

Vocabulary Builder

philosophy—(fih LAHS uh fee) *n.*
theory or logical analysis of the
fundamental principles of human
conduct, thought, knowledge, and
the nature of the universe


Vocabulary Builder

assert—(uh SERT) *v.* to state
positively; declare; affirm

Enlightenment **philosophy** affected religious beliefs in the colonies. Colonists who admired these ideas wanted a religion that was less emotional and more rational. At the same time, attendance at church services was in decline.

During the 1740s, concern about these trends led to a religious movement called the **Great Awakening**. Evangelical preachers such as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield toured the colonies promoting revivals where people felt a direct and transforming contact with an overwhelming Holy Spirit. The Great Awakening led to the birth of new churches. This eventually increased tolerance of religious differences. Many colonists also came to believe that if they could decide how to worship God, they could also decide how to govern themselves.

The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening would later combine to influence the American Revolution. The Enlightenment informed the writings of political leaders, while the Great Awakening inspired the common people.

 **Checkpoint** Which democratic ideas were expressed by Enlightenment thinkers?

Causes of the American Revolution

The tradition of a limited English monarchy, experience with self-government, and exposure to Enlightenment ideas influenced the leading American colonists. A European war and a spirit of independence in the colonies prompted the colonists to take action that would change the course of world history.


Between 1689 and 1763, the British and French fought a series of wars in Europe. These conflicts spread to America and involved the French and English colonists and their Native American allies.

The last of these wars, called the French and Indian War, erupted in 1754 and ended in 1763 with a British victory. The peace treaty gave Canada, Florida, and a portion of French Louisiana to Britain. British colonists were eager to move into Louisiana, but Britain wished to keep peace with the Indians who lived on this territory. British limits on westward expansion angered the colonists.

Taxes and Traditional Rights The British victory was expensive, nearly doubling Britain's national debt. During the 1760s, the British Parliament **asserted** that the colonists should pay new taxes to help the empire. The proposed taxes and tighter trade regulations shocked the colonists. Valuing the prosperity and protection of the empire, they did not immediately seek independence. Instead, they wanted to remain part of the empire that for so long had produced so many benefits at so little cost to them.

In resisting the taxes, colonists cited the traditional rights of Englishmen. They cited the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights, which blocked the king from levying taxes without the permission of Parliament. During the 1760s, their problem was with Parliament, rather than with King George III. Professing loyalty to the king, the colonists hoped to be free from Parliament's efforts to tax them. They would pay taxes levied only by their own elected assemblies in the colonies.

Colonial Resistance To pressure Parliament, colonists boycotted British goods. Local committees enforced this boycott, which threatened the British economy. Angry crowds harassed colonists who helped to collect the new taxes. Colonists who refused to honor the boycotts or who spoke out in favor of the taxes were considered Loyalists. Representing a large minority, the Loyalists preferred to pay the taxes and honor Parliament and the king. They also feared that the resistance would lead to a war that Britain seemed certain to win.

 **Checkpoint** Why did many American colonists object to paying taxes imposed by Parliament?

The American Revolution

Geography Interactive

For: Interactive map
www.pearsonschool.com/ushist



Conflict With Great Britain

The American colonists opposed "taxation without representation"—or taxes levied by a Parliament to which the colonists had elected no representatives. Patriot leaders staged boycotts and anti-British propaganda campaigns in order to win support for independence.

Map Skills The American Revolution was fought in battles along the east coast of North America and along the Mississippi River in the West. This map shows the war's major battles in the fight for American independence from Great Britain.

- 1. Locate:** (a) Saratoga, (b) Brandywine, (c) Yorktown
- 2. Place** Which battles were fought along the Mississippi River?
- 3. Synthesize Information** Based on the dates that appear on the map, in which region were the earlier battles fought? In which region were the later battles fought?

Roots of the American Revolution

1763 French and Indian War ends with a British victory. King George III signs the Proclamation of 1763, ending colonial expansion west of the Appalachian Mountains.

1764 To pay off war debt, Parliament passes the Sugar Act, imposing duties on imported sugar and other goods that colonists import from England.

1765 Stamp Act is passed by Parliament, directly taxing all legal documents, almanacs, and other items in the colonies. Colonists form the Sons of Liberty and the Daughters of Liberty to organize protests. One year later, the Stamp Act is repealed.

1767 Parliament passes the Townshend Acts, taxing a number of items the colonies import. Colonists boycott British goods.

1770 Boston Massacre results in death of five colonists. Townshend Acts are repealed.

1773 Protesting the tax on tea, colonists stage the Boston Tea Party, dumping crates of British tea into Boston Harbor.

1774 Parliament passes the Intolerable Acts, imposing harsh measures on the colonies. The First Continental Congress meets.

1775 First shots of the American Revolution are fired at Lexington and Concord.



Minuteman

This sculpture reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by minutemen, members of the Patriot militia who were ready to fight for freedom at a moment's notice.

The War for Independence

In 1774, leading colonists held a convention, called the First Continental Congress. Delegates appealed to the British government to stop taxing the colonies. The British government refused.

Americans Declare Their Independence In 1775, war began when British troops tried to seize arms and ammunition stored at Concord, Massachusetts. New Englanders quickly organized an army, which the Continental Congress adopted as the army for all the colonies.

In 1776, Congress adopted a Declaration of Independence drafted by **Thomas Jefferson** of Virginia. This document declared American independence and expressed Enlightenment ideas about the natural rights of people. The Declaration stated that certain truths were “self-evident.”

Primary Source “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. . . .”

—Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

The War Is Fought During the war, the British made many military mistakes because they underestimated the Patriots, who were highly motivated and benefited from the leadership of **George Washington**. Beginning in 1778, the Patriots also received military assistance from France. In 1781, a French fleet trapped the British army at Yorktown in Virginia, where Washington’s army completed the victory. The treaty of Paris, signed in 1783, gave the new nation very favorable boundaries: Florida in the south; the Great Lakes to the north; and the Mississippi River to the west. The British retreated to Canada, while the Spanish claimed Florida and everything west of the Mississippi.

Checkpoint What risks did declaring independence pose for the colonists?

SECTION 2 Assessment

Progress Monitoring *Online*

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
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Comprehension

1. Terms and People For each term and person below, write a sentence explaining how each contributed to the development of U.S. democracy or to the Revolution.

- House of Burgesses
- Mayflower Compact
- Enlightenment
- Great Awakening
- Magna Carta
- English Bill of Rights
- Thomas Jefferson
- George Washington

2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

Recognize Sequence Use your series-of-events chain to answer the Section Focus Question: What important ideas and major events led to the American Revolution?

Writing About History

3. Quick Write: Identify Effects Make a list of one or two effects of each of the following events: the French and Indian War, the British decision to tax the colonists, the colonial boycott of British goods, and the American Revolution.

Critical Thinking

4. Make Inferences What Enlightenment values are reflected in the Declaration of Independence?

5. Draw Conclusions What effects did the Great Awakening have on American thought?

6. Analyze Information How did the peace treaty that marked the end of the American Revolution change the boundaries of the United States? Which countries controlled territory on the borders of the new nation?