
History 1301
U.S. to 1877

Unit 2 - Lecture 1

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The American Revolution

The American Revolution:

- Dual Nature of American Revolution:
 - American colonies severing their ties with Great Britain:
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 - American colonies struggling to find a working relationship:
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- Toward Independence:
 - Second Continental Congress – 1775
 - Agree to support the war effort (except Georgia)
 - Appoint George Washington as over-all Commander
 - Appoint Benedict Arnold to bring in Canada
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 - Enemy recruitment of Indians, Slaves, Germans
 - » Lord Dunmore's proclamation Nov 1775
 - Americans were fighting to preserve their way of life and conception of "political reality" – not gain it.
 - Thomas Paine's Common Sense / Jan 1776
 - Response to British blockade
 - Dec 1775 All America is closed to trade
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 - America has a special purpose and mission

United States of America:

- July 2nd 1776 committee adopted the declaration which Congress approved on the 4th
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 - Drew heavily on Virginia Bill of Rights – June 1776
 - Contract theory of John Locke
 - Life, Liberty and Pursuit of happiness
 - Each colony had to re-configure itself as a “State”
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 - Colonies work together under Articles of Confederation 1777 (Treaty of Cooperation)
- Americans Victory Conditions or “ War Aims”
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 - Resist long enough for British political opposition to gain power
 - Gain foreign recognition of their independence
- British War Aims – rid the colonies of resistance and re-assert their control:
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 - Facilitate “Loyalists” to re-assert (?) their power
 - Show Americans continued resistance was futile.

Relative Advantages:

- English
 - Advantages:
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 - Disadvantages:
 - Motivation of soldiers and ease of desertion
 - Seen as foreigners by Americans whose “hearts and minds” were the objective of the war
 - Long logistic lines and costs
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 - Home country politics & finances
 - Relationship with Indians / Slavery
 - Lack of local leadership talent
- Americans
 - Advantages:
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 - Guerilla War tactics produce high-cost, no-win occupation
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 - Time and economic importance to Britain
 - Smuggling experience
 - Disadvantages:
 - Disunion except in face of enemy
 - Lack of economic processes

American Prosecution of the War:

- Finance:
 - Congress had no taxing authority – states didn't pay their requested or requisitioned amounts
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- The First American Army:
 - 1775 big burst of patriotic enlistments in Militia and some in Continentals
 - By 1777 the Army was comprised by the bottom of society
 - Slaves / Blacks (resisted by Southerners but still represented up to 25% of Continental forces)
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 - Leadership issues and friction
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 - Military forces:
 - Constant conflicts between State Militia and Continental Army
 - Militia strong in threatened areas
 - 20% desertion rate (75% were foreign born)
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 - Regimental women (soldiers, followers, ancillary services)
 - Foreign “helpers” - D'Lafayette and Von Steuben
 - Washington's Fabian Tactics
 - Heroics of individuals for food, supplies and munitions
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Conflict:

- New England Phase: Spring 1775 – Spring 1776
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 - March 1776 British leave Boston for Halifax
 - Loyalists defeated in North Carolina – 1776 – never again a serious threat
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- Mid-Atlantic Phase: 1776 - 1778
 - Campaign 1776 - 32K British troops and large navy in NYC under William Howe versus Washington's 19K and no navy
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 - Washington trumps British with victories of Trenton and Princeton on Christmas 1776
 - Campaign 1777 – British two-pronged attack
 - Howe from NYC to Albany / Burgoyne from Montreal to Albany
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 - Burgoyne defeated at Oriskany, Bennington then, surrenders at Saratoga October 1777 – without supplies – deserters by thousands
 - Indian's help of British – made them enemies to colonials - Defeat further weakened ability to resist Europeans

Conflict – II:

- Saratoga Victory October 1777:
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 - French Alliance provided supplies / Money / Navy and help from other Anti-British countries
 - Howe relieved from command
- Southern Phase:
 - Loyalists believed to be strongest in South and Slaves could be mobilized to fight for British
 - Conflict became more revolutionary because it involved civilian populations & hardened attitudes
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 - December 1778 – Savannah
 - 1779 – Georgia comes back into British Empire
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 - Sumter, Pickens and Marion thwart British conquest outside coast.
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 - Won at Camden August 1780 - Gates leaves and Greene comes in under Washington
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 - Greene adopts Fabian tactics / British winter in Wilmington
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 - Draw at Guilford Courthouse March 1781
 - Went into Virginia – retreated to Yorktown

Conflict – III:

- Yorktown 1781
 - Washington / de Rochambeau – American / French army moved from NYC to trap Cornwallis
 - Adm de Grasse, Battle of the Capes, temporarily keeps British from Chesapeake bay
 - October 1781 Cornwallis surrenders army
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- Peace process
 - French fleet defeated by Rodney at Battle of the Saints April 1782
 - - Ability for victory v increasing cost & missing profit
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 - Foreign coalition – French, Spanish, Dutch
 - British meet with John Jay, Benjamin Franklin & John Adams
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- United States is born
 - Treaty of Paris – Nov 1782 / Ratified in Sept 1783 -
 - Borders are understood, not precise
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 - Access to Great Banks fisheries
 - Debts are still valid

Social conflict during war:

- Liberty & Equality
 - Not European liberty ~ won freedoms – “what you can do” but American ~ limits on authority – “what you can be stopped from”
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 - Talent & energy should differentiate not inherited privilege
- Loyalists:
 - - Hounded by Patriots – 100K leave country going principally to Canada
- Religion:
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 - Catholics supported war and established independent Bishop
- Principles of Revolution affected slavery
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 - Northern revulsion different than Southern fear
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 - 10% Slaves freed / Manumit Laws in VA & MD
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 - Southern nationalism was born
- Indians lost one white power that helped them
 - US victory led to more land hunger – especially in Midwest – increased conflict
- Women:
 - Many women in charge during war
 - - New Jersey suffrage & divorce law
 - Women’s role in shaping the citizen – with heightened Importance of Civic Virtue

State Governments:

- Triumphant Republicanism:
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 - Sturdy independent citizens – hierarchies were bad
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- Problems with “Vermont”
 - NY & NH or even inclusion in United States
- State Constitutions: Foundation of the Country
 - Initially weakened executives / strengthened legislative and independent judicial – “separation of powers”
 - By late 1770s too much democracy caused economic and social problems
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 - 1780s evolving State constitutions provided Stronger executives
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 - Religion and Government:
 - VA completely separated church and state
 - Colonial tradition of “Anglican Mixture” refuted
 - No special privileges to any denomination

First Republic:

- Confederation:
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 - no power to regulate trade, raise troops or levy taxes
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 - Each state had a single vote – 9 votes to approve important measures – all to approve amendments
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 - China trade flourished as did American settlement of Vancouver area
- Post War:
 - British did not evacuate western lands fully in Great Lakes or Midwest
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 - Southern states blocked Spanish treaty to recognize border and give up Mississippi navigation
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 - - 10 districts – Territory Gov't when 20K and petition Congress for admission when population was that of smallest of original 13 states
 - Ordinance of 1785 – set up surveying and selling of land
 - Townships of 36 miles square, sections of 3600 acres
 - 4 for Govt / 1 for public schools (quarter-quarter section of 40 acres smallest unit)
 - Sold much to large companies

First Republic – II:

- Ordinance of 1787 – created NW Territory of land north of the Ohio River:
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 - Territory at 5K State at 60K
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 - Kentucky and Tennessee handled separately because of slavery – Southwest Ordinance of 1790
- Violence with Indians
 - Settlements kept pushing Indians west – land sales
 - - Indians won several battles till Wabash in 1791 killed 630 Americans
 - “Mad” Anthony Wayne led expedition defeated Indians at Fallen Timbers in 1794
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- Economics / Taxes
 - Post war depression
 - French money ran out
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 - Continental Impost – Tariff of 5% - failed
 - Hamilton, Madison, Morris
 - States increased taxes to repay debt
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 - Shay’s rebellion for paper money / tax relief / debt moratorium – crushed by loyal militia