



Ch. 4

The American Revolution

1765-1783 # 3

## Causes of the Revolution

- Colonial government followed British model but protests of the 1760's started to show flaws in the system.
- Great Britain = King (inherited power), Parliament ( legislative power voted on)
- American Colonies = Governor (appointed by the king), Colonial Legislatures (appointed by the governor)
- Colonist begin to want to appoint an establish their own system of government.

# New Taxes 1764-1765

- Britain's national debt grew after the French and Indian War
- Sugar Act- Merchants grew rich from trade, often from smuggling in goods to the Americas. Act would enforce **tax** to be paid on all goods traded.
- Stamp Act- Bill intended to raise money from colonies. Required colonist to pay a **direct tax** on most printed materials. Newspapers, books, court documents, contracts and land deeds.
- Quartering Act- required colonist to provide housing and supplies for all British troops stationed in the colonies.
- Unpopular among colonist
- Taxation without Representation = Colonist protested it threatened prosperity and liberty. Colonist had no representation in Parliament, so Parliament had no right to tax them.

# Protest Intensify

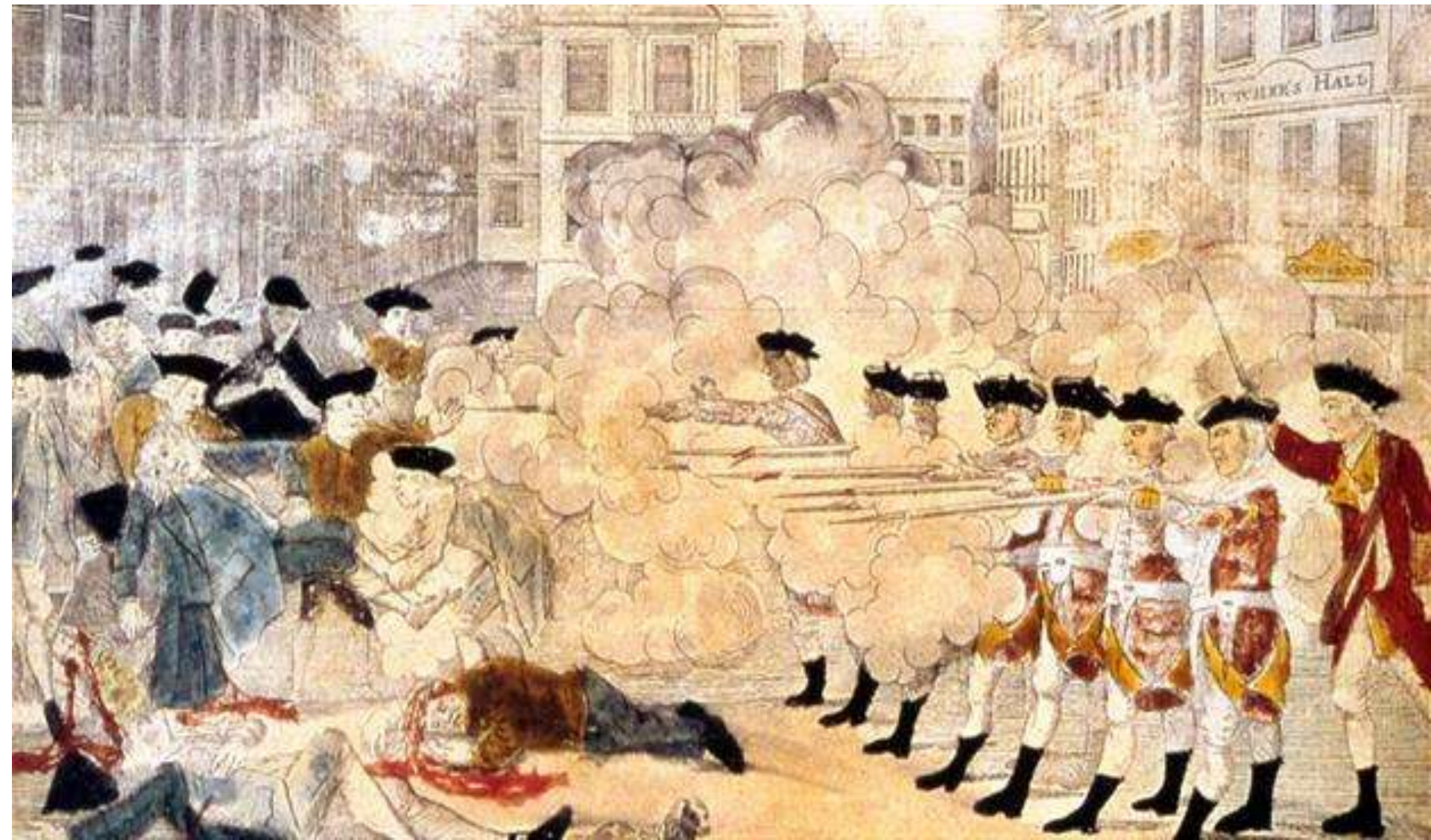
- Patriots emerge. Those who oppose British taxes.
- Protests were lead by the Sons of Liberty. Harass those colonist who were in favor of British taxes.
- Riots, boycotts and street violence

## Tensions in Massachusetts

- British soldiers occupy Boston's streets.
- Clash between Soldiers and colonist = competition for jobs.
- Boston Massacre 1770- colonist throw rocks and snowballs at British soldiers, nervous British soldiers fire at the crowd- 5 colonist end up dead.
- Boston Tea Party 1773– “Indians” dumped 18,000 lbs of East Indian Company tea into the Boston Harbor. Resulted.....
- Quartering Acts- British troops could take over homes and public facilities.
- Closure of Boston harbor



Paul Revers (Patriot) account of the Boston Massacre. 2 minute massacre



## Colonist Take Action 1774

- Delegates from every colony except Georgia meet in Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress.
- Patrick Henry, “ Give me liberty or give me death.”
- Patriots establish local committees and congress to enforce new laws and regulations.
- John Adam’s believed that they lived in a new country named America and Americans should unite against Britain.

1775

- May of 1775 -Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia.
- Two views- 1. Each colony should set up its own government.  
2. United under one nation.
- George Washington (43) appointed commander of Continental Army.





# Battle of Bunker Hill- Boston, MA

- British decided to strike militiamen near the city of Bunker Hill, Boston. Sent 2,400 troops.
- (June) British sweaty, hot, wool uniforms and heavy packs.
- 3 attacks against colonist.
- Colonist lost 450 men, Redcoats 1,000 casualties.
- Continental Congress wanted peace.
- Deadliest battle of the war

# The Olive Branch Petition

- By July the Second Continental Congress was readying the colonist for war while still hoping for peace.
- July 8, 1775, Congress sent King George the so-called Olive Branch Petition, urging a return to “the former harmony” between Britain and the colonies.
- King George rejected the petition.
- King George stated the colonies were rebellion and urged more military





# Declaring Independence

# 4

## Patriots Declare Independence

- Summer of 1776 colonies pushed for independence. “These United Colonies are, and of a right ought to be, free and independent states.” Richard Lee delegate.
- Congress prepared formal declaration explaining reasons for the colonies actions.
- Patriots had sense of pride and anxiety



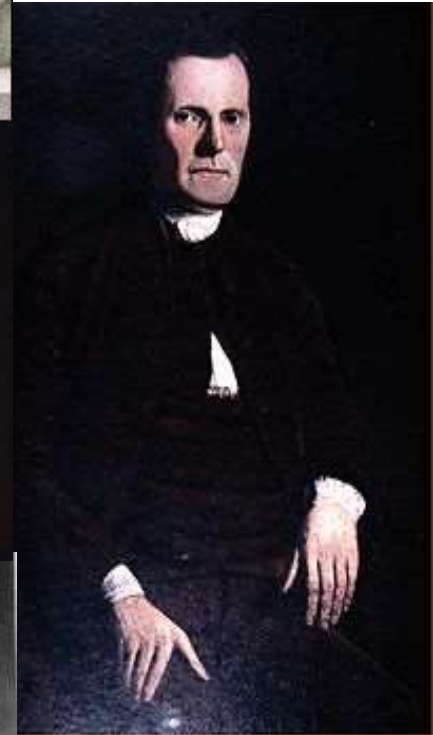
# Declaration of Independence

- Thomas Jefferson- drew on the concepts of John Locke, “natural rights” ...Life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
- Key ideas 1. powers from the consent of the government, from the people. 2. declare ind. form Britain due to king violating rights of Americans. 3. “All men are created equal”, common belief that free citizens were political equals. (not meant for women, na, aa, )
- July 4, 1776 delegated voted unanimously that the American colonies were free.



# Founding Fathers

- John Hancock- wealthy but very patriotic. Signed name large so King George could read it.
- John Adams- lawyer, statesman, political theorist, Enlightenment values, and 2<sup>nd</sup> president.
- Roger Sherman- lawyer, mayor politician and Great Compromise.
- Ben Franklin- Scientist, politician, and enlightenment values.



# America Chooses Sides

- Revolutionist (**patriots**) or loyalty to the crown (**loyalist**).
- Loyalist felt tie to the king, some thought the British were going to win the war.
- Patriots saw economic opportunity, made up half the population.



# Tarring and feathering

- In a typical tar-and-feathers attack, the subject of a crowd's anger would be stripped to the waist. Hot tar was either poured or painted onto the person while he or she was immobilized. Then the victim either had feathers thrown on him or her or was rolled around on a pile of feathers so that they stuck to the tar. Often the victim was then paraded around town on a cart or a [rail](#). The aim was to hurt and [humiliate](#) a person enough to leave town and not cause any more mischief.
- Instill fear into those who still served the crown





# Revolutionary War 1775-1783

## • United States Strengths

1. Familiar with home ground
2. George Washington
3. Inspiring cause of the independence.

## Weakness

1. Untrained soldiers
2. Shortage of food and ammunition
3. No central government

## • Great Britain Strengths

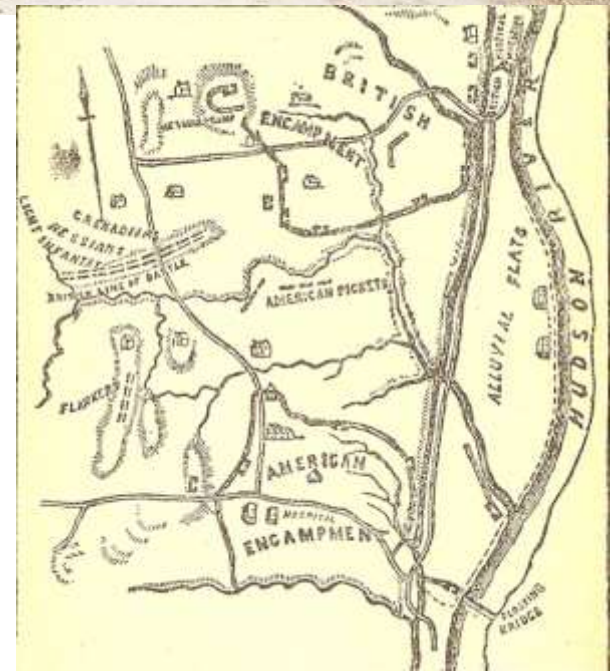
1. Strong, well trained
2. Strong central gov
3. Loyalist, Native Americans and available funds.

## Weakness

1. Distance from Britain
2. Unfamiliar w/ terrain
3. Weak leaders

# Battles

- 2.5 million against 10 million.
- Valley Forge- outside Philadelphia, Cont. Army's camp, winter 1777-78. Freezing, makeshift huts, little food.
- American victory Trenton (1776) = British were hung over and sleeping it off and U.S. surprise attack.
- Saratoga (1777) = British unfamiliar w/ terrain, little food, fancy personal items surrendered. Stayed near coast line.



# Turning Point

- Bitter from their defeat by the British in the French and Indian War, the French secretly sent weapons to the Patriots since 1776.
- After US victory at Saratoga France supported the Revolution.
- Marquis de Lafayette joined Washington's staff and led command in battles.
- France recognized American independence and signed an alliance with Americans in 1778.
- France would not make peace with Britain until Britain recognized American independence.

## Peace Talks

- U.S., Britain, France and Spain = negotiations w/best interest , no country wanted another to have too much power.
- Continental Congress demanded independence
- 1783 Treaty of Paris confirmed U.S. independence





# Liberty

- Revolution inspired democracy and a new identity
- American Society changes = stronger division b/w social classes
- New government = How could a government be set up so opposing groups of citizens would have voice? How should the gov answer to the people? Who should participate in the gov?

