

# THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1760s-1783

# GEORGIA STANDARDS

- **SSUSH3 The student will explain the primary causes of the American Revolution.**
- a. Explain how the end of Anglo-French imperial competition as seen in the French and Indian War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.
- b. Explain colonial response to such British actions as the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, and the Intolerable Acts as seen in Sons and Daughters of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence.
- c. Explain the importance of Thomas Paine's Common Sense to the movement for independence.
  
- **SSUSH4 The student will identify the ideological, military, and diplomatic aspects of the American Revolution.**
- a. Explain the language, organization, and intellectual sources of the Declaration of Independence; include the writing of John Locke and the role of Thomas Jefferson.
- b. Explain the reason for and significance of the French alliance and foreign assistance and the roles of Benjamin Franklin and the Marquis de Lafayette.
- c. Analyze George Washington as a military leader; include the creation of a professional military and the life of a common soldier, and describe the significance of the crossing of the Delaware River and Valley Forge.
- d. Explain the role of geography at the Battle of Yorktown, the role of Lord Cornwallis, and the Treaty of Paris, 1783.



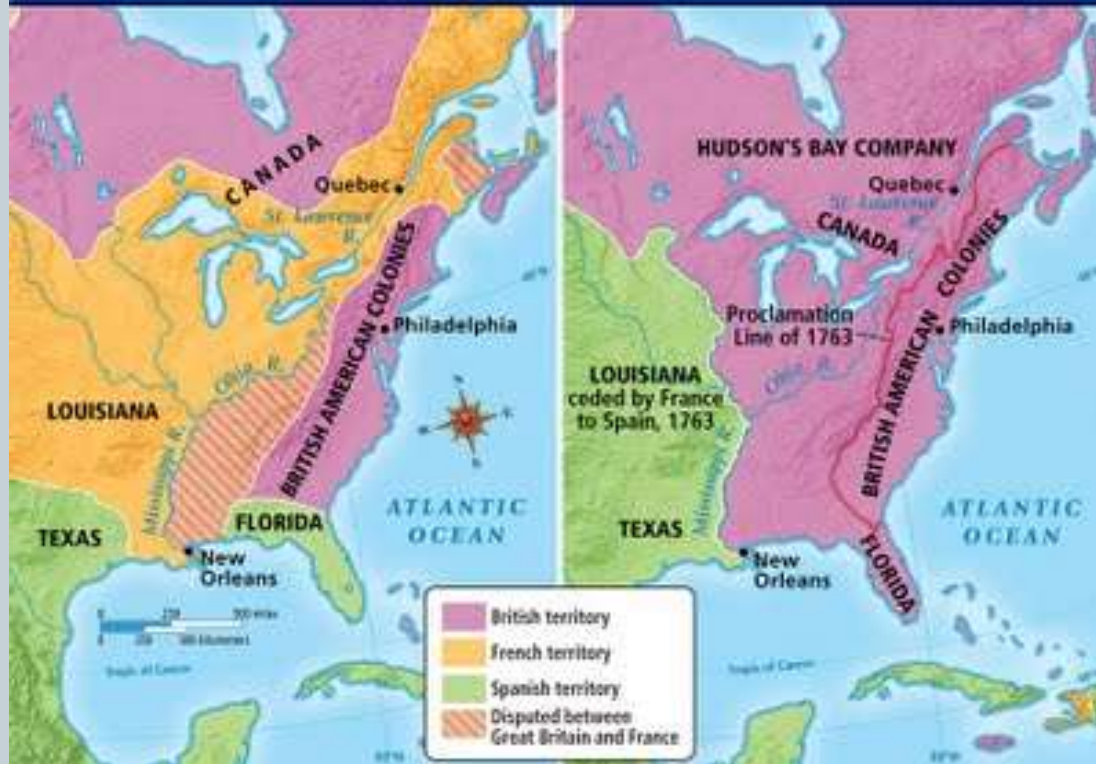
# BRITISH VICTORIOUS

- Great Britain would end up victorious in its imperial battle with the French and Native Americans.
- Treaty of Paris (1763): Treaty signed to formally end fighting in North America.
- As a result, the French lose the vast majority of their claims to North American lands.
- French = OUT (for now)
- British now DOMINATE eastern North America.



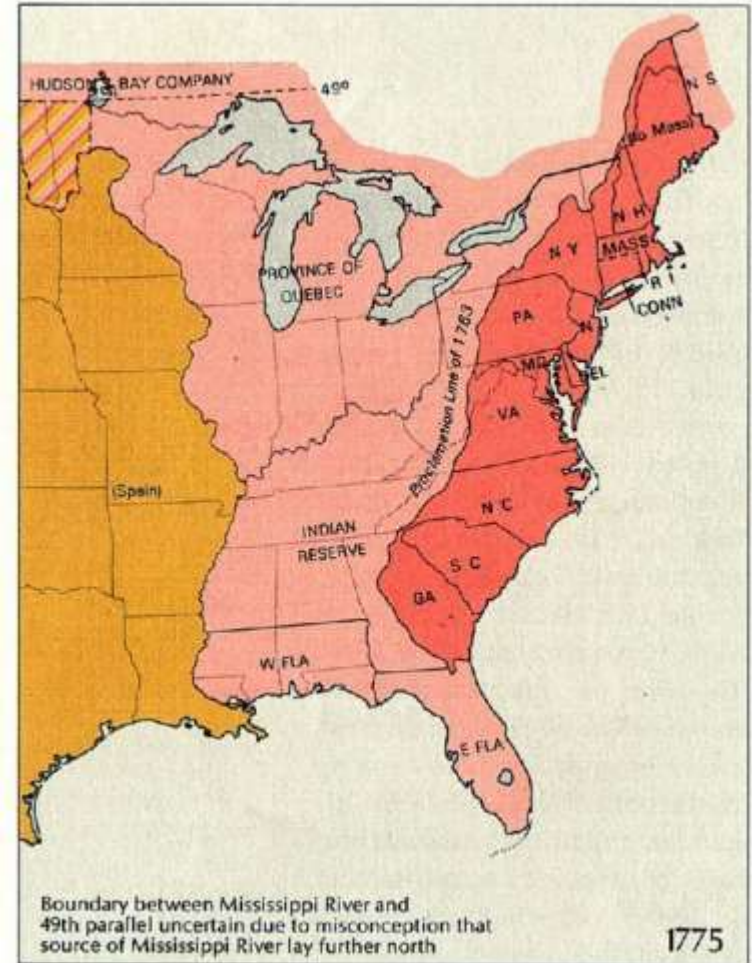
Prewar Boundaries 1754

Postwar Boundaries 1763



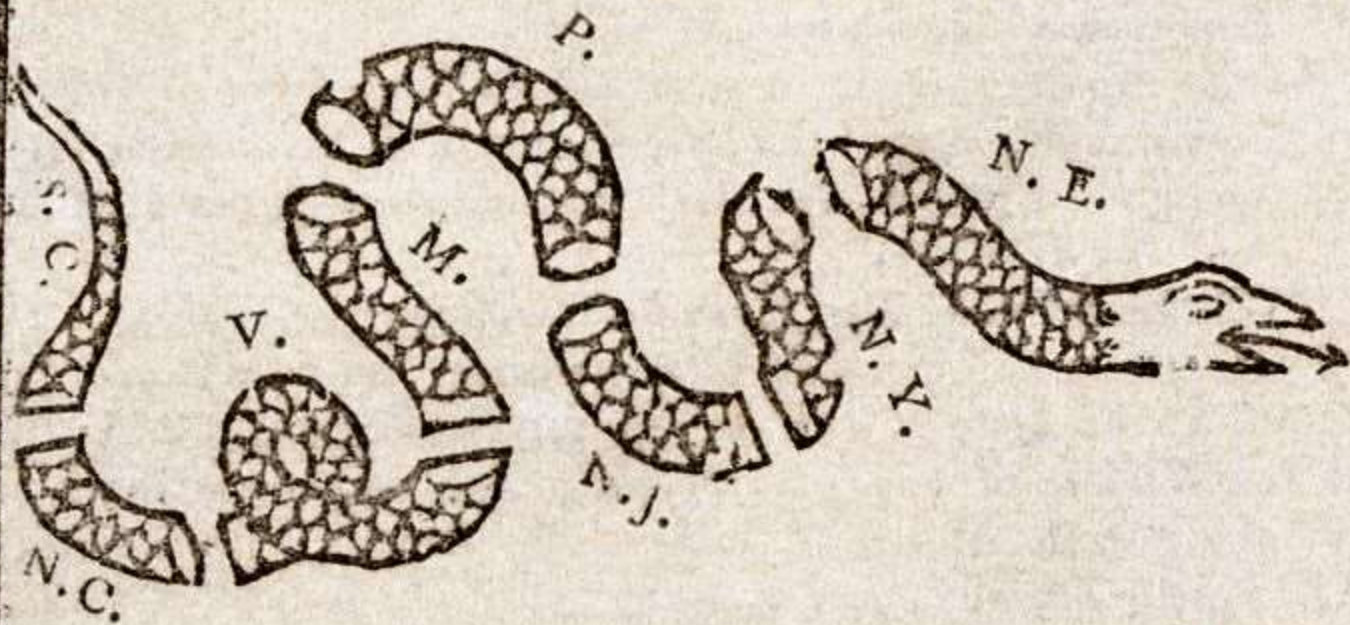
# PROCLAMATION OF 1763

- After French allies were defeated, Native Americans fought to keep encroaching British forces from taking more land.
- British called his uprising of Native Americans against the victorious British Pontiac's Rebellion.
- British signed Proclamation of 1763 with Natives, stating that they would not settle lands west of Appalachian Mountains.
- Many colonists ignored the Proclamation and ventured West regardless.
- First example of colonial resentment to new British laws.



# (FINANCIAL) AFTERMATH OF THE WAR

- British amassed a HUGE war-time debt from fighting the French around the world.
- Wanted stronger control over their colonial possessions. After all, they spent years fighting for it.
- >>>England thought the colonies should help share the burden of paying for their defense. <<<<
- This belief entailed placing new, unpopular taxes on the colonists without their approval.
- “NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION”
- Remember from its inception the colonies viewed themselves as separate “entities”; after the French and Indian War, this “disunity” began to evolve slowly into “unity” in opposition to the British and their “unfair” taxes.



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J O I N, or D I E.



# COLONISTS RESPOND TO TAXES

- Sugar Act: 1<sup>st</sup> act passed; on sugar and molasses
- Stamp Act: taxes placed on anything paper (newspapers, licenses, deeds, playing cards)
- Townshend Acts: taxes on glass, paint, etc.
- Boston Massacre (March 1770): protests of taxes between colonists and British troops that turned deadly.



THE BLOODY MASSACRE



Whom Britain's King the King of Kings,  
 Thy blood will witness with his own  
 With his own blood he'll wash his hands  
 With his own blood he'll wash his hands  
 The British soldiers' names are  
 Approve the Cause and give the Day.

If Britain's King the King of Kings,  
 If Britain's King the King of Kings,  
 The British soldiers' names are  
 A thousand names which shall be  
 A thousand names which shall be

That will witness to that noble God,  
 That will witness to that noble God,  
 That will witness to that noble God,  
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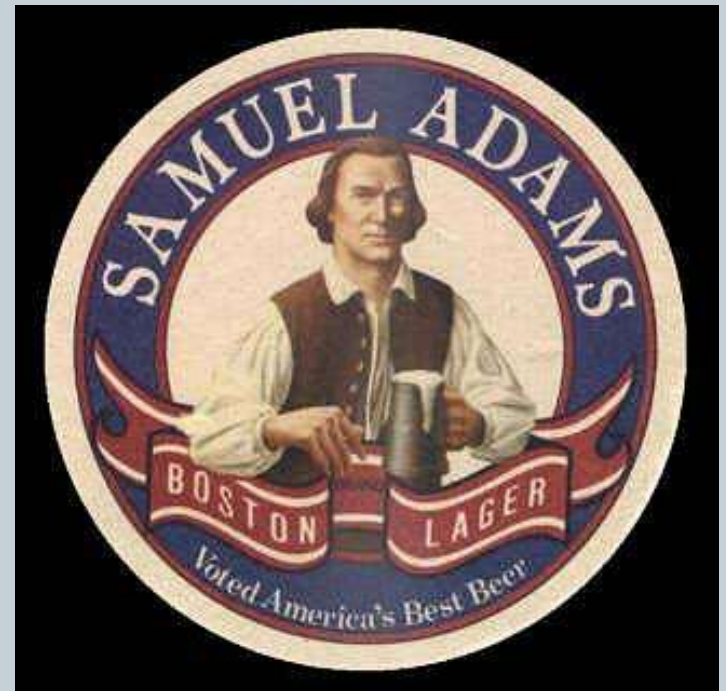
The engraving is by a Miss [Name] and was published in [Location] by [Name] in 1770.





# COLONISTS REACT TO THE “MASSACRE”

- As news spread about the massacre in Boston, colonists throughout the continent sprang into action, forming various organizations to resist British oppression.
- The Sons of Liberty (founded by Samuel Adams) was formed to organize and implement tax *protests*.
- The Committees of Correspondence were “shadow governments” created to help organize *communication* lines between and amongst the colonies.
- The Daughters of Liberty led *boycotts* of British cloth, urging colonial women to make their own clothing instead of relying on imported British goods.



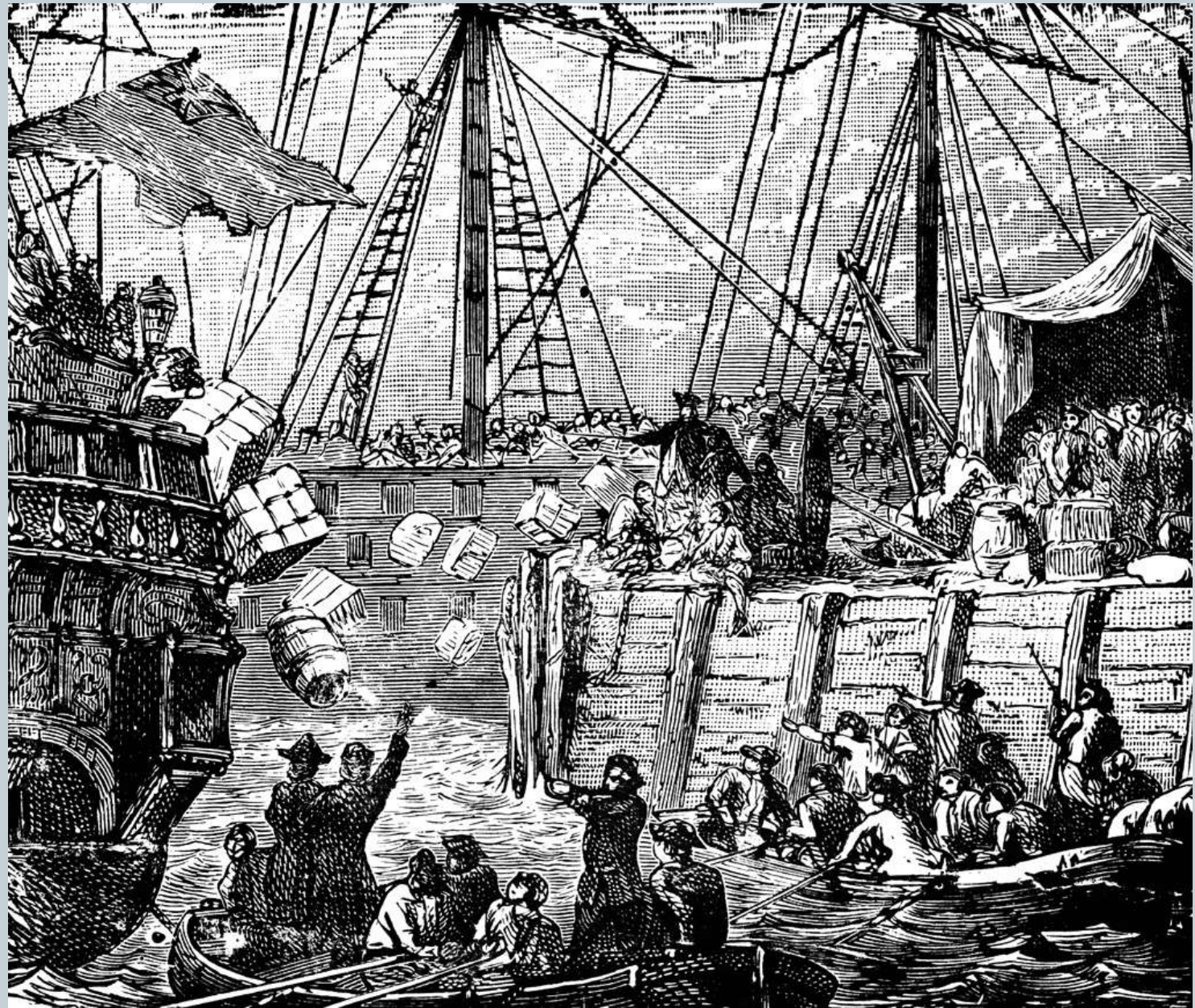
# BOSTON TEA PARTY

- In response to colonial opposition, the British Parliament dissolved many taxes; except the tax on tea.
- December 1773: Members of the Sons of Liberty board ships in Boston Harbor and dump nearly a million dollars in product overboard.
- This single event inspired countless other protests across the colonies.





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# ENGLAND RETALIATES AFTER TEA PARTY

- In response to the Boston Tea party, Parliament passes a series of acts the colonists collectively call the “Intolerable Acts”.
- They wanted to make Massachusetts the example of what would happen should a colony refuse to follow British command.
- Part of the Intolerable Acts included the Quartering Act that forced colonists to house and feed British troops in any necessary scenario.
- Furthermore, the King closed Boston Harbor to all maritime (shipping) trade.
- Equivalent today to closing down Wall Street; financially devastating for the people of Boston.
- Red Coats become more visible; Boston literally becomes occupied (policed) by the British army.
- Committees of Correspondence quickly establish the 1st Continental Congress to formally address the problems between the colonies and their British rulers.

# WAR BEGINS

- As tensions escalated, fighting between the rebelling colonists and the Redcoats seemed inevitable.
- April 1775: Battle of Lexington-Concord
  - “The Shot Heard ‘Round the World”



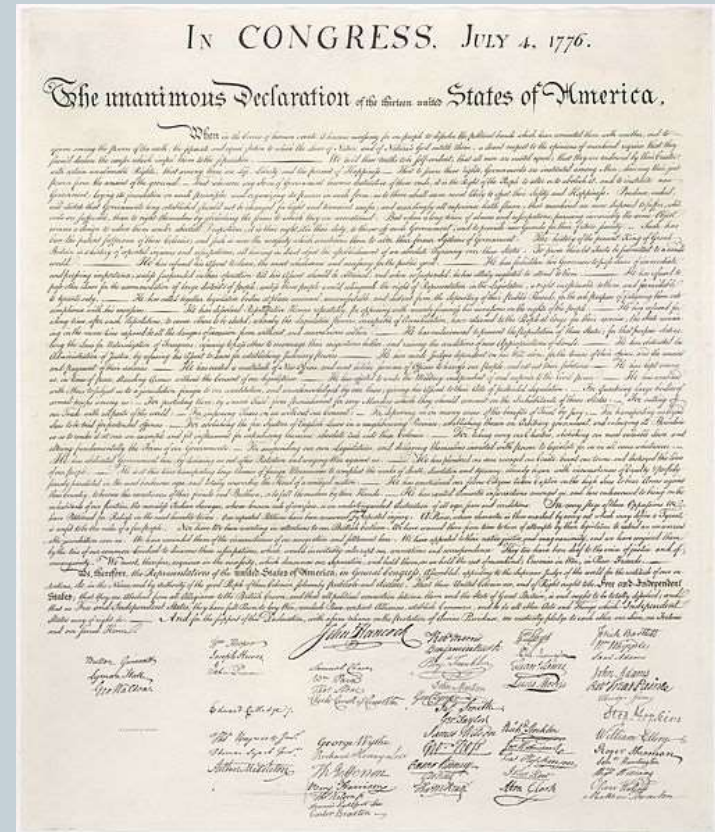
# THOMAS PAINE AUTHORS “COMMON SENSE”

- Not everyone in the colonies were behind the rebels in their fight against the British army.
- Two groups emerged:
  - Patriots = supported independence
  - Loyalists = remained loyal to the King
- To rally more colonists over to the Patriot side, Thomas Paine anonymously publishes the pamphlet “Common Sense” in early 1776.
- In “Common Sense” Paine presents the reader with powerful arguments supporting independence.
- At that time, “Common Sense” had the largest circulation of any book in American history.



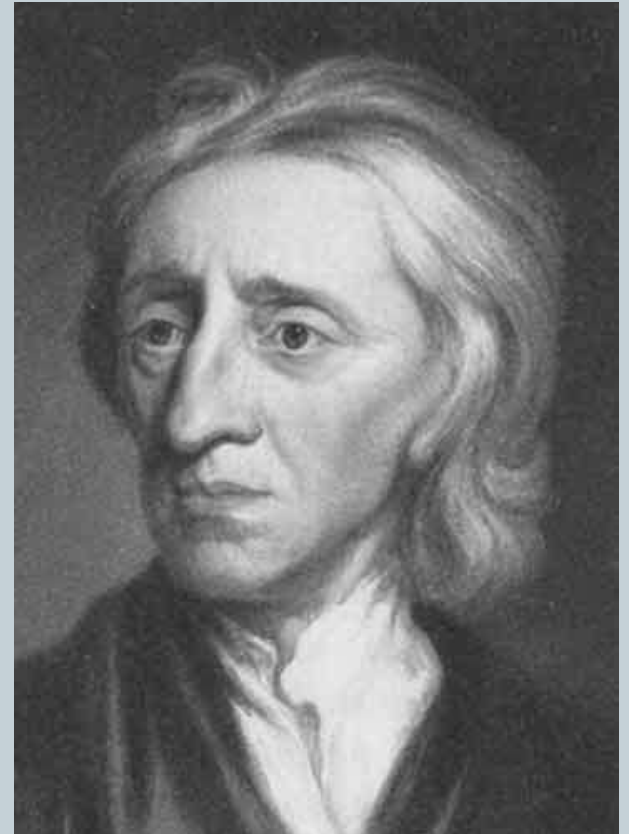
# CONTINENTAL CONGRESS PLOTS TREASON

- Public support for independence continued to swell thanks to “Common Sense”.
- Relations between the colonies and England continue to be strained financially and militarily.
- In the Summer of 1776, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia.
- Under the authorship of Thomas Jefferson, they issue the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
- The Declaration formally announced a political severing of all ties between the colonies and Great Britain.
- It also laid out a series of grievances the colonists had against the King.



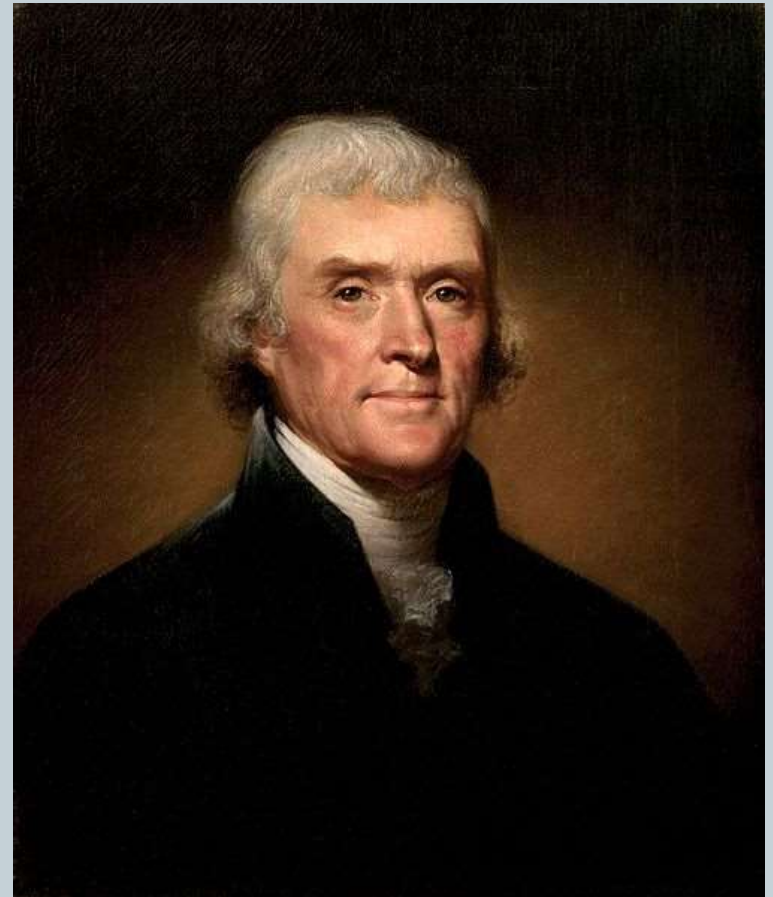
# INTELLECTUAL SOURCES OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- John Locke (1632-1704)
- Lived during the height of the Enlightenment.
- Philosopher who heavily influenced Thomas Jefferson in his composition of the Declaration of Independence.
- Locke describes the natural state of human existence arguing:
- ...that everyone is born with a natural right to defend his “life, liberty and property”.
- ...individuals would agree to form a state (i.e. government) that would provide a “neutral judge” to protect the before-mentioned rights.
- ...”all men are created equal.”



# THOMAS JEFFERSON

- Principle author of the Declaration of Independence
- Influenced heavily by Locke and other Enlightenment thinkers
- Supporter of separation of church and state
- Slave owner from Virginia



# PREAMBLE TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- 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.



# FRANKLIN ASKS FRANCE FOR HELP

- In the 18<sup>th</sup> century England and France maintained a deep rivalry that played out all over the globe.
- While the colonial army scored many victories early in the war with England, victory was far from certain.
- Most Indian tribes were assisting the British who supplied them with high-tech weapons and promised a return of their native lands.
- At the time of the Declaration, Benjamin Franklin was serving as a diplomat to France.
- Franklin convinced the French government to lend support to the American rebels against the British.
- France felt that by supporting the colonial rebellion, they could weaken England militarily and enact revenge for the defeat in the French and Indian War.



# MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

- Marquis de Lafayette: French General who was an integral part of the American assistance in the Revolution.
- France supplied money, supplies, troops, weapons, ships, military expertise, etc.
- Lafayette served alongside General Washington and was influential in the eventual defeat of the British at Yorktown.

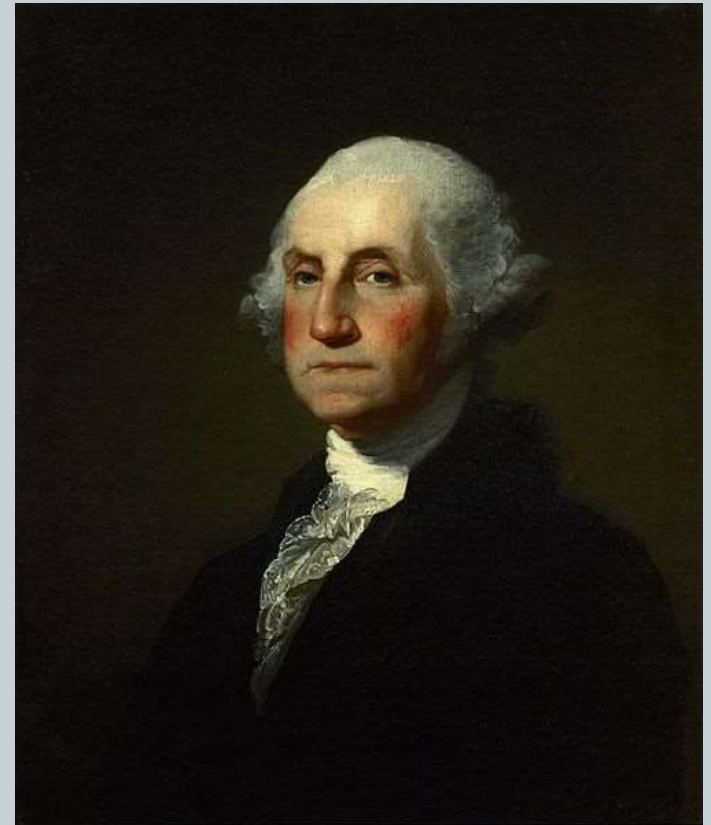


# STATUE OF LAFAYETTE IN D.C.



# GEORGE WASHINGTON

- “Father of the USA”
- Gained military experience in the French and Indian War.
- Chosen as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.
- One early problem Washington encountered was the creation of a professional military.
- Washington organized and trained (with the assistance of the French) the various state militias into one “national” army.



# LIFE AS A COMMON SOLDIER

- At the urging of Washington, Congress provided for the creation of a standing army.
- Enlistments were 1-3 years.
- Pay was meager.
- Rations were short and the army often have to scavenge to find supplies and food.
- Disease was common due to close confinement combined with poor diet and sanitation.



# WASHINGTON AS A MILITARY LEADER

- Despite losing many battles, Washington's strong personality and reputation garnered him the support and respect of American soldiers.
- Washington preferred to engage the superior British Army in quick, strong strikes followed by an immediate retreat.
- This principle is best illustrated when Washington crossed the Delaware River on December 25, 1776 in a surprise attack against British allies.
- This victory further boosted the morale of the American forces...victory was now strategically possible.





# VALLEY FORGE

- Washington's skill at maintaining his force under trying conditions is best shown during the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
- The Continental Army was stuck at Valley Forge with very little rations; very little food and insufficient winter attire.
- However Valley Forge proved to be critical in the further development of the army.
- Lafayette and other foreign military leaders arrived and trained the soldiers extensively at Valley Forge.
- This newly trained force would go on to defeat the British at Yorktown 3 years later.

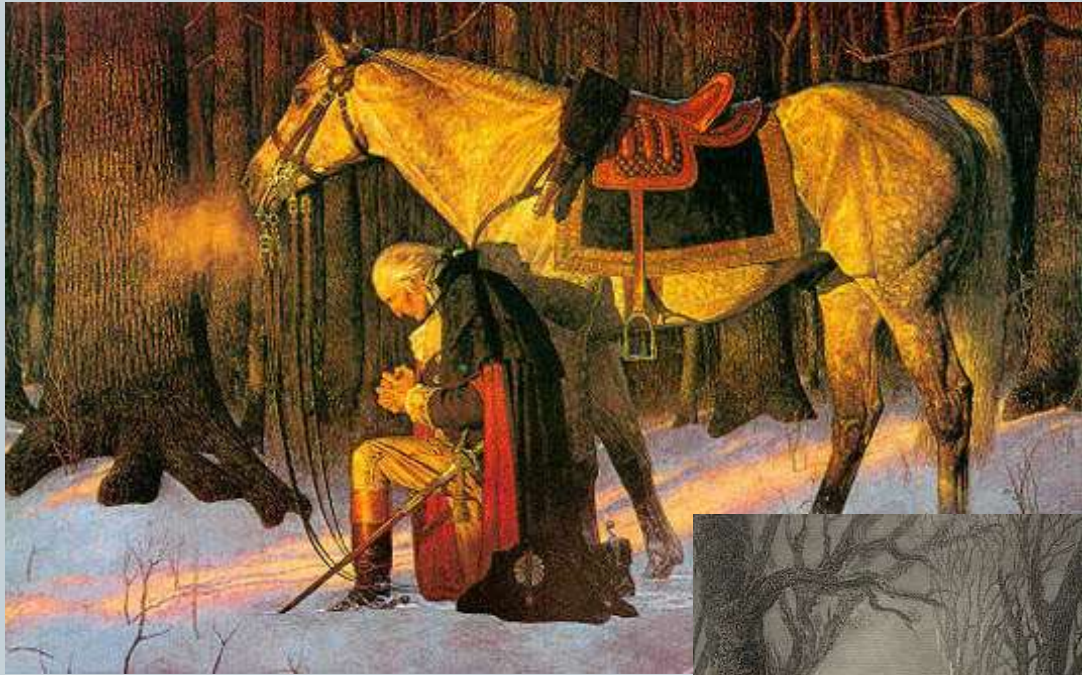








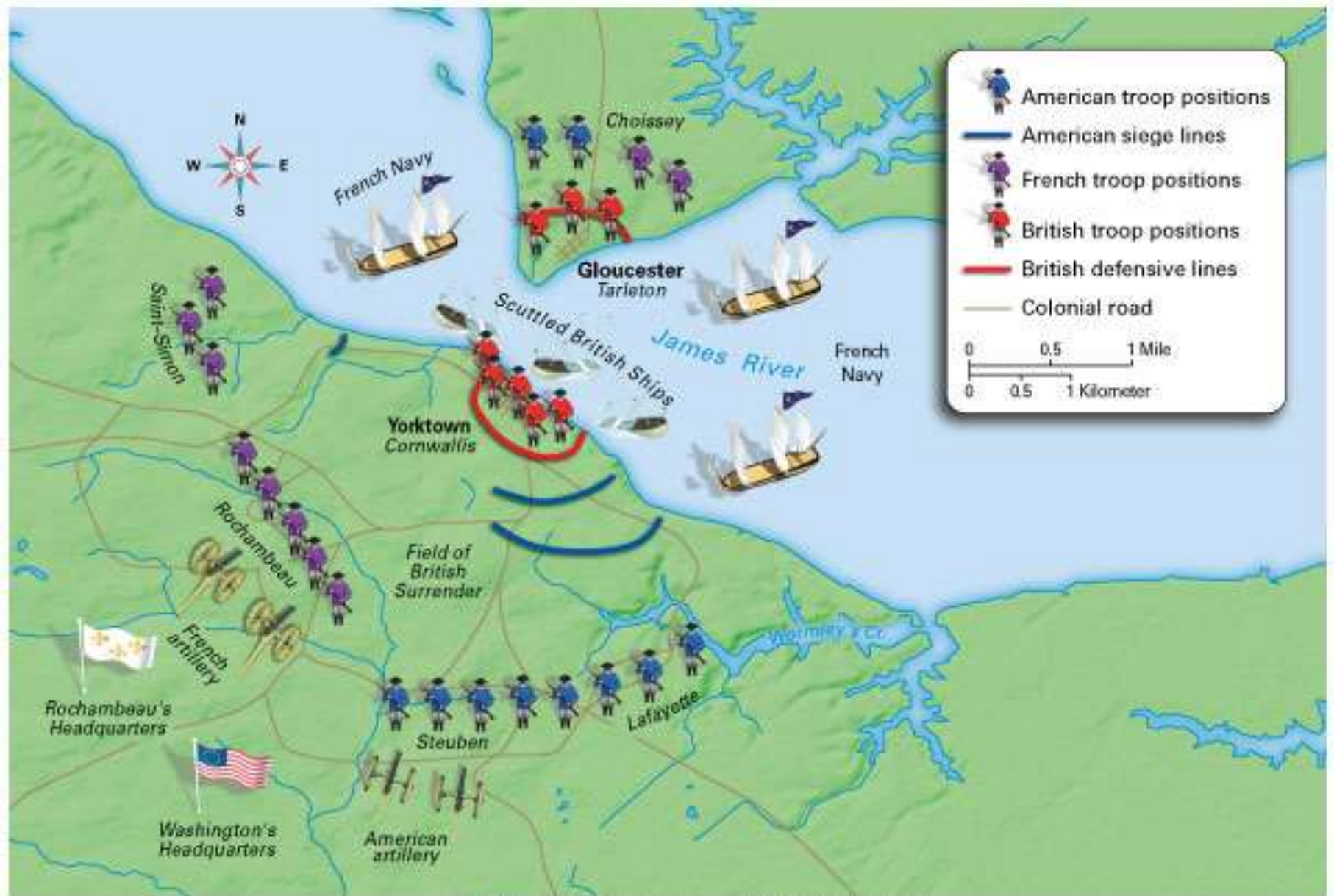




# SIEGE AT YORKTOWN

- General Lord Cornwallis: British leader who planned to push French-American forces southward in an attempt to divide the Continental Army in two.
- Cornwallis succeeded...eventually ending up with American forces near the coastal town of Yorktown in Virginia.
- While awaiting reinforcements from the British navy, the French and Americans were able to corner Cornwallis and his men.
- Cut off from reinforcements, Cornwallis was forced to surrender effectively ending the American Revolution.







# TREATY OF PARIS (1783)

- The Treaty of Paris (1783) formally ended the American Revolution.
- The United States won its independence from Great Britain and gained control of land stretching west to the Mississippi River.
- Next, the newly freed colonists would have the tumultuous task of creating any entirely new government on their own.

