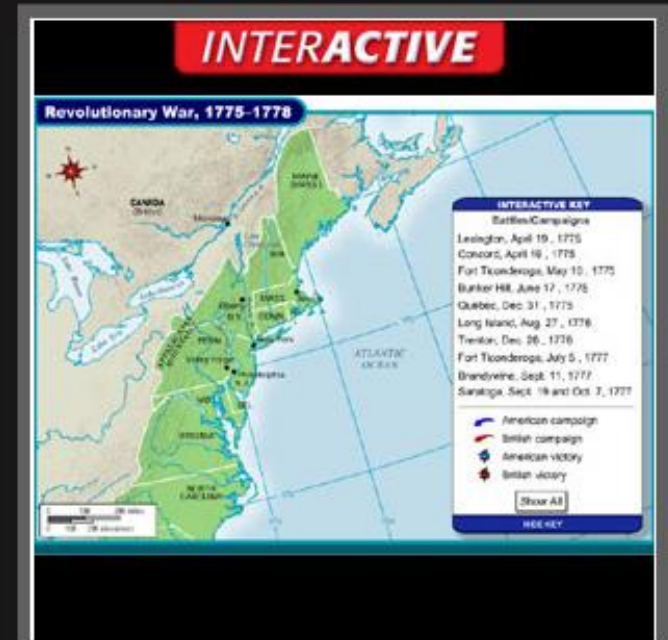
The War Begins

Loyalists and Patriots

- **Loyalists**—colonists who support King George III and Britain
- **Patriots**—colonists in favor of independence from Britain

Early Victories and Defeats *[Visual]*

- British take New York in 1776; Washington retreats to Pennsylvania
- Washington takes Trenton; British take Philadelphia in 1777



🔍 Revolutionary War, 1775-1778

The War Begins

Saratoga and Valley Forge

- **Saratoga**—Patriot's victory convinces French to aid Continental Army
- **Valley Forge**—winter camp where Continental Army loses over 2,000 (1778)

Life During the Revolution

Economic Changes During the War

- Congress prints paper money, causing **inflation**—rising prices
- Robert Morris and Haym Salomon raise money to pay Continental Army
- Women manage homes, businesses; some fight in war
- Many slaves escape during the war; about 5,000 join Continental Army

Winning the War

Foreign Military Aid

- **Marquis de Lafayette**—encourages France to send reinforcements, 1779
- European military leaders help train the Continental Army

The British Move South *[Visual]*

- **Charles Cornwallis**, British general, wins many southern victories
- He camps at **Yorktown**, plans to take Virginia



Winning the War

The British Surrender at Yorktown

- Cornwallis is surrounded at Yorktown, surrenders in October 1781
- **Treaty of Paris** (1783) establishes colonial independence and borders

The War Becomes a Symbol of Liberty

New Ideas After the War

- War stimulates **egalitarianism**—belief in equality of all people
- In 1780s, egalitarianism applies to white men only
- Women have few legal or political rights
- African Americans still face slavery or discrimination
- Native Americans continue to be pushed off their land by settlers

Section 3

Confederation and the Constitution

American leaders create the Constitution as a blueprint of government for the United States.

Experimenting with Confederation

Plans for a New Government

- Many people want a **republic**—rule through elected representatives
- Some fear democracy—government directly by the people

Experimenting with Confederation

The Articles of Confederation


- Congress creates laws to unite 13 states—**Articles of Confederation**
- All states ratify (1781); Articles create weak central government
- Confederation solves problem of Northwest Territory:
 - Land Ordinance of 1785—plan for surveying the Northwest Territory *[Visual]*
 - **Northwest Ordinance of 1787**—plan to divide land into 3–5 new states

INTERACTIVE

Introduction
Map

GEOGRAPHY
SPOTLIGHT

The Land Ordinance of 1785



When states ceded, or gave up, their western lands to the United States, the new nation became "land rich" even though it was "money poor." Government leaders searched for a way to use the land to fund "soft" services like public education.


The fastest and easiest way to raise money would have been to sell the land in huge parcels. However, only the rich would have been able to purchase land. The Land Ordinance of 1785 made the parcels small and affordable.

The Land Ordinance established a plan for dividing the land. The government would first survey the land, dividing it into townships of 36 square miles, as shown on the map screen (Click the Map button above). Then each township would be divided into 36 sections of 36 square miles, or about 640 acres, each. An individual or a family could purchase a section and divide it into farms or smaller units. A typical farm of the period was equal to one-quarter section, or 160 acres. The minimum price per acre was one dollar.

Government leaders hoped the buyers would develop farms and establish communities. In this way settlements would spread across the western territories in an orderly way. Government leaders hoped the process, thousands of times, improving frontier geography on the land.

In 1787, the Congress further provided for the orderly development of the Northwest Territory by passing the Northwest Ordinance, which established how states would be created out of the territory.

▲ Aerial photograph showing how the Land Ordinance transformed the landscape into a patchwork of farms.

For research links...


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The Land Ordinance of 1785

Experimenting with Confederation

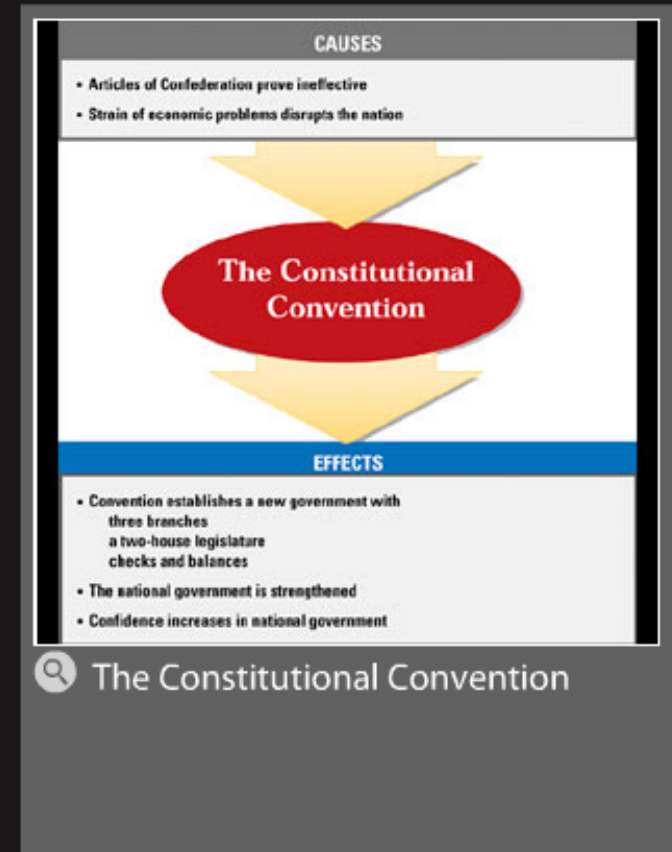
Shays's Rebellion

- **Shays's Rebellion**—Daniel Shays leads protest of Massachusetts taxes
- He and 1,200 farmers attempt to raid arsenal (1787)
- State militia kills four; nation calls for a stronger national government
- 12 states participate in convention to create stronger government

Creating a New Government

Conflict and Compromise *[Visual]*

- **James Madison** proposes Virginia Plan—representation based on population
- Small states favor New Jersey Plan—each state has an equal vote
- Great Compromise establishes Senate and House of Representatives
- Three-Fifths Compromise counts three-fifths of slaves as population



CAUSES

- **Articles of Confederation prove ineffective**
- **Strain of economic problems disrupts the nation**



The Constitutional Convention

EFFECTS

- **Convention establishes a new government with
three branches
a two-house legislature
checks and balances**
- **The national government is strengthened**
- **Confidence increases in national government**

Creating a New Government

Division of Powers

- Delegates create Federalist government with three branches
- **Federalism**—power divided between national and state governments

Creating a New Government

Separation of Powers

- Legislative branch makes laws
- Executive branch enforces laws
- Judicial branch interprets laws
- **Checks and balances**—system preventing any branch from dominating

Changing the Constitution

- Delegates create process to amend, or change, the Constitution

Ratifying the Constitution

Getting the States' Approval

- **Ratification**—approval of Constitution by states; nine votes needed

Federalists and Antifederalists

- **Federalists**—favor the Constitution's balance of power
- **Antifederalists**—against Constitution, want Bill of Rights
- Federalists promise Bill of Rights, Constitution ratified June 1788

Adoption of a Bill of Rights

- **Bill of Rights**—first ten amendments, guarantee citizens' rights

Continuing Relevance of the Constitution

A “Living” Document

- Constitution is oldest written national constitution still in use
- Constitution’s elastic clause allows expansion of government power
- Amendment process is difficult to prevent arbitrary changes
- Only 27 amendments passed in the last 200 years

Section 4

Launching the Nation

With George Washington as its first president, the United States begins creating a working government for its new nation.

Washington Heads the New Government

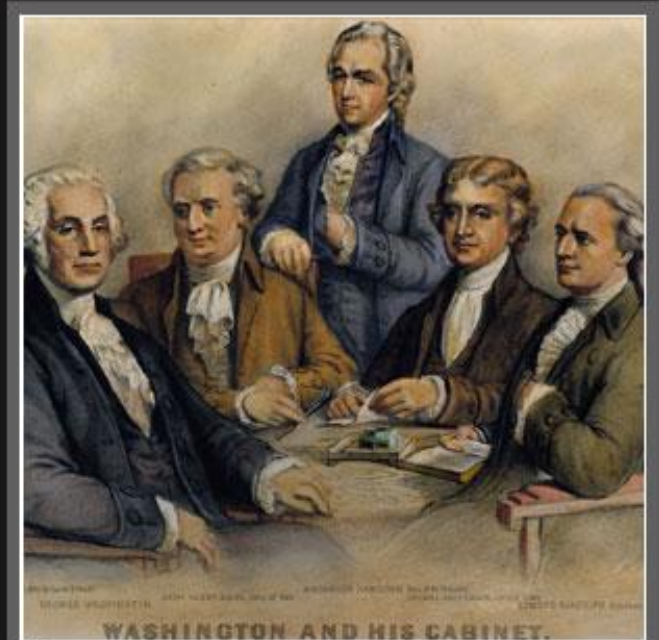
Judiciary Act of 1789

- **Judiciary Act of 1789**—federal courts are superior to state courts

Washington Heads the New Government

Washington Shapes the Executive Branch

- Congress creates three executive departments to help president govern
- Thomas Jefferson heads Department of State, foreign affairs
- Henry Knox heads Department of War, military matters
- **Alexander Hamilton** heads Department of Treasury, finances
- **Cabinet**—these department heads become president's chief advisors *[Visual]*



President George Washington and his cabinet.

Washington Heads the New Government

Hamilton and Jefferson: Two Conflicting Visions

- Jefferson favors weak central government and farming economy
- Hamilton favors strong central government and commercial economy

Hamilton's Economic Plan

- Hamilton wants to pay off national debts from the Revolution
- He also wants a national bank to print money, handle taxes
- James Madison and others say government lacks power to create bank
- Hamilton favors loose, Madison strict interpretation of Constitution

Washington Heads the New Government

The First Political Parties

- **Two-party system**—two political groups within the government
- Federalists favor Hamilton, want strong central government
- **Democratic-Republicans** favor Jefferson, want strong state governments

The Whiskey Rebellion

- **Protective tariff**—import tax to encourage American production
- An excise tax levied on whiskey angers whiskey producers
- Pennsylvania producers attack tax collectors; federal militia responds

Challenges at Home and Abroad


Addressing Foreign Affairs

- French monarchy overthrown (1789); France at war with Britain (1793)
- Federalists support Britain, Democratic-Republicans support France
- Washington keeps country neutral and warns against alliances

Challenges in the Northwest

- Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794) U.S. military defeats Native Americans *[Visual]*



 Victory at Battle of Fallen Timbers expanded area for U.S. settlement in former Indian territory, mainly Ohio.

Challenges at Home and Abroad

Jay's Treaty

- British evacuate Northwest Territory posts but continue fur trade
- Did not settle Caribbean trade dispute; treaty barely passes Senate

Adams Provokes Criticism

Parties and Sectionalism

- Federalist John Adams becomes president
- Democratic-Republican Jefferson becomes vice-president

Adams Tries to Avoid War

- France seizes U.S. ships to retaliate for U.S. treaty with Britain
- **XYZ Affair**—low-level French officials demand bribe from Americans
- U.S. and France seize each other's ships; Adams rejects war

Adams Provokes Criticism

The Alien and Sedition Acts

- Federalists curb critics of government, pass **Alien and Sedition Acts**:
 - restrict citizenship, free speech; aimed at Democratic-Republicans
 - raise residency requirements, allow jailing or deportation
 - allow jailing or fining people expressing anti-government views

Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

- Jefferson, Madison organize state opposition in Kentucky, Virginia
- **Nullification**—when a state invalidates laws it deems unconstitutional



