

# American Revolution

1775-1783

# What is a revolution?

- A revolution is a violent removal of the leadership or government of a country

## What are some examples of revolutions?

- American Revolution
- French Revolution
- The Russian Revolution



# Background

- 13 colonies on the east coast of the United States
- Population of people from Great Britain who had emigrated from Britain
- Ruled by British Empire and King George III

Colonists in the 13 colonies paid high taxes, and had no representation from Parliament in Great Britain.

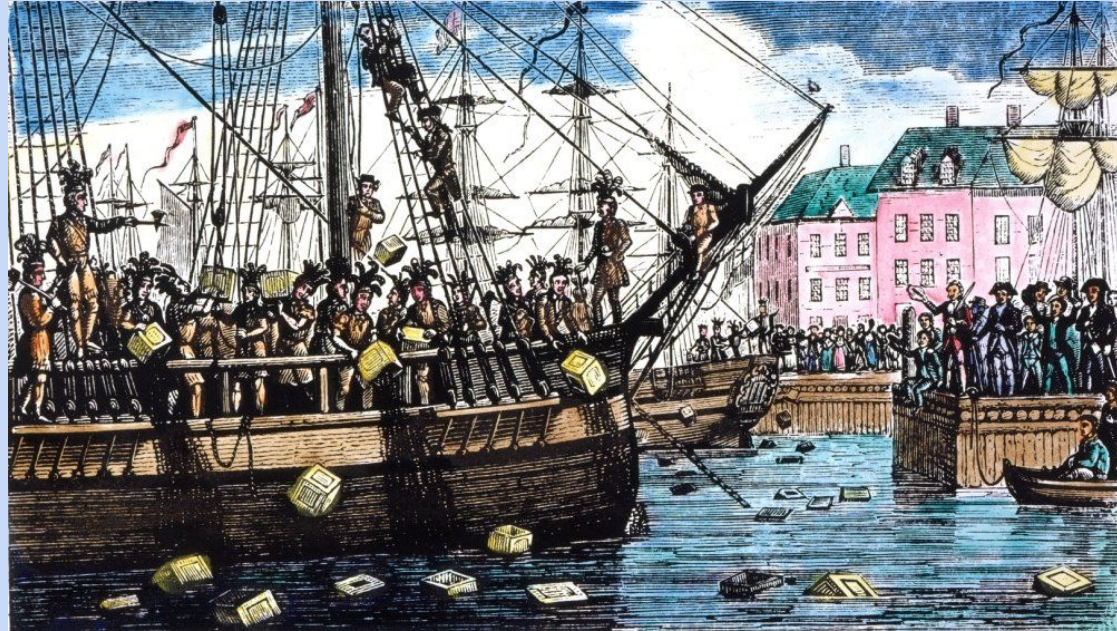
Colonists were upset by the “taxation without representation” and ignorance of their government

War broke out in 1775 after a rebellion

# Boston Tea Party- 1773

Not really a party...

- Colonists dressed as Native Americans
- Threw boxes of English tea in the Boston Harbour
- Protest against high taxes



# Formation of the United States

- 4 July 1776, representatives from each of the 13 colonies met to create the Declaration of Independence.
  - It declared the inalienable rights of its people
  - July 4th is Independence Day for the USA, widely celebrated holiday



**What territories formed the early United States?**



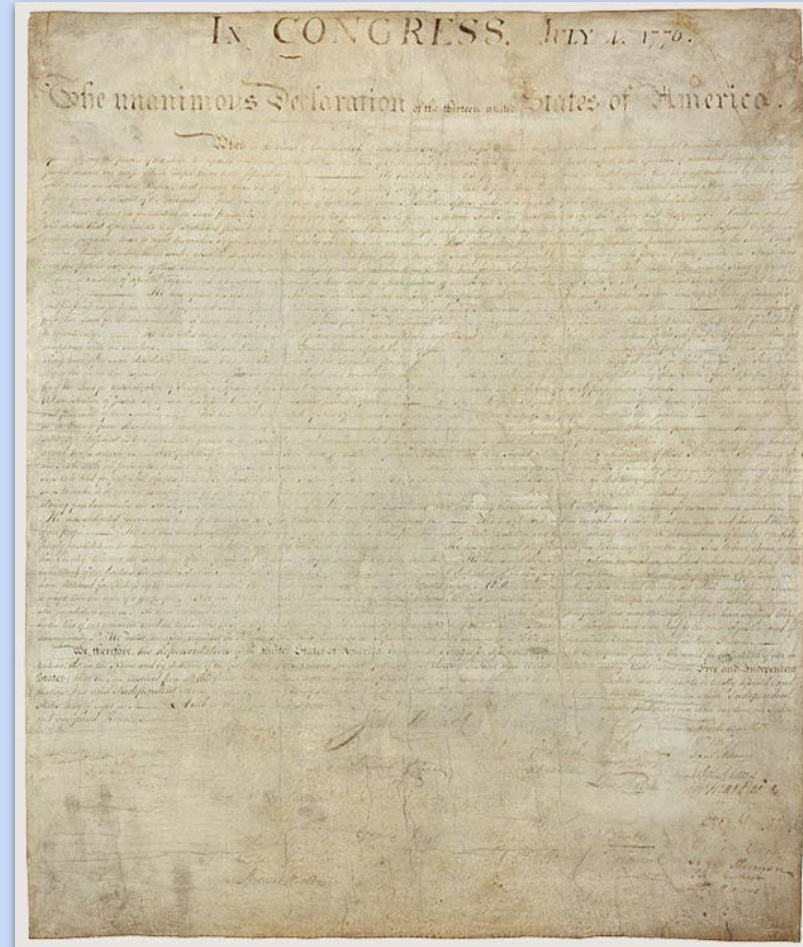


# Declaration of Independence

Important document signed July 4, 1776

States the rights of its people, which cannot be taken away:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”



# First President

## George Washington

1775- Commanded the Continental Army against Great Britain

1787- Led Constitutional Convention

- Formation of Constitution and creation of new government

1789- Elected as the 1st President of the USA



# The Constitution

- Written in 1787, in use since 1789
- Important 3 words: “We the People..”
  - Shows that government is created by the people, for the people
- States the rights of the people and government
- Outlines the formation of the government and political system
- Bill of Rights:
  - First 10 amendment to the Constitution





# American Liberalism

a political philosophy that emerged during the American Revolution, emphasizing individual liberty, democratic governance, and the protection of natural rights

# Bill of Rights: Universal rights for all?

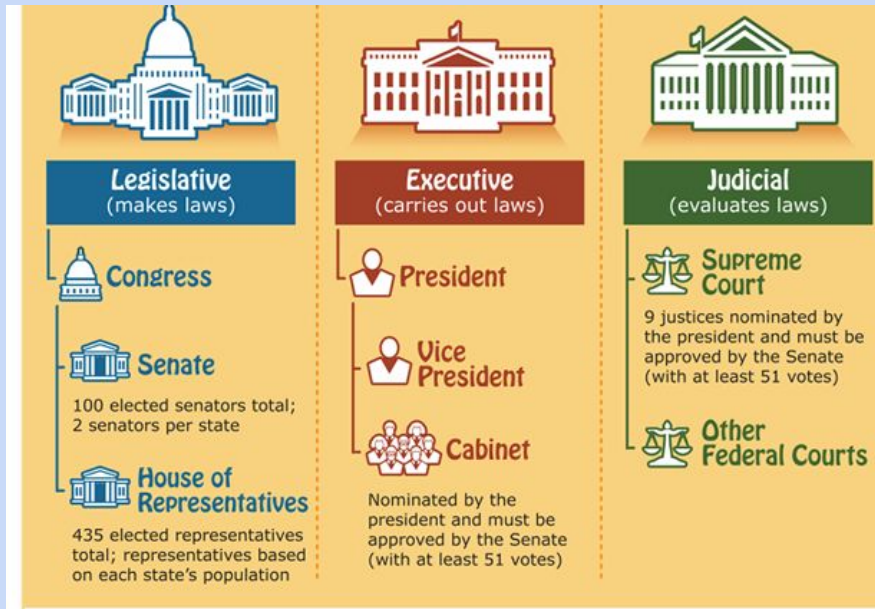
- Liberty and equal rights only applied to minority of citizens
  - White, male, property owns had freedom
  - Women, Native Americans, Slaves, and people who didn't own property had no rights
- Slavery= huge problem
  - Black people were deprived of liberty, political, and social rights
- Native Americans= were not considered citizens of the USA
  - Forced to live on reservations

If you were not a white, male, property owner, you did not have Constitutional rights or freedom in 1789.



**What social groups were excluded from Early American Liberalism?**

# Political System of the USA (circa 1789)



- Citizen voters: affluent (rich) white landowners
- Non-voters: Poor white landowners, non-landowners, Native Americans, African Americans, Women

Those who could not vote, could not elect representatives for the government which “represents the people”

# Questions!

- How many colonies went to war with Great Britain in the Independence War?
- What year was the Constitution created?
- Who was the first president of the United States?
- Do you think the Constitution and Bill of Rights protect all citizens in the United States and give them freedom to this day?

# Questions & Answers!

- How many colonies went to war with Great Britain in the Independence War?
  - 13
- What year was the Constitution created?
  - 1787
- Who was the first president of the United States?
  - George Washington
- Do you think the Constitution and Bill of Rights protect all citizens in the United States and give them freedom to this day?