**The Revolutionary War – An Overview**

**PHASE #1**[1776 – late 1777] **Containment in New England**– the British initially believed that the revolution was basically a radical minority movement centered in New England so they concentrated their forces there. But then came **The Battle of Bunker Hill.**

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| **1775** |
| April 19 – [**Lexington and Concord**](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/Lexington-and-Concord)**M**ajor John Pitcairn sent to seize military supplies at Concord; Paul Revere, William Dawes and Dr. Sam Prescott went to warn the minutemen; Minutemen and British soldiers collide at Lexington and Concord  May 10 – Ethan Allen and the Green Mtn. Boys take Ft. Ticonderoga  May 12 – Ethan Allen and the boys take Crown Pt.  June 15 – 2nd Continental Congress appts. George Washington Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army June 17 – [**Bunker Hill**](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/Bunker-Hill)**Breed’s Hill** Colonials survived two attacks but ran out of ammunition and were defeated; 1000 British dead only 350 colonial dead **Significance:** Colonials hung in against the best Britain had to offer – we could win this war  Aug – Dec – **Expedition against Quebec**Gen. Richard Montgomery invaded Canada and forced the British to leave Montreal; Benedict Arnold joined Montgomery and together they went after Quebec  **Major Failure**Montgomery killed - Arnold wounded - 1/3 of troops captured or killed |

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| **England’s Strengths** | **Colonist's Strengths** |
| Population (7.5 million to 2.5 million colonists)   Monetary wealth   Naval forces   Professional army   50,000 British   30,000 Hessians   30, 000 [American Loyalists](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/American-Loyalists)    [Lord Dumores Proclamation](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/Lord-Dumores-Proclamation) | Outstanding leadership -  **Military**--Washington**Diplomatic**--Franklin ; **European Imports**--Lafayette, Kosciuzko  Colonists fighting defensively and Self-sustaining agricultural base  Colonists were better marksmen (Americans accurate at 200 yds.) Moral advantage. Americans were supporting a just cause with a positive goal    [Video Clip from the Patriot](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG1FkuiCXVk)    [Colonial Military Advantages](http://www.tubechop.com/watch/1506460)  Story of Us |
| **England’s Weaknesses** | **Colonial  Weaknesses** |
| Lack of British desire to crush American cousins. Whigs cheered American victories.     Military difficulties -  [Second-rate generals](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/Second-rate+generals);  Brutal treatment of soldiers (one lashed 800 times for striking an officer)    Inadequate, poor provisions (old, rancid, wormy) - Need for clear victory. A draw would be a colonial victory.     Armies were 3000 miles from home. Orders took months to reach the front.     Vast colonial territory (1000 by 600 miles) to subdue. No urban nerve center to conquer. | Colonies were badly organized, disunited for war. -  Continental Congress debated, but took little action and exercised less leadership    Written constitution (Articles of Confederation) not adopted until 1781.   Colonies were jealous of Congress, each other's region    Economic difficulties  - Little metallic currency available (Fearful of taxation, Congress issued virtually worthless Continental currency)    Inflation led to increased prices, desertions from army. Limited military supplies - Inadequate firearms and powder   American soldiers were numerous but unreliable |

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| **1776** |
| Jan . – Thomas Paine publishes **Common Sense**  March 17 – Howe evacuates from Boston - [cannons and artillery captured at Ticonderoga](http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2012/04/11/news/doc4f84d81c19051577268674.txt)were brought to Boston; British and loyalists in Boston  were evacuated July 4 – **Declaration of Independence** was signed  Aug 27 – Long Island and Brooklyn Heights  Sept. 16 – Harlem Heights - Nathan Hale is hung on the 22nd “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country”  Nov 15 – Fort Washington fell to the British  Nov 18 – Fort Lee fell to the British  Dec. 26 – **Trenton**[Washington crossed the Delaware](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/Washington-crossed-the-Delaware)river going south and surprised the British by coming back across the river; Washington  split his 2400 men into two divisions and attacked the British from two sides  The colonials were **successful and the victory gave the troops a great boost of confidence and the colonies a great positive push** |

**PHASE #2** [late 1777 – early 1778] **Middle Colonies**– the British realized it was not going to be that easy, so they shifted down into the middle colonies in an attempt to divide the colonies by gaining control of the Hudson River and Mohawk Valley. Then after the debacle at **Saratoga**(1778), which also caused the French to join the colonists b/c they realized they actually had a chance, they gave up on that and made a last ditch effort in…

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| **1777** |
| June 14 – The US adopts the Stars and Stripes as their flag – 13 stars and 13 stripes  Aug 6th – Oriskany  Aug 16th – Bennington, Vt Oct 4th – Germantown - Washington tried to get the British army away from Philadelphia; again he was defeated he and his troops set up for  winter at Valley Forge. Oct 17th – [**Saratoga**](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/Saratoga)- Ten days Gen. Burgoyne had been suffering from several setbacks, supplies were low, reinforcements were not available,  progress toward Albany had been slow and difficult he back to find his troops surrounded by Americans led by Arnold and Morgan he was  outnumbered 3-1 and had no choice but to surrender.  Nov 15 – 2nd Continental Congress voted to adopt the Articles of Confederation (submitted on July 12, 1776)  Tey would become the official government of the USA when they were ratified by ALL 13 states  (not ratified until March 1781)   Dec. – Spring – [**Valley Forge**:](http://www.tubechop.com/watch/1521202) after defeats at Brandywine and Germantown Washington retired to Valley Forge - shortages in food,  clothing and blankets; shortages were due more to mismanagement and poor logistics than actual lack of stuff situation was deadly on morale. |

**PHASE #3** [early 1778 – 1781] **The South**– they hoped to get loyalist support and use supplies from the West Indies to win in the South. They took Charlestown, but since the French were there to back the colonists up in the sea it didn’t help them much. The very last stages of the war were very bloody and desperate, culminating in **Yorktown**(1781) where a trapped Cornwallis surrendered and the war ended.

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| **1778** |
| June 17 – **France becomes our Ally -**victory at Saratoga set off negotiations in Paris toward a formal alliance  June 17th – the British and French had a clash at sea - They agreed that neither the colonists nor the French would make a truce or sign a  peace without the consent of the other.  June 17 – England offers peace: the prospect of an alliance between the colonies and the French scared King George III;  George offers  - No revenue taxes, repeal of Tea and Coercive Acts and all acts passed by Parliament affecting the colonies since 1763 would be suspended.  Had these been offered prior to Lexington and Concord – they would have been accepted, even after Bunker Hill, but since Saratoga there was no way  Colonies announced they would only agree to a complete withdrawal of all British troops and English acceptance of American independence.  June 28 – Monmouth ( not far from Trenton) Washington’s attempt to capture Gen. Clinton as he went from Philly to NYC didn’t happen. |

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| **1780** |
| May 12 – Charleston captured by the British  Sept. 21 – Benedict Arnold’s Treason  Arnold was given the command at West Point on Aug. 5  Sept. 21 – Arnold met with Major John Andre of GB and gave him the plans to West Point  Oct. 7th – King’s Mountain sharp shooting frontiersmen took out 1,100 British under Major Ferguson  victory caused a great rise in morale |

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| **1781** |
| March 1st – Maryland finally ratifies the Articles of Confederation    Oct. 19 – **Yorktown**Washington left enough troops around NYC to deceive the British into expecting an offensive action against the city.  Cornwallis’s position at Yorktown was good as long as the British fleet controlled the Chesapeake Bay (Cornwallis had no idea the French  were on they) With this victory the colonies had just about won the war |

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| **THE END   The Treaty of Paris, 1783** |
| **Ben Franklin**led the negotiations for the treaty, which was signed on **September 3, 1783** included their two must-have goals:  **(1)** recognition as an independent nation    **(2)** firm national boundaries from the Mississippi to the Atlantic and from Canada to Florida. |

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| FIVE  EXPLANATIONS OF WAR |
| 1.**Political Conflict:**  A struggle between tyrannical control of England & the liberty-loving Americans who saw an opportunity to carry out the beliefs of the Enlightenment thinkers  2.  **Practical:** the impossibility of England’s maintaining colonies 3,000 miles away as part of its empire as well as the internal political conflicts in British government  3. **Economic Conflict:** between the growing American free enterprise system & the English mercantile system    4. **Religious Conflict** – between the variety of religions that settled in the colonies & the Church of England, the dominant religion of English officials & aristocrats  5. **Social Conflict:**  The development of a new class structure in the colonies due to the ending of heredity, birthright status, & primogeniture, & the availability of land & the expansion of the right to vote as social “level-ers” |