

# The American Revolution Begins 1776- 1783



## A Divided Nation

Only 1/3 of the colonists were in favor of a war for independence: they were called **Patriots**

One third were opposed to a war for independence they were called **Loyalists**

The final third were **neutral**





# Strengths and Weaknesses

## Britain

### ADVANTAGES:

wealth & confidence  
professional army & navy



### DISADVANTAGES:

distance & supplies

## Colonists

### ADVANTAGES:

defensive war on home turf  
French support



### DISADVANTAGES:

smaller, less experienced military

Other?

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# Military Strategies

## The Americans

 wear the British down through **attrition**  
[their supplies had to travel a long way]

 **guerrilla** tactics  
[there was a defensive war: they don't have to win, just wear the British down]

 make an **alliance**  
with one of Britain's enemies



## The British

 break the colonies in half: divide North from South

 **blockade** ports:  
no goods and supplies from any ally.

 divide the people:  
use the Loyalists to sway public opinion.



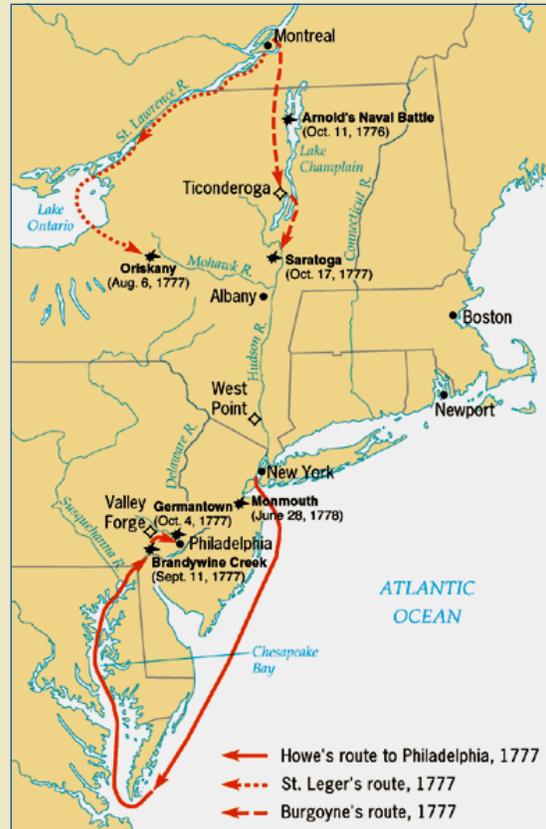


# Battle of Long Island

August, 1776

Washington's executed a  
**“masterly retreat”**  
in small boats  
from Brooklyn to Manhattan

surprised many New Yorkers  
and made them flee their homes  
without their belongings



# Battle of Trenton

December, 1776

General Washington moved his troops  
across the Delaware River and back into NY

surprised 1,300 **Hessians** : German soldiers-for-hire  
[they were recovering from Christmas Eve festivities]



Washington Crossing the Delaware, Emanuel Leutze, 1851



# Native Americans



1777 was called “the bloody year” on the frontier because **the British paid Indians for Patriot scalps**

the 4 pro-British tribes of the Iroquois were forced to **give up most of their land**

in the 1779 Treaty of Fort Stanwix



Mohawk chief **Joseph Brant** led attacks in southwestern New York and northern Pennsylvania.

Lt. Col. **George Rogers Clark** and a small American force captured the British post of Kaskaskia in Illinois and the British town of Vincennes, in Indiana.

the so-called “war for liberty and independence” actually took liberty and independence away from the Indians, because after the war,

**American soldiers were paid with Indian land**

# Battle of Saratoga

October, 1777

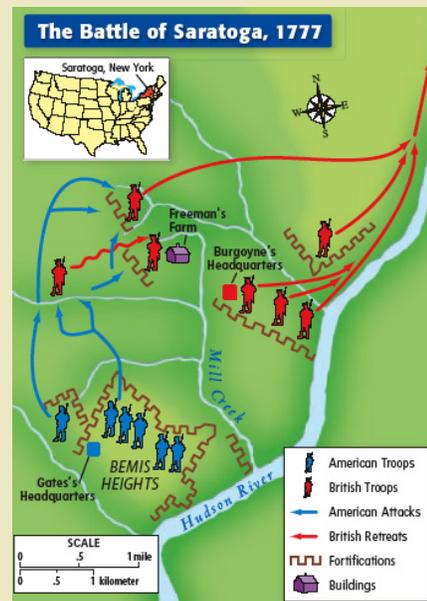
British Gen. Burgoyne moved south from Canada became trapped by American Gen. Horatio Gates

5,700 British soldiers surrendered and were imprisoned in VA

winning this battle proved to the French that the Americans could actually win the war

the French officially allied with the Americans

became the **turning point** of the war



# Foreign Involvement

France provided a lot of aid to the colonies after Saratoga



most of the gunpowder used by the Americans came from France

in 1778 Britain and France officially declared war on each other

Spain was looking to get territories back that had been taken by Britain in the Seven Years' War in 1779 Spain entered the war on the side of France

Britain was now at war with the colonies, France, Spain, and the Netherlands fighting all these countries at once was a far greater threat to Britain than fighting the Americans alone

# Valley Forge

Pennsylvania  
bitterly cold winter of 1777-1778

Washington's Continental troops wintered here lacked adequate food, clothing and supplies

Washington's leadership skills held the men together

