

U.S. HISTORY

Pre-Columbian–1865

1754	French expand their hold in the Ohio Valley, establish Fort Duquesne near present-day Pittsburgh George Washington leads a strike near Fort Duquesne, establishes Fort Necessity nearby French capture Fort Necessity, expel Washington's forces from the Ohio Valley Benjamin Franklin makes unsuccessful push for Albany Plan of Union among colonies; plan attempts to establish a unified colonial government and to convince Iroquois to join in alliance against French
1755	Franklin founds the University of Pennsylvania , the first nonsectarian college in the colonies
1758	British take Fort Duquesne, rename it Pittsburgh ; settlers from Pennsylvania subsequently push west of Allegheny Mountains
1763	Under the Treaty of Paris , French surrender holdings east of the Mississippi to the British and transfer holdings west of Mississippi to the Spanish
1763–1766	Ottawa chief Pontiac leads a coalition of Native American tribes against British forces in the Ohio Valley, capturing most forts in the region and laying siege to Pittsburgh and Detroit; Pontiac and his forces eventually are overwhelmed by the British and are forced to sign a treaty
1764	First appearance of the <i>Connecticut Courant</i> (today the <i>Hartford Courant</i>), the oldest continually publishing newspaper in America

PARLIAMENTARY ACTS IMPOSED ON THE COLONIES AND THEIR EFFECTS

- **Quartering Act** (1765): Requires colonists to provide room and board to British troops; results in widespread colonial disapproval, beginning of unease with Parliament's intrusion
- **Stamp Act** (1765): Imposes taxes on colonists' petty purchases, prompts meeting of Stamp Act Congress in New York
- **Declaratory Act** (1766): Asserts Parliament's right to pass laws in colonies; issued in response to repeal of Stamp Act
- **Townshend Revenue Act** (1767): Imposes taxes on glass, paint, oil, lead, paper, tea to raise revenue for Parliament to pay for administration of colonies; results in Samuel Adams's widely read letter denouncing "taxation without representation"
- **Tea Act** (1773): Designed to rescue East India Company from bankruptcy; ruins American tea trade, prompts Boston Tea Party
- **Coercive Acts** and the **Québec Act** (1774): Known collectively as the **Intolerable Acts**; imposed in response to Boston Tea Party; close Boston Harbor to trade, remove democratic elements from colonial government in Massachusetts, inhibit western expansion by extending Québec's borders; colonists realize only choice is revolution

1765	Stamp Act Congress meets in New York to condemn Stamp Act Radical group known as the Sons of Liberty organize colonial resistance to Stamp Act
1766	Stamp Act repealed; Declaratory Act imposed, asserting Parliament's right to pass laws in colonies
1767	John Dickinson publishes <i>Letters from a Pennsylvania Farmer</i> in condemnation of Townshend Act
1768	Samuel Adams circulates letter in Massachusetts House of Representatives condemning "taxation without representation" British seize John Hancock's ship <i>Liberty</i> in Boston Harbor on suspicion of smuggling British troops occupy Boston in attempt to quell civil unrest
1770	British troops kill five colonists in Boston Massacre
1772	Rhode Island colonists burn British customs ship <i>Gaspee</i>
1773	Boston Tea Party , led by Samuel Adams , destroys East India Company cargo in Boston Harbor
1774	Ann Lee founds Shaker movement in upstate New York First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia to protest Intolerable Acts

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1775–1783

1. **Second Continental Congress** meets in Philadelphia in 1775; Jefferson drafts **Declaration of Independence** in early 1776
2. Congress issues **Declaration of Independence** on July 4, 1776, proclaiming United States' independence from Britain
3. Colonists launch **revolt against British**, suffer heavy losses in early stages of war
4. **Thomas Paine** publishes *Common Sense*, urging colonists to seek independence
5. **French support** for American Revolution leads to U.S. victory and peace settlement establishing independence
6. **Articles of Confederation** establish first parameters for federal government in 1781, but flaws in system quickly become apparent

1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord mark start of open hostilities with Britain Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia to discuss state of conflict with Britain; appoints George Washington commander-in-chief of colonial armies Slave population in Virginia equal in size to free white population
------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1776	Thomas Paine publishes pamphlet <i>Common Sense</i> , based largely on philosophy of John Locke, urging colonists to seek independence from Britain Thomas Jefferson drafts Declaration of Independence ; Congress approves revised version on July 4 Continental Congress approves term United States in place of United Colonies British forces seize Long Island, New York City
1777	Congress adopts Stars and Stripes as flag Vermont abolishes slavery Congress approves Articles on Confederation in York, Pennsylvania; sends to states for ratification Continental Army establishes winter quarters at Valley Forge , Pennsylvania

MAJOR BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- **Lexington and Concord** (1775): First major engagements of the war result in British retreat to Boston
- **Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill** (1775): British send reinforcements to Boston, force colonists to retreat
- **Princeton** (1777): Gen. **George Washington** leads Continental army to victory after fleeing Long Island and New York City
- **Saratoga** (1777): Gen. **Horatio Gates** and Gen. **Benedict Arnold** lead colonists to victory over highly skilled British forces; considered war's turning point, as victory proves to world that colonists could win decisive battles
- **Camden** (1780): British seize Charleston, overrun colonists in South Carolina
- **Yorktown** (1781): French and American forces surround Cornwallis's army in Yorktown, Virginia, forcing surrender of 8,000 British troops

1778	German officer Friedrich von Steuben trains Continental Army at Valley Forge France allies with United States against Britain British evacuate Philadelphia upon learning of French entry into war
1779	New York Militia, led by Gen. John Sullivan, destroys 40 Iroquois villages because of Iroquois support of British Spain joins war against Britain
1780	Pennsylvania passes legislation to abolish slavery gradually Holland joins war against Britain
1781	Virginia cedes territory northwest of Appalachian Mountains to U.S. government States ratify Articles of Confederation
1782	Hostilities between British and Continental armies cease J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur writes <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i>
1783	Massachusetts abolishes slavery Treaty of Paris establishes terms of peace between Britain and the United States; grants U.S. independence, defines U.S. borders

THE EARLY REPUBLIC 1784–1802

1. **Weak, confederated, decentralized government under Articles of Confederation** replaced by **stronger, centralized federal government under Constitution**
2. **Supreme Court, first Bank of the United States, and Bill of Rights** created
3. **European powers attempt to influence fledgling United States**

1784	Spain closes Mississippi River to American navigation Thomas Jefferson appointed minister to France
1785	John Adams appointed minister to England University of Georgia chartered as the first U.S. state university
1786	Annapolis Convention held to discuss trade regulations among the states Shays's Rebellion in Massachusetts reveals weaknesses of national government under Articles of Confederation
1787	Northwest Ordinance passes; prohibits slavery in Northwest Territory, sets procedure for admitting territories as states First cotton factory in New England established in Beverly, Massachusetts Constitutional Convention meets in Philadelphia to revise Articles of Confederation Connecticut Compromise melds New Jersey Plan and Virginia Plan regarding slavery and representation in the Constitution Congress adopts the Constitution; all delegates except Elbridge Gerry, George Mason, and William Randolph sign
1787–1788	Federalist Papers , written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, argue in favor of the Constitution 11 states ratify the Constitution; Rhode Island and North Carolina demur