

Unit 1

COLONIZATION AND REVOLUTION, 1492-1787

IN A NUTSHELL

- ☞ Changes in European religion, economics, and culture during the 15th and 16th centuries led to the exploration and settlement of the New World.
- ☞ Beginning in the early 1600s English settlers established American colonies in pursuit of adventure, fortune, and liberty
- ☞ Ideas of representative government, religious freedom, and freedom of the press were well-established in the colonies by the time of the American Revolution.
- ☞ After the end of the French and Indian War in 1763 tension increased between American colonists and the British government.
- ☞ After the end of the American Revolution in 1781 the British recognized American independence.
- ☞ Americans established their first national government under the Articles of Confederation, a constitution that created, in the minds of many prominent American leaders, a central government too weak to solve national problems.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

A. What was the first English settlement in America?

The London Company established the first permanent English settlement in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia.

B. What major religious groups settled in the original thirteen colonies?

Puritans settled Massachusetts, Roman Catholics settled Maryland, Quakers settled Pennsylvania, and Anglicans settled primarily in the southern colonies. Puritan intolerance for dissent led to the creation of Rhode Island, a colony that allowed religious freedom.

C. What was the last of the original thirteen colonies?

Georgia, the last of the thirteen colonies, was founded as a haven for debtors and a buffer between Spanish and English colonies.

D. What was the Great Awakening?

The Great Awakening was a wave of religious enthusiasm that swept through the colonies from the late 1730s to the 1760s. It was characterized by emotionalism and individualism. The Great Awakening led to the creation of several new religious groups and strengthened beliefs in religious freedom.

E. Why did the English go to war against the French and Indians in 1754?

A struggle for control of the Ohio Valley started the French and Indian War, a war in which France lost its empire in North America.

F. What caused the American Revolution?

After the French and Indian war ended in 1763 the English government attempted to regulate and tax the colonies to pay for the war. These policies sparked protests by the colonists that led to the American Revolution in 1775.

G. When did Americans declare independence from England?

After a year of fighting for the "rights of Englishmen" and "no taxation without representation" Americans declared their independence from England. Independence was inspired in large part by Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*. The Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson.

H. What significant battles led to the American victory over English forces?

An American victory at Saratoga, New York, inspired the French to actively help Americans. The American Revolution ended in 1781 when American forces led by George Washington defeated English troops at Yorktown, Virginia. The Treaty of Paris, in which England recognized the independence of the United States, was signed in 1783.

I. What were the Articles of Confederation?

The Articles of Confederation provided the United States with its first written constitution. Under the Articles of Confederation the central government had no power to tax, to regulate commerce, to raise an army, or to enforce its laws. Each state had one vote in the Confederation Congress and it took a unanimous vote to amend the Articles of Confederation. In short, the Articles of Confederation created a weak central government that many American leaders wanted to strengthen.

O ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose not only the tyranny but the tyrant, stand forth! Every spot of the Old World is overrun with oppression. Freedom has been hunted round the globe. Asia and Africa have long expelled her. Europe regards her like a stranger, and England has given her warning to depart. O! receive the fugitive, and prepare in time an asylum for mankind.

– Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776

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. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it...

– Declaration of Independence, 1776

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Christopher Columbus expedition, 1492
2. Jamestown, 1607
3. House of Burgesses, 1619
4. Africans brought to North America, 1619
5. Mayflower Compact, 1620
6. Massachusetts founded, 1630
7. Pennsylvania founded, 1681
8. John Peter Zenger trial, 1735
9. Great Awakening begins, 1740
10. French and Indian War, 1754-1763
11. Proclamation of 1763
12. Stamp Act, 1765
13. Declaratory Act, 1766
14. Townshend Acts, 1767
15. Boston Massacre, 1770
16. Boston Tea Party, 1773
17. Intolerable Acts, 1774
18. First Continental Congress, 1774
19. Battle of Lexington and Concord, 1775
20. Second Continental Congress, 1775
21. Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776
22. Declaration of Independence, 1776
23. Battle of Saratoga, 1777
24. Treaty of Alliance, 1778
25. Battle of Yorktown, 1781
26. Articles of Confederation go into effect, 1781
27. Treaty of Paris, 1783

IMPORTANT PEOPLE

28. John Smith

29. John Winthrop

30. Roger Williams

31. William Penn

32. Jonathan Edwards

33. Pontiac

34. Sam Adams

35. King George III

36. Thomas Jefferson

37. George Washington

38. Marquis de Lafayette

39. Charles Cornwallis

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

40. Pilgrim (Separatist)

41. Puritan

42. Great Migration

43. Quaker

44. middle passage

45. indentured servant

46. mercantilism

47. salutary neglect

48. triangular trade

49. writs of assistance

50. Patriot

51. Loyalist

52. Deism