CHAPTER 4

The Road to Independence
Prelude to Revolution

• 1764, Britain passed the Currency Act
  - Made it illegal for the colonies to print their own money
• 1765, Parliament passed the Quartering Act
  - Required colonies to provide housing and supplies for British troops
• March 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act
  - Placed tax on newspapers, legal documents, and other printed materials
  - Required an official stamp as proof that tax had been paid - to start in November 1765
Prelude to Revolution

Colonists protested, first direct tax placed on colonists

- Oct. 1765, delegates from seven colonies held meeting known as Stamp Act Congress
- James Otis of Mass. claimed Britain had no right to force laws on the colonies because the colonies were not represented in Parliament
- “No taxation without representation!”
As a result, the colonists adopted a series of resolutions claiming they should have the same rights and liberties as the people of Great Britain.

- Groups encouraged a boycott of British goods
- Sons of Liberty were organized to help with the boycotts and create mischief
- Enjoyed his reputation as a fiery agitator. Organized the Boston chapter of the Sons of Liberty
- Samuel Adams “Where there is a spark of patriotic fire we will enkindle it!”
Colonist rioted, threatened stamp distributors, forcing them from their homes.

- By the time the Stamp Act was to take effect, most distributors had resigned, in fear of their lives.
- The Colonists will organize the Stamp Act Congress.
- The Colonists boycott of British goods hurt the British merchants, they protested to Parliament and in 1766, Greenville is forced out of office and the Stamp Act is repealed.
- On the same day it repealed the Stamp Act, Parliament passed the Declaratory Act which stated parliament had the authority to make laws that applied to the colonies.
Townshend Acts

- 1767, Parliament placed a tax, Revenue Tax, on certain imported goods including glass, lead, paint and tea
- The act is named for Charles Townshend, British Exchequer, today he is the Chief Financial Officer
- Colonists renew their boycotts
- Riots and protests break out
- Non-importation agreements are again enacted
- Wearing homespun, a sign of patriotism
- Britain sends troops to Boston
- Sons of Liberty protested the presence of troops
Boston Massacre

- March 5, 1770 a crowd threatened British soldiers, called Lobster backs
- Soldiers opened fire killing five colonists
- Became known as Boston, Massacre throughout the colonies
- Colonists arrested British officer and eight soldiers, John Adams will defend the soldiers
- Seven were found not guilty and two convicted of lesser crimes
- Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts, all but the tax on tea
Prelude to Revolution

Tea Act

• May 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act allowing the British East India Company to sell tea in the colonies without paying the normal taxes
  • The Tea Act allowed the British East India Company to sell directly to shopkeepers bypassing the colonial merchants
  • The merchants felt this was the first step by Britain to squeeze them out of the business
The tea was sent to New York, Philadelphia, Charles Town and Boston.

When the tea began to arrive New York and Philadelphia ports refused to let the ships dock. Charles Town seized the tea.

Boston was a different story!

December 17, 1773
Boston Tea Party

• Dec. 16, 1773, colonists, dressed as Indians, dump tea into Boston Harbor
• Lead by Samuel Adams and John Hancock the Sons of Liberty dumped 1,253 chests of tea into the harbor
• British reaction is swift and severe. The Coercive Acts
• Known in the Colonies as the Intolerable Acts
• Quartering Act and Quebec Act
• Intent is to punish Mass.
Quebec Act

Extended Canada’s boundary south to the Ohio River
Will become Royal territory, no elected assembly for any who choose to move out there
Thomas Gage was appointed Governor General of Massachusetts
Seemed to imply the British were trying to seize control of the Colonial governments
Together the Coercive and Quebec Acts became known as the Intolerable Acts
Committees of Correspondence

• Committees of Correspondence in several colonies called for a meeting to plan a united response to what was felt unfair treatment by the British

• Sept. 5, 1774 56 delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies, Georgia could not make it, met in Philadelphia

• Called for the formation of colonial militias

• Drafted the Declaration of Rights and Grievances
  • Loyal to the King
  • Condemned the Coercive Acts
  • Formed non-importation association agreements
Patrick Henry

• Member of the Virginia House of Burgesses
• Was ready to fight British oppression
• Famous quote: “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.”
It Begins

• In the summer and fall of 1774 British officials have lost control of the colonies
• Massachusetts defied General Gage and elected John Hancock as its governor
• Colonial militias were drilling in the country side
• Weapon depots were established and stores of weapons and gun powder were collected for possible future use
• Minute Men were established in Concord
• Sides were being declared. Tories or Loyalists versus Patriots or Whigs. About 1/3 each and 1/3 did not care
Shot Heard Round the World

• Late at night April 18, 1775 about 700 British troops moved out of Boston toward Concord, target was weapons depot
• Paul Revere and others rode out to warn the militia across the countryside
• Main British force reached Lexington at dawn on April 19
• Encountered 70 armed militia
• British ordered militia to lay down their arms
• 8 Amer. killed, 10 wounded. The shot heard round the world.
• British marched on to Concord and destroyed militias stockpile of weapons but as the British attempt to return to Boston, 4,000 Patriots gathered along the route to shoot at them
Shot Heard Round the World

- 99 British soldiers killed, 174 wounded
- Thus began the American Revolutionary War
- British believed the war would be brief
- After Lexington & Concord as many as 20,000 American patriots surrounded Boston
Section 2

IDEAS HELP START A REVOLUTION
Second Continental Congress

- 2nd Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in July 1775
- Sent *Olive Branch Petition* to King George III
- Radicals in Congress had ordered an attack on Quebec!
- Convinced the King that there was no hope of reconciliation
• British had only 6,000 soldiers in Boston
• May 1775, American troops of Vermont militia led by Ethan Allen capture Ft. Ticonderoga in NY obtaining weapons
• George Washington had been named General and Commander in Chief of the army surrounding Boston
• William Prescott will lead the troops as Gen. Washington has not had sufficient time to arrive
• “Don’t shoot until you see the whites of their eyes.”
Battle of Bunker Hill

- June 1775, Americans occupied Breed’s Hill & Bunker Hill north of Boston
- British led by Gen. William Howe make 3 attempts to take the hills
- British succeed when Americans run out of ammunition
- British suffer heavy casualties (1,100 of 2,400 soldiers engaged)
- American army realizes it can compete
• Nov. 1775, Congress learned George III had rejected *Olive Branch Petition*

• December 1775, British navy sent to blockade the American coast and Britain hires mercenaries from Germany

• June 1776, Congress decided reconciliation with Great Britain was impossible
Common Sense

- *Common Sense* - 47 page pamphlet written by Thomas Paine
- Very popular throughout the colonies
- Encouraged people to support the Revolution
- Oppose the King, not just Parliament
June, 1776 Richard Henry Lee of VA made a speech in Congress in which he said “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states.”
Congress created a committee to write a statement of separation from Britain. The Committee was Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and Benjamin Franklin.
Jefferson chosen to write
ideas based on Enlightenment
John Locke
natural rights
56 men signed it, TREASON
Revolutionary War

Declaration of Independence

Divided into four parts:

1. introduction
2. philosophy
3. grievances
4. resolution of independence
Sides are Declared

• On July 4, 1776 the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence
• As a result all in the colonies must make their allegiances known
• Loyalists- Loyal to the Crown
• Patriots- Committing treason an act punishable by hanging
• Quakers, Native-Americans, African-Americans even women had choices to make
Section 3

STRUGGLING TOWARDS SARATOGA
Revolutionary War

**Strengthen**
- Well equipped, disciplined, trained army
- World’s best navy
- About 50,000 Loyalist
- About 30,000 mercenaries
- Strong Central form of Government
- Many Indians fought for the British

**Weakness**
- War not popular in Britain
- Fighting in hostile and unfamiliar territory
- Long supply lines
- Commanders resisted adapting their tactics
Revolutionary War

- American Strengths
  - Fighting on their home turf
  - Fighting for a Cause
  - Adapted tactics to help with their lack of numbers
  - George Washington

- American Weaknesses
  - Inadequate supplies
  - Poorly trained Army
  - Often Undisciplined
  - Endured Hardships
  - No central form of government to lead during the war
Revolutionary War

• Congress had very little power to provide adequate supplies for the Army
• The British will blockade the Atlantic Coast. Forcing the Colonies to smuggle, weapons and supplies into the country. Caused a severe shortage of common items throughout the country
• Inflation runs rampant throughout the Colonies
• Some will become profiteers- Lowest form of humans according to Gen. Washington
British Strategy to Win the War

• Divide the colonies
• Capture New York splitting the colonies in half
• Destroy them piecemeal thereafter
• Maintain constant supply line, 3,000 miles from home

• Summer of 1776 the British focus on the middle colonies
• New York is first
• By October, New York is in British control
• British Blunder
• Nathan Hale: “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country”
Revolutionary War

- Gen. Washington needs help to keep his fledgling Army together
- Thomas Paine comes through again with another writing... *The American Crisis*
- “These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.” —Thomas Paine
Revolutionary War

- Battles of Trenton and Princeton
- December 25, 1776
- Gen. Washington knows he must provide a moral boost that can come only from a victory
- He gets it at Trenton attacking Hessian Mercenaries and then on January 8 at Princeton
- These victories boosted morale and helped convince more Americans to join the war
In October 1777 the Continental Army will meet up with a large British force under Gen. John Burgoyne.

Gen. Burgoyne believes help is soon arriving.

Gen. Horatio Gates and Gen. Benedict Arnold will defeat this larger British army and turn the tide of the war!

As a result of the battle France will decide to become allies with America.
Battle of Saratoga

- They will provide money, supplies troops and most importantly, a NAVY!
- Causes Britain to divert supplies, material and men to the European continent, they must again fight a two front war
- Much of the credit for getting France to side with the American’s goes to Ben Franklin
• Valley Forge, PA winter of 1777-78 Washington reported that nearly 1/3 of his soldiers lacked shoes or coats
Valley Forge

- Winter of 1777-1778 the Continental Army is in winter quarters at Valley Forge, PA
- 10,000 American troops
- Over 2,000 die from disease and exposure
- Help comes from Europe in the forms of Marquis De Lafayette and Friedrich von Steuben. They help the rabble become an Army
WINNING THE WAR
American Allies

• Soon after Valley Forge and the news that France was joining with the Americans another European country joins on the side of the French, 1779 Spain allies itself against the British in Europe

• A year after that, the Netherlands join with the French in Europe

• All of this is having a negative effect on British resources in Europe
Summer of 1778 the British change their strategy. Move to the “Loyal” Southern colonies and work their way back up the coast to the north

December 1778, easily take Savannah

Spring of 1780 the greatest victory for the British in the colonies occurs when they capture Charles Town, SC

Gen. Cornwallis suffers a major defeat at the Battle of Cowpens-forces him to re-think his strategy again. He decides to get back to the coast and head up to Virginia

Many of the battles in the South were fought Americans vs. Americans. The Battle of Kings Mountain was one such example.
Battle of Yorktown

- Cornwallis marched his troops to the coast where they could be reinforced
- Aug. 1781, set up camp at Yorktown on the peninsula between York & James Rivers
- Combined French & American army led by Washington moved south from New York
- Plan is to trap Cornwallis at Yorktown
- Worksheet
Revolutionary War

- Oct. 19, 1781 Cornwallis surrendered
- The World Turned Upside-Down
Treaty of Paris

- Representatives from Britain, France, Spain, and UNITED STATES met to work out a peace treaty
- Treaty of Paris signed 1783
- Established boundaries of the States
- Agreements made on both sides that were not executed
Expansion of Voting Rights

• Fighting side by side with men from all walks of life led many to believe in equality—especially among white men—egalitarianism

• The Revolution enabled the lower classes to demand a greater role in choosing their leaders
Others

Women/Native Americans

- Some fought in the war
  - Molly Pitcher
  - Margaret Corbin
  - Some Natives fought with the Colonials
- Some were couriers or spies
- Some traveled with the armies
  - Cooking, washing clothes or nursing soldiers
- Some stayed at home and ran the family farm or business
- Neither will see gains made in terms of their way of life

African-Americans

- Thousands will fight in the war with promises of freedom
- After the war many realized that slavery did not fit with ideals such as liberty and equality
- Life would change primarily in New England and Middle states, it was a gradual process that took decades
Loyalists

- The Paris Peace Treaty called for Loyalists to get their confiscated lands back
- They were shunned by former friends
- Some will lose all the property they had, mostly in the south
- 100,000 will leave America and move to Canada, the West Indies or England
Republican vs Monarchy

Monarchy
- KING
- WEALTHY
- MERCHANDANTS
- LABOR

Republican
- ALL CITIZENS
- ELECTED OFFICIALS
Republican Form of Government

• Power resides with a body of citizens entitled to vote
• Elected officials are responsible to the citizens and must govern according to laws or constitution
• Many in Europe felt a Republican form of government was too radical, even dangerous
• Americans felt a republican society could be better than other societies
  - The government derives its power from the people