

Chapter 6-4

- American Revolution: The Birth of a Republic
 - I) Britain and Its American Colonies
 - II) Americans Win Independence
 - III) Americans Create a Republic

I) Britain and Its American Colonies

While the power of England's monarch was limited by law at home, the power was spreading abroad.

British use tax and trade laws to regulate colonists

Taxed both imported French or Dutch goods and exported goods (Navigation Act) outside Britain

Colonies had a new sense of identity, changes sparked anger

Population had grown to over 2 million by 1770

Had their own governments, people used to a degree of independence

Colonists had been living in the United States for over 150 years, and saw themselves more as Virginians or Pennsylvanians than British subjects

II) Americans Win Independence

When King George took the throne in 1760, most Americans had no thoughts of revolution or independence.

England angers the colonists by expecting them to pay the costs of the French and Indian Wars

Colonists protest England's harsh taxes and begin to organize for war.

Colonists successfully boycotted British manufactured goods to get the Stamp Act repealed in 1766, and Samuel Adams organized a raid against 3 British ships which became known as the Boston tea party to protest a tax on imported tea.

Colonial leaders use enlightenment ideas to justify independence and **Thomas Jefferson** writes the **Declaration of Independence**

II) Americans Win Independence

Americans are victorious because they were motivated to fight, defending their homeland.

British generals also made several mistakes with their superior fighting force and time itself was on the side of the Americans as the British got tired of fighting an expensive war 3000 miles from home.

Finally France helped us win against their rival Britain by sending almost 8000 troops in 1778.

By 1781 British commander Lord Cornwallis was forced to surrender after his forces were trapped near Yorktown Virginia.

III) Americans create a Republic

To protect their authority, the 13 states create a constitution known as the Articles of Confederation which fails because it creates a weak national government.

It had no power to collect taxes or regulate trade, and the one body of government called Congress could only pass a law by getting the approval of 9 of the 13 new states.

Several states issued their own money or put tariffs on goods from neighboring states, and angry war veterans complained Congress owed them back pay.

Angry farmers in Massachusetts attacked courthouses in Shay's rebellion to demand lower taxes and money to repay their debts.

Concerned leaders such as George Washington and James Madison called for a convention to create a stronger national government.

III) Americans create a Republic

The Constitutional Convention held its 1st session on May 25, 1787 with the 55 delegates job to create a new system of Government based on Enlightenment ideas of Locke, Montesquieu and Rousseau.

The delegates distrusted a powerful central government controlled by one person or group, so they established a system of **checks and balances** where each branch of government (executive, legislative, and judicial would check the actions of the other two.,

They also provided for a federal system in which power was to be shared between the national and state government.

The delegates signed the new Constitution on September 17, 1787, but in order for it to become law, 9 of the 13 states had to approve.

Supporters (Federalists) gained the backing of opponents (Antifederalists) by agreeing to amend the constitution to include the **Bill of Rights** to further protect the rights of Individual citizens