

The American Revolution

3.3 EXAMINE the causes, course and consequences of one revolution in pre- twentieth century Europe and/or the wider world



- 12.1 Timeline
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- 12.5 Questions

This chapter will examine the causes, events and consequences of the American Revolution, including the ideas and ideals that inspired it and the political and social changes it brought about.

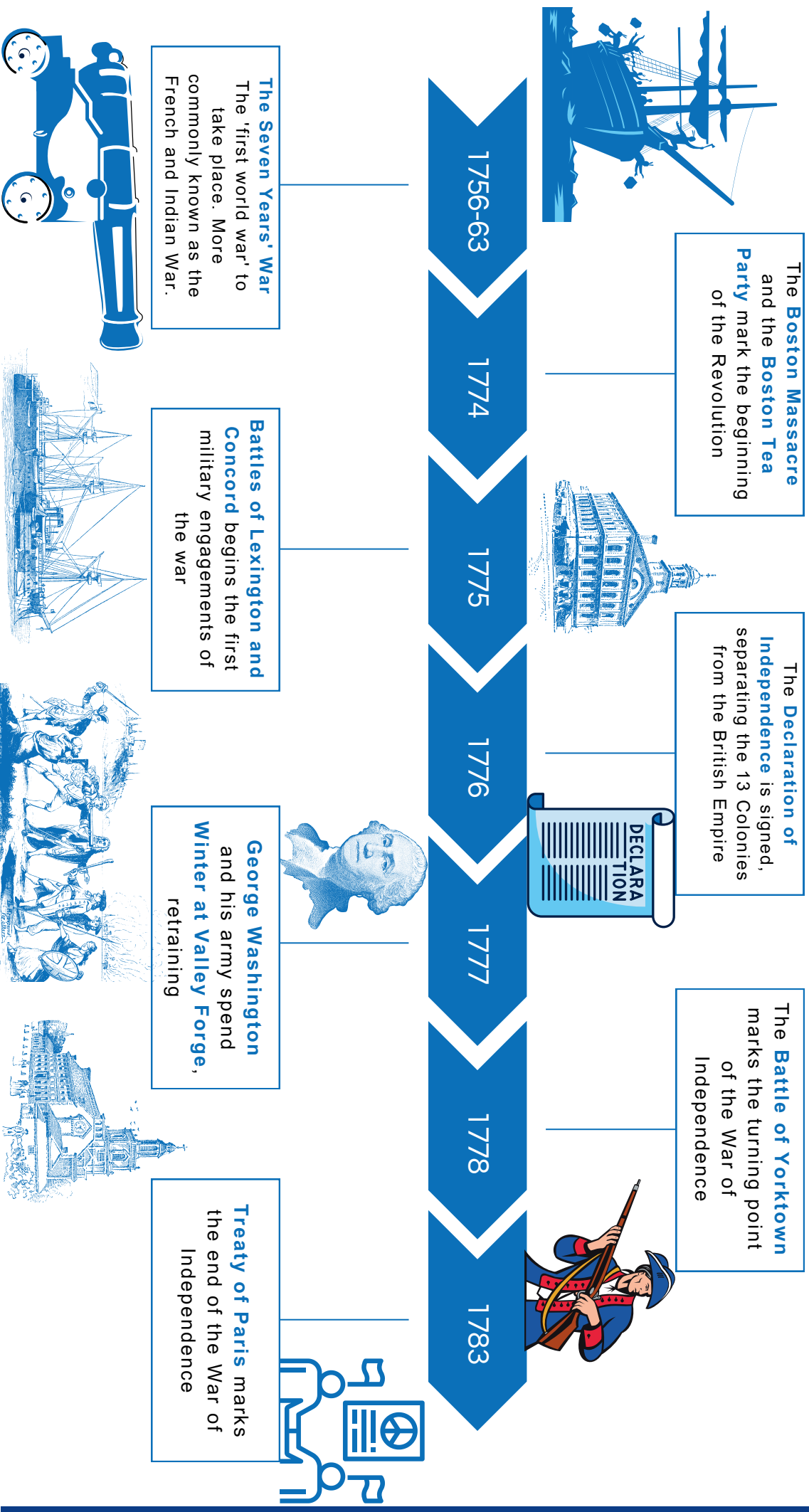


Chapter 12

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Term	Definition
Bill of Rights	A legal document giving Americans a set of rights, including free speech, ownership of property, and fair trial. These rights were not extended to slaves or Native Americans.
Boston Massacre	The killing of five American colonists by soldiers during a brawl on the streets of Boston.
Boston Tea Party	An event in which American colonists dressed up as Native Americans and boarded three ships in Boston Harbour. They dumped 342 chests of tea into the water in protest at British taxes.
Causes	The actions that result in events happening, actions that bring about effects
Consequences	The results from an action or an event; an effect
Constitution	Set of fundamental rules for running a country that outlines the powers of government and the rights of citizens.
Continental Army	The army of American colonists that fought the British in the American Revolution.
Continental Congress	An assembly of delegates from each of the thirteen American colonies. It set out complaints against British rule and acted as a temporary government during the Revolution.
Course	The events that take place during a period of time
Declaration of Independence	A document declaring America to be independent of British rule. It was adopted by the Continental Congress on 4th July 1776.
Federal Republic	A system of government where power is divided between a central government (usually headed by a president) and various regions or states.
Guerrilla warfare	Hit-and-run or surprise military tactics. Most often used by a small, mobile force against a larger, less mobile force.
Loyalist	A colonist in 18th Century America who favoured or remained loyal to Britain
Militias	Part-time, amateur armies.
Minutemen	Boston militia prepared to fight the British at a minute's notice.
Navigation Acts	Laws stating that some American goods such as tobacco, cotton and sugar could be sold only to Britain.
Patriots	Americans who favoured independence for America
Revolution	A rapid and significant change in society, politics, technology or the economy.
Stamp Act	A tax on documents including newspapers, playing cards, stamps and legal documents.
The Enlightenment	A period from the late 1600s to the early 1800s when writers and thinkers questioned traditional ideas such as the divine right of kings. Also known as the Age of Reason.
Townshend Acts	Laws imposing taxes on goods imported into America, including wine, glass, paint and tea; all of which had to be bought from Britain.
Turning point	A time when decisive events occurs which changes the future

Revolutionary Leader

George Washington (1732-1799)
Washington was a founding father and first President of the United States. He was born in Virginia and became a successful planter, soldier, and politician. He served as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, leading the colonies to victory against the British. He presided over the Constitutional Convention after the war.



Causes	Course	Consequences
<p>1607 saw the establishment of the 13 colonies along the east coast of North America by British settlers. While they prospered and their populations grew, the colonies became unhappy with British rule for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Enlightenment was the movement of thinkers who valued science and reason above faith or authority as the basis for society in the eighteenth century. This led to many challenging the idea that kings have a divine right to rule.• Restrictions on trade: Britain wanted American as both a cheap source of material but also as the market to sell their finished goods to. The British Parliament passed the Navigation Acts which forced the American colonies to use some of their produce to Britain alone.• The Seven Years War (1756-1763): Britain defeated France during the war, seizing much of the French colony territories as a result. The British government wanted the colonies to contribute to the cost of the army's stay in the colonies.• No Taxation Without Representation: Britain introduced two acts which angered many colonists. The Stamp Act (1765) placed a fee for stamps on all legal documents, wills, newspapers, certificates and playing cards while the Quartering Act (1765) taxed colonists in order to cover the costs of the soldiers in the colonies. Opposition groups to these taxes began to use the slogan No Taxation Without Representation against a government in which they had no voice. Widespread violence and protests followed these acts.	<p>The Boston Massacre was a violent incident that occurred on March 5, 1770, in Boston, Massachusetts. A crowd of colonists had gathered around a group of British soldiers, taunting and throwing snowballs at them. The soldiers eventually fired their weapons, killing five colonists and injuring several others. The incident was widely reported and led to increased tensions between the colonists and British authorities.</p> <p>The Boston Tea Party was an act of rebellion against British taxation policies that took place on December 16, 1773, in Boston, Massachusetts. A group of colonists, disguised as Native Americans, boarded three British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbour. The colonists were protesting the British government's Tea Act, which they saw as an unfair tax on their tea imports.</p> <p>The Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775): The first military engagements of the American Revolution, these battles marked the start of armed conflict between British forces and colonial militia.</p> <p>The Declaration of Independence (1776): The declaration was a formal statement declaring the thirteen American colonies as independent and free from British rule.</p> <p>The Battle of Saratoga (1777): A crucial victory for American forces, the battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the war, as it convinced France to officially support the American cause.</p> <p>The Winter at Valley Forge (1777-1778): A brutal winter that nearly destroyed the Continental Army, but also marked a period of intense training and discipline that would prove crucial in later battles.</p> <p>The Siege of Yorktown (1781): The final major battle of the American Revolution, the siege of Yorktown resulted in a decisive victory for American and French forces and led to the British surrendering, effectively ending the war.</p>	<p>Independence of the United States: The most significant consequence of the American Revolution was the establishment of the United States as an independent nation, free from British rule. The newly formed country adopted a constitution and a system of government that would serve as a model for other nations seeking independence.</p> <p>Spread of democratic ideals: The ideas of individual rights, democracy, and limited government that were central to the American Revolution influenced political movements and revolutions around the world, including the French Revolution and Latin American independence movements.</p> <p>Weakened British Empire: The British Empire, which had been a dominant world power for centuries, was significantly weakened by the loss of its American colonies. The financial and military resources expended in the war left Britain vulnerable to other challenges, such as the rise of other European powers.</p> <p>Influence on France and Ireland: the American Revolution served as an inspiration for the French Revolution of 1789, which sought to establish a similar system of government based on individual rights, democracy, and the rule of law; particularly with the ideas of individual liberty, equality, and democracy. The American and French Revolutions inspired the United Irishmen, a revolutionary group in Ireland, to seek independence and establish a democratic republic. However, the British government responded with a crackdown, and the 1798 rebellion failed.</p> <p>Economic growth and expansion: The new United States was able to expand westward, opening up new opportunities for trade, settlement, and economic growth. This led to the establishment of new industries, such as textiles and agriculture, and helped to establish the United States as a major global power.</p> <p>Native American displacement: The American Revolution led to the displacement of many Native American tribes as the United States expanded westward, leading to significant changes in Native American culture and society.</p>



The American Revolution

Doodle Revision Page or Sketch Notes
Include heading(s), short notes, keywords, timelines,
images (maps, drawings, diagrams) as needed

CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **The 13 Colonies:** Britain established colonies along the eastern coast of North America. By the 1760s, the colonies were **prosperous** but unhappy with **British rule**.
- **Age of Enlightenment:** Ideas of **reason, science, and equality** inspired the colonists to challenge the British monarchy.
- **Restrictions on Trade:** The **Navigation Acts** forced the colonies to trade only with Britain, leading to **smuggling** and tension.
- **The Seven Years' War (1756-1763):** Britain's war debts led to **new taxes** on the colonies to cover the cost of their **defence**.
- **No Taxation without Representation:** The **Stamp Act (1765)** and **Quartering Act** led to protests as the colonies had no representation in the **British Parliament**.

ROAD TO WAR

- **The Boston Massacre (1770):** British soldiers killed five protestors, increasing tensions.
- **The Boston Tea Party (1773):** In protest of the **Tea Act**, colonists dumped tea into the **Boston Harbour**.
- **The Intolerable Acts:** Britain responded by closing Boston Harbour and placing the city under **military rule**.
- **First Continental Congress (1774):** Representatives from the colonies met to **boycott British goods** and demand the removal of British soldiers.
- **Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775):** The first military engagements, marking the start of the **Revolutionary War**.
- **Declaration of Independence (1776):** On **July 4th**, the colonies declared their independence from Britain.

THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

- **British Army:** Well-trained and well-equipped but fighting in unfamiliar territory.
- **Continental Army** (led by **George Washington**): Poorly trained and equipped, but with local knowledge.
- **Key Battles:**
 - **Bunker Hill (1775):** A British victory but with heavy losses.
 - **Saratoga (1777):** The turning point; American victory led to **French support**.
 - **Valley Forge (1777-1778):** Washington's army endured hardship but emerged better trained.
 - **Yorktown (1781):** A decisive victory where the British **surrendered**, ending the war.

RESULTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **Foundation of the United States:** The **Treaty of Paris (1783)** officially ended the war, granting independence to the 13 colonies.
 - The **Constitution (1787)** established a **federal republic** with **George Washington** as the first president.
- **Impact on France:** Inspired the **French Revolution** in 1789.
- **Impact on Ireland:** Inspired the **1798 United Irishmen Rebellion**.
- **Influence of Ideas:** The ideals of **freedom and equality** inspired movements for rights for **women, slaves, and Native Americans**.

Ch. 12 - The American Revolution

This text is from a letter written in July 1775 by the Second Continental Congress to King George III of England, known as the Olive Branch Petition. Study it closely and answer the questions that follow.

Attached to your Majesty's person, family, and Government, with all devotion that principle and affection can inspire; connected with Great Britain by the strongest ties that can unite societies, and deploring every event that tends in any degree to weaken them, we solemnly assure your Majesty, that we not only most ardently desire the former harmony between her and these Colonies may be restored, but that a concord may be established between them upon so firm a basis as to perpetuate its blessings, uninterrupted by any future dissensions, to succeeding generations in both countries, and to transmit your Majesty's name to posterity.

- (a) According to the Petition, how are the Americans attached to Great Britain?
- (b) What do they 'most ardently desire'?
- (c) What do you think was their reason for sending this to King George?
- (d) This letter was a public document and was widely reported in the press in both the colonies and Britain. Do you think that King George was the only audience this letter targeted? Explain your answer.
- (e) What other types of source could a historian use to find out more about the Continental Congress?
- (f) Write an account of the causes of a revolution that you have studied.
- (g) What were the key events in that revolution?
- (h) What was the impact of that revolution on the country itself and on the rest of the world?

Question 4

This question is on pre-twentieth century revolutions/rebellions.

- (a) Name a revolution you studied from pre-twentieth century Europe or the wider world.

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- (b) Write an account of the causes and/or consequences of the revolution you studied.

The following sources relate to the United Irishmen who rebelled against English rule in Ireland in 1798. Examine the sources and answer the questions which follow.

Source 1: *United Irishmen upon Duty* by James Gillray, 12 June 1798.



Source 2: extract from the diary of Elizabeth Richards, Co. Wexford, 30 May 1798.

In the morning a man rode into the courtyard with a drawn sword in his hand. He demanded that food should be sent to the rebel camp.

‘We are starving, Ma’am’, said he to Mrs. Hatton. ‘Send us provisions or --’ he struck his sword with violence on the top of a pump.

‘The government may confiscate [take] my property for helping rebels,’ said Mrs. Hatton. ‘If you do not comply you shall be murdered,’ was the reply.

An old man was sent to the rebel camp with a cart loaded with bacon, potatoes, etc., for which Mrs. Hatton received thanks from the rebel chiefs.

- (c) According to the artist in Source 1, what is happening in Ireland? Support your points with evidence from the drawing.

- (d) Is Source 2 a primary source or a secondary source? Give a reason for your answer.

Primary or secondary:
Reason:

- (e) In Source 2, do you think Elizabeth Richards is positive, negative or neutral in her account of the rebels? Give a reason for your answer based on evidence from Source 2.

Positive, negative or neutral:
Reason:

The American/French Revolutions

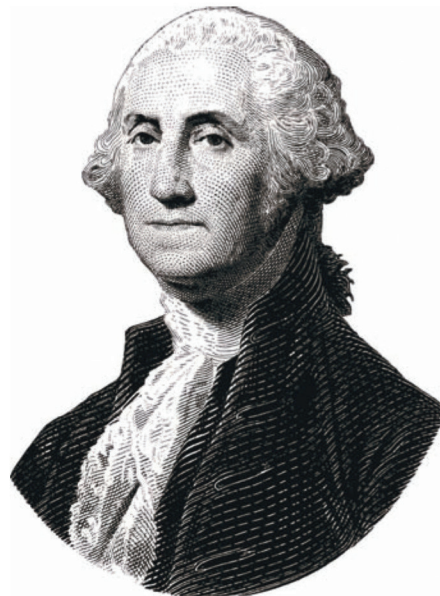
Question 4

Writing to a correspondent in October 1789, newly elected President of the United States, George Washington, expressed his opinion on the French Revolution.

“The revolution which has been effected in France is of so wonderful a nature that the mind can hardly recognise the fact. If it ends as our last accounts to August 1st predict, that nation will be the most powerful and happy in Europe.

But I fear, though it has gone triumphantly through the first paroxysm [seizure], it is not the last it has to encounter before matters are finally settled. In a word, the revolution is of too great a magnitude to be effected in so short a space, and with the loss of so little blood...

Great temperance, firmness, and foresight are necessary. To forbear [prevent] running from one extreme to another is no easy matter, and should this be the case...rocks and shelves, not visible at present, may wreck the vessel and give a higher-toned despotism than the one which existed before.”



(a) In what century did George Washington write this letter?

Tick (✓) one of the following:

16th century ☐

17th century ☐

18th century ☐

(b) Do you think that George Washington agreed or disagreed with the revolution in France?
Support your answer with evidence from the document.

(c) Name a revolution you have studied.

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What caused the revolution you named above?

(d) What were the main events of the revolution?

(e) What changed as a result of the revolution?
