**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