**AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**Introduction**: The American Revolution was an ideological and political [revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolution) that occurred in [British America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_America) between 1765 and 1791. The Americans in the [Thirteen Colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Colonies) formed independent states that defeated the British in the [American Revolutionary War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War) (1775–1783), gaining independence from the [British Crown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Crown), establishing the [constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_United_States) that created the [United States of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_of_America), the first modern [constitutional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_democracy) liberal democracy.[[1]](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Chp%5CDesktop%5CAmerican%20Revolution%204th%20sem.docx#cite_note-2)[[2]](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Chp%5CDesktop%5CAmerican%20Revolution%204th%20sem.docx#cite_note-3)

**Causes and Events**

[American colonists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_history_of_the_United_States) objected to being taxed by the British Parliament, a body in which they had [no direct representation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_taxation_without_representation). Before the 1760s, Britain's American colonies had enjoyed a high level of autonomy in their internal affairs, which were locally governed by colonial legislatures. During the 1760s, however, the British Parliament passed a number of acts that were intended to bring the American colonies under more direct rule from the British [metropole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropole) and increasingly intertwine the economies of the colonies with those of Britain.[[3]](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Chp%5CDesktop%5CAmerican%20Revolution%204th%20sem.docx#cite_note-4) In 1764, Parliament passed the [*Sugar Act*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugar_Act), decreasing the existing customs duties on sugar and molasses but providing stricter measures of enforcement and collection.

That same year, Prime Minister [George Grenville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Grenville) proposed direct taxes on the colonies to raise revenue, but he delayed action to see whether the colonies would propose some way to raise the revenue themselves. The passage of the [*Stamp Act of 1765*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_Act_of_1765) imposed internal taxes on official documents, newspapers and most things [printed in the colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_American_publishers_and_printers), which led to colonial protest and the meeting of representatives from several colonies at the [Stamp Act Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_Act_Congress). Tensions relaxed with the British repeal of the Stamp Act, but flared again with the passage of the [*Townshend Acts*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Townshend_Acts) (tax on glass, lead, paint, paper, tea) in 1767. The British government deployed troops to [Boston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston%2C_Massachusetts) in 1768 to quell unrest, leading to the [Boston Massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Massacre) in 1770.

The British government repealed most of the Townshend duties in 1770, but retained the tax on tea in order to symbolically assert Parliament's right to tax the colonies. The burning of the *Gaspee* in [Rhode (Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colony_of_Rhode_Island_and_Providence_Plantations)ers boarded and sank the revenue cutter Gaspee in Narragansett Bay) in 1772, the passage of the [*Tea Act of 1773*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea_Act_of_1773) and the resulting [Boston Tea Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party) in December 1773 led to a new escalation in tensions. The British responded by closing [Boston Harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Harbor) and enacting a [series of punitive laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intolerable_Acts) (Intolerable Acts/ Coercive Acts- the [*Administration of Justice Act*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administration_of_Justice_Act_1774) which ordered that all British soldiers to be tried were to be arraigned in Britain, not in the colonies. the Massachusetts Govt Act, which altered the Massachusetts charter and restricted town meetings; the Quebec Act, 1774) ), Quartering Act-to punish Massachusetts colony for the Boston harbour incident, they were called Quartering Acts in which British soldiers were quartered in American homes) which effectively abolished [Massachusetts Bay Colony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Colony)'s privileges of self-government. The other colonies rallied behind Massachusetts, and twelve of the thirteen colonies sent delegates in late 1774 to form a [*Continental Congress*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Continental_Congress) for the coordination of their resistance to Britain. Opponents of Britain were known as [*Patriots*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriot_%28American_Revolution%29) or *Whigs*, while colonists who retained their allegiance to the Crown were known as [*Loyalists*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loyalist_%28American_Revolution%29) or *Tories*.

Open war began when [British regulars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army_during_the_American_Revolutionary_War) sent to capture a cache of military supplies were confronted by local [Patriot militia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minutemen) at [Lexington and Concord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Lexington_and_Concord) (province of Massachusetts) on April 19, 1775. Patriot militia, joined by the newly formed [Continental Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Army), then put British forces in Boston under siege by land and their forces withdrew by sea. Each colony formed a [Provincial Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provincial_Congress), which assumed power from the former colonial governments, suppressed Loyalism, and contributed to the Continental Army led by [Commander in Chief](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander_in_Chief) General [George Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington). The Patriots unsuccessfully [attempted to invade Quebec](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Quebec_%281775%29) (North eastern Canada) and rally sympathetic colonists there during the winter of 1775–76.

The Continental Congress declared British [King George III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_III) a tyrant who trampled the colonists' [rights as Englishmen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rights_of_Englishmen), and they [pronounced the colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence) [free and independent states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Resolution) on July 4, 1776. The Patriot leadership professed the political philosophies of [liberalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism_in_the_United_States) and [republicanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republicanism_in_the_United_States) to reject rule by [monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy) and [aristocracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy). The *Declaration of Independence* (july 4 1776) proclaimed that [all men are created equal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_men_are_created_equal), though it was not until later centuries that constitutional amendments and federal laws would incrementally grant equal rights to African Americans, Native Americans, poor white men, and women.

[The British captured New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_New_Jersey_campaign) and its strategic harbor in the summer of 1776. The Continental Army captured a British army at the [*Battle of Saratoga*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Saratoga) (near New York) in October 1777, and [France then entered the war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_in_the_American_Revolutionary_War) (1778) as an ally of the United States, expanding the war into a global conflict. The [British Royal Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Royal_Navy) blockaded ports and held New York City for the duration of the war, and other cities for brief periods, but they failed to destroy Washington's forces. Britain priorities shifted southward, [attempting to hold the Southern states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_theater_of_the_American_Revolutionary_War) with the anticipated aid of Loyalists that never materialized. British general [Charles Cornwallis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Cornwallis%2C_1st_Marquess_Cornwallis) captured an American army at [Charleston, South Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charleston%2C_South_Carolina) in early 1780, but he failed to enlist enough volunteers from Loyalist civilians to take effective control of the territory. Finally, a combined American and French force captured Cornwallis' army [at Yorktown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Yorktown) in the fall of 1781, effectively ending the war. The [*Treaty of Paris*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_%281783%29) was signed on September 3, 1783, formally ending the conflict and confirming the new nation's complete separation from the British Empire. The United States took possession of nearly all the territory east of the Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes, with the British retaining control of [northern Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_North_America), and French ally Spain (June 1779) taking back [Florida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Florida).

**Results**

Among the significant results of the war were [American independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_nationalism) and the end of British [mercantilism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercantilism) in America, opening up worldwide trade for the United States—including with Britain.

Around 60,000 [Loyalists migrated to other British territories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Empire_Loyalists), particularly to Canada, but the great majority remained in the United States.

The Americans soon adopted the [*United States Constitution*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution), (21st June, 1788) replacing the weak wartime [*Confederation*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Articles_of_Confederation) and establishing a comparatively strong national government structured as a [federal republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic), which included an elected [executive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States), a [national judiciary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Supreme_Court), and an elected bicameral (two houses of parliament) [Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_the_United_States) representing states in the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) and the population in the [House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives).

It is the world's first federal democratic republic founded on the consent of the governed.

**Conclusion**

Shortly after a [*Bill of Rights*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Bill_of_Rights) was ratified by ¾ of the states in the US on (15TH December, 1791) as the first ten [amendments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_amendments), guaranteeing a number of fundamental rights used as justification for the revolution.