**8 The Revolutionary Era & the Founding of a New Nation**

List of Imp. Events leading up to the Revolutionary War:

* Treaty of Paris, February 1763
* Pontiac’s Rebellion, May 1763
* Sugar Act, April 1764
* Stamp Act, March 1765
* Declaratory Act, March, 1766
* Townshend Acts, 1767
* Boston Massacre, March 1770
* Gaspee Affair, June 1772
* Boston Tea Party, Dec. 1773
* Coercive Acts, January 1774
* The First Continental Congress 1774
* Lexington & Concord, April 1775
* Publication of ‘Common Sense’, January 1776
* The Second Continental Congress 1776
* The Declaration of Independence, July 4 1776

A Civil War of Sorts?

* Patriots: in support of revolutionary cause (40% of total pop)
  + Most from N.E.
    - 5000 African Americans fought with the patriots
* Loyalists/”Tories”: allegiance to England. (20-30% of total pop)
  + Generally, wealthy people who benefitted from relationship with England
    - Native Americans generally aligned with English
      * English promised land expansion limits
* Neutral people: 30% or so of the pop was neutral in the conflict (2.6 million total in colonies at start of war)
  + Many from Middle Colonies felt that a peace agreement should be met

Early Events of the Revolution

* **1st Continental Congress** more troops & hired mercenaries sent to the colonies
* Battle of Bunker Hill (Breed’s Hill) (1775-Boston)
  + Heavy British losses, decide to move to NY
  + Proved colonies could fight
* British capture NYC & take over Long Island
* **Thomas Paine** publishes ‘Common Sense’ –will publish other America ‘Crisis Papers’ throughout the war
* **Second Continental Congress** sends Olive Branch Petition to King George III – then signs the Declaration of Independence (July 1776)
* Washington’s army captures Hessians at the Battle of Trenton (1776)
* General Howe occupies Philadelphia –instead of helping Burgoyne cut off New England from NY along the Hudson River

Turning Points of the Revolution

* **General Burgoyne** surrenders at Saratoga, NY (1777)
  + French recognizes the U.S. & sends soldiers, munitions, navy & funds to fight the British
    - Eventually, Span and Holland enter as well
  + British head South to find Loyalist support, get embroiled in guerilla warfare
* **General Cornwallis** surrenders at Yorktown (1781)
* GB negotiates peace and recognizes the U.S. with the Treaty of Paris 1783
  + US gains lands east of the Mississippi River, south of the Great Lakes, control of the MS River for trade
  + US agrees to settle pre-war debt w/ British merchants
  + Land west of MS River & Florida belong to Spain

Enlightenment Influences

* John Locke
  + Natural rights theory
  + Purpose of gov’t is to protect “life liberty and property”
  + Bad gov’t that does not do this can be abolished
    - Declaration of Independence
* Baron de Montesquieu
  + Separation of powers to protect the people against the abuses of tyanny
  + Power of gov’t can only be limited through delegating specific powers amongst a judiciary, legislature and an executive who can check one another’s authority
    - Constitution of 1787

Impacts of the Revolution

* Social
  + 80,000 **Loyalists** left, weakening the upper class
    - No aristocracy
  + Growing spirit of egalitarianism
    - exclusive organizations like the **Society of Cincinnati** (hereditary club for continental army officers) were unpopular
      * clubs such as this were elitist and promoted primogeniture
    - Northern states begin abolishing slavery
  + **‘Republican motherhood’** –women could show their commitment to the republic by raising children with those values
    - women were keepers of the national consciousness
* Religious
  + De-Anglicizing of state churches (Church of England (Anglican Church) no longer the state supported church of VA, NY, NJ, NC, SC, Georgia
  + **VA Statute of Religious Freedom** –other states followed the example
    - T. Jefferson wrote it in support of Baptists, but created separation of church and state for all
  + Only the Congregationalists of MA & CT kept their state supported churches
    - MA until 1833!
* Economic
  + Colonies began to manufacture their own goods
    - Adapted to being cut off from British and West Indian trade during the war
  + A few people amassed great wealth through war profiteering
  + State over-borrowed to fight the war & couldn’t pay back debt to international lenders
    - Most colonists accepted paper currency during the war although worth little value
    - Many colonial produced food & goods to be given to the army (for little or no monetary gain)
  + By 1786, British were flooding the American market with cheap goods

First National Government – intended to be weak

* **Articles of Confederation** were drafted in 1776-77 (ratified: 1781) by the **Second Continental Congress** who also asked the colonies to write new constitutions
  + MA even had its citizens ratify its 1st state constitution with a popular vote
  + By 1777, 10 colonies had written constitutions which included lists of rights
* A of C was the 1st written plan of government in the world
  + Created Confederacy: gov. where sovereign entities (states) are united for a common purpose. Weak central gov’t > Strong state gov’ts
  + In order to get unanimous ratification (took 4 years total: 1781)
  + 13 States were sovereign entities that could:
    - Coin money
    - Raise armies
    - Enact interstate tariff barriers
    - ratify international treaties
  + National gov’t had no power
    - to regulate commerce
    - to enforce tax collection
    - to enforce laws (no executive)
    - to interpret laws (no national judiciary)
  + Stipulations:
    - 1 branch of gov:
      * 1 house congress
        + Each state has 1 vote (regardless of pop size)
        + 9/13 to pass a law
        + 13/13 to pass an amendment: Unanimous… made constitution very rigid/inflexible
  + But was able to create a plan to organize new territories in the west and helped guide young America through victory
* **Land Ordinance of 1785**
  + Divided up lands in the Ohio Valley, Michigan in an egalitarian fashion (towns approximately the same size, land set aside for schools -‘unit 16’
  + Land available for sale –revenue source for national gov’t
* **Northwest Ordinance of 1787**
  + Established governance & process to enter statehood
  + Prohibits slavery in the west
  + guarantees freedom of religion

International and Domestic Conflicts

* Great Britain refused to send an ambassador for 8 years
* Spain closed the Mississippi to U.S. trade
* France demanded repayment of loans
* Pirates attacked U.S. ships and demanded payments for safe passage in the Mediterranean (will come back later)
* Some states punitively taxed citizens to repay war debts
* Shays’ Rebellion (1786) MA state militia fired on protesting farmers on high taxes, debt imprisonment, and lack of strong currency
  + Forced debtors courts to close
  + W. farmers rebellion
    - Think: Bacon’s Rebellion, NC Regulator Movement… eventually: Whiskey Rebellion
* Effect –
  + VA led a convention at Annapolis, MD in 1786 to revise the AofC (only 5 states showed)
  + By June of 1787, 12 of 13 states agreed to attend another convention to ‘revise’ in Philadelphia
  + new Constitution of 1787 written using a **federal** model in which the nation and states share power based on James Madison’s VA Plan

**Constitution of 1787**

* Remember:
  + Va. Plan vs. NJ. Plan
    - Great/Connecticut Compromise
      * Bicameral: Senate and House of Reps.
      * Three Branch’s incl. Exec. and Judiciary
      * Federal Gov (federalism): National and State gov’ts share power
  + 3/5 Compromise
  + Slave Trade and Commerce Compromise
  + Electoral College Compromise
  + Debate bw Federalists and Antifederalists over ratification
    - Bill of Rights added to constitution to satisfy antifederalist pleas for national protection of rights
      * First 10 amendments (changes) to the constitution