I. CongressDrafts George Washington

• Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775:
  – Most important single action—selected George Washington to head army:
    • Choice was made with considerable misgivings
    • He never rose above the rank of colonel
    • His largest command had numbered only 1,200
    • Falling short of true military genius, he would actually lose more battles than he won

I. CongressDrafts George Washington (cont.)

• He was gifted with outstanding powers of leadership and immense strength of character
• He radiated patience, courage, self-discipline, and a sense of justice
• He was trusted and insisted on serving without pay
• He kept, however, a careful list of expenses-$100,000.
  • Continental Congress chose more wisely than it knew.

II. Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings

• War of inconsistency was fought for 14 months—April 1775 to July 1776—before fateful plunge into independence.
• Gradually tempo of warfare increased:
  – May 1775 Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured garrisons at Ticonderoga and Crown Point in upper New York
  – June 1775 the colonists seized Bunker Hill

II. Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings (cont.)

• July 1775, Congress adopted Olive Branch Petition:
  – professed loyalty to crown and begged king to prevent further hostilities
• King George III slammed door on all hope of reconciliation:
  – August 1775 he proclaimed colonies in rebellion
skirmishes were now treason, a hanging crime

7. Bunker Hill and
Hessian Hirelings (cont.)
• He next hired 1000s of German troops
• George III needed the men
• Because most of these soldiers came from German principality of Hesse, Americans called all European mercenaries Hessians
• News of Hessian deal shocked colonists
• Hessian hirelings proved good soldiers

III. The Abortive Conquest of Canada
• October 1775, British burned Falmouth (Portland), Maine
• In autumn, rebels undertook a two-pronged invasion of Canada:
  – Successful assault on Canada would add a 14th colony and deprive Britain of valuable base for striking the colonies in revolt
  – Invasion north was undisguised offensive warfare

III. The Abortive Conquest of Canada (cont.)
• Invasion of Canada almost successful (Map 8.1)
  – General Richard Montgomery captured Montreal
  – At Quebec, he was joined by army of General Benedict Arnold
  – Assault on Quebec was launched on last day of 1775
  – Montgomery was killed
  – Arnold was wounded

III. The Abortive Conquest of Canada (cont.)
• Bitter fighting persisted in colonies:
  • January 1776 British set fire to Norfolk, Va.
  • March 1776 British forced to evacuate Boston
• In South, rebels won two victories:
  • February 1776 against 15,000 Loyalists at Moore’s Creek Bridge in North Carolina
  • June 1776 against an invading fleet at Charleston harbor
IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense

- Loyalty to the empire was deeply ingrained:
  - Americans continued to believe they were part of a transatlantic community
  - Colonial unity was weak
  - Open rebellion was dangerous
  - As late as January 1776, the king’s health was being toasted—“God save the king”
- Gradually colonists were shocked into recognizing necessity to separate.

IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense (cont.)

- 1776 Common Sense by Thomas Paine:
  - One of most influential pamphlets ever published
  - Began with treatise on nature of government
  - Argued only lawful states were those that derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed”
  - As for king, he was nothing but “the Royal Brute of Great Britain”
  - 120,000 copies were sold in one week

IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense (cont.)

- Tried to convince colonists that true cause was independence, not reconciliation with Britain:
  - Nowhere in physical universe did smaller heavenly bodies control larger ones
  - So why should tiny island of Britain control vast continent of America

IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense (cont.)

- Paine drafted foundational document:
  - American independence
  - American foreign policy
  - Only with independence, could colonies hope to gain foreign assistance

V. Paine and the Idea of “Republicanism” (cont.)
• Paine also called for a republic:
  –Creation of a new kind of political society where power flowed from the people
  –In biblical imagery, he argued all government officials—governors, senators, judges—should derive authority from popular consent

**V. Paine and the Idea of “Republicanism” (cont.)**

• Paine was not first to champion republican government:
  –Classical Greece and Rome
  –Revived in 17th century Renaissance
  –Appealed to British politicians critical of excessive power in hands of king and his advisers
  –American colonists interpreted royal acts as part of monarchical conspiracy

**V. Paine and the Idea of “Republicanism” (cont.)**

• Paine’s summons to create a republic fell on receptive ears:
  –New Englanders practiced a kind of republicanism in town meetings and annual elections
  • Most Americans considered citizen “virtue” fundamental to any successful republican government

**V. Paine and the Idea of Republicanism (cont.)**

• Individuals in a republic:
  –must sacrifice personal self-interest to public good
  –collective good of “the people” mattered more than private rights and interests of individuals
  • Paine inspired contemporaries to view America as fertile ground for cultivation of civic virtue.

**V. Paine and the Idea of Republicanism (cont.)**

• Not all Patriots agreed with Paine’s ultra-democratic republicanism:
  –Some favored republic ruled by a “natural aristocracy” of talent
    • wanted an end to hereditary aristocracy, but not an end to all social hierarchy
    • were conservative republicans who wanted stability of social order
  • Contest over American republicanism would continue for next 100 years

**VI. Jefferson’s**
“Explanation” of Independence
• On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia moved:
  – “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and
    independent states”
  – motion was adopted on July 2, 1776
  – motion was formal “declaration” of independence by colonies

24 VI. Jefferson’s “Explanation” of Independence (cont.)
• An inspirational appeal was needed:
  – To enlist other British colonies in the Americas
  – To invite assistance from foreign nations
  – To rally resistance at home
• Congress appointed a committee to prepare a formal statement:
  – Task of drafting fell to Thomas Jefferson
  – He was fully qualified for it

25 VI. Jefferson’s “Explanation of Independence (cont.)
• The Declaration of Independence:
  – Formally approved by Congress on July 4, 1776
  – Had universal appeal by invoking “natural rights” of humankind—not
    just British rights
  – Argued that because king had flouted these rights, the colonists
    were justified in cutting ties
  – Set forth long list of presumably tyrannous misdeeds of George III
  – Declaration had universal impact

26 VII. Patriots and Loyalists
• War of Independence was a war within a war:
  – Loyalists—colonists loyal to king who fought American rebels
    • called “Tories” after dominant political factions in Britain
  – Patriots—rebels who also fought British redcoats
    • called “Whigs” after opposition factions in Britain

28 VII. Patriots and Loyalists (cont.)
• American Revolution was a minority movement:
  – Many colonists either apathetic or neutral
  – Patriot militias played critical role:
    • took on task of “political education,” sometimes by coercion
VII. Patriots and Loyalists (cont.)

- Loyalists:
  - About 16 percent of American people
  - Families were often split
  - Many were people of education and wealth
  - More numerous among older generation
  - Included king’s officers and beneficiaries
  - Included Anglican clergy and congregations
    - Virginia was notable exception

VII. Patriots and Loyalists (cont.)

- Loyalists entrenched in:
  - aristocratic New York City and Charlestown
  - Quaker Pennsylvania and New Jersey
  - were less numerous in New England
- Rebels most numerous where Presbyterianism and Congregationalism flourished
  -

VIII. The Loyalist Exodus

- Before Declaration in 1776, persecution of Loyalists was relatively mild:
  - Some faced brutality (tarring and feathering; riding astride fence rails)
  - Harsher treatment began after Declaration
    - were regarded as traitors
    - were roughly handled; some imprisoned; a few noncombatants hung
  - No wholesale reign of terror

VIII. The Loyalists Exodus (cont.)

- 80 thousand Loyalists were driven out or fled
- Several hundred thousand were permitted to stay
- Estates of fugitives were confiscated and sold
- Some 50,000 Loyalists fought for British:
VIII. The Loyalists Exodus (cont.)
• 80 thousand Loyalists were driven out or fled
• Several hundred thousand were permitted to stay
• Estates of fugitives were confiscated and sold
• Some 50,000 Loyalists fought for British:
  – Helped King’s cause by serving as spies
  – by inciting Indians
  • British did not make effective use of Loyalists

IX. General Washington at Bay
• Washington:
  – Could only muster 18,000 ill-trained troops to meet British invaders at New York, March 1776
  – Disaster befell Americans at Battle of Long Island, summer and fall of 1776
  – Washington escaped to Manhattan Island, finally reaching Delaware River
  – Patriot cause was at low ebb as rebels fled across river

IX. General Washington at Bay (cont.)
– General William Howe did not speedily crush demoralized American forces
– Washington stealthily recrossed Delaware River at Trenton on December 26, 1776
– Surprised and captured 1,000 Hessians
– A week later he defeated small British force at Princeton
– These two lifesaving victories revealed “Old Fox” Washington at his military best

X. Burgoyne’s Blundering Invasion
• London officials adopted intricate scheme to capture Hudson River valley in 1777:
  – If successful, would sever New England from rest of the states and paralyze American cause:
    • General John Burgoyne would push down Lake Champlain route from Canada
    • General Howe’s troops would advance up Hudson and meet Burgoyne near Albany
    • A third force, under Colonel Barry St. Leger, would come from west via Lake Ontario and Mohawk valley
X. Burgoyne’s Blundering Invasion (cont.)
• British did not reckon with General Arnold:
  – came along St. Lawrence to Lake Champlain area where he
    assembled a small fleet
  – his fleet was destroyed, but time had been won
• Without Arnold, British would have recaptured Fort Ticonderoga:
  – if Burgoyne could have started there (instead of Montreal) he would
    have been successful

X. Burgoyne’s Blundering Invasion (cont.)
• Washington transferred army to vicinity of Philadelphia:
  – There he was defeated in two battles at Brandywine Creek and at
    Germantown
  • General Howe settled down in Philadelphia and left Burgoyne to
    flounder in upper New York
  • Washington retired to Valley Forge
• Trapped, Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga to Gen. Horatio Gates
  on October 17, 1777

X. Burgoyne’s Blundering Invasion (cont.)
• Saratoga ranks high among decisive battles of both America and
  world history:
  – Victory revived faltering colonial cause
  – Even more important, made possible urgently needed foreign aid
    from France, which in turn helped ensure American independence

XI. Revolution in Diplomacy?
• France’s role in the Revolution:
  – France hoped to regain former prestige:
    • loss in Seven Years’ War rankled deeply
  – America’s revolutionaries badly needed help to throw off British:
    • needed to seal an alliance with France against common foe

XI. Revolution in Diplomacy? (cont.)
• American rebels also harbored revolutionary ideas about international
affairs:
– wanted end to colonialism and mercantilism
– supported free trade and freedom of seas
– wanted rule of law, not raw power, to arbitrate affairs of nations

46 XI. Revolution in Diplomacy?
(cont.)
• Summer of 1776, Continental Congress drafted a Model Treaty:
  – Guide commissioners dispatched to France
  – John Adams, one of chief authors, described basic principles:
    • “1. No political connection. . . 2. No military connection. . . 3. Only a commercial connection.”
    • These were remarkable self-denying restrictions
    • Infused idealism into American foreign policy

47 XI. Revolution in Diplomacy?
(cont.)
• Benjamin Franklin negotiated treaty in Paris:
  – He was determined that his appearance should herald diplomatic revolution
  – He shocked royal court
  – Ordinary Parisians adored him as a specimen of new democratic social order
• The British now offered a measure allowing American home rule within the empire

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49 XI. Revolution in Diplomacy?
(cont.)
This was essentially what colonists had asked for—except independence:
• On February 6, 1778, France offered a treaty of alliance
• Young republic concluded its first entangling military alliance and would soon regret it
• Treaty with France constituted official recognition of America’s independence
• Both bound themselves to secure America’s freedom

XII. The Colonial War Becomes a Wider War

• England and France came to blows in 1778
• Shot fired at Lexington widened into global conflagration:
  – Spain entered in 1779 as did Holland
  – weak maritime neutrals of Europe began to demand their rights (see Table 8.1)
• Russia’s Catherine the Great organized Armed Neutrality—lined up remaining European neutrals in an attitude of passive hostility toward Britain

XII. The Colonial War Becomes a Wider War (cont.)

• Fighting in Europe and North America as well as South America, Caribbean, and Asia:
  – Americans deserve credit for keeping war going until 1778 with secret French aid
  – their independence not achieved until conflict became a multipower world war too much for Britain to handle
  – from 1778 to 1783, France provided rebels with guns, money, equipment, and armed forces

XII. The Colonial War Becomes a Wider War (cont.)

– France’s entrance:
  • Forced British to change basic strategy
  • They had counted on blockading colonial coast and commanding seas
  • French now had powerful fleet in American waters
  • British decided to evacuate Philadelphia and concentrate strength in New York City
  • In June 1778, redcoats were attacked by Washington
  • Battle was indecisive and Washington remained in New York area

XIII. Blow and Counterblow

• 1780: French army of 6000 regular troops, under commander Comte de Rochambeau arrived in Newport
  – French gold and goodwill help melt suspicions
–No real military advantage yet from French reinforcements
–1780 General Benedict Arnold turned traitor
–British planned to roll up colonies, starting in Loyalist South (See Map 8.2).

XIII. Blow and Counterblow
(cont.)
–Georgia overrun in 1778-1779
–Charleston fell in 1780
–Warfare intensified in Carolinas
–1781: American riflemen wiped out British at King’s Mountain, then defeated a smaller force at Cowpens
–In Carolina campaign, General Nathaniel Greene distinguished himself by strategy of delay

XIII. Blow and Counterblow
(cont.)
–By standing and then retreating, he exhausted his foe, General Cornwallis, in vain pursuit
–Greene succeeded in clearing most of Georgia and South Carolina of British troops

XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier
• West was ablaze during war:
  –Indian allies of England attacked colonists
  –1777 was known as “bloody year” on frontier:
    • Two nations of Iroquois Confederacy, Oneidas and Tuscarora, sided with Americans
    • Senecas, Mohawks, Cayugas, and Onondagas joined British
    –Encouraged by chief Joseph Brant, who believed victorious Britain would restrain white expansion west

XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier (cont.)
• In 1784, pro-British Iroquois forced to sign Treaty of Fort Stanwix:
  –First treaty between United States and an Indian nation
• In Illinois, British were vulnerable to attack:
  • They held only scattered posts captured from French
  • George Rogers Clark conceived idea of seizing these forts by surprise
  • 1778-1779, he quickly captured Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes (see Map 8.3)
  • Clark’s admirers have argued his success later forced British to cede region north of Ohio River to United States at peace table in Paris

• America’s infant navy under Scotsman John Paul Jones:
  • Tiny force never made dent in Britain’s massive fleet
  • Chief contribution was destroying British merchant shipping
  • Carried war into waters around British Isles

• Privateers:
  – Privately owned armed ships—legalized pirates
  – Authorized by Congress to attack enemy ships
  – 1,000 American privateers responded to call of patriotism and profit, with about 70,000 men
  – Captured some 600 British prizes, while British captured same number of merchantmen and privateers

• Privateering was not an unalloyed asset:
  • Diverted manpower from main war
  • Involved Americans in speculation and graft
  • Privateering was also good:
• Brought in urgently needed gold
• Harassed enemy
• Raised American morale
• Ruined British shipping
  – Shippers and manufacturers wanted to end war

XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain

• One of darkest periods of war was 1780-1781, before last decisive victory:
  – Government was virtually bankrupt
    • declared it would repay debt at only 2.5 cents per dollar
  – Despair prevailed:
    • sense of unity withered
    • mutinous sentiments infected army

XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain (cont.)

• Cornwallis blundered into a trap:
  – After futile operations in Virginia, he fell back to Chesapeake Bay at Yorktown:
    • Awaited seaborne supplies and reinforcements
    • Assumed Britain still controlled seas
    • During this period British naval superiority slipped away

XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain (cont.)

• French actions:
  – Admiral de Grasse informed Americans he could join them against Cornwallis at Yorktown
  – Washington makes a swift march of 300 miles from New York to Chesapeake
  – Accompanied by Rochambeau’s French army, Washington besets British at land
  – While de Grasse blockaded sea

XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain (cont.)

• Cornered, Cornwallis surrendered entire force of 7000 men on October 19, 1781
• George III planned to continue struggle:
  – Fighting continued for a year after Yorktown, with savage Patriot-Loyalist warfare in South
cornered, cornwallis surrendered entire force of 7000 men on october 19, 1781

george iii planned to continue struggle:
– fighting continued for a year after yorktown, with savage patriot-loyalist warfare in south
– washington’s most valuable contributions were to keep cause alive, army in the field, and states together

xvi. peace at paris

aftermath of war:
– many britons weary of war
– suffered loses in india and west indies
– island of minorca in mediterranean fell
– lord north’s ministry collapsed in march 1782 temporarily ending george iii’s personal rule
– whig ministry, favorable to americans, replaced tory regime of lord north

xvi. peace at paris (cont.)

– american negotiators benjamin franklin, john adams, and john jay gathered at paris:
– instructed to make no separate peace and to consult with french allies at all stages
– american representatives chafed under directive
– knew it had been written by subservient congress under pressure from french foreign office

–

xvi. peace at paris (cont.)

– france in difficult position:
– had induced spain to enter war
– spain coveted immense trans-allegheny area
– france desired independent united states, but wanted to keep new republic east of allegheny mountains
– a weak america would be easier to manage in promoting french interests and policy
– france was paying heavy price to win america’s independence and wanted her money’s worth

xvi. peace at paris (cont.)

john jay was unwilling to play french game:
• Secretly made overtures to London
• London came to terms with Americans
• Preliminary treaty signed in 1782

Formal Treaty of Paris signed in 1783:
• Britain recognized independence of United States
• Granted generous boundaries: to Mississippi (west), to Great Lakes (north), and to Spanish Florida (south)
• Yankees retained access to fisheries of Newfoundland

75 XVI. Peace at Paris
(cont.)

– American concessions:
  • Loyalists not to be further persecuted
  • Congress was to recommend to states that:
    – confiscated Loyalist property be restored
    – debts owed to British creditors be paid

– British concessions:
  • Accept defeat in North America
  • Ending war allowed England to rebuild

76 XVII. A New Nation Legitimized

• British terms were liberal:
  – Granted enormous trans-Appalachian area
  – In spirit, Americans made a separate peace—contrary to French alliance
  – France relieved with end of costly conflict
  – America alone gained from world-girdling war:
    • Began national career with splendid territorial birthright and priceless heritage

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