

1776-1786

Creation of the United States



Focus Questions

1. What were the major alignments and divisions among Americans during the American Revolution?
2. What were the major military campaigns of the Revolution?
3. What were the Articles of Confederation and what role did the Confederation Congress play during the Revolutionary War?
4. How did the states serve as the setting for significant political change?
5. What was the economic crisis in the aftermath of the American Revolution?

Building Community at Valley Forge



Nature of American Resistance

- The British falsely assumed the colonial rebellion was the work of a small group of disgruntled conspirators.
- Resistance was widespread and geography stymied British strategy.

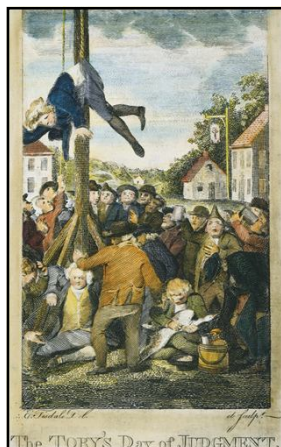
The Patriot Forces



Role of Women in the Revolution

- Women remained at home and ran the family farms and businesses.
- Many women joined their men in the military camps.
- On rare occasions, women played roles on the battlefields.





The Loyalists

- About one-fifth of the colonial population remained loyal to the Crown.
- Patriots cracked down on Loyalists.
- > 50,000 fought for the king
- > 80,000 fled after Revolution.
- The most infamous British supporter was Benedict Arnold.



The Northern Campaigns of 1777

- In 1777, the British tried to achieve the goal of cutting New England off from the rest of the colonies.
- General Burgoyne's large army was surrounded at Saratoga and they surrendered.
- American forces in Pennsylvania were forced to retreat into Valley Forge.
- By the end of 1778, the war remained a stalemate.

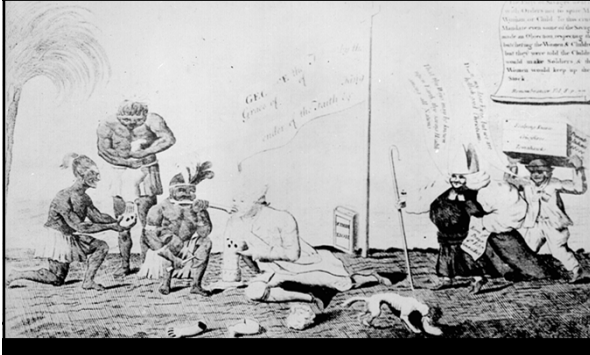


French Alliance & Spanish Borderlands

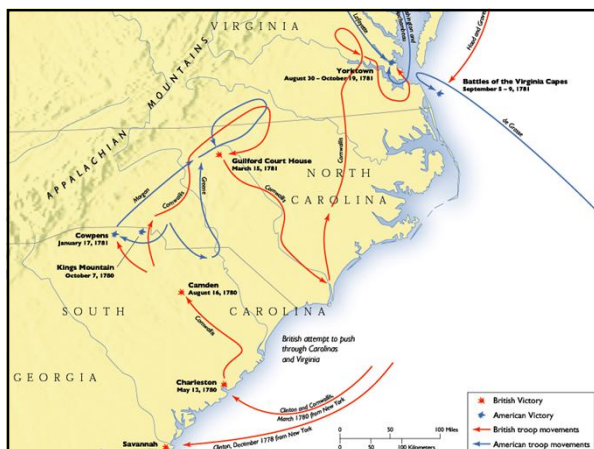
- During the first two years of conflict, French and Spanish loans helped finance the American cause.
- The victory at Saratoga led to an alliance with France. One year later, Spain joined the war, though without a formal American alliance.
- Both France and Spain worried about American expansion.
- The French entry into the conflict forced the British to withdraw troops from the mainland to protect their Caribbean colonies.
- The war at sea was mainly fought between British and French vessels, but Continental ships raided British merchant ships.



Indian Peoples and the Revolution

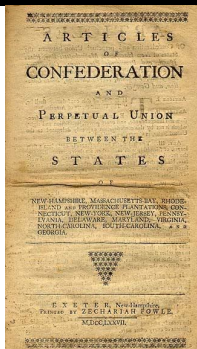






The Articles of Confederation

- The Articles of Confederation
 - 1st constitution of the United States.
- Created a loose union of autonomous states.
- Congress had limited central power,
 - powers such as taxation reserved for the states.
- Maryland held up ratification for three years until the eight states with western land claims ceded them to the national government.



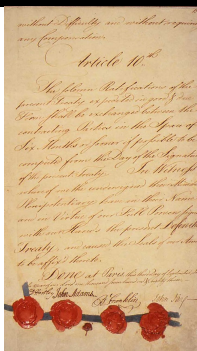


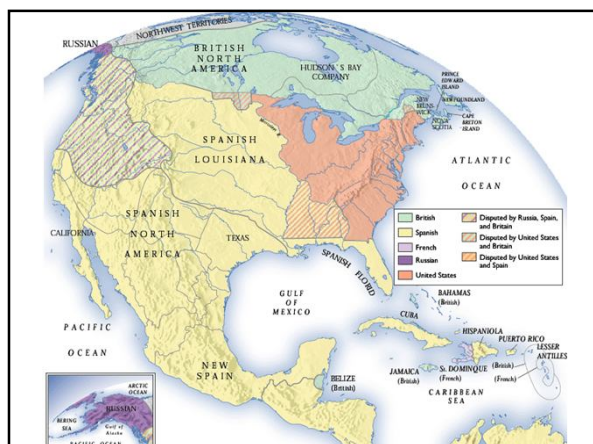
The Continental Congress printed currency to finance the Revolution. Because of widespread counterfeiting, engravers attempted to incorporate complex designs, like the unique vein structure in the leaf on this 18-pence note.

In case that wasn't enough, the engraver of this note also included the warning: "To counterfeit is Death."

Negotiating Independence

- 1782: Negotiations began
- Resulted in a series of separate treaties between
 - Great Britain
 - United States
 - France
 - Spain.
- United States gained:
 - independence;
 - withdrawal of British troops;
 - land to the Mississippi River;
 - fishing rights.



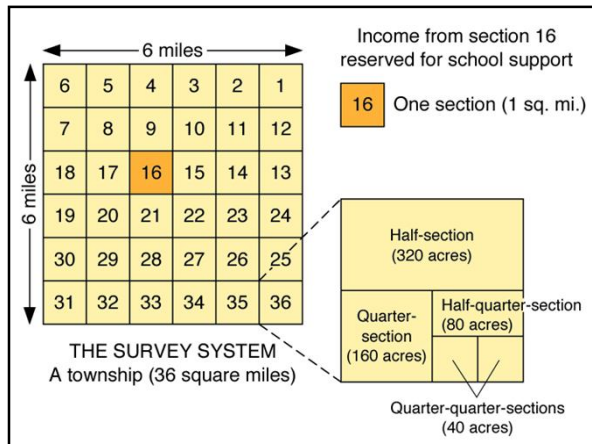


The Crisis of Demobilization

- Congress had neither paid the soldiers nor delivered the officers their promised postwar bounties or land warrants.
- Several officers stationed at Newburgh contemplated action if Congress failed to act, but they were shamed into accepting civilian rule by George Washington.

The Problem of the West

- Western land settlement raised new issues, including:
 - land losses for several Indian tribes;
 - tens of thousands of Americans rushing into the newly acquired Ohio River Valley;
 - British and Spanish governments plotting to woo the settlers.

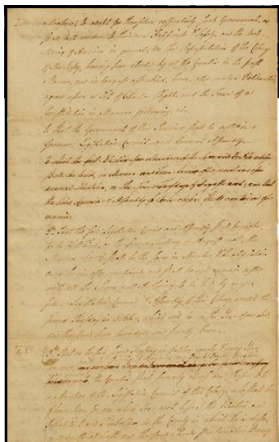


The Broadened Base of Politics

- Most states had greatly expanded the electorate.
- By eliminating Tories from politics, there was a shift to the left.
- Many Americans accepted a new democratic ideology that asserted that governments should directly reflect popular wishes.
- Conservatives argued for balanced government, fearing majority tyranny could lead to a violation of property rights.

Declaration of Rights

- Fourteen states adopted constitutions between 1776 and 1780.
- The new state constitutions were shaped by the debates between radicals and conservatives.
- Democrats had seized power in Pennsylvania in 1776 and drafted a constitution that placed all power in a unicameral assembly elected by all free male taxpayers.
- Conservatives controlled Maryland, which maintained high property requirements for office-holding.
- Other states drafted constitutions between these extremes.



Spirit of Reform

- Virginia's Declaration of Rights
 - model for other state
 - guarantees of such rights as
 - freedom of speech
 - assembly
 - the press.
- State bills of rights important precedents of the U.S. Bill of Rights.
- The 1776 New Jersey constitution
 - enfranchised women
- States abolished aristocratic inheritance customs and established religious freedom.

This portrait of the African American poet Phyllis Wheatley was included in the collection of her work published in London in 1773, when she was only twenty. Kidnapped in Africa when a girl, then purchased off the Boston docks, she was more like a daughter than a slave to the Wheatley family. She later married and lived as a free woman of color before her untimely death in 1784.

