

## Revolutionary War

In 1492, Christopher Columbus was searching for a sea route to Asia, but he discovered America instead. At this time, Spain, France, and Britain were battling for land. The early colonist came to America to find religious and political freedom, and wanted to be able to own land.

In Jamestown, after initial disaster, tobacco flourished and the colonists started to learn how to farm from the helps of the Native Americans; America was beginning to grow and develop. They were prospering greatly, and many people wanted to go over to America because of this.

Back in the Old World, Britain and France were in the middle of the Seven Year War; while over in America, they were encountering the French and Indian War. Because of the war, Britain's national debt doubled. They saw how well America was doing, and believed that it was only fair for the colonists to help them pay off their debt since they had fought to defend the colonies.

Colonists initially started to protest a little as the British began taxing them with the Stamp and Sugar Act. However, when the British released the Townshend Act, the colonists got upset. They protested and threw things at the soldiers. This resulted into a gunshot being fired from a soldier, ending with five Americans dead—marking this day as the Boston Massacre.

The British decided to remove all the taxes except for the tea. A group of people, known as the Sons of Liberty, dressed up as Indians and threw tea into the Boston Harbor. This event is known as the Boston Tea Party. Due to the Tea Act, the British passed the Intolerable Acts. This act suspended town meetings and also closed off the Boston Harbor, causing hundreds of people to lose their job.

The First Continental Congress meets in direct response to the Intolerable Acts. They decide to boycott British goods, arm themselves, form militias, and to write the Olive Branch Petition to King George III. However, the king refused the petition.

The British found out that the colonists were storing guns in Concord and sent soldiers to get the guns. Paul Revere went to warn the colonists to move the weapons. As the soldiers were marching, the colonists were picking the redcoats off from behind the trees and delayed their march to Concord, just in time for them to move their weapons to a different location.

The Second Continental Congress decided to officially separate from Britain. Therefore, the Declaration of Independence was written. It was based on John Locke's ideas, and was written by Thomas Jefferson. It stated that all men are created equal. America was now going to war with Britain—the most powerful army in the world.

Throughout the war, Britain thought America fought ungentlemanly for they did not stand and fight and the French allied with them. Britain surrendered due to the people of their country getting upset with the war since they were getting deeper into debt; the war was becoming too costly.

In the end, America came out victorious, in the Battle of Yorktown, Cornwallis, with 8,700 British troops, surrendered. The Treaty of Paris ended the war and America becomes a free nation.