CHAPTER 5
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1776-1783
• The chapter analyzes the causes and nature of the American Revolution and the problems associated with the founding of the nation.
“The revolution was effected before the war commenced. The revolution was in the hearts and minds of the people.”
• With the Revolutionary War, Americans forced the British to sue for peace and grant the colonists their independence.

• It was an engine for political experimentation and social transformation
• Americans had many defeats in 1776 and they learned that they had to avoid major battles but had to wear down the British in a long war of attrition and exhaustion.
II. AMERICAN SOCIETY AT WAR

II. 1 Choosing sides

**Patriots:** (Whigs) The largest part of the population

**Loyalists:** (Tories), 20% of American population

**Neutrals:** Those who went to whoever appeared to be winning
II-2 Militia and Army

The continental army: Washington's army was helped by militias that fought occasionally.

II-3 financial strains and smallpox
times often got rough due to diseases, scarcity of supplies.

II-4 Behind the Lines
Prices skyrocketed families were devastated.
III. 1777: SETBACKS FOR THE BRITISH

III-1 American Saratoga Victory in 1777
The victory in Saratoga proved critically important to the Americans.

III-2 Alliance with France
France decided to help Americans through the Franco-American alliance this was decisive in American victory.
IV. 1778: BOTH SIDES REGROUP

III-1 The Revolutionary Army at Valley Forge
Difficult situation (cold, hunger, disease).

III-2 Peace Overtures and the Evacuation of Philadelphia
Granting all the demands of American patriots by British parliament
repeal of many acts (ex: Townshend act).

III-3 Actions on the Frontier
American victories
V. THE WAR IN THE SOUTH

In the south, the war degenerated into brutal guerrilla-style civil conflicts between loyalists and patriots, namely in the Carolinas.

V-1 The Carolinas
The most significant battle took place at Cowpens, south Carolina, in early 1781, where the Americans soundly defeated the British.

V-2 Yorktown, Virginia
On Oct. 19, 1781, after being trapped at Yorktown near the mouth of Chesapeake bay, British army led by Cornwallis was defeated.
VI. THE TREATY OF PARIS

British government decided to pursue peace negotiations in Paris in early 1782, with the American side represented by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay.

With the Treaty of Paris on Sept 3, 1783 great Britain acknowledged the independence, freedom, and sovereignty of the 13 former colonies making up the United States.
VII. THE POLITICAL REVOLUTION

VII-1 Republican Ideology
Republicans wanted no monarchy, no aristocracy, but A republic. A republican form of government supposed people animated by civic virtue and no corruption.

VII-2 State Constitutions
After the war the states had to get organized. They formed governments that looked like the colonial administration but with selected governors and senates.

VII-3 The Articles of Confederation
America’s first constitution, the Articles of Confederation, was ratified in 1781.
VIII. THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION

VIII-1 Equality and Its Limits
There was a spirit of equality around. More people got the right to vote.

VIII-2 The Paradox of Slavery
Blacks fought on both sides. In the northern states, emancipation was almost automatic (during and shortly after the war). In the southern states e.g. South Carolina as in most southern state, whites refused to manumit (free) slaves.
VIII-3 The Status of Women

Women were still confined in the domestic sphere although they had proved that they were capable of doing things outside it.

VIII-4 Indians and The Revolution
They fought on both sides
at the end of war, American whites continued to encroach on Indian lands, even of those who had fought on their side.

VIII-5 Freedom of Religion
Religion was diverse but free/vs during colonization.
IX. THE EMERGENCE OF AN AMERICAN CULTURE


IX-1 America’s Destiny
Americans thought that they were a special people with a special mission in history.
FOCUS QUESTIONS

1) What challenges faced the British and American military leaders in fighting the Revolutionary War?

2) What were some of the key turning points in the Revolutionary War? How did they change the direction of the war?

3) In what ways did the American revolution function as a civil war?

4) How was the Revolutionary War an “engine” for political and social change?

5) How did the Revolutionary War impact African Americans, women, and Native Americans?
THANK YOU

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