

The Opposing Sides

- Both sides expected a short conflict
- The British thought they would overwhelm the patriots
- The Patriots thought the British would give up after losing a few battles
- Both were wrong

Military Strategies

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| <p>The Americans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Attrition - to wear down the enemy by continual losses in personnel and material ■ the Brits had a long supply line. ■ Guerilla tactics ■ Insurgent war → you don't have to win a battle, just wear the British down ■ Make an alliance with one of Britain's enemies. | <p>The British</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Break the colonies in half by getting between the North & the South ■ Blockade the ports to prevent the flow of goods and supplies from an ally. ■ "Divide and Conquer" → use the Loyalists. |
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British

Had the overwhelming advantage

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| <p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superior naval power • Large, professional fighting force • Greater manufacturing capabilities • Wealth of a world wide Empire • Much larger population • Support from loyalists within the colonies | <p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance from England to the colonies- supplies, troops, comm. • Lack of motivation of troops • Lack of motivation of citizens • Hesitant to abandon traditional tactics • Not well suited for conditions in America • Overconfidence |
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British Hessians

- British hired Hessian **Mercenaries**
- Mercenary - Soldiers for hire
- Hessians fought for a quarter a day
- called Hessians after region of Germany from which they came
- Hessians often deserted the British army
- Many stayed in US after the war

The Loyalists

- One in 5 Americans a Loyalist (**Torie**)
- Loyalist support varied from region to region
 - Strongest in the South – Georgia, Carolinas
- Many reasons for remaining Loyal to the Crown
- Issue of Patriotism vs. Loyalist caused many rifts between friends, families & neighbors

Treatment of Loyalists

- Many Loyalists fled America during the war
- Some who stayed spied for the British,
- Often they were shunned by Patriots and those who actively helped the British could be tried for treason



Colonies

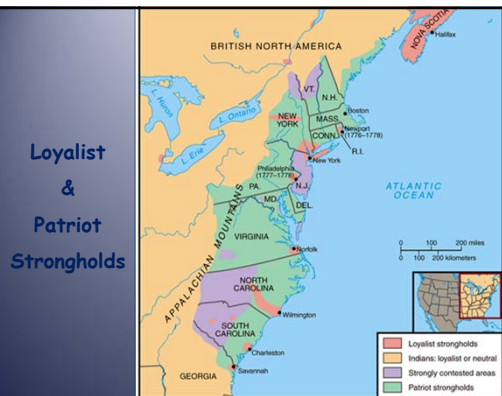


Advantages

- Fighting on familiar ground
- Motivation of soldiers defending the homeland
- Flexibility of tactics
- Many colonists skilled with rifles, despite lack of military training
- Leadership of George Washington
- Patriot soldiers saw Washington as a **Hero**

Disadvantages

- Lack of trained fighting force
- No regular army, all volunteer
- Difficulties in recruiting and keeping soldiers
- Soldiers lacked military training
- Support for Independence Mixed
- Weapons and ammunitions in short supply
- A long coastline with major cities
- Lack of naval power

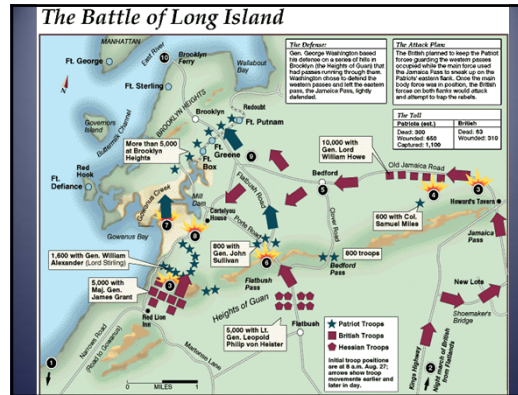


Fighting in New York

- British General William Howe brought over 32,000 troops hoping to intimidate the patriots
- General Washington had less than 20,000 troops in the Continental Army

Battle of Long Island

- June 1776
- 1st and largest battle of Revolutionary War
- After leaving Boston (Dorchester Heights), General Howe decided to attack New York
- A fleet of British Ships surrounded New York Bay
- Washington's 23,000 militiamen opposed by 32,000 better-equipped and better trained British soldiers.
- Howe's British troops and the Hessians forced the Americans to retreat to New Jersey



Nathan Hale

- A teacher from Connecticut
- Disguised himself as a **Dutch school teacher** to spy on the British
- Was caught & hung by the British
- His final words:
"I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"



Nathan Hale

New York City in Flames (1776)



Fire broke out in the early morning of September 21st 1776
Over 25% of New York City was destroyed

Winter of 1776-1777

- Patriot troops demoralized
- Bitter cold
- Little food, clothing or shelter
- most conscriptions ending and soldiers not re-enlisting
- Washington rallied the troops through the winter
- Washington knew a patriot victory was needed quickly or army would disintegrate

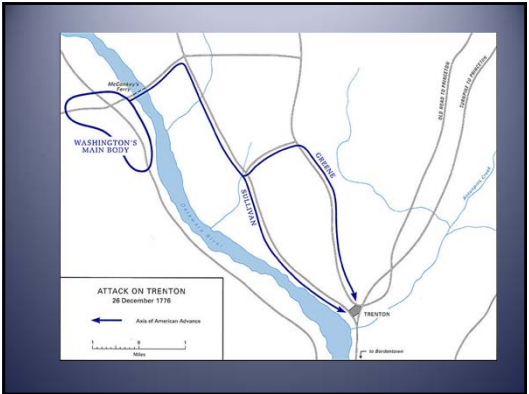
Thomas Payne – The Crisis

- *"These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."*
- Read to the Continental Army on Dec 23, 1776, 3 days before Battle of Trenton to bolster morale

Crossing the Delaware



Washington Crossing the Delaware by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze



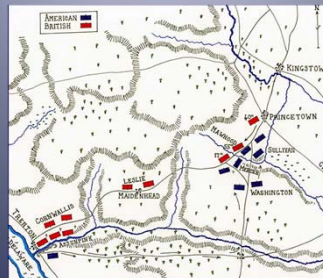
Battle at Trenton



- "This is a glorious day for our country."
-George Washington

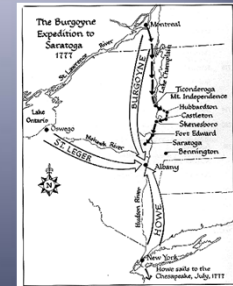
- Washington crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night.
- Attacked the mercenaries as they slept.
- Battle of Trenton won by Americans on December 26, 1776.
- Jan 2, 1777- Washington defeated the British at Princeton, giving the Continental Army another victory.
- Important victory—Washington knew he needed to win or his men would not re-enlist.

Battle at Princeton



British Battle Plan 1777

- General Burgoyne had the idea to converge on Albany, New York, to control the Hudson River Valley.
- They would cut off New England from the rest of the colonies.



Battle of Saratoga

- Considered a major turning point in the Revolution.
- The first face-to-face battle without surprises.
- This battle caught the attention of France, who **joined in the Revolution.**

Battle of Saratoga

- Burgoyne was to meet Gen. Howe and Colonel Leger, all coming from three different directions.
- Howe decided to go after Philadelphia and didn't notify Burgoyne until it was too late.
- Leger was stopped by American Militia and retreated back to Canada.



Battle of Saratoga

- Burgoyne was alone and was eventually surrounded.
- He was forced to surrender
- Americans took 6,000 British prisoners.

Gaining Allies

- Feb 1778 – After victory at Saratoga, French King Louis XVI signed the **Treaty of Alliance**,
 - giving support to the Americans in the form of money and troops.
- Spain declared war on Britain in 1779
- That created a second front in Louisiana & Florida that diverted troops to the from the Revolution

Valley Forge



- Valley Forge (near Philadelphia)
- campground of 11,000 troops of Washington's Continental Army
- Camped there from Dec. 1777, to June 1778.
- The men were hungry, poorly clothed, and badly housed.
- 2,500 died during the harsh winter.
- Some were still boys -- as young as 12 -- others in their 50s and 60s."

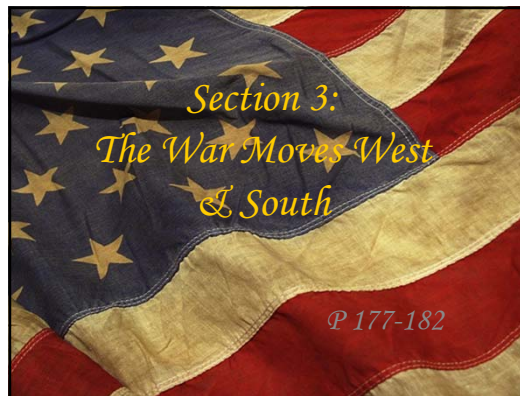
- ### The Passing of Winter
- Valley Forge: a new and confident army was born.
 - Foreign volunteers and fresh replacements slowly come in.
 - Most important: new training transformed ragged troops into a confident military organization.

Baron Friedrich von Steuben

- a discharged Prussian army Captain-- volunteered to help.
- Gave men proper military training.



- New firing regulations sped up firing considerably.
 - Laid out a plan to have rows for command, officers and enlisted men.
 - Developed camp sanitation.
- 
- Prussian Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben brought European discipline to the Continental army during the winter of 1777-78.



- ### Marquis de Lafayette
- Marquis de Lafayette believed in the rights of all nations to govern themselves.
 - From a wealthy French family
 - Gave \$200,000 of his own money toward the cause.
 - **Most trusted aide** to Washington
 - Became like a son to Washington.



African Americans in the War

- Lemuel Hayes & Peter Salem, both African Americans, fought at Concord
- Congress had banned African Americans from enlisting after Lexington & Concord due to Southern fears of possible revolts
- Many states ignored the ban, by end of war every state but South Carolina had African American Regiments
- British promised freedom to any slave who fought on their side

Slavery & the Revolution

- Fighting for freedom from the British naturally brought up the question of freedom for slaves
- Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts & Pennsylvania all tried to abolish slavery in their states
- Thomas Jefferson was angry when the 2nd Continental Congress took out the section against slavery in the Declaration of Independence

The War in the West

- Most Native Americans were divided about how to respond to the conflict.
- Most Native Americans joined the fight against the United States.
- An estimated 13,000 warriors fought on the British side.

Native Americans

- **Mohawk chief Joseph Brant had to move his tribe to Canada after the war because he was allies with the British**
- **British Commander at Detroit, Henry Hamilton was nicknamed "Hair Buyer Hamilton" because he supposedly paid Natives for the scalps of settlers**

Patriots take the West

- Colonel George Rogers Clark captured British occupied lands on the Illinois & Indiana frontier



- Clark surprised the British and Forced General Hamilton to surrender

Glory at Sea

- Massive British Navy created **blockades** of Major American Ports
- Tiny Colonial Navy could not fight large battles.
- **Privateer** - privately owned merchant ships equipped with weapons
- Privateers sunk hundreds of individual British ships.



Engraving of the famous sea battle involving John Paul Jones based on the painting 'Action Between the Serapis and Bonhomme Richard' by Richard Paton, 1780

John Paul Jones

- commander of victorious *Bonhomme Richard*.
- This former British outlaw became an American naval hero.
- **"I have not yet begun to fight"** - JPJ



John Paul Jones

British Southern Strategy

- War was not going well for British in North, so they set their sights on South.
- Hoped to find support from a large Loyalist population in Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia
- Planned to free slaves and give them arms

- Patriots fought the Loyalists in direct combat in South.
- Georgia fell to British in 1778; Charleston, South Carolina, in 1780.
- Americans attacked British in August 1780, but failed to drive them out of South Carolina and suffered many casualties.
- The Swamp Fox, Francis Marion, used **guerrilla warfare** against British.
- Guerilla Warfare - Surprise attacks to disrupt communication and supply lines.

Patriot Victories in the South

- The Patriot victory at Kings Mountain brought southern support for Independence
- Commander Nathanael Greene took over the campaign in the South
- After the Battle at Cowpens & Guilford Courthouse British General Cornwallis abandoned the Carolina campaign



Painted by William Ranney in 1845, this depiction of the Battle of Cowpens shows an unnamed black soldier deftly bring the pistol and saving the life of Colonel William Washington (on white horse in center).

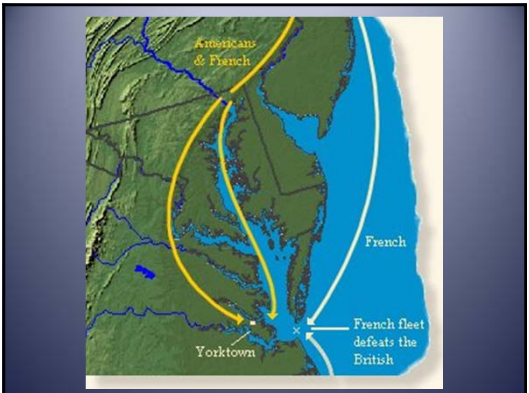


Victory at Yorktown

- American and French effort.
- Led by Washington and Lafayette.
- The British were commanded by Cornwallis.

- It was confirmed that a French Admiral was sailing his fleet of 29 ships and 3,000 men to the Chesapeake Bay.
- Washington knew they could trap Cornwallis at Yorktown.

- The French Fleet came in and won the battle of the bay.
- They cut off any chance of supplies getting through to Cornwallis.
- Washington and Lafayette moved their armies in.
- Around 17,000 troops converged on Cornwallis at Yorktown.



The Battle of Yorktown

The Numbers

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Troops: | |
| British | 9,700 |
| American & French | 17,000 |
| <hr/> | |
| Ships: | |
| French Fleet | - 24 Ships |
| British Fleet | - 19 Ships |
| <hr/> | |
| Casualties (approximate): | |
| American | - 20 dead, 56 wounded |
| French | - 52 dead, 134 wounded |
| British | - 600 dead & wounded |

British Surrender

- 7,000 British troops became prisoners.
- A formal surrender ceremony took place the next morning.
- Cornwallis refused to attend out of humiliation, claimed illness.

Treaty of Paris of 1783

- The Treaty of Paris of 1783 officially ended the Revolutionary War
- Ben Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay went to Paris to work out treaty
- The Treaty included Great Britain, United States, France and Spain.

Treaty of Paris Provisions:

- British recognized the thirteen colonies as free states.
- Establishing boundaries between the United States and British North America.
- United States will prevent future confiscations of the property of Loyalists.
- Prisoners of war on both sides are to be released and all property left by British army in the United States unmolested.
- Great Britain and the United States were each to be given access to the Mississippi River.

Influencing other Revolutions

- The American Revolution influenced other Revolutions
 - 1789 French Revolution
 - Liberty, Equality & Fraternity
 - 1791-1804 Haiti (St. Domingue)
 - Slave Revolt against the French
 - Only successful slave revolt to create an independent state.