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# History 1301

## U.S. to 1877

Unit 2 - Lecture 1

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### The American Revolution

# The American Revolution:

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- 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:

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- July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1776 committee adopted the declaration which Congress approved on the 4<sup>th</sup>
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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:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- Saratoga Victory October 1777:
  - 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:

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- 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
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  - 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 -
  - Boarders are understood, not precise
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  - Access to Great Banks fisheries
  - Debts are still valid

# Social conflict during war:

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- 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:
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  - 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
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  - New Jersey suffrage & divorce law
  - Women’s role in shaping the citizen – with heightened Importance of Civic Virtue

# State Governments:

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- 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:

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- 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 6 miles square, sections of 1 mile square
      - 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:
  - Territory at 5K State at 60K
  - 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