Extended Notes:

Unit 2: Building the New Nation

Period 3: 1754-1800

“The American Pageant” Chapters 7 and 8

Underlined terms indicate previous vocabulary; **bolded** terms indicate new vocabulary.

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| Chapter 7 | Look here for Extras! |
| RECAP: French and Indian War = bye bye France. Britain’s empire has grown in size and somewhat out of control.War is expensive; victory more so in this case for Great Britain. War debts from the French and Indian War, as well as the need to station troops along the frontier to enforce the Proclamation of 1763, was adding up. Long story short, Britain believed part of the expense should fall to the North American colonies since these things were all done to protect them.“This change in British colonial policy reinforced an emerging sense of American political identity,” as the distance between Britain and America had allowed for the permeation of new ideas. Two new political thoughts had recently taken hold in British North America:1. **Republicanism**, which opposed a hierarchical system because societal stability and the authority of the government came from the people.
2. Corruption, as the **radical Whigs** were saying, existed. They warned citizens to look out for moves against liberty.

Being left on their own for periods of time, made colonists suspicious and self-reliant anyway. They had relatively easy access to political participation and land ownership, and titled nobility was nowhere to be found in the colonies. It’s no surprise that when the king tried to re-establish his distant authority the colonists were taken aback.British authorities instead adhered to **mercantilist** ideals, holding true to that core-periphery relationship we talked about earlier. Parliament also passed laws to keep mercantilism going, such as the Navigation Laws. Some of these laws created a currency shortage in the colonies to the point where they printed their own paper money, which Parliament quickly halted. Colonists often resorted to old-school bartering with goods rather than money. The king also reserved the right to nullify laws made in the colonies. This royal veto was resented greatly by the colonists, though it was rarely used. However it proved that “principle could weigh more heavily than practice in fueling colonial grievances.”Mercantilism, though hated by the colonists, actually benefitted them more. Tobacco planters and ship builders enjoyed near monopolies over their products. The Navigation Laws, which wouldn’t be strictly enforced until 1763, allowed massive fortunes to be built through smuggling and trading with foreign powers. The colonies were also protected by the world’s strongest militaries without cost. The main problem colonists had with mercantilism is the dependence it forced upon them to Britain.1 They felt Britain was using mercantilism, and essentially the colonies themselves, for their own gain. Economic independence was made impossible by this system.To both reinforce mercantilism *and* pay off some of its war debts, Britain came up with a plan. Parliament enacted a series of laws that keep the colonies beholden to Britain, but also generate tax revenue.* The **Sugar Act (1764)** increased tax on foreign imported sugar from the West Indies. At first there was protest because this tax was too high, so it was lowered and protests relatively died down.
* The **Quartering Act (1765)** required colonists to house and care for British troops at their own expense.
* The **Stamp Act (1765)** was also used to support the military. It required colonists to use stamped paper, or get certain papers stamped to show they had paid the tax. This included bills of sale, newspapers, diplomas, playing cards, and marriage licenses and other legal documents.

Many of the new taxes imposed had already existed in Britain and simply extended to the colonies to raise funds. Americans saw these taxes as aggressive strikes at their liberties and self-governance. They were particularly alarmed that both the Sugar Act and Stamp act sent those who disobeyed them to **admiralty courts** where there were no juries. Americans started to recall the idea of corruption that the radical Whigs had mentioned.The hypocrisy of the situations that followed should not be lost: Americans recognized the right of Parliament to legislate for the entire empire but felt that only their own colonial legislature could impose taxes. Those that protested with cries of “no taxation without representation” were usually from coastal cities and capitals that often denied that same representation to their backcountry counterparts.2 Parliament also argued that because Parliament as a representative body represented all British subjects, Americans were being represented. This idea of “virtual representation” did not fly with colonists. Quite honestly, representation was not the focus of the colonists’ fit as much as the matter of taxation itself.3 But by denying the ability of Parliament to tax, colonists were essentially denying the authority of Parliament altogether.In 1765, the **Stamp Act Congress** formed in New York City with twenty-seven delegates from nine colonies. They created a list of their grievances and what they believed to be their rights before sending it to the king and Parliament in effort to get the Stamp Act repealed. Despite being largely ignored in Britain, the Stamp Act Congress did accomplish something: it broke down sectional suspicions and brought colonial leaders together. This was another step toward colonial unity.The most effective measure against the new acts were the **nonimportation agreements** imposed against British goods. These spontaneously united the colonists in common action, and allowed more people to participate in the protest. Nonviolent protests like public sewing bees now accomplished two tasks, 1) spreading resistance through public display, and 2) creating cloth to replace British manufactured textiles. Violent protesters, like the **Sons (and Daughters) of Liberty** often made very sure that colonists were adhering to the nonimportation agreements, if you know what I mean.Pretty soon the stamp agents had resigned and no one was selling the stamps. The protests had worked, the law had been defied. England suffered from the nonimportation agreements as many merchants and shippers lost business and even more lost their jobs. Still not understanding the colonists’ reasons4, Parliament officially repealed the Stamp Act in 1766. In the same breath though, Parliament passed the **Declaratory Act**, which reiterated their authority over the colonies. Both Great Britain and the American colonies had made their positions clear: Britain would not yield absolute sovereignty over the colonies, and the colonies made it clear they wanted to maintain some aspects of sovereignty on their own.In1767, Parliament passed the **Townshend Acts**, which included some light import duties on a handful of goods, including paint, glass, and tea. To the credit of Charles Townshend, their creator, this tax was a customs duty, which was payable at colonial ports. However, all the colonists saw was another tax that was not to their benefit. The funds collected would be set aside to pay the royal governors and judges, whom the colonists had controlled through keeping the power of the purse with their own assemblies. Speaking of assemblies, the New York legislature was suspended by the British government in the same year for failing to uphold the Quartering Act. To top it all off, with about 1 million people drinking tea at least twice a day, a tax on the beverage was especially annoying.5The colonists countered with nonimportation agreements again, but to less success. They also found that smuggled tea was cheaper and included no tax. British officials countered by sending new regiments of troops to the colonies, specifically to Massachusetts, the creator of colonial problems.6 Colonists in Boston regularly taunted the new troops and resented their presence. In March, 1770, a crowd of sixty was pestering a group of ten soldiers when the troops opened fire into the crowd. Eleven were injured or killed, and the event became known as the **Boston Massacre**.Parliament later repealed the Townshend Acts after finding them unprofitable, but kept a small tax on tea…partly to show their dominance over the colonies, partly just to piss them off.7 Needless to say, the colonists remained upset over everything, and so did Britain. The colonies kept this discontent going through **committees of correspondence**. Made prominent in Massachusetts by Samuel Adams, the committees wrote and exchanged letters throughout the colonies to talk smack about the British government and their laws. Other colonies followed MA’s example, using these committees as way to exchange not only their discontent, but ideas and information as well. “These intercolonial committees were supremely significant in stimulating and disseminating sentiment in favor of united action. They evolved directly into the first American congresses.”8Even though in 1773 many colonists had started paying the tea tax because legal tea was becoming cheaper, all that was about to change. The British East India Company was overburdened with unsold tea, the company’s collapse would cause huge financial problems that would reverberate through the British Empire. In an attempt to solve this problem, the East India Company was given a monopoly over supplying the American colonies with tea, and for so cheap that the three-cent tax would be nothing for colonists. But the colonists saw this a plot created by Parliament to get them to wholeheartedly accept the tea tax. The government remained intent on the changes, and the colonists gathered their wrath to defy it. Mass demonstrations in New York and Philadelphia forced the tea-carrying ships to turn around instead of landing and unloading. Protesters in Annapolis burned ships, and Charleston merchants refused to accept and pay for the deliveries, causing the tea to be seized by officials. In Boston, ships had been directed not to leave the harbor until they had been unloaded. This proved a fateful decision as in December of 1773, a group of Bostonians dressed up as Native Americans and, as the governor wanted, unloaded the ship of its cargo. A large crowd gathered to watch the **Boston Tea Party**, which dumped over 300 chests of tea into the harbor.9Parliament wasted no time in responding; they effectively closed Boston Harbor until the tea was paid for. Further restrictions were placed on all colonies through what the colonists referred to as the **Intolerable Acts**. Colonists saw their rights disappearing through these acts, including town assemblies and rights listed in charters. The **Quebec Act** was passed around the same time as the Intolerable Acts and finally provided measures toward the remaining French in Canada. They would be able to keep Catholicism and many of their initial institutions, which did not include any kind of representative assembly or trial by jury, and extended the boundary of Quebec south to the Ohio River.The French Canadians received this rather coolly, but they took it all the same. American colonists on the other hand viewed the Quebec Act as especially dangerous. It gave up land west of the Appalachians that colonists were hoping to have for themselves. It also set an alarming precedent in North America in not applying trial by jury or representative assemblies to Canada.In response to all of this, the **First Continental Congress** formed in 1774. Twelve of the thirteen colonies sent representatives to Philadelphia to figure out how to address colonial grievances. They met for seven weeks, acting as a consultative body, and finally creating several letters to send out to the colonies, the king, and the British people. They also created **The Association**, which called for a complete boycott of all British goods—nonimportation, nonexportation, and nonconsumption. They agreed to meet in 1775 only if they needed to. The Congress was not calling for independence; it wanted the repeal of offensive legislature and local taxation.10Parliament rejected the petitions sent by the Congress. The British commander in Boston sent troops to **Lexington and Concord** to seize colonial military supplies, as some colonial militias were drilling openly. They successfully pushed through Lexington and a conflict with minute men. Concord proved more of a challenge, resulting in a battle with militiamen, starting a war.The British Side:* The British Empire was quite large by this point, boasting a 3:1 population over the colonies.
* They also great wealth, as mercantilism mostly paid off.
* They also had the advantage in military strength with the world’s greatest navy and large forces of regular troops. Their wealth also gave the added bonus of being able to hire mercenaries.
* They also had lots of enemies, Ireland and France just to name a few.
* Between King George III and Parliament, the government was largely disorganized.
* Military forces already in the colonies were struggling: they lacked provisions and leadership.
* British forces would also essentially have to conquer the colonies, mind and body, with orders coming from 3000 miles away.
* Geography was also an enemy; the colonies, though mostly united at this point, had no set capital to overtake. The entire colonial expanse was easily over 1000 miles as well.
* Popular support for the war was low; many recognized this was a civil war for Anglo-Saxon liberty overall.

As for the Americans:* Great leaders emerged: G.Wash, John Adams, Ben Franklin, TJ, etc.
* France came to America’s aid, sending funds, supplies, and the Marquis de Lafayette, who became an invaluable asset to the colonial effort.
* The colonies played up their geography and “traded space for time,” staging prolonged campaigns while the population continued to grow.
* Self-sustaining agriculture.
* This was a defensive fight for the colonists, on their home turf.
* Perhaps most importantly, they believed in their cause, morally if not also politically.
* They were poorly organized in many ways. Colonial unity was still a new and growing thing, the Continental Congress was pretty much an unofficial body, and there was no official plan for a new government until 1781.
* Sectionalism was still rampant. The states, as they were now called, resented Congressional powers and were often distrustful of military leaders.
* There was little to no money in the colonies. Coined money was usually shipped back to Britain in the form of taxes causing the Congress and the states to print their own paper monies. These quickly depreciated in value, creating problems all around.

There was also the dependency issue. The American colonies had depended on Britain for war supplies and protection. Now that they were fighting each other, the colonists found themselves without the necessary armaments for training and war. Manufactured goods, which typically came from Britain, were also disappearing, making life for soldiers at **Valley Forge** difficult. Militias were also unreliable; they were undisciplined, barely trained, and prone to desertion and sickness from close quarters. Their burden was somewhat eased by female **camp followers** who cooked and sewed for troops. The efforts of a few drillmasters11 and experience built a functioning army. African-Americans served on both sides of the war. Free blacks in northern states joined in fighting for the revolutionary cause, while slaves in the southern states were promised freedom if they joined the British. American profiteers chose to make money from the war instead of supporting the cause, selling to the British because they could easily pay. American morale during the war was generally low. Truth be told, those fighting for independence in the colonies were a minority.  | **Republicanism:** political theory of representative government based on the principle of popular sovereignty with a strong emphasis on liberty and civic virtue.**Radical Whigs:** 18th Century British political commentators who agitated against political corruption and emphasized the threat to liberty posed by arbitrary power; their writings shaped American political thought and made colonists alert to encroachments on their rights.**Mercantilism:** economic theory that closely linked a nation’s political and military power to its bullion reserves; mercantilists generally favored protectionism rather than colonialism as a mean to increase exports.Bullion = the actual gold/silver backing coined or paper money.1. Colonists were allowed to trade with British merchants for British goods. All goods that were headed toward the colonies first had to go through Great Britain. Most of the things that the colonies were trading were raw materials so more often than not they got traded to Britain, turned in to finished products and then sold right back to the colonies.**Sugar Act (1764):** tax on imported sugar from the West Indies; first tax levied on colonists by the crown; later lowered due to protests.**Quartering Act (1765):** required colonists to provide food and quarters for British troops.**Stamp Act (1765):** created a widely unpopular tax on paper goods, repealed in 1766 after mass protests; helped colonists develop the “no taxation without representation” idea in which they questioned Parliament’s authority to tax the colonies.**Admiralty courts:** courts used to try offenders for violating the various Navigation Acts after the French and Indian War; colonists argued these courts violated their rights as they did not have juries and the burden of proof was placed on the accused.2. Remember the Regulator movement?3. Even if the colonies had had an actual human representative, they would have easily been out-voted by the rest of Parliament. This would not have fixed the situation. Local taxation was an issue largely handled by colonial assemblies rather than Parliament, which was why the colonists were upset.**Stamp Act Congress (1765):** assembly of delegates from nine colonies who met in New York City to draft a petition for the repeal of the Stamp Act; helped ease sectional suspicions and promote colonial unity.**Nonimportation agreements:** boycotts against, in this case, British goods adopted in response to the Stamp, Townshend, and Intolerable Acts; most effective form of protest against British policies in the colonies.**Sons/Daughters of Liberty:** patriotic groups that played a central tole in agitating against the Stamp Act and enforcing nonimportation agreements.4. Again, Parliament’s goal was to have the colonies help pay for the protection they’d needed in the French and Indian War and the money it would take to maintain them. To them, it appeared the colonists were unwilling to pay their fair share like the rest of the empire.**Declaratory Act (1766):** passed alongside the Stamp Act repeal, it reaffirmed Parliament’s unconditional sovereignty over the North American colonies.**Townshend Acts (1767):** external, or indirect, levies on glass, white lead, paper, paint, and tea, the proceeds of which were used to pay colonial governors who had previously been paid directly by colonial assemblies; sparked another round of protests in the colonies.5. “But that’s none of my business,” said Britain.6. See, I told you. Trouble makers. South Carolina will later inherit this title, but that’s a story for later in the year.**Boston Massacre (1770):** clash between unruly Bostonian protestors and locally stationed British troops who fired on the jeering crowd, killing/wounding 11.7. One million people drinking it at least twice a day? This was clearly the most profitable part of the thing, like how often do you use white lead? Plus, the colonists *hated* it. **Committees of Correspondence:** local committees established across MA, and later in the other colonies, to maintain colonial opposition to British policies through the exchange of letters and pamphlets.8. Let that sink in for a moment: the first congress evolved from a letter writing campaign. No wonder they created the post office….**Boston Tea Party (1773):** rowdy protest against the British East India Company’s newly acquired monopoly over the tea trade; colonists disguised as Native Americans dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor, prompting harsh sanctions from Parliament.9. Fun fact, this would be over $10 MILLION in tea today.**Intolerable Acts (1774):** series of punitive measure passed in retaliation for the Boston Tea Party, including closing Boston Harbor, revoking a number of rights listed in the MA colonial charter, and expanding the Quartering Act; colonists in response convened the First Continental Congress and called for a complete boycott of British goods.**Quebec Act (1774):** allowed the French residents of Quebec to retain their traditional political and religious institutions, extended the boundaries of the province south to the Ohio River; mistakenly perceived by colonists to be a part of the Intolerable Acts.**First Continental Congress (1774):** convention of twelve delegates in Philadelphia to craft a response to the Intolerable Acts; delegates established The Association, which called for a complete boycott of British goods.**The Association (1774):** nonimportation agreement crafted during the First Continental Congress calling for the complete boycott of British goods.10. Independence was a very radical thought at the Congress; it was one of those “you can’t be serious right now” ideas. The Congress was hoping to hear positive news back, which was why their next meeting was on an as-needed basis.**Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775):** first battles of the Revolutionary War fought outside Boston; the colonial militia defended their munition stores, forcing a British retreat.<< PROS AND CONS OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE WAR<< PROS AND CONS OF THE COLONIAL SIDE OF THE WAR**Valley Forge:** encampment where George Washington’s poorly equipped army spent a wretched, freezing winter, hundreds of men died and more than a thousand deserted; the plight of the starving, shivering soldiers reflected the main weakness of the American army—a lack of stable supplies and munitions.**Camp followers:** women and children who followed the Continental Army during the American Revolution, providing vital services such as cooking and sewing in return for rations.11. One of these was the German Baron von Steuben, who did not speak English when he first engaged with troops. |

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| Chapter 8: “You’ve Done It Now Son” | Look here for Extras! |
| RECAP:The Revolution has started; Lexington and Concord were the call to arms. But the American colonies still have no real plans to guide them through war.The **Second Continental Congress** met in May of 1775, after the battles at Lexington and Concord. All of the colonies sent delegates this time, though there was still no talk of independence. The Congress drafted more letters for redress of their grievances, but also took measures to create an army and navy. They drafted George Washington to lead the new army as he was a good leader, though relatively inexperienced.Battles continued in 1776, with the colonists earning victories at Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York. They eventually retreated from **Bunker Hill** after drawing British troops out of Boston. The British launched a frontal attack on colonists at Bunker Hill, leading them to victory but causing heavy casualties for them as well.In June of 1775, one month after the Battle at Bunker Hill, the Congress adopted the **Olive Branch Petition**, which reaffirmed their loyalty and asked the king to end hostilities to address certain issues. The King refused, declaring the colonies in open rebellion against the crown. This thwarted much of the remaining hope for reconciliation. The King went even further by hiring German mercenaries, called **Hessians**.Later in the year, while the British attacked cities in Maine, the American rebels started a two-pronged invasion of Canada. This spectacular plan depended on the conquered French in Canada also hating the British. It would also bring a fourteenth colony into the conflict. However, this plan continued the colonial contradiction that they were fighting a defensive battle in hope of fixing their issues with the British government. Upon reaching Quebec, the rebels found themselves greatly outnumbered and that the French Canadians, who had been treated well by the British, had no desire to join the cause.The British burned Norfolk, VA in the early days of 1776. They were forced from Boston in March, taking a large group a Loyalists with them. A battle in North Carolina and another in South Carolina proved successful for the colonists, and an invasion of Charleston was prevented. Despite everything that had happened to this point, the majority of colonists still had little desire for independence. While colonial unity had been growing, loyalty to Britain was ingrained in every colonists, making it a hard instinct to fight. Events like the burnings of Falmouth, ME and Norfolk, VA had caught the colonists off guard, as did the hiring of Hessian mercenaries. But thought processes finally started to shift with the publication of ***Common Sense*** by Thomas Paine in 1776. He questioned colonists in matters of well, common sense, asking them things like why should the tiny isles of Britain control the much larger America? He reminded them that lawful states receive “their just powers from the consent of the governed.” Paine’s questioning helped promote independence, and *Common Sense* can be seen as a founding document in both independence and policy. Combining Paine’s ideas with republicanism and warnings from the radical Whigs in the previous decade, his writing gained a wide audience. Many began to agree with his stance to “reject monarchy and empire and embrace an independent republic.”Practice of a republican form of government had already existed in the colonies: town halls and local assemblies had shown it was possible. Many colonists who had participated in these and the elections of citizens to various committees recognized that “the greater good” would outweigh the needs and interests of the individual. Some favored a different form of republic, one ruled by a “natural aristocracy” instead of elected officials. These conservative thinkers wished to maintain a rigid social hierarchy.The motion for independence in the Congress was made on June 7, 1776 by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. “These colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states,” he declared. The motion was adopted a month later on July 2, 1776. An explanation of the Congress’ action to the colonists and foreign powers was produced by Thomas Jefferson. The **Declaration of Independence** was approved on July 4, 1776. The Declaration would serve as an inspiration for the French **Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen**, as well as future conflicts for Americans to discuss.The American Revolution was still, for the most part, a civil war based on a minority movement. In the former colonies, now states, **Patriots** also faced off against **Loyalists**, who remained loyal to the king. Loyalists accounted for about 16% of the population, generally consisting of those who had benefitted from the crown and those who felt it was better to wait for a bit. Both the Patriots and Loyalists/Britain could still win the support of the larger population as many were still apathetic to the conflict. The British proved they could control areas where they could maintain a large military presence, but struggled to win the hearts of the people. Rebel militias spread revolutionary ideas better than they fought, prompting one British officer to say that “the Americans would be less dangerous if they had a regular army.”After the Declaration of Independence, persecution of Loyalists grew. While it was no reign of terror, the rebels wanted to present a united front and loyalists became traitors. Some Loyalists worked as spies, but most protected their opinions and lives by keeping quiet. Many Loyalists knew their best option was to leave, so they did; about 80,000 left of their own accord or were driven out.Fighting between armies continued alongside Patriots and Loyalists. The **Battle of Long Island** saw the British outmaneuver Washington and his troops who made their escape by crossing the Hudson and Delaware Rivers in the middle of winter. Washington rebounded with a surprise attack and victory at **Trenton**, a battle that led to another victory in Princeton. The British then planned a large-scale attack/invasion of New England, which they hoped would sever the area—and the Revolutionary cause—from the rest of the colonies. General Burgoyne would invade from Canada, General Howe would push west from New York, and Colonel St. Leger would push east from the Mohawk Valley. However: Burgoyne had to wait out the winter thanks to the efforts of Benedict Arnold, Howe for some reason decided to invade Philadelphia, and Americans had prevented St. Leger’s forces from pushing forward. Washington moved his troops to Philadelphia after keeping an eye on Howe but was defeated outside of the city. Howe marched into Philadelphia, but the city became too much of a distraction on his way out. Burgoyne, supposed to have been joined by Howe at this point, was floundering around somewhere in New York as American forces began to surround him. He was forced to surrender at **Saratoga** in October, 1777. The American victory at Saratoga boosted morale, becoming a turning point in the war.Taking a stand in diplomatic issues, the Americans drafted the **Model Treaty** to help their ambassadors in forming alliances. This treaty hinged on creating only the most necessary, establishing no formal political, military, or commercial connections. Benjamin Franklin acted as emissary to France. In 1777, Parliament passed a measure that would allow the home-rule in the colonies, essentially everything the colonies had initially asked for before the Declaration of Independence. Franklin played this to his benefit, telling the French that the Americans were considering the offer since it would both stop the war and give them what they wanted. He knew France was wary of an Anglo-American reconciliation. Hoping to sway America away from making amends with Britain, France promised military and financial aid, as well as recognition of American independence.The war continued to grow when Spain and Holland rallied behind Britain after France got involved. The amount of naval power in the Atlantic prompted other powers to pick fights with Britain too. Catherine the Great in Russia started the movement for **Armed Neutrality**, creating a form of hostile passivity toward Britain. This meant that Britain was fighting actively in North America and Europe (against France), and also indirectly in the Caribbean, South America, and Asia. This indirect struggle wounded Britain’s pocketbook more than anything else, hitting them where it hurt most. The conflict with America soon became secondary for them. This conflict soon turned into another case of Britain vs. France, as France’s naval force in the Caribbean proved to be in a crucial spot to supplies the colonies and go around or fight British blockades.The British changed their strategy in America at this point as well. They abandoned Philadelphia for New York. British troops were ambushed in New Jersey by Washington’s forces, and many of the Hessian mercenaries deserted. Americans were grateful for the alliance with France, but their troops recognized the French as former enemies first, allies second. They eventually warmed up to each other. Morale, raised after the victory at Saratoga and the alliance with France, took a hit when General Benedict Arnold was found to be a traitor. Britain again changed their strategy, this time aiming to work north. They overran Georgia in no time at all, and Charleston, SC was surrendered in 1780. The loss of Charleston also came with the loss of troops and munitions it held. As the fight moved into North Carolina, Quaker-born general Nathanael Greene challenged British general Charles Cornwallis to the point of exhaustion, choosing to keep fighting rather than retreat. In doing so Greene would often lose battles but force British troops to keep moving rather than rest, winning him campaigns and clearing British troops from South Carolina and Georgia.The western front consisted of heavy fighting between colonists and pro-British Native American forces. In 1784 the Iroquois, allied with the British, signed the **Treaty of Fort Stanwix**, in which they ceded land and were forced out of the fighting. Westward expansion did not slow down during the war, as new cities were named to reflect the conflict and American frontier forces took British outposts along the Ohio River. The naval front saw the beginnings of an American naval “force” though it hardly put a dent in the British fleet. The most prominent on the waters were American **privateers**, who armed themselves to attack enemy shipping—for profit and the Patriot cause, most likely in that order. While things looked pretty bleak in 1781, British naval superiority began to slip away. General Cornwallis had settled in **Yorktown** to await supplies and reinforcement that would come by sea. Meanwhile, George Washington was working to surround Cornwallis with the help of General de Grasse, a French admiral out of the West Indies. While Washington quickly moved some 300 miles to meet Cornwallis on land, de Grasse sailed to block the British from landed at Yorktown. Cornwallis surrendered his forces on October 19, 1781. Despite Cornwallis’ surrender of 7,000 troops, Britain still had some 54,000 stationed in North America. King George was prepared to continue the fighting. Most of the fighting that continued after Yorktown turned out to be between Patriots and Loyalists.Peace negotiations were set up in Paris after the surrender at Yorktown. All parties involved had their own aims for the peace conference; the Americans, consisting of Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay, were told to “make no separate peace,” and consult the French every step of the way. The French were hoping to make good on their promise to Spain, who had (again) switched sides, to bring them Gibraltar but also to create an independent, albeit weak, America. France was caught in the middle, they had helped get the Americans to a position to have an upper hand in the peace-making but had also made promises to Spain that they may or may not be able to keep. John Jay picked up on this and decided to go against orders and speak directly with the British, where terms were reached quicker than if the French had been involved the whole way. **The Treaty of Paris (1783)** saw the British formally recognize American independence and reformat the boundaries of North America, whereas the Americans promised to end persecution of Loyalists and allow British creditor to continue to collect debts in America. France was disturbed that the Americans had negotiated peace on their own but agreed with the terms. Everyone was glad to be done with the costly conflict.  | THIS IS A LONG CHAPTER Y’ALL. PREPARE YOURSELVES.**Second Continental Congress (1775-1781):** representative body of delegates from all thirteen colonies that drafted the Declaration of Independence and managed the colonial war effort.**Battle of Bunker Hill (June 1775):** fought on the outskirts of Boston, MA on Breed’s Hill, the battle ended in the colonial militia’s retreat though at a heavy cost to the British.**Olive Branch Petition (July 1775):** conciliatory measure adopted by the Continental Congress professing American loyalty and seeking an end to the hostilities; King George rejected the petition and proclaimed the colonies in open rebellion.**Hessians:** German troops hired from their princes by George III to aid in putting down the colonial insurrection; this action hardened the resolve of the American colonists who resented the use of paid foreign fighters.***Common Sense* (1776):** Thomas Paine’s pamphlet urging the colonies to declare independence and establish a republican government; helped convince many colonists toward the cause for independence.**Declaration of Independence (1776):** formal pronouncement of independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson and approved by Congress; allowed Americans to appeal for foreign aid and served as an inspiration for later revolutionary movements.**Declaration of the Right of Man (1789):** declaration of rights adopted during the French Revolution; modeled after the American Declaration of Independence.**Patriots:** colonists who supported the American Revolution.**Loyalists:** American colonists who opposed the Revolution and maintained their loyalty to the king; sometimes called “tories.”**Battle of Long Island (August 1776):** battle for control of New York; British troops overwhelmed the colonial militias and retained control of the city for most of the war.**Battle of Trenton (December 1776):** Washington surprised and captured a garrison of sleeping German Hessians, raising the morale of his crestfallen army and setting the stage for his victory at Princeton a week later.**Battle of Saratoga (October 1777):** decisive colonial victory in upstate New York, which helped secure French support for the Revolutionary cause.**Model Treaty (1776):** sample treaty drafted by the Continental Congress as a guide for American diplomats; reflected the Americans’ desire to foster commercial partnerships rather than political or military entanglements.**Armed Neutrality (1780):** loose alliance of nonbelligerent naval powers, organized by Russia’s Catherine the Great, to protect neutral trading rights during the war for American independence.**Treaty of Fort Stanwix (1784):** treaty signed by the United States and the pro-British Iroquois granting Ohio Country to the Americans.**Privateers:** privately owned armed ships authorized by Congress to prey on enemy shipping during the Revolutionary War; more numerous than the tiny American navy, privateers inflicted heavy damages on British shippers.**Battle of Yorktown (October 1781):** George Washington, with the help of the French army, besieged Cornwallis at Yorktown, while the French naval fleet prevented British reinforcements from coming ashore; Cornwallis surrendered, dealing a heavy blow to the British war effort and paving the way for an eventual peace.**Treaty of Paris (1783):** peace treaty signed by Britain and the United States ending the Revolutionary War; the British formally recognized American independence and ceded territory east of the Mississippi while the Americans promised to restore Loyalist property and repay debts to British creditors. |