

NOTES

The Road To Revolution

- after 7 years war - Britain weaker of imperial domain in America
- costly war, American political party, precipitated Revolution

The Deep Roots of Revolution

- republicanism, just society in which all citizens willingly subordinate their interests to the common good
- radical Whigs, a second idea that fundamentally shaped American political thought derived from a group of British political commentators known as...
 - attacks on use of bribes and corruption
- Americans used to running their own affairs, distance weaker authority

Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- only Georgia formally planted by British government
- mercantilism, justified Britain's control of colonies, wealth was power, country's economic wealth (military and political power), measured by the amount of gold or silver in its treasury (exports more than imports)
 - colonies could supply raw materials to the mother country (reducing foreign imports)
 - expected to provide furnished products such as tobacco, sugar, and ships' masts
- Navigation Law of 1650, aimed at Dutch, all trade to and from the colonies through British vessels
- right to deny any laws passed by colonial assemblies if they interfered with mercantilism system

The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

- navigation laws not too much burden because they were loosely enforced, smuggling
- London paid bounties to colonial producers of ship parts
- protection of best navy but it imposed dependence on British agents

The Stamp Tax Uproar

- Britain faced debt after their victory
- 1763, prime minister George Grenville, ordered the British navy to begin strictly enforcing the Navigation laws
 - increased duty on foreign sugar imported from the West Indies, after protests, duties lowered
- Quartering Act of 1763, required certain colonies to provide food and quarters for British troops
- Stamp Act, raise tax revenues to support new military force
- admiralty courts, where juries were not allowed

Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- Stamp Act Congress at 1763, brought together in NYC, 27 distinguished delegates from nine colonies, largely ignored in England
- nonimportation agreements, more effective than the congress was the widespread adoption, against British goods
- Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty, groups of ardent spirits, took the law into their own hands
- Declaratory Act, reaffirming Parliament's right "to bind" the colonies "in all cases whatsoever"

The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston "Massacre"

- Townshend Acts, most important, a light import duty on glass, whitewash, paper, paint, and tea
- Boston Massacre, troops opened fire and killed or wounded 11 citizens

The Scatious Committees of Correspondance

- committees of correspondance, Samuel Adams's signal contribution was to organize in Mass.
- Townshend Acts, ill planned

CLASS NOTES

French and Indian War

- French and British claim Ohio River Valley
- War begins in 1754 - 1763, when treaty was signed
- French have better relationship with Native Americans
- why?
 - French win battles by attacking from behind rocks and trees - guerilla warfare

Britain Wins French and Indian War

- British PM Pitt raised taxes to support war
- British began to talk over French forts
- Campaign to take Quebec - New France capital
 - British take Quebec and Montreal
 - control New France
- Treaty of Paris 1763 - ending the war
 - Britain receives Canada
 - Britain has all land east of Mississippi River

Proclamation of 1763

- Native Americans conflict with English settlers
- Pontiac's Rebellion
 - destroyed British forts
 - Killed thousands of colonists
- King George III
 - new King as of 1760 - 23 years old
- Proclamation of 1763
 - closed the region west of the Appalachians to all settlement by colonists
- colonists would continue to move west

Sugar Act

- 1764
- colonists to pay duties on molasses and sugar
- colonists do not approve
- says act violates their rights as British subjects

Quartering Act

- 1765
- required colonists to provide housing and supplies for British troops
- colonists do not approve
- says act violates their rights as British subjects

Stamp Act

- 1765
- tax
 - newspapers
 - pamphlets
 - legal documents
 - other printed material
- required official government stamp on papers

SUMMARY

NOTES

• Boston Tea Party: colonists dumping 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbour

Parliament Passes the "Intolerable Acts"

Intolerable Act, chartered rights taken away from colonists

• Quarter Act, good law in a bad company

Bloodshed

• First Continental Congress in 1774, response to the Intolerable acts

the Association, called for complete boycott of British goods

Imperial Strength and Weakness

• Britain boasts a professional army, 50,000 men

America Pluses and Minuses

• revolutionaries, blessed with good leadership

A Thin Line of Heroes

• Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, shortages hit the soldiers hard (1777-1778)

• camp followers, large number of females accompanied American Army

CLASS NOTES

Colonists' Response

• Boycott, refusal to buy certain products or use certain services

• sons of liberty

- Boston, MA

- organized boycott

- burned stamped papers

- threatened stamp distributors

- burned the home of Lt. Governor Thomas Hutchinson

• Stamp act repealed

Declaratory Act

Parliament wants to reassert its authority

• act

- parliament has authority to make laws that apply to colonies

- can rule colonies however it sees fit

Why did Parliament pass it?

question remains

- can Parliament tax the colonies without colony representation?

- virtual representation

Townshend Acts

import taxes

- lead

- paper

- tea

- paint

- glass

• money collected used to pay royal governors

• why is this bad for colonists?

Colonists' Response

• boycott

- no British tea

- women makes clothes instead of buying English cloth

• Congress stopped importing English goods

Boston Massacre

• March 5, 1770

crowd of colonists threaten British soldiers

• British fire upon crowd, killing 5

- Crispus Attucks, African American

- 1st casualty of revolution

• British soldiers arrested and tried

- 7 found not guilty, 2 guilty of lesser crimes

• Parliament repealed Townshend Acts

- duty on tea remained to show British authority

Boston Tea Party

• 1773

SUMMARY

Tea Act

- British East Indian Company
- allowed company to sell tea in America without taxes
- this would drive American tea merchants out of business

Port cities refuse to allow company's ships to dock

December 16, 1773

- colonists dress up as Indians
- boarded 3 ships
- dumped all of the tea into Boston Harbor

Intolerable Acts

1774

Parliament wants to punish Boston

acts

- limit town meetings to once a year
- suspended Massachusetts court
- closed Boston Harbor

Thomas Gage, new governor of Massachusetts

First Continental Congress

1774

50 colonial delegates meet in Philadelphia

- every colony represented except for Georgia

called for:

- boycott of British goods
- militias to form up and arm themselves

made appeal to King George

- let us be separated or self-rule

King George sees colonies in state of rebellion

Lexington and Concord

Patriots formed militias and gathered guns and ammunition

major stockpile of weapons at Concord in Massachusetts

April 1775

- British troops ordered to go and seize the supplies

Paul Revere warned colonists throughout countryside of British army

minutemen meet British at Lexington

shot heard 'round the world

within minutes colonists lay dead

Concord

British moved onto Concord

- most of supplies had been removed

Patriots follow British back to Boston

- about 250 casualties, British
- humiliating defeat for British

Revolutionary War has begun

NOTES

American revolution was not a revolution in a sense of a radical or total change.

A Shaky Start Toward Union

- disruptive forces stalked the land
- Americans enjoyed a rich political inheritance

Constitution Making in the States

- Continental Congress called upon colonies to draft new constitutions
- look at class and powerpoint notes

Economic Crosscurrents

- economic changes begotten by war, noteworthy, not overwhelming
- independence has drawbacks
- whole economic and social atmosphere was unhealthy

Creating a Confederation

- second Continental Congress at Revolutionary days a little more than a conference of ambassadors from the 13 colonies
- AOC, Congress appointed a committee to draft a written constitution for the new nation

The AOC: America's First Constitution

- a clumsy congress was to be chief agency of government

Landmarks in Land Laws

- Old Northwest, public domain recently acquired
- Land Ordinance of 1785, 1st of rid letter laws, Old Northwest should be sold and that proceeds should be used to help pay off national debt
- Northwest Ordinance, related to governing the Old Northwest

The World's Wily Duckling

- relations with London remained troubled

The Horrid Specter of Anarchy

- Shay's rebellion, farmers losing their farms through mortgage foreclosures, tried to enforce their demands
- Shay's followers were crushed

A convention of "Demigods"

- control of commerce, more than any other problem, touched off the chain reaction that led to a Constitutional Convention
- George Washington, elected chairman

Patriots in Philadelphia

- the 55 delegates were a conservative, well-to-do body: lawyers, merchants, shippers, land speculators, and many moneylenders

Hammering Out a Bundle of Compromises

- Virginia's Plan essence was that representation in both houses of a bicameral Congress should be based on population - an agreement that would naturally give the larger states an advantage
- New Jersey's Plan, equal representation
- Great Compromise, House of Representatives (population), Senate (equal representation)
- Common Law, legal tradition, made it unnecessary to be specific about every conceivable detail
- civil law, traditions prevailed, constitutions took form of elaborate legal codes
- 3/5 compromise, every 5 slaves equals 3 free men
- other items dealing with slavery appeared in the final draft

CLASS NOTES

The American Revolutionary War

- Colonial Advantages
 - Homeground, good decisions by generals, fighting for rights and freedom,
 - French alliance: loan, navy, troops
- Colonial Disadvantages
 - untrained soldiers; small army, food and ammo shortages, weak central government
- British Advantages
 - well-trained, well-supplied army and navy, wealth of resources, strong central government
- British Disadvantages
 - fighting in hostile territory, long supply chain, poor support from home
- when the war began, English advantages seemed to be overwhelming; however, England could not focus exclusively on the rebellion in America
- France, Spain, and Holland all posed a threat to other British colonies.

England was forced to keep troops and ships stationed around the world that might otherwise have fought in America

Although the Continental Army was rarely able to fight toe-to-toe against the larger, better trained British army, the militia used guerrilla warfare to sting and frustrate the British

- Many in England were anti-war, believing America was more important

British Allies
 - Loyalists
 - African Americans (freedom)
 - Native Americans (free America = more land lost)
 - Hessians (foreign soldiers, German mercenaries)

American Allies
 - French

Federalists

- economy, business/industry
- supporters, landowners, merchants
- type of democracy, representative
- government, strong central
- govern, educated/elite

Anti-Federalists

- economy, agriculture (majority of people were farmers)
- supporters, farmers and laborers
- type of democracy, direct
- government, strong states
- govern, commoners

SUMMARY

NOTES

Safeguards for Conversation

- heated clashes between delegates

Clash of Federalists and Anti-Federalists

- look at class notes and powerpoint

The Great Debate in the States

- Massachusetts, 2nd most populous state, provided an acid test
- assembly buzzed with conversations of summoning a another constitutional convention

The Four Laggard States

- Virginia, most populous, anti-federalists opposition
- George Washington, James Madison, and John Marshall, federalists side

A Conservative Triumph

- minoritized triumphed twice
- majority had not spoken
- conservatism was victorious

The Pursuit of Equality

- Society of the Cincinnati, continental army officers formed an exclusive hereditary order
- this revolution of sentiments was sadly incomplete
- incomplete was the extension of the doctrine of equality to women
- civic virtue, notion the democracy depends on unwavering commitment of each citizen to the public good
- the idea of "republican motherhood" thus took root, exalting women to a newly prestigious role as the special keepers of the nation's conscience

CLASS NOTES

1787, economic instability and the fear created by Shay's Rebellion led each state to send delegates to a Constitutional Congress in Philadelphia. The stated goal was to amend the Articles of Confederation but some delegates wanted a completely new framework of government

George Washington was chosen as presiding officer of the Convention. All meetings were closed to the public to ensure open debate but James Madison kept detailed records

- At the Convention two different plans were proposed

- The Virginia plan proposed to replace the AOC with a new document written by mainly by Madison and based on the Virginia state constitution

- The Virginia Plan called for separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The legislative would be two houses - the 1st elected by people and the selected by the 1st house

SUMMARY