



Linked to Franklin's earlier use of a snake, this Revolutionary War flag featured a "united" snake with 13 rattles. It symbolized the desire of the colonies to defend their liberty... and to attack if anyone tried to take liberty away.

Revolutionary Era

← 1754 ————— 1800 →
In with the French and Indian War and out with the Revolution of 1800



In 1776, the first national flag of the newly declared independent republic was produced. It included the 13 stripes of red and white, but instead of stars, it resembled more the British "Union Jack" flag.

Unit 3 Brief Summary

This summary is not meant to replace your reading, and it by no means covers every significant fact from the era... but it will provide a simple overview/review of the era with some of the major terms in bold as a reminder of those items most likely to show up on the exam. Consider it an introduction to the era review.

The **French and Indian War** was caused by British and French competition for power, land, resources, and especially **fur trade**. It was the 4th war in a series of wars between these two nations. **Ben Franklin** tried to unite the colonies with his **Albany Plan** and **Join or Die** cartoon, but it was unsuccessful. The British let the colonists have a great deal of economic and political independence under a policy called **Salutary Neglect**. This practice ended after the **French and Indian War** which resulted from the British challenging France for possession of North America, of 1754-1763. The **French and Indian War** was one of most important events of the 18th century which decisively shaped American history, hastening independence and stirring a spirit of revenge among the **French** which further hastened the break with England. Therefore, the **American Revolution** essentially began in 1763 even though **the shot heard round the world** didn't occur until 1775.

After the British victory in the **French and Indian War**, the colonists were feeling good about themselves as British subjects. That began to change when they were taxed, regulated, and legislated. The **Proclamation Line of 1763** was the first major blow to the relationship between Britain and its colonies, as moving into the Ohio Valley (migrating into territory seized from France in the war) seemed due. The **Stamp Act** was the first of many taxes that caused outrage and protest amongst the colonists. "No taxation without representation" became a rallying cry. A group of rebels known as the **Sons of Liberty** stoked colonial passions until war flared up between the ill-prepared colonists and the mighty British military machine. Conflict intensified with things like the **Boston Massacre**, **Tea Act** (and subsequent **Boston Tea Party**), and the **Intolerable Acts** led to the **First Continental Congress**. Unfair **judicial processes** and **Quartering Acts** further strained the relationship, especially as **Enlightenment ideals** such as **natural rights** were spreading. **Ben Franklin** was instrumental in many negotiations with the British Parliament which in some instances resulted in repealed taxes. Overall, however, it was not enough to prevent rebellion.

The first battles at **Lexington** and **Concord** become known as "the shot heard around the world." The **American Revolution** was fought between the world's mightiest power, England, and its wayward America Colonies. Even at the beginning of the **American Revolution**, there were many people who were either more pro British or completely indifferent to the cause of independence. The American colonists were divided into three groups: the **Patriots**, **Loyalists**, and the largest group, the **Neutralists**. At the conclusion of the war many Loyalists moved to Canada to remain under British authority. Both the Loyalist and the Patriots were fighting the American Revolution to persuade the Neutralists to join their cause. To persuade the neutralists, **Thomas Paine** wrote the pamphlet **Common Sense** in 1776. Later that same year, on July 4th, **Thomas Jefferson's** pre-immanent statement of rights, the **Declaration of Independence**, was signed and has been celebrated as America's birthday ever since. With his army about to dissolve, **George Washington** ironically crossed the Delaware River on December 25th 1776, to attack the Hessian Mercenaries in the **Battle of Trenton**. Washington was a good leader who helped the colonists defeat Britain. The American army scored a surprising victory at the **Battle of Saratoga**, causing the **French** to support our cause, mainly to defeat the British. The war concluded with an American Victory at the **Battle of Yorktown** in 1781. The **Treaty of Paris** was signed in **1783** granting America its **independence**. Significant contributions were made by women, Indian allies, and African Americans. Many Blacks earned freedom by fighting for both the British and the colonists. The Americans shocked the world and earned victory **with the help of France and Spain**.

During the war, the **Articles of Confederation** were written, which became our first governing documents. Although extremely weak, they lead us through the crisis. Most notably the passage of the **Northwest Ordinance** in 1785, this act divided the present day Midwest into territories and, reflecting the Revolutionary spirit, prohibited slavery. Many Northern States began banning slavery as it didn't seem to fit with the ideals of the revolution.

Woman's status was beginning to change slightly, albeit perceptually. Mothers were looked upon as needing to raise children and instill **republican ideals** into them; this is known as **Republican Motherhood**. But, women were all confined to the home as the term **Cult of Domesticity** reflects. The ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the new republic inspired many other nations, including **France** who had their own revolution soon after. **Haiti** and other central and south American nations also followed this lead and began declaring independence from European powers.

As the republic moved forward, it became increasingly obvious to the founders that the government was too weak. This was especially apparent after a discontented group of indebted farmers attacked the government during **Shay's Rebellion**. The **Constitutional Convention** was called to fix the **Articles of Confederation**. They wanted a **chief executive**, the **power to tax**, and an **Independent Judiciary**. The debates that followed were acrimonious and the convention nearly ended at one point over representation until the **Great Compromise** saved the day. The **3/5 Compromise** also dealt with the conflict of whether or not to count slaves for the purpose of apportioning seats in the House. Other debates and Compromises were passed about **Federalism**, the power of the **Federal Government**, avoiding mob rule, and **Slavery**. (Commerce Compromise, Slave Trade Compromise, Electoral College). When the **Constitution** was sent to the states for **ratification** the debate was renewed and intensified. The seeds of political parties developed. The **Federalists**, led by **Alexander Hamilton and James Madison**, called for strong central government. The **Anti-Federalists**, led by **Thomas Jefferson**, insisted that state governments should be superior. The constitution was **ratified** in 1789 and in 1791 **the Bill of Rights** was added to protect individual rights. **George Washington** served as the President of the Constitutional Convention and then was unanimously elected the nation's first President.

President George Washington established many of the customs that are still used today. One of his most lasting pieces of advice was a strict **Policy of Neutrality**, which lasted until the 20th century. His **Farewell Address** advised the young nation to avoid alliances, spend wisely, maintain a character linked to Christian values, avoid having a large military, and avoid political parties. During his presidency, the ease of putting down the **Whiskey Rebellion** illustrated the strength of the new Constitution as compared to the AOC's inability to end **Shays Rebellion** in the 1780s. The first Secretary of State, **Alexander Hamilton**, created "**Hamilton's Plan**" for economic stability. This plan created conflict with **Thomas Jefferson**, Secretary of States, who felt it was going beyond the powers granted in the Constitution. The argument led to the **first two party system**. After two terms as president, Washington retired, setting the **precedent of two terms** for Presidents which was followed until the 20th century when Franklin Roosevelt was elected to four terms. **John Adams** served one term and stirred controversy through policies such as the **Sedition Act** which further split the nation into two political parties. The **election of 1800** was considered revolutionary for it was the first time that political power was transferred peacefully between two different political parties the **Federalists** and the **Democratic Republicans**.

During Washington's term, relations with **American Indians** remained tense, especially in the **Ohio Valley**. Following the **Battle of Broken Timbers**, the **Treaty of Greenville** arranged for compensation of lands. Competing for land and resources in the Ohio Valley was exacerbated by continued British presence and their efforts to aid the Indians and weaken America. In **California**, the **Spanish** built **Missions** all along the coast using **Indian slavery** and subjugation in hopes of securing that land claim long term while also continuing to spread their religion, Catholicism.

Review your Period 3 Content Outline as well for another brief review of the era!

Important Dates and Chronological Review

Keep in mind that memorizing dates is not required, however sometimes significant years do pop up on tests. Far more important is reviewing general chronology. You are expected to understand chronology, so use this list to help you review sequencing. If you come across any events you do not know... take time to look them up & add notes to this review. ☺ Processing + Review = Retention!

Pre- Revolution; French and Indian War Period

- 1650 ... First **Navigation Laws** to control colonial commerce enacted... colonies easily get around them
- 1696 ... Board of Trade assumes governance of colonies
- 1732 ... **Benjamin Franklin** begins publishing **Poor Richard's Almanack** ... press plays a role in uniting colonists eventually
- 1733...**Molasses Act**
- 1734 ... **Jonathan Edwards** begins the first Great Awakening... stirring rebellion and independence along with revival
- 1734-1735 ... **John Peter Zenger** free-press trial in New York
- 1738 ... **George Whitefield** helps spread the **Great Awakening** across the colonies...Methodists Increase (as he spreads John Wesley's "Methodism")
- 1739...**Stono Rebellion**
- 1746 ... Princeton College founded
- 1754 ... George Washington battles the French on the Frontier ... **Albany Congress**, Albany Plan of Union
- 1754-1763 ... French and Indian War** (Seven Years War)
- 1755 ... Braddock's defeat
- 1757 ... Pitt emerges as leader of British government
- 1759 ... Battle of Quebec
- 1760 ... Britain vetoes South Carolina's anti-slave trade measures
- 1763 ... Treaty of Paris**, ending French and Indian War (Peace of Paris)
 - ... **Pontiac's Rebellion** (also called Pontiac's Uprising)
 - ... **Proclamation Line of 1763**
- 1764 ... **Paxton Boys** march on Philadelphia
 - ... Brown College founded
 - ... **Sugar Act**
- 1765 ... **Quartering Act**
 - ... **Stamp Act**
 - ... **Stamp Act Congress**
- 1766 ... Rutgers College founded
 - ... **Declaratory Act**
- 1767 ... **Townshend Acts**
 - ... New York legislature suspended by Parliament
- 1768 ... British troops occupy Boston
- 1768-1771 ... **Regulator protests**
- 1769 ... Dartmouth College founded
- 1770 ... **Boston Massacre**
 - ... All Townshend Acts except tea tax repealed
- 1772 ... **Committees of Correspondence** formed
- 1773 ... British East India company granted tea monopoly
 - ... Governor Hutchinson's actions provoke **Boston Tea Party**
- 1774 ... "**Intolerable Acts**"
 - ... **Quebec Act**
 - ... **First Continental Congress**
 - ... The Association boycotts British goods

The American Revolution

- 1775** ... Battles of **Lexington and Concord**, American Revolution begins
 - ... **Second Continental Congress**
 - ... Americans capture British garrisons at Ticonderoga and Crown Point
 - ... Battle of Bunker Hill
 - ... King George III formally proclaims colonies in rebellion
 - ... failed invasion of Canada
 - ... Philadelphia Quakers found world's first antislavery society
- 1776** ... Thomas Paine's **Common Sense**
 - ... Thomas Jefferson's **Declaration of Independence**
 - ... Battle of Trenton
 - ... New Jersey constitution briefly gives women the right to vote
- 1777 ... Battle of Saratoga
 - ... **Articles of Confederation** adopted by Second Continental Congress
- 1778 ... formation of French-American alliance
- 1780 ... Massachusetts adopted first constitution drafted in convention and ratified by popular vote
- 1781 ... France and Colonists force **Cornwallis** to surrender at **Yorktown**
- 1782 ... North's ministry collapses in Britain
- 1783** ... **Treaty of Paris** ends Revolution (War for Independence)

**The
New Nation
Begins**

- 1784 ... Treaty of Fort Stanwix
- 1785 ... **Land Ordinance of 1785**
- 1786 ... **Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom**
 - ... **Shay's Rebellion**
 - ... meeting of 5 states to discuss revising AOC
- 1787 ... **Northwest Ordinance**
 - ... **Constitutional Convention** in Philadelphia
- 1788 ... ratification by 9 states guarantee government under new Constitution
- 1789 ... Constitution** put into effect, **George Washington** first president
 - ... **Judiciary Act**
 - ... **French Revolution** begins
- 1790 ... first official census
- 1791...**Bill of Rights** adopted
 - ...Vermont became 14th state
 - ...**Bank of the United States** created (First BUS)
 - ...Excise tax passed
- 1792...Washington re-elected
- 1792-1793**Federalist and Democratic-Republican Parties** are formed
- 1793....Louis XVI beheaded; radical phase of French Revolution began
 - ...France declared war on Great Britain and Spain
 - ...Washington's **Neutrality Proclamation**
 - ...**Citizen Genet Affair**
 - ...**Eli Whitney** invents **cotton gin**
- 1794...**Whiskey Rebellion**
 - ...**Battle of Fallen Timbers**
 - ...**Jay's Treaty** with Great Britain
- 1795...**Treaty of Greenville**: Indians ceded Ohio
 - ...**Pinckney's Treaty** with Spain
- 1796...Washington's Farewell Address, first election with political parties (Adams and Jefferson)**
- 1797...**John Adams** inaugurated
 - ...**XYZ Affair**
- 1798...**Alien and Sedition Acts**
- 1798-1789**Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions**
- 1798-1800.... Undeclared war with France; **Quasi-War**
- 1800...Convention of 1800; Peace with France**
 - ...**Thomas Jefferson** defeated John Adams for the presidency;
 - ...Electoral tie between T.J. and Aaron Burr, House selected T.J.;
 - ...**Revolution of 1800**

Can you identify themes and how they changed over time or maintained continuity?

Can you characterize the era?

Can you identify and analyze major turning points?

Can you identify the bolded years and explain why they are major turning points, what caused them, what impact they had?

Can you identify and explain major causes and effects?

Can you compare nations, ideas, events?

Look at the historical learning objectives for Period 3 and make sure you have a good understanding of this era!