

The Road to the American Revolution: 1763 - 1776

Mr. Sean McAtee
Iroquois High School, Elma NY
October 2017

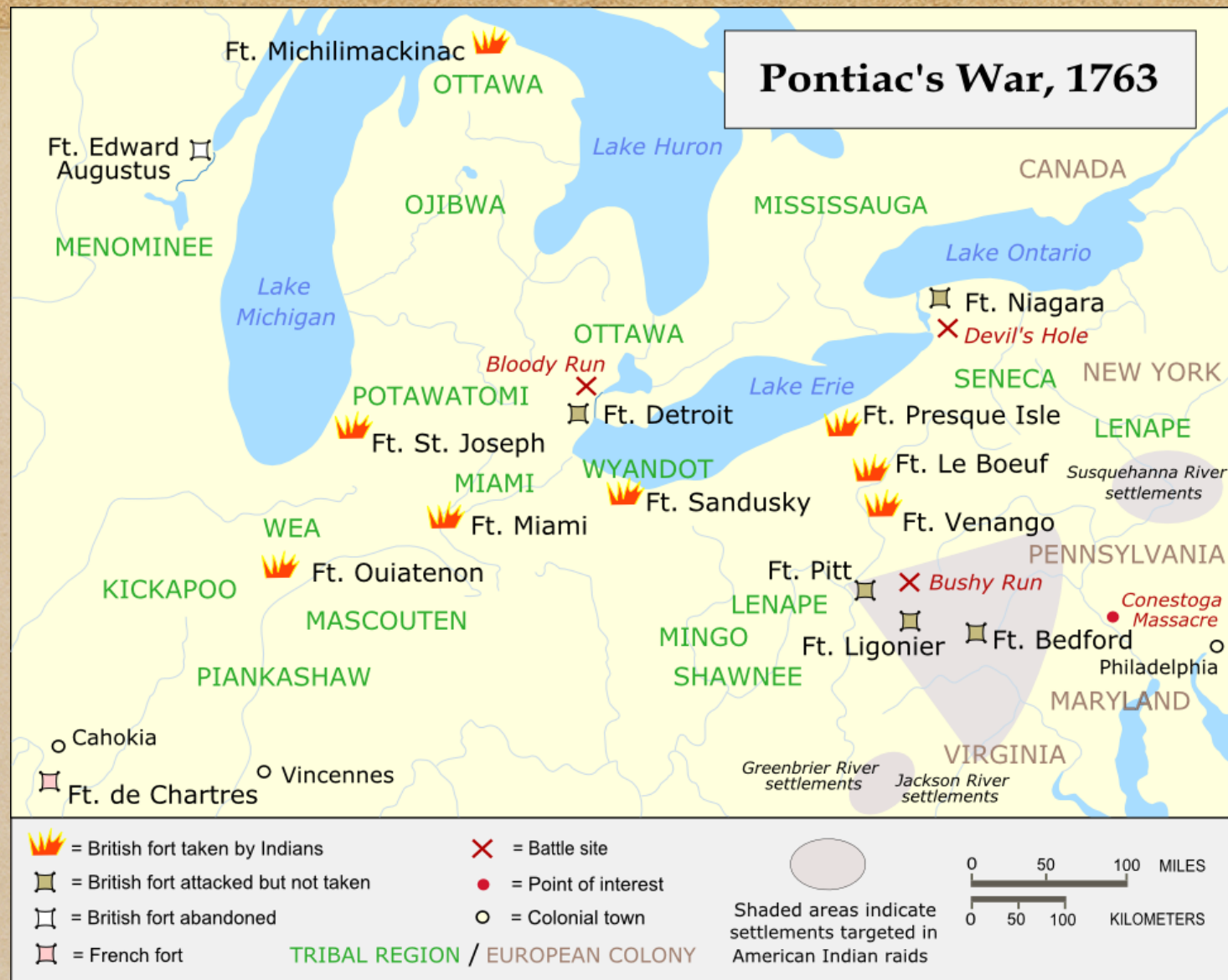
The Big Idea

Starting in 1763, the American colonists, having enjoyed a long period of *salutary neglect*, resisted British attempts to impose tighter imperial controls and higher taxes after the French and Indian War.

After twelve years of increased tensions between the colonies and England, fighting broke out at Lexington and Concord in 1775, igniting the American Revolution.



North America after the Treaty of Paris (1763)



Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, started an uprising against the British at Detroit. This action inspired other Indians to attack British posts / settlements in the West. More than 2,000 settlers killed or captured. It took nearly two years to reclaim all lands lost to the Native Americans.

1763 proved to be a critical year in American Colonial history

**Salutary Neglect replaced by
Parliamentary Control!**

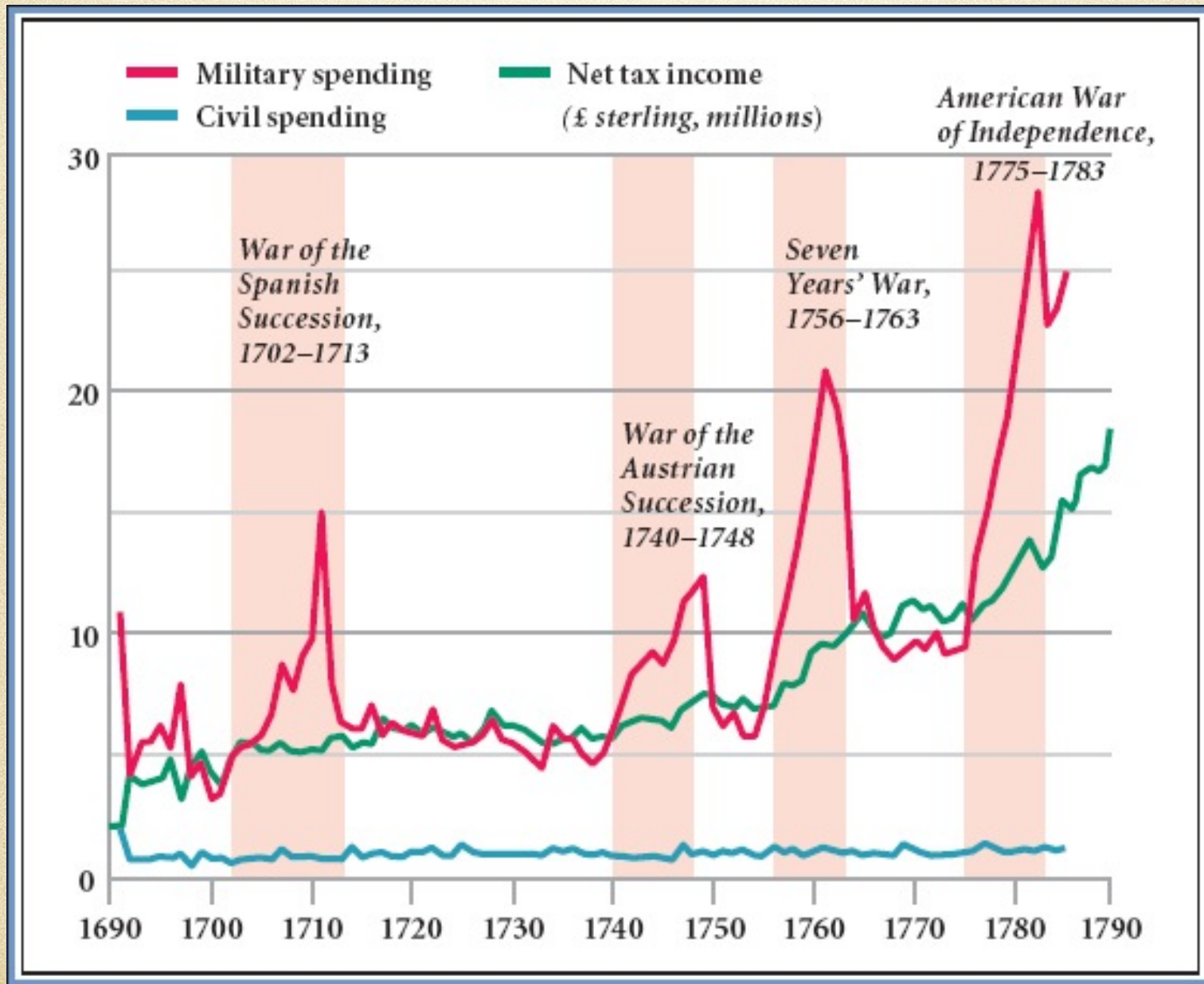
Many American colonists resented this new policy - which
would ultimately lead to the American Revolution

Please answer the following question
on a half sheet of paper

Between 1763 - 1775, many Americans
were transformed from being loyal
English citizens to revolutionaries willing
to fight for independence from England?

Why did this change happen?

The Tax Issue: Paying off England's Debt



The Tax Issue

After the French and Indian War, Britain's Prime Minister George Grenville decided that Americans needed to pay additional taxes to maintain Britain's North America army

- Sugar Act (1764)
- Currency Act (1764)
- Quartering Act (1765)
- Stamp Act (1765)

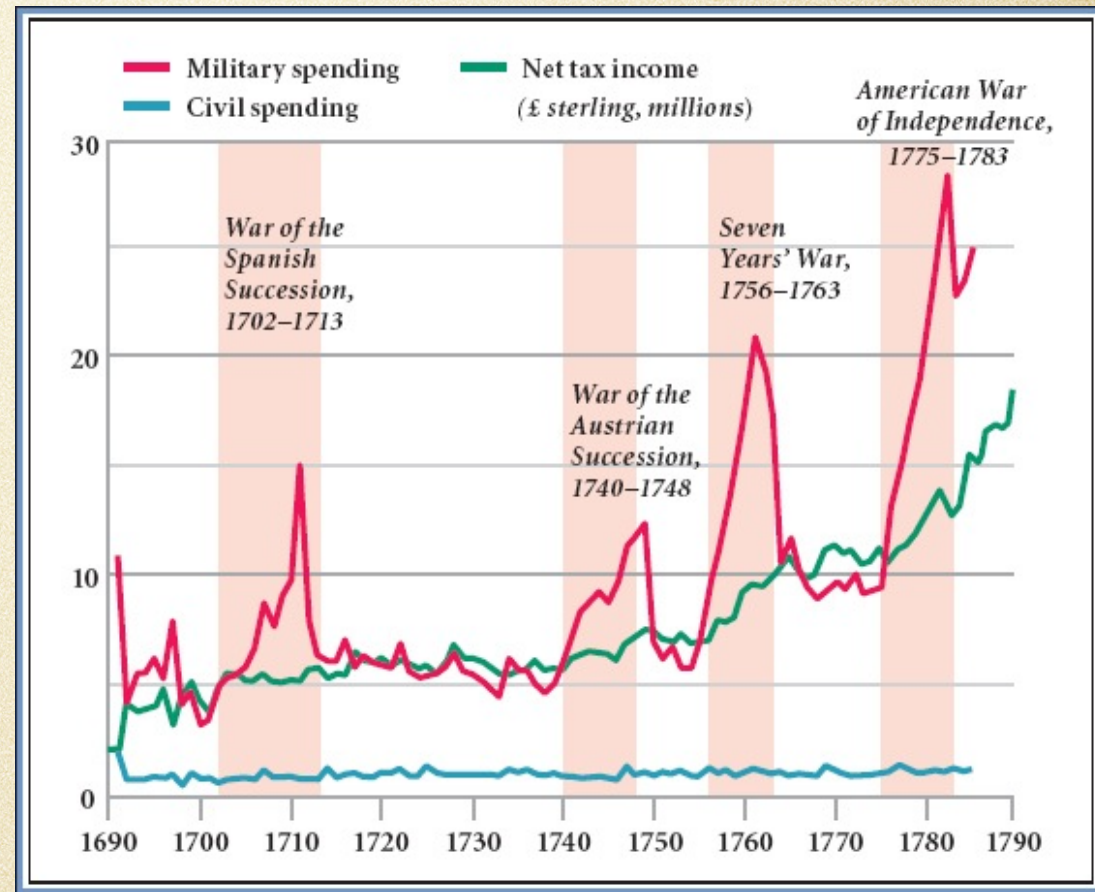


*The Right Honourable George Grenville,
Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy,
And One of His Majesty's Privy Council.*

The Tax Issue

Colonists had no representation in British Parliament - believed that their rights as British citizens were being denied

No taxation without representation!



British argued that the colonists had virtual representation in Parliament

The Sugar Act (1764) placed a tax on imported sugar

Currency Act (1764):

- Restricted ability of colonies to print paper money
- Wanted the colonists to pay back debts (and pay taxes) with gold or silver

Quartering Act (1765):

- Colonies were required to provide food and housing (quarters) for British troops
- Colonists resented paying for troops who were in the colonies to enforce British laws

The Stamp Act: Most Important Law of this Period!

Stamp Act - tax on paper

- Paper was “Stamped” to prove that the tax had been paid
- Led to large-scale protest by common citizens



Please turn to page 70
of your workbook

Please take 3 minutes to review
the documents on pp. 70 - 72

New Hampshire

5



Stamp Master in Effigy

Many Colonists Protested Against the Stamp Act

Organized Protests / “Riots”

Convinced many tax collectors to resign which
made the stamp tax impossible to collect

Boycotts - Colonists chose not to buy British goods

“Save your money and you can save your country”

Due to the effective protests,

England revoked the Stamp Act in 1766

*What did the colonists learn
from this experience?*

Protests Work!

British impose laws —> more protests!

Declaratory Act of 1766

Parliament declared its sovereignty over the
American colonies “in all cases whatsoever”

The Townshend Acts

Enacted by Parliament in 1767 - a series of *indirect taxes* that the colonists were not supposed to notice

Taxes were placed on items such as imported paper, lead, glass, and tea

Royal Governor in NY was ordered to veto all laws passed by the NY colonial assembly until the Quartering Act was obeyed



Response to the Townshend Acts



The *Sons of Liberty* organized another boycott of British goods

Women become more active in opposing British policies - *Daughters of Liberty*

Massachusetts Assembly circulates a letter arguing that the Townshend Acts violated the natural rights of colonists

British government considers this letter to be an **act of treason!**
It dissolved the Massachusetts Assembly — colony now under total British control

British troops sent to Boston to put down riots that erupted after the Massachusetts Assembly was shut down.



The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King-Street BOSTON on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th REG



Engrav'd Printed & Sold by PAUL REVERE BOSTON

*The
Bloody
Massacre,
by
Paul
Revere*

Unhappy Boston! see thy Sons deplore,
Thy hallow'd Walks beset with guiltless Gore
While faithless P—n and his savage Bands
With murderous Rancour stretch their blood-Hands

If scalding drops from Rage from Anguish Wring
Speechless Sorrows lab'ring for a Tongue
Where a weeping World can ought appease
The plaintive Ghosts of Victims such as these

But know Fate summons to that awful Go!
Where Justice strips the Murderer of his Soul
Should venal C—ts the scandal of the Land
Snatch the relentless Villain from her Hand



Boston Massacre Trial

The Captain and six officers were found not guilty.

Two soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter.

Those men received a token punishment; they had an "M" branded on their thumbs. They were then released to their units.



British Response to the Boston Massacre

British reduce tension by repealing the
Townshend Acts - except for a tax on tea

Most Americans back-off their protest

Sons of Liberty continue developing
committees of correspondence - a
communications network among the Patriots

Boston Tea Party

In **1773**, Parliament passed the **Tea Act** in order to help the British East India Company by making its tea cheaper to colonial buyers than smuggled Dutch tea



Americans interpreted this as a subtle ploy to get them to buy the taxed British tea

December 1773, protestors led by Sons of Liberty dumped shipment of tea into Boston harbor

Boston Tea Party - British Response

Britain passes the *Coercive Acts* (Intolerable Acts)

- Port of Boston closed until tea was paid for
- British officials charged of crimes would be tried in Britain - not in the colonies
- More British troops sent to Boston

The other colonies rally to support Massachusetts!

**The First Continental Congress will meet in
Philadelphia in September 1774**

The Shot Heard Around the World



April 19, 1775 a gunfight took place in Lexington, Ma. between 700 British troops and approximately 70 Minuteman

British troops marched on to Concord, but were under fire the entire march back to Boston. **First open exchange of hostilities in the war.**

Please turn to page 80
of your workbook

Allegiances Forming

Loyalists (Tories): loyal to King. Believe that British laws should be upheld. Government officials, merchants, landowners.

15 - 20% of white population

Patriots (Whigs): Supported independence. Believe that the British were tyrants. Urban workers, lawyers, many farmers.

40 - 45% of white population

Neutral: Did not have strong feelings for either side. Would support whomever won

Moving Closer to declaring independence

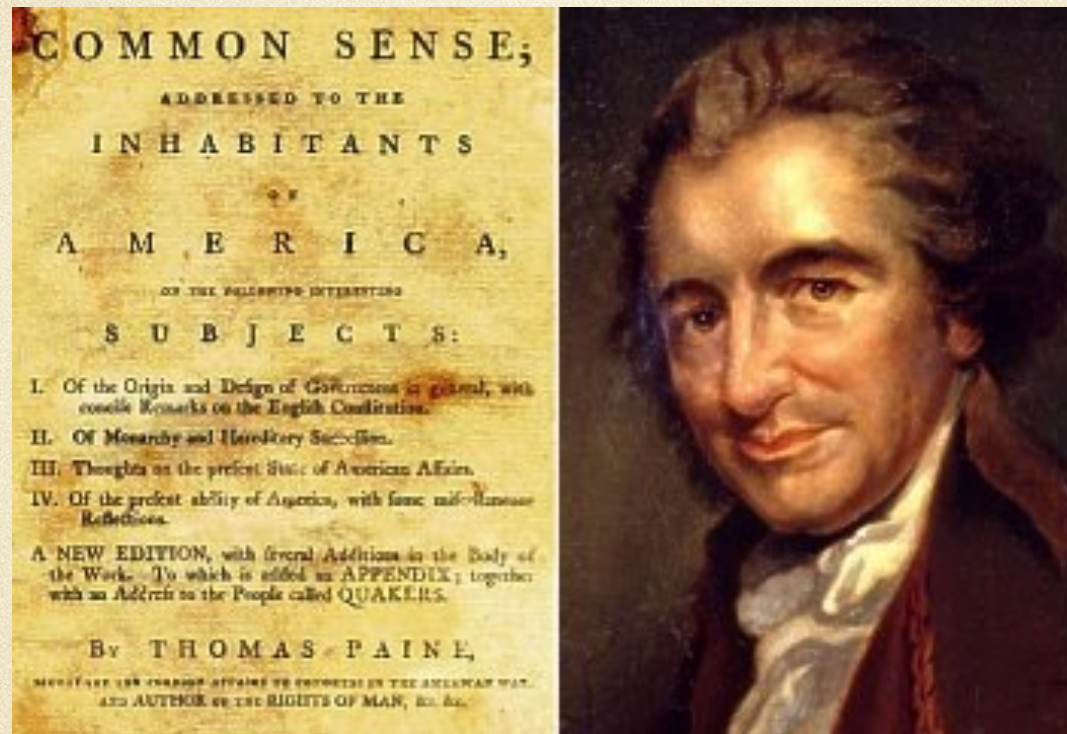
Second Continental Congress — May 1775

- Appointed George Washington to lead a “continental army”
- Began to purchase military supplies

August 1775 — King George issues a *Proclamation for Repressing Rebellion and Sedition*.

To the king - the Americans were in “open rebellion” against the British government

Thomas Paine - Common Sense



Published in January 1776. Pamphlet called for the Americans to declare independence from Britain

Every thing that is right or natural pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'Tis Time To Part. Even the distance at which the Almighty hath placed England and America, is a strong and natural proof that the authority of the one over the other was never the design of Heaven. . . .

Please turn to page 82
of your workbook

The Final Steps

June 7, 1776 -- Lee Resolution

Richard Henry Lee “resolves” that the colonies are
“free and independent states”

June 11, 1776 -- “Committee of Five” Appointed

Purpose: write a statement presenting
the colonies case for independence

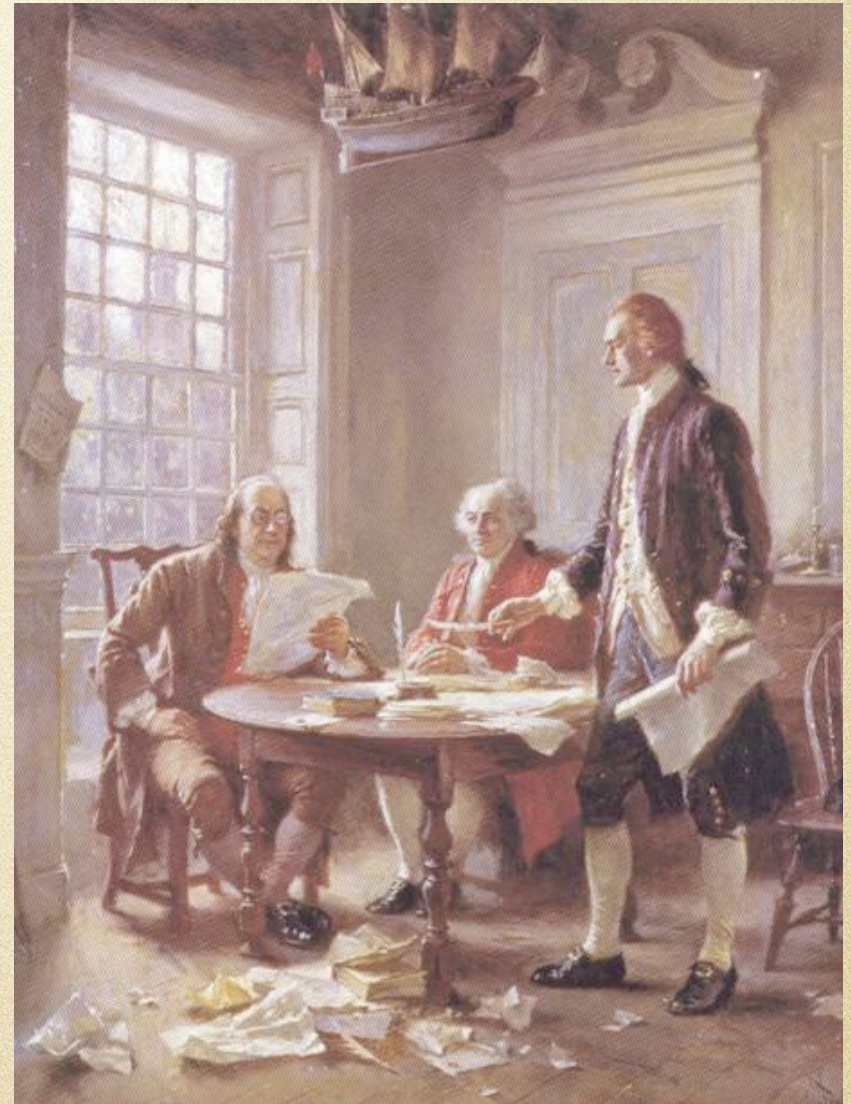
Drafting the Declaration of Independence

Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft

John Adams & Benjamin Franklin made changes to it

June 11 - July 1, 1776

Roger Sherman & Robert Livingston were the other members of the committee



Declaration of Independence -- with Revisions

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for ^{one} people to
dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to
~~assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal~~ as
sume among the powers of the earth the ~~separate and equal~~ station to
which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect
to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes
which impel them to ~~that~~ ^{the} separation.

We hold these truths to be ^{self-evident;} ~~that~~ ^{that} all men are
created equal ~~independent~~ ^{they are endowed by their creator with} that ~~from that equal creation they derive~~
~~unalienable~~ ^{rights; that} ~~unalienable~~ ^{among} ~~which~~ ^{these} are ~~life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;~~
life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these ^{rights} ~~ends~~, go-
vernments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from
the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government
~~shall~~ becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter
or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on
such principles & organising its powers in such form as to them shall

The Declaration of Independence

I. Preamble (Introduction)

II. Statement of “Rights”

“all men are created equal”

“life, liberty and the
pursuit of happiness”

power to govern based on
consent of the governed

III. Wrongs of British

IV. Efforts to Avoid Separation

V. Colonies Declare Independence

