

American Revolution - 1765 - 1783

American revolutionary war / American war of Independence - 1775 - 1783

Patriots (Americans) + French Empire

vs.

English + Loyalists

Colonists= all the people living in British colonies
of America

The 'Native Americans' were called Red 'Indians'

Colonial history of America

- 1492 Columbus reached West Indies
- The new world was colonised by European powers in 16th and 17th centuries
- 13 English colonies established from 1607 to 1732

Namely:- New Hampshire ; Massachusetts ; New York ; Rhode Island ; Connecticut ; Pennsylvania ; New Jersey ; Delaware ; Maryland ; Virginia ; North Carolina ; South Carolina and Georgia.

Aims for setting up , developing and governing the colonies -- Benefit of the mother country.

Causes of American Revolution

Can be broadly divided into

- Socio - cultural (Enlightenment)
- Political
- Economic

Socio Cultural Cause

Lot of political and religious dissidents had settled in colonies (escaping persecution in Europe)

Liberal and progressive thinking - inspired by ideas of **Enlightenment**

Ideas like:-

Natural law and rights , Liberalism

Property rights , Republicanism : Head of the state - Elected

- John Locke - power comes from people ' Father of liberalism'
- Immanuel Kant
- Benjamin Franklin
- Thomas Paine

Political Causes

- Colonies had self appointed legislature and executive
- Head of government - Governor appointed directly by British crown
- No representation of colonies in parliament in London

Economic causes

- development of trade and Commerce between 13 colonies made their interdependent - made them think of them self as one
- The liberal ideas of society affected trade and economy too
- Materialistic and individualism

Various Navigation acts passed by Britain to serve her materialistic interest at the expense of colonies:

1651 - use only British ships for trade transport

1660 - sugar , tobacco , cotton and Indigo exports only to England

1663 - all trade to colonies only via England

- Colonies got around these laws by smuggling
- The enforcement of these laws was not very strong so it did not hurt the colonist interest too much

- After 1763 - their enforcement become strict

The Cause of Events in Revolution

7 Years War (1754 - 1763)

- Between Britain and France over Territories in America
- Spread to 5 (Five) continents
- India - 3rd Carnatic war
- France defeated - lost most of its territory
- Treaty of Paris Signed

After the war : -

- French treat to colonies was gone
- Britain went into heavy debt
- The planned to tax the colonists because the war would benefit them the most (land , resources security)
- Colonist forbidden to settle in newly acquired land

King George III (1760 - 1820)

The various unpopular ACTS

- Sugar act 1764 - sugar to be exported only to England
- Quartering act 1764 - pay for English soldiers stationed in America, provide them lodging if required
- Stamp act 1765- All legal documents, newspapers, etc needed to be stamped (that is - given duty)

Affected lawyers , journalists and educated people the most.

Sons of Liberty

- Formed in 1765
- Organisation led by Samuel Adams
- Advocated use of violence, boycott of British goods, trade with Britain.
- Former committees of correspondence - Crucial Link

Townshend Act 1767

- Charles Townshend- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Suspended New York's legislature
- Taxes essential goods - Tea, paper, glass, lead & paint : all the ingredients to build a house.
- Power to British authorities to search any building or vessel

Boston Massacre 1770

- 5 protestors killed by British soldiers
- Published heavily by efforts of patriots like Paul and evere and Samuel Adams
Turned public opinion against Crown rule/ policies

Tea Act 1773

- *Lord North, new PM of Britain removed all taxes except on TEA*
- *protestors refused to let ship laden tea into harbours / ports*
- *The governor of Massachusetts, Hutchinson declared he will have ships unload in Boston harbour*

Protesters began - No taxation without representation

Boston Tea party (16 December 1773)

Group led by Samuel Adams boarded the ship's of EIC and dumped tea worth 10000 pounds in the water.

Intolerable Acts 1774

- *Public meetings in town halls banned*
- *Boston port closed*
- *Compensation demanded for the Dumped tea*
- *Quebec act - extended boundries of British ruled quebec*

- *In response- the Patriots started training militias for the looming fight with British*
1st Continental Congress (September1774).
- *Meeting of representatives of all 13 colonies*
- *First semmblance of an ‘American government’*
- *Decided to boycott British goods and increase use of domestically produced goods*
- *Start trade with Britain*

Hostilities break out - The American Revolutionary War begins

- *Bhai April 1775 fighting started (Lexington and Concord)*
- *The Continental Army was lead by General George Washington*
- *They had support from and controlled countryside, while cities were bitterly conteste*
- *King George III was petitioned in July by the Congress to stop oppressive laws and avoid full blown war, but he declared the Congress as traitors.*
- *Many colonists- rich traders in cities benefiting from trade policies- still favourites*
British rule they were called loyalists
- *Common sense, to a pamphlet written by Thomas pains was widely circulated in*
1775 -76.
- *It advocated for Independence in simple language with Persuasive arguments and*
regions

By early 1776 ,in all 13 colonies Patriots had overthrown their existing governments, closing courts and driving away British officials. They had elected legislature and new constitutions where drawn up.

They declared that they wear states now, not colonies.

2nd constitutional Congress (1776)

- *on 4th of july 1776 the declaration of independence was adopted at Philadelphia*
- *Thomas Jefferson*

“We hold these truths to be self - evident ,that all men are created equal ,that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life ,liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

- *The 2nd Congress oversaw the war effort and the Patriots were soon supported by French Empire ,which nearly bankrupted itself supporting the Americans.*
- *Spain and Netherlands also supported Americans*

Treaty of Paris 1783

- *The war ended officially with signing of this Treaty*
- *American Independence recognised by Great Britain*
- *Aroun 100 thousand soldiers died fighting ,mostly due to disease.*

Significance

- *Independence of USA - nationalism*
- *Different type of State formed mass based not leader based - Republic*
- *Anti - imperialist Nation*
- *A blueprint for uniting people for a cause*
- *Ideas of enlightenment found real world application*
- *No American is inherently superior to any other American*
(European society =>Birth - Class - Superiority)
- *Inspired / led to other revolutions, especially French and Latin America ones*
- *British Empire changed its policies world over- Pitt's India Act 1784 ,Cornwallis' reforms in India*

US constitution

- *1st written constitution of world (1789)*
- *Ideas of Liberty ,rule of law*
- *Natural rights of man - bill of rights*
- *Separation of powers - Montesquieu*
- *System of checks and balances*

Criticisms of The American Revolution

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- *No deep change in society (like French Revolution)*
- *No Universal rights only two men holding property (15 to 20% of total population)*
- *No rights to slaves (30% of population) for women*
- *Power taken form rich white English men and consolidated into rich white American men*
- *Ideas were very strong but policies / implementation were weak*

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