



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Chapter 8 Section 4

I. Britain and the American Revolution

A. The United Kingdom of Great Britain came into existence in 1707, when the governments of England and Scotland were united.

B. In 1688 revolution resulted in a Bill of Rights that and Parliament's right to make laws.

1. The monarch and Parliament shared power.





- C. In 1714 the last Stuart ruler, Queen Anne, died without an heir.
1. The crown was offered to her nearest relatives, Protestant rulers of the German state of Hannover.
 - a. The first Hanoverian king, George I, did not speak English.
 - i. Robert Walpole- 1st Prime Minister.



D. Growing trade and industry led to the expansion of trade and of Britain's world empire.

1. William Pitt the Elder (who became head of cabinet) expanded the British Empire by acquiring Canada and India in the Seven Years' War.



E. Britain controlled Canada as well as the thirteen colonies.

1. The British colonies were well populated, containing more than 1 million people by 1750.

2. Parliament controlled the colonies but, the colonies had legislatures that often acted independently.

a. Merchants in port cities did not want the British government to run their affairs.

F. After the Seven Years' War, British leaders wanted to get new colonial revenues from the colonies.

1. These revenues would then be used to cover war costs.

G. In 1765 Parliament imposed the Stamp Act on the colonies.

1. The act required printed materials to carry a stamp showing that a tax had been paid to Britain.

a. Opposition was widespread and often violent.

b. The act was repealed in 1766.



H. To counteract British actions, the colonies organized the First Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia in September 1774.

1. Members urged colonists to take up arms and organize militias.

I. Fighting finally erupted between colonists and the British army in April 1775 in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.

1. The Second Continental Congress sets up an army, called the Continental Army.

a. George Washington served as its commander in chief.

THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS



J. July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson.

K. Support from foreign countries was important to the colonies' cause.

1. The French supplied arms and money to the rebels.

2. The French granted diplomatic recognition to the new United States.

a. Spain and the Dutch Republic will also assist the United States.

L. When General Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown in 1781.

1. In 1783 the Treaty of Paris recognized the independence of the American colonies.

a. Americans control of the western territory from the Appalachians to the Mississippi River.



II. The Birth of a New Nation

A. The colonies feared the power of a strong central government.

- 1. The states' first constitution, the Articles of Confederation (1781), created a weak central government that lacked the power to deal with the nation's problems.**
- 2. In 1787 delegates met in Philadelphia at the Constitutional Convention to revise the Articles of Confederation.**

B. The proposed Constitution created a federal system in which the national government and the state governments shared power.

1. Based on Montesquieu's ideas, the national, or federal, government was separated into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.

C. The new Congress proposed 12 amendments to the Constitution.

1. The states approved 10 of the amendments.
a. The Bill of Rights.

Federalism

National

- Declare war
- Maintain armed forces
- Regulate interstate and foreign trade
- Admit new states
- Establish post offices
- Set standard weights and measures
- Coin money
- Establish foreign policy
- Make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out delegated powers

Shared

- Maintain law and order
- Levy taxes
- Borrow money
- Charter banks
- Establish courts
- Provide for public welfare

State

- Establish and maintain schools
- Establish local governments
- Regulate business within the state
- Make marriage laws
- Provide for public safety
- Assume other powers not delegated to the national government or prohibited to the states



D. Many of the rights in the Bill of Rights were derived from the natural rights proposed by the eighteenth-century philosophes.

1. European intellectuals saw the American Revolution as the confirmation of the premises of the Enlightenment.