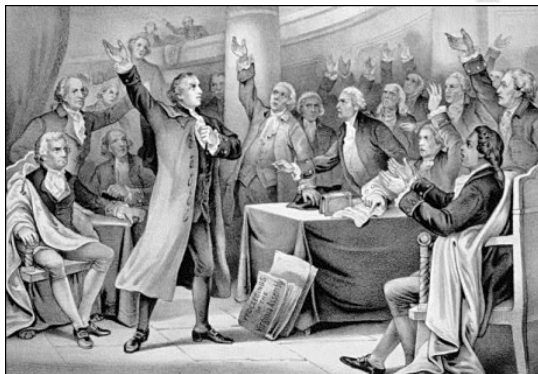
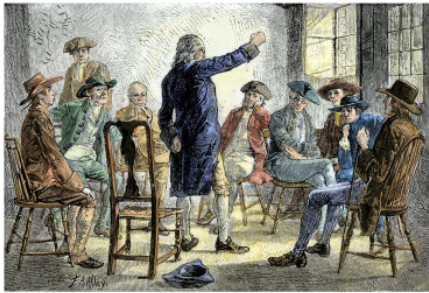


# The American Revolution



## Trade and Navigation Acts



The Navigation Acts were designed to protect English shipping.

They became a great source of irritation between England and the American colonies because Britain had been allowing the colonies to basically run their own affairs.

This type of colonial rule is called **salutary neglect**.

### Navigation Act of 1651

Goal: eliminate Dutch competition from colonial trading routes  
Required all crews on English ships to be at least 1/2 English in nationality

Most colonial goods had to be carried on English or colonial ships

### Navigation Act of 1660

Required the Master and 3/4 of English ship crews to be English  
Created a list of "enumerated goods" that could only be shipped to England or an English colony  
included tobacco, sugar, rice

### Staple Act of 1663

Required all goods shipped from Africa, Asia, or Europe to the American colonies to land in England before being shipped to America

### Plantation Duty Act of 1673

Created penalties for colonial ship captains that did not deliver enumerated goods to England  
English customs offices established in the colonies

### Navigation Act of 1696

Created system of admiralty courts to enforce trade regulations and punish smugglers  
Customs officials were given power to issue writs of assistance to board ships to search for smuggled goods

### Woolens Act of 1699

Prohibited colonial export of woolen cloth to prevent competition with English producers

### Hat Act of 1732

Prohibited export of colonial-produced hats to any country other than England

### Molasses Act of 1733

All non-English molasses imported to an English colony was heavily taxed in order to encourage importation of British West Indian molasses

### American Revenue Act (Sugar Act) of 1764

Revenue-generating measure: new duties were put on imported goods and a stricter process created for collecting the taxes

# French & Indian War

1754-1763



## Treaty of Paris of 1763

Britain got Canada and all the land east of the Mississippi River from France

BUT - France gave Spain all of the Louisiana Territory

## Proclamation of 1763

British forbade Americans from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains

the British didn't want to have to protect them

*colonists had fought for (and won) the land but were now forbidden to settle there (!)*

# Taxes, Taxes, Taxes

British needed funds to repay debts from the French and Indian War



## Stamp Act of 1765

tax on newspapers, pamphlets, licenses, or other legal documents

## Quartering Act of 1765

required colonists to house royal troops

## Townshend Acts of 1767

placed import duties on paper, glass, paint, and tea

## "No Taxation Without Representation"

colonists demanded to have members in Parliament

the colonists didn't *really* want representatives

the number of representatives was based on population

there were fewer people in the colonies than in Britain





## Events Leading to the Revolution

### Boston Massacre

March 5, 1770

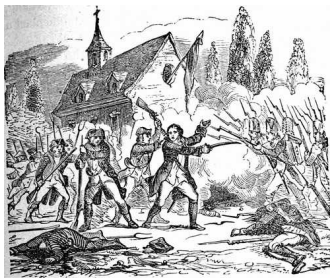
British soldiers fired into a crowd, killing 5  
was called a "massacre" as propaganda against British tyranny

### Boston Tea Party

December 16, 1773

the British-owned East India Company had a monopoly on  
the tea trade

colonists boarded British ships docked in Boston and  
dumped their tea into the harbor



### Lexington and Concord

April 19, 1775

colonists gathering weapons in Concord - British sent to get them

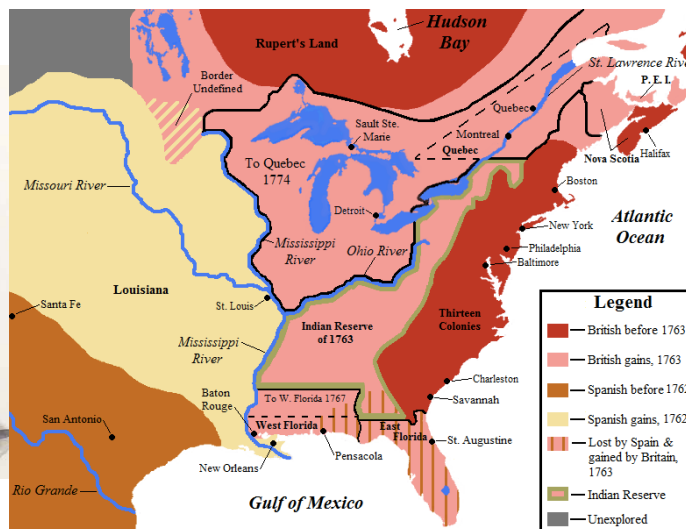
Minutemen in Lexington tried to stop the British

British killed eight and wounded ten

Ralph Waldo Emerson called it "the shot heard 'round the world"

The Declaration of Independence adopted by Second Continental Congress, July 4, 1776

## France Joins the Fight



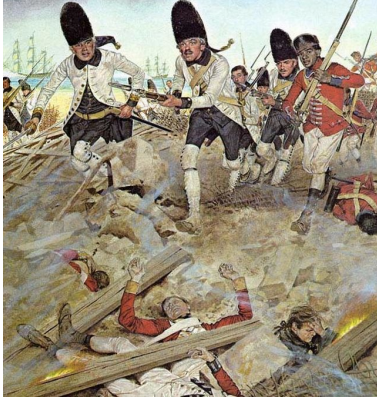
long-standing French/Anglo rivalry (Seven Years War)

at first France only provided loans and some supplies

the Americans' win in the Battle of Saratoga in 1777 convinced France to ally with America

Treaty of Alliance and the Treaty of Amity and Commerce on February 6, 1778

## Spain and the Dutch Join the War



Spanish forces overrun the British lines during the Battle of Pensacola (1781).

Spain also disliked Britain and were closer to the French  
also feared an independent U.S. would inspire Spanish colonies to revolt

Spain did not officially ally with the Americans

signed a treaty with France against Britain



The dutch formation in the battle of Dogger Bank, 5th august 1781.

the Dutch Republic was also no fan of the British

secretly provided weapons to the Americans but remained officially neutral so the British would not block their ports

when Britain discovered this secret trade agreement they declared war on the Dutch

## Effect of Europe on the American Revolution

France

contributed military supplies, financial support, and men

some argue that if it were not for the French the Americans might not have won the war

Spain

contributed private donations and personal loans  
opened a second front in Florida

“Hessians”

German mercenaries hired by the British  
(from Hess, a region of Germany; see right)

greatly strengthened the British military



Surrender of Lord Cornwallis  
by John Trumbull, depicting the British surrendering to French (left) and American (right) troops.  
Oil on canvas, 1820.



“Darmstadter Handschrift,” 1785, Georg Ortenburg, Hessisches Militaer.

# The Effect of the American Revolution on Europe

European liberal movements gained momentum from the American victory.  
(French Revolution)

*The most famous "result" of the American Revolution was the French Revolution. While serving as ambassador to America in Paris in 1789, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "the American war seems to have awakened the thinking part of this nation from the sleep of despotism in which they were sunk." France also lost their colony Haiti to a slave uprising inspired by both the American and French Revolutions.*



America would become a key political and economic player in European affairs

## "Iron Tears," a British View of American Revolution

July 03, 2005

*The following is the transcript of an NPR interview with Stanley Weintraub, author of "[Iron Tears: America's Battle For Freedom, Britain's Quagmire, 1776-1783](#)," which he describes as a "dual-sided history of the Revolutionary War that examines the conflict from both the colonial and British sides."*

LIANE HANSEN, host:

This weekend, to mark the Fourth of July, Independence Day, festivities are scheduled in small towns and large to celebrate the American Colonies severing ties with the British crown. Seen through American eyes, the new nation's Founding Fathers were all noble, guided by lofty ideals. But through British eyes, events and people were, not surprisingly, seen quite differently. Historian Stanley Weintraub provides that perspective in his new book, "Iron Tears: America's Battle for Freedom, Britain's Quagmire, 1775-1783." When he spoke to us last week, he explained that the British felt the Colonies were indebted to them and should be more appreciative.

Professor STANLEY WEINTRAUB (Author, "Iron Tears"): They felt that the American colonists owed them a great deal for protection, for purveying their culture, for providing them with manufacturers. But what they didn't say is that they prevented manufacturers from being made in American Colonies themselves; they wanted to keep the economy dependent on England. So when the American Revolution actually began, there was no way to make gunpowder in America. There were no armories to make rifles or cannon; they had to import them or take them from the British. We were totally unprepared for war because the British made sure we weren't by making them dependent. And so the resentment in America was dependency.

HANSEN: Well, what about British Parliament? I mean, was everyone in agreement about how to deal with the American Colonies?

Prof. WEINTRAUB: No. The British Parliament was quite unrepresentative. The British Parliament largely was based on men who were elected from the small towns and farmlands and not from the burgeoning big cities that were growing up with the Industrial Revolution. So Manchester or Birmingham didn't have any seats in Parliament, and the British said, 'Why are you complaining, you in America? The same thing's true over here. We're not representative, but we're happy.'

HANSEN: Hmm. How important, though, were the Colonies to Britain?

Prof. WEINTRAUB: They were very important as a source of raw materials, particularly agricultural materials and tobacco. But the Colonies were also important as a source of pride. We think in terms of 'the jewel in the crown' applied to India, but that term was really first applied to the American Colonies. They were the jewel in the king's crown.

HANSEN: So you have this deep resentment growing on both sides, on the British side and on the American side, and the protests against the taxes were beginning to grow. Did the view begin to change? Did the resentment begin to build?

Prof. WEINTRAUB: The resentment built on the part of the patriots, patriots who were really extremists, largely in the Northeast, like Massachusetts. And when the Tea Party occurred and the bales of tea were thrown overboard, Benjamin Franklin actually said, 'This was an act of piracy and the Americans should repay the British for the tea.' So it took a long time before people we consider the super patriots of the country to get around to the extreme view of separation.

HANSEN: Let's go to April 19th, 1775; British troops firing on American militia at Lexington and Concord. The idea of going to war--Did all the Britons think that going to war with America was a good idea?

Prof. WEINTRAUB: They were very surprised when we went to war. They were surprised especially when they lost.

*(Soundbite of laughter)*

HANSEN: But were--well, they were surprised when it actually started.

Prof. WEINTRAUB: When it started. They weren't prepared for it, and they hadn't realized that the American militias that were building up at the time, particularly in places like Virginia and in Massachusetts, were armed. They were armed largely because they had hunting rifles. They had very little sources of ammunition. And the British at Bunker Hill lost a lot of men, and it took so long before the news got to England--the patriots were very shrewd. They rushed the news and newspapers to England faster than the British could send their official communiques. And so the American spin, the patriots' spin on the war, affected England before the government could put its own spin on the war.

HANSEN: So how did the British public first react to the idea of war with...

Prof. WEINTRAUB: They reacted with shock, especially with the casualties that came across. And they reacted with shock when they realized that their taxes would have to go up. They couldn't get taxation out of America. And not only did their taxes go up, their taxes were on every little thing one could imagine. Not merely tea or stamps or newspapers, but even rabbit hair for women's hats was taxed. Ink, paper, all kinds of things were taxed. And these were nuisance taxes because the British didn't want to raise the property tax, but eventually they had to do that, too. And so the war was largely unpopular because it was an economic dent in the British.

HANSEN: So in talking about the execution of the war, was Britain's heart really in it?

Prof. WEINTRAUB: Not the heart of the merchants. The merchants were very hostile to the war. This was the radical center of the war because the businessmen were taking a big hit. They wanted the trade to continue, and there was no trade.

HANSEN: Hmm. So ultimately, why do you think Britain lost the war?

Prof. WEINTRAUB: Britain lost the war because General Washington had two other generals on his side. One was 'General Demography,' population. The population was burgeoning. And the other general that Washington had on his side was 'General Atlantic,' that is Atlantic Ocean. It took two and a half months to cross the Atlantic by sail against the wind. By the time the Donald Rumsfeld of that war, the secretary for America, Lord George Germaine, sent his orders across to America 3,000 miles away, it was too late; the orders were moot. Things had changed. It took two and a half months. So General Atlantic, meaning 'General Distance,' and 'General Demography,' meaning population, were really generals who aided Washington tremendously.

HANSEN: Why was it important for you to present the Revolutionary War from the British point of view?

Prof. WEINTRAUB: The losers seldom ever write the history. We've always had flag-waving histories. And it's nice to have flag-waving histories, but I think we needed some balance to see what the war was like from the lens of the British. How did they see it? How did they take to it?

HANSEN: Stanley Weintraub is the Evan Pugh Professor Emeritus of Arts and Humanities at Pennsylvania State University. His newest book is "Iron Tears: America's Battle for Freedom, Britain's Quagmire, 1775-1783," published by the Free Press.

Thanks so much for coming in.

Prof. WEINTRAUB: You're welcome. Glad to be with you.



Cow representing English commerce being milked and dehorned by France, Spain, Holland, and the United States while the British lion sleeps, during the American Revolutionary War.

*Credit: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*