Chapter Six

From Empire to Independence
1750-1776
Causes of the American Revolution

Geographic Considerations - The distance of the colonies from Great Britain created an independence that was hard to overcome. Those willing to colonize the new world generally had a strong independent streak desiring new opportunities and more freedom.
Causes of the American Revolution

**Colonial Legislatures** – The existence of colonial legislatures meant that the colonies were in many ways independent of the crown. The legislatures were allowed to levy taxes, muster troops, and pass laws. Over time, these powers became rights in the eyes of many colonists. When they were curtailed by the British, conflict ensued. The future leaders of the United States were born in these legislatures.
Causes of the American Revolution

**Salutary Neglect** - Even though the British believed in mercantilism, Prime Minister Robert Walpole espoused a view of "salutary neglect." This was a system whereby the actual enforcement of external trade relations was lax. He believed this enhanced freedom would stimulate commerce.
Causes of the American Revolution

The Enlightenment – Many of the revolutionary leaders had studied major writings of the Enlightenment including those of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and the Baron de Montesquieu. From these writings, the founders gleaned the concepts of the social contract, limited government, the consent of the governed, and separation of powers.
Causes of the American Revolution

Major Events That Led to the American Revolution
The road to revolution built slowly over time. Many events fed the growing desire of the thirteen colonies for independence. Following are the major events that led to the Revolution. 1754-1763
Causes of the American Revolution

French and Indian War
This war between Britain and France ended with the victorious British deeply in debt and demanding more revenue from the colonies. With the defeat of the French, the colonies became less dependent on Britain for protection.
Causes of the American Revolution

1763 - Proclamation of 1763
This prohibited settlement beyond the Appalachian Mountains. While Britain did not intend to harm the colonists, many colonists took offense at this order.
Causes of the American Revolution

1764 - Sugar Act
This act raised revenue by increasing duties on sugar imported from the West Indies.
Causes of the American Revolution

1764 - Currency Act
Parliament argued that colonial currency had caused a devaluation harmful to British trade. They banned American assemblies from issuing paper bills or bills of credit.
Causes of the American Revolution

1764 - Committees of Correspondence
Organized by Samuel Adams, these helped spread propaganda and information through letters.
Causes of the American Revolution

1765 - Quartering Act
Britain ordered that colonists were to house and feed British soldiers if necessary.
Causes of the American Revolution

1765 - **Stamp Act**
This required tax stamps on many items and documents including playing cards, newspapers, and marriage licenses. Prime Minister George Grenville stated that this direct tax was intended for the colonies to pay for defense. Previous taxes imposed by Britain had been indirect, or hidden.
Causes of the American Revolution

1765 - Stamp Act Congress
In 1765, 27 delegates from nine colonies met in New York City and drew up a statement of rights and grievances thereby bringing colonies together in opposition to Britain.
Causes of the American Revolution

1765 - *Sons and Daughters of Liberty*
Colonists tried to fight back by imposing non-importation agreements. The Sons of Liberty often took the law into their own hands enforcing these 'agreements' by methods such as tar and feathering.
Causes of the American Revolution

1767 - Townshend Acts
These taxes were imposed to help make the colonial officials independent of the colonists and included duties on glass, paper, and tea. Smugglers increased their activities to avoid the tax leading to more troops in Boston.
Causes of the American Revolution

1770 - **Boston Massacre**
The colonists and British soldiers openly clashed in Boston. This event was used as an example of British cruelty despite questions about how it actually occurred.
Causes of the American Revolution

1773 - **Tea Act**
To assist the failing British East India Company, the Company was given a monopoly to trade tea in America.
Causes of the American Revolution

1773 - **Boston Tea Party**
A group of colonists disguised as Indians dumped tea overboard from three ships in Boston Harbor.
Causes of the American Revolution

1774 - Intolerable Acts
These were passed in response to the Boston Tea Party and placed restrictions on the colonists including outlawing town meetings and the closing of Boston Harbor.
Causes of the American Revolution

1774 - First Continental Congress
In response to the Intolerable Acts, 12 of the 13 colonies met in Philadelphia from September-October, 1774. One of the main results of this was the creation of The Association calling for a boycott of British goods.
1775 - Lexington and Concord

In April, British troops were ordered to Lexington and Concord to seize stores of colonial gunpowder and to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock. At Lexington, open conflict occurred and eight Americans were killed. At Concord, the British troops were forced to retreat with the loss of 70 men. This was the first instance of open warfare.
Causes of the American Revolution

1775 - Second Continental Congress
All 13 colonies were represented at this meeting in Philadelphia beginning May. The colonists still hoped that their grievances would be met by King George III. George Washington was named head of the Continental Army.
Causes of the American Revolution

1775 - Bunker Hill
This major victory for the Colonists resulted in George III proclaiming the colonies in rebellion. In the end, the American Revolution grew out of increasing restrictions placed upon the colonies by the British. One interesting side note: It is estimated that only one-third of the colonists were in favor of rebellion. One-third continued to side with the British. The last third were neutral concerning the rebellion and break from Great Britain.
From Empire to Independence

How does this painting characterize the road from being part of the British Empire to forming the independent United States of America?
Chapter Focus Questions

- What was the final struggle among Great Britain, France, and American Indian tribes for control of eastern North America?
- How did the aftermath of the French and Indian War influence American nationalism?
- What were Great Britain's changing policies toward its North American colonies?
- What were the political assumptions of American republicanism?
- How did the colonists try to achieve unity in their confrontation with Great Britain?
Part Two

The First Continental Congress Shapes a National Political Community
The First Continental Congress

- In 1774, delegates from 12 colonies met for seven weeks in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress forging a community of national leaders.
- The Congress took the first step toward creating a national political community.
Part Three

The Seven Years' War in America
The Albany Congress of 1754


- The agenda included:
  - considering a collective colonial response to the conflict with New France and the Indians of the interior; and
  - negotiation of a settlement with the Iroquois Confederacy, who had become unhappy with colonial land-grabbing.

- The Conference resulted in:
  - The Iroquois leaving without an agreement; and
  - adoption of Benjamin Franklin's Plan of Union, though this was rejected by colonial assemblies.
The three principal flash points of conflict in North America were:

1. The northern Atlantic coast where British Nova Scotia and French Louisburg faced each other.
2. The border region between New France and New York from Niagara Falls to Lake George where competition for the Indian trade was fierce.
3. The Ohio country was the primary focus of British and French attention due to competition over land.

The impending war involved Indian peoples of the interior.

The Iroquois Confederacy and Creeks successfully played the European powers off one another.
Frontier Warfare

- Map: The War for Empire in North America, 1754-1763, p. 147
- The defeat of General Braddock in 1755 was followed by the outbreak of war between Britain and France in 1756.
- The French achieved early victories in New York.
- The British harshly treated French-speaking farmers of Acadia by expelling them from their homes. Many moved to Louisiana where they became known as "Cajuns."
The War for Empire in North America, 1754-1763
The Conquest of Canada

- William Pitt became British Prime Minister promising to win the war.
- Pitt's plan called for the conquest of Canada and the elimination of all French competition from North America.
- The British gained Iroquois Confederacy and Ohio Indian and committed over 50,000 British and colonial troops to the Canada campaign.
- British forces captured Louisburg, the French forts on the New York border, Quebec, and, lastly, Montreal in 1760.
The Removal of the French from North America

- **Map:** European Claims in North America, 1750 and 1763
- In the Treaty of Paris of 1763, the French lost all its North American mainland possessions.
European Claims in North America, 1750 and 1763
The Struggle for the West

- The removal of the French stimulated a revitalization movement among the Ohio Indians led by Neolin, the Delaware Prophet.
- Pontiac, an Ottawa, forged a confederacy that achieved early success, was crippled by a disease epidemic, and then failed.
- The British had earlier issued the Proclamation of 1763.
- American colonists opposed the Proclamation of 1763 and the British could not stop westward migration.
- The Indians were forced to make concessions.
Part Four

The Imperial Crisis of British North America
The Seven Years War affected the American colonists by:
- making them proud to be members of the British empire;
- noting important contrasts between themselves and the British; and
- strengthened a sense of identity among the colonists.

A nationalist perspective emerged.
The Press, Politics, and Republicanism

- The weekly newspaper was an important means of intercolonial communication.
- The colonial press expressed the political assumptions of informed colonists, often reprinting the writings of radical Whigs.
- The notion of republicanism emerged from Whig warnings of government's threats to liberty.

Monday August 7, 1721.

Honig non-unicus Negocii: Or, Jack of all Trades.
THE
New-England Courant.

From MONDAY February 4. to MONDAY February 11. 1721.

The late Publisher of this Paper, failing to get many Subscribers as he would have been pleased with, by carrying the Manuscripts and publick News to be transmitted by the Post, to the Posterity, thought it his Duty to implore the Undertakers, to give him a little time for this purpose, as he is now about to begin his Undertaking. The posterity having read the following Pieces, that they may desire to have them printed as a Preface to what they may hereafter meet with in this Paper.

No. 65.

ANG has the Pride of great Men of certain Seats, and understands him: and if he is about to make himself a Man of honour, he will make himself a Man of Honour.

Mr. Greenlaw's Speech in the Parliament, October 13. at the another publick, and as many of our Country Men, as for some years to last, it affect us to a great Degree.

His MAJESTY's Minute for a Grant of the several lads, the Presto of this Paper, to be referred to, to the Parliament; or Thursday October 11. 1722.

The last Speech of the King, to the Parliament, to acquaint them, that the late Speech of the King, was for some Time past, and is in this Paper, as well as the present Speech, which was drawn from the King's Speech, and is in this Paper.

THE
New-England Courant.

From MONDAY December 4. to MONDAY December 11. 1721.

On SYLVA the Fair. A Jingle.

Sylva of Sparta, young, gay, and bold,
Low'd diffus'd, long, but the word could.
To God and Virtue the revere, the word.
At last came Damascus, he was old,
Nay, he was old, but had Gold.
His Grace's Madam, all the Queen's servants,
While rich, others their Lusts conclude.
Some say, she's dead; I say, she's dead.

The Letter to an Englishman in the Smaller Fox, (Sign'd Abraham) giving an Account of the Discovery of the Foxes, who have dyd under that Operation, will be enforce in our next.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Affton. March 6. The Conspiration form'd by the Grand Vizier last January was not in 1718, with the design of exciting the Turkish Power, and it was feebly discovered, and himself and Accessories secured; since which the State hath enjoy'd its former Tranquility, and a new Vizier is appointed in his room. The old Man's Eyes being both open, he is set aside (but to Prince of Persia, and the King of Persia) with the help of that which the Vizier hoped to complete its Ends.

Tronga, July 13. As soon as our Squadron fitted out against the famous Frenchman, we have got the better of him in the long Run.

The Divorce Bill has been read for a second Time, and has passed, by the Votes of the Lords and Commons, and is to be referred to the King's Consent.

The Collectors have, by their Emulsion, made a great noise in this Case, that the King's Consent should be given, and the Collector, as much as possible, to get the real Proof of their Sale, and the real Proof of their Sale, and the real Proof of their Sale.

To this end they provided considerable sums of Money, engaged great Numbers of Officers from the Revenue, and put them upon the Tennis-Courts, and the Tennis-Courts, and the Tennis-Courts.


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The Sugar and Stamp Acts

- The costs of the Seven Years War and the subsequent defense of the North American empire added to the huge government debt.
- In 1764, Parliament passed the Sugar Act to raise revenue from the colonies.
- Colonial protest arose in the cities, especially Boston where a nonimportation movement soon spread to other cities.
- James Otis, Jr. developed the doctrine of no taxation without representation.
- Prime Minister Grenville ignored American protests and passed the Stamp Act.
The Stamp Act Crisis

- The Stamp Act precipitated an unprecedented crisis.
- Colonial concerns included the long-term constitutional implications regarding representation of the colonists in the British government.
- Several colonies passed resolutions denouncing the Stamp Act.
- Massachusetts, especially Boston, emerged as a center of protest.
- To counter the growing violence, the Sons of Liberty were formed.
"Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: First a right to life, secondly to liberty, and thirdly to property: together with the right to defend them in the best manner they can."

Samuel Adams
Repeal of the Stamp Act

- Map: Demonstrations against the Stamp Act, 1767, p. 156
- British merchants worried about the effects of the growing nonimportation movement petitioned Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act.
- Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in March 1767 but passed the Declaratory Act.
Demonstrations Against the Stamp Act
Part Five

"Save Your Money and Your Country"
The Townshend Revenue Acts

- During the 1760s, there were rapid turnover of government leaders.
- In 1767, Charles Townshend became prime minister.
- Townshend proposed a new revenue measure that placed import duties on lead, glass, paint, paper, and tea.
- In response, John Dickinson's Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania stated that Parliament had no right to tax goods to raise revenue on America.
- Townshend enacted several measures to enforce the new Acts.
Nonimportation: An Early Political Boycott

- Associations of nonimportation and non consumption reformed to protest the Townshend Acts.
- Appeals to stimulate local industry had strong appeal in small towns and rural areas.
- Colonial newspapers paid much attention to women supporting the boycott.
- These efforts reduced British exports by 41 percent.
The Massachusetts Circular Letter

- Boston and Massachusetts were the center of the agitation over the Townshend Revenue Acts.
- Samuel Adams drafted a circular letter that led to British forcing the Massachusetts House of Representative to rescind the letter.
- Rumors of mob rule and riots in Boston led to the British army occupying the city.
The Politics of Revolt and the Boston Massacre

- The British troops stationed in the colonies were a source of scorn and hostility.
- Confrontations arose in New York City and Boston between colonists and British soldiers.
- In Boston, competition between British troops and townsmen over jobs was a source of conflict.
- On March 5, 1770:
  - a confrontation between British soldiers and a crowd ended in the Boston Massacre that left five dead.
  - the Townshend Act was repealed.
Part Six

From Resistance to Rebellion
Intercolonial Cooperation

- In the early seventies, several colonies established committees of correspondence to:
  - share information;
  - shape public opinion; and
  - build cooperation among the colonies.
- Statements and letters by Thomas Hutchinson outraged colonists.
The Boston Tea Party

- Parliament passed a new tax on tea to save the East India Company from failing.
- Colonial protests included:
  - the Boston Tea Party;
  - a tea party in New York;
  - burning a ship loaded with tea in Annapolis; and
  - burning a warehouse in New Jersey.
British Acts that led to Revolution

- Map: The Quebec Act of 1774, p. 163.
The Quebec Act of 1774
The First Continental Congress

- The delegates to the First Continental Congress included the most important leaders of the American cause.
- The delegates passed the Declaration and Resolves that:
  - asserted colonial rights;
  - declared 13 acts of Parliament in violation of their rights; and
  - pledged sanctions until the 13 acts were repealed.
- To enforce the sanctions, the delegates urged formation of Committees of Observation and Safety to assume the functions of local government.
- The Committees organized militia, called extralegal courts, and combined to form colonywide congresses or conventions.
The foregoing signatures being determined upon by the Congress was sealed to be faithfully by
the several States thereof and thereupon we have hereunder set our respective names accordingly.
In Congress, Philadelphia, October 25, 1774.

Sam: Adams
John Adams
Thos. Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson
Ralph Izard
Joseph Hewes
Edward Rutledge
Edmund Pendleton
Jabez Brown
John Adams
John Morton
North Carolina
Rhode Island
Sam: Ward
Elbridge Gerry
Roger Sherman
Charles Thomson

doct: Franklin
Thos. Jefferson

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Louisiana
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Dutchess
Robert Morris

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Despite a stalemate between the British and colonists in Massachusetts, the British government decided on military action. When British troops left Boston to capture American ammunition at Concord, armed conflicts occurred at Lexington and Concord.

The First Engagements of the Revolution

American Attack

Concord → Lexington

British Advance

Cambridge → Charlestown

British Retreat

Battle of Bunker Hill

Massachusetts Bay

Charles R.
Part Seven

Deciding for Independence
The Second Continental Congress

- The Second Continental Congress aimed to organize the defense of the colonies.
- The Congress designated the militia forces besieging Boston as the Continental Army and made George Washington commander-in-chief.
- The Olive Branch Petition was rejected by King George.
Canada, the Spanish Borderlands, and the Revolution

- The rest of colonial North America reacted in various ways to the coming war.
- The French Canadians did not support the rebellion.
- Several British Caribbean islands did support the Continental Congress but the British navy stopped any involvement.
- Spain adopted a neutral position officially, but secretly sought to help the Americans.
Fighting in the North and South

- Fighting continued throughout New England.
- An unsuccessful effort to take Canada ended in the spring of 1776.
- By March the British had been forced out of Boston.
- British efforts in the South had also failed.
- In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine helped cut Americans’ emotional ties to Britain and the King.
- On July 4, 1776, Congress announced the Declaration of Independence.
Part Eight

Conclusion
From Empire to Independence
1750-1776

- Media: Chronology, Chapter 6
From Empire to Independence 1750-1776

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1713</td>
<td>France cedes Acadia to Britain</td>
<td>1764</td>
<td>Sugar Act</td>
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<td>1745</td>
<td>New Englanders capture Louisburg</td>
<td>1765</td>
<td>Stamp Act and Stamp Act Congress</td>
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<td>1749</td>
<td>French send an expeditionary force down the Ohio River</td>
<td>1766</td>
<td>Declaratory Act</td>
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<td>1753</td>
<td>French begin building forts from Lake Erie to the Ohio</td>
<td>1767</td>
<td>Townshend Revenue Acts</td>
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<td>1754</td>
<td>Albany Congress</td>
<td>1768</td>
<td>Treaties of Hard Labor and Fort Stanwix</td>
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<td>1755</td>
<td>British General Edward Braddock defeated by a combined force of French and Indians</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>Boston Massacre</td>
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<td>Britain expels Acadians from Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1772</td>
<td>First Committee of Correspondence organized in Boston</td>
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<td>1756</td>
<td>Seven Years’ War begins in Europe</td>
<td>1773</td>
<td>Tea Act  Boston Tea Party</td>
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<td>1757</td>
<td>William Pitt becomes prime minister</td>
<td>1774</td>
<td>Intolerable Acts  First Continental Congress  Dunmore’s War</td>
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<td>1758</td>
<td>Louisburg captured by the British for the second time</td>
<td>1775</td>
<td>Fighting begins at Lexington and Concord  Second Continental Congress</td>
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<td>1759</td>
<td>British capture Quebec</td>
<td>1776</td>
<td>Americans invade Canada  Thomas Paine’s Common Sense  Declaration of Independence</td>
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<tr>
<td>1763</td>
<td>Treaty of Paris  Pontiac’s uprising  Proclamation of 1763 creates “Indian Country”  Paxton Boys massacre</td>
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