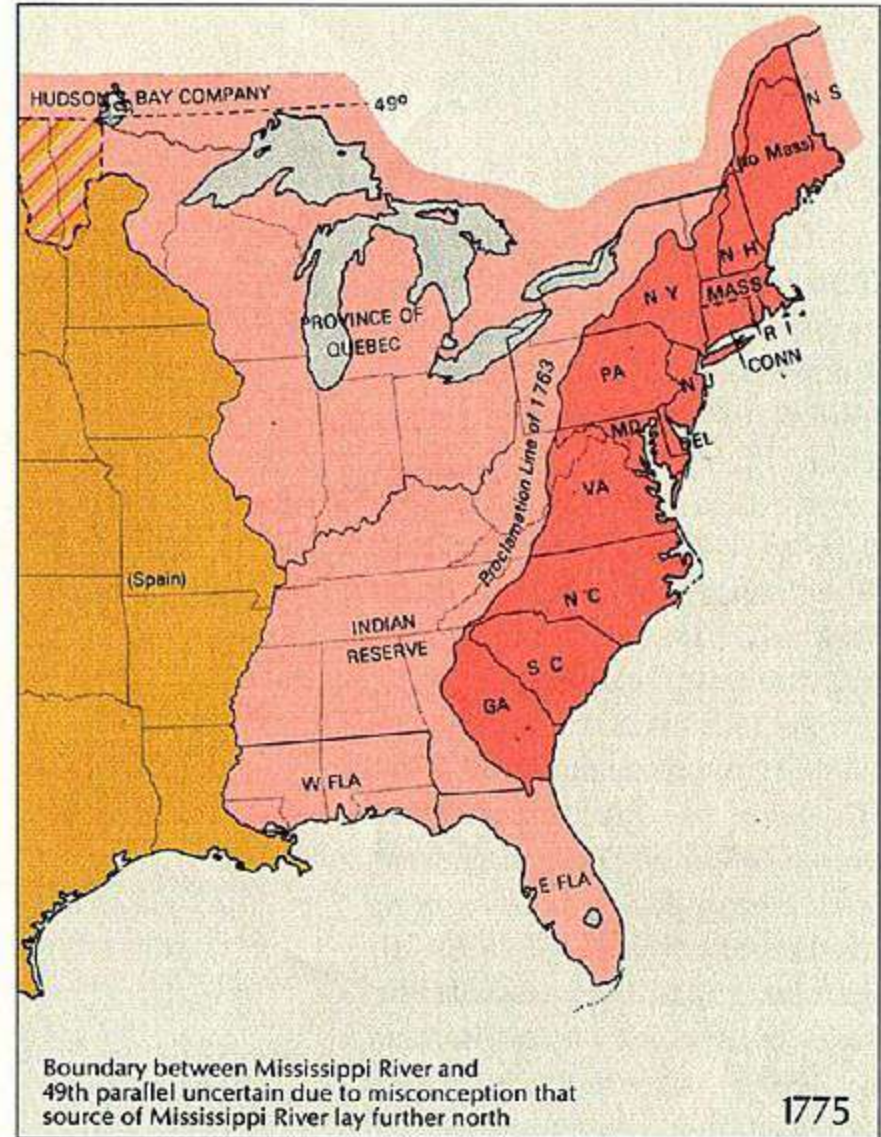


# A. The Road to Revolution

- Britain (England) started to establish colonies in North America in 1607
- There were eventually 13 colonies



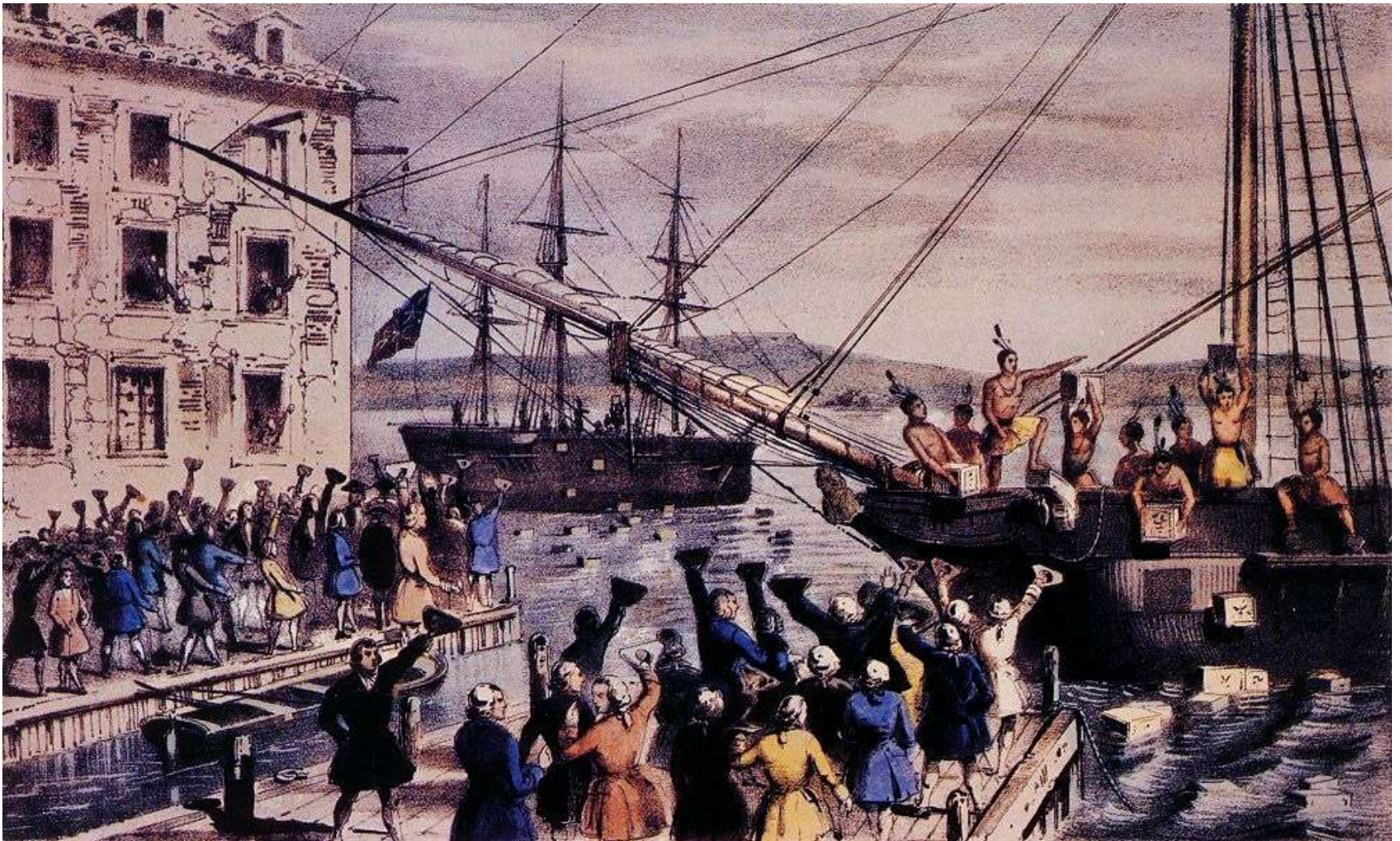
- The American colonies and Great Britain had a good relationship until the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763)



- The French and Indian War was very expensive
- Britain wanted the Americans to help pay the cost of the war
- Parliament passed the Stamp Act (1765) a tax on all paper products
- Americans were angered
- Felt their rights from the English Bill of Rights were violated
- They were not allowed to have representatives in Parliament to debate or vote on these taxes



- The British continued to pass laws that angered the colonists leading to events like the Boston Tea Party in 1773

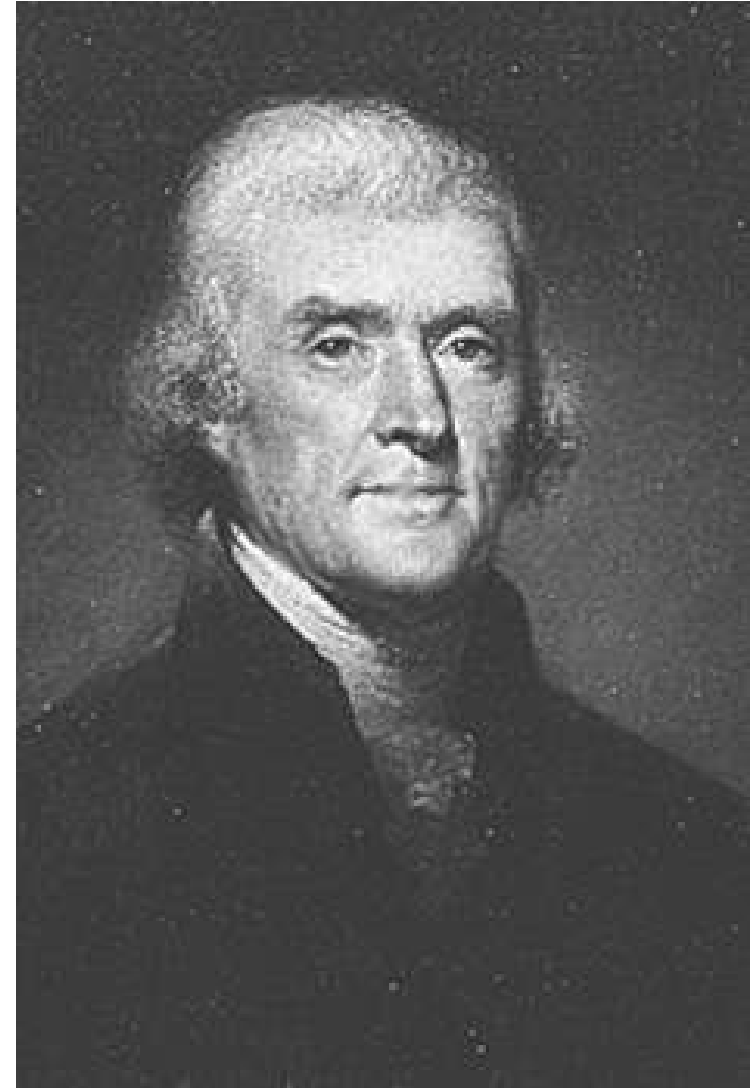


# B. Declaration of Independence

- By 1776, the colonists had learned of the ideas of the Enlightenment philosophers
- They decided to declare their independence from Britain for the violations of their rights



- Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence to tell the king why the colonists wanted independence
- He wrote about the idea that governments formed to protect the rights of the people (borrowed from John Locke)
- These rights included life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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 station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a solemn appeal is made to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions. 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. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem best, for the Security of their Lives and Liberties. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them to absolute Tyranny, it is their Duty to refuse assent to such usurpations, and to throw off such Government, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem best, for the Security of their Lives and Liberties. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them to absolute Tyranny, it is their Duty to refuse assent to such usurpations, and to throw off such Government, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem best, for the Security of their Lives and Liberties. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them to absolute Tyranny, it is their Duty to refuse assent to such usurpations, and to throw off such Government, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem best, for the Security of their Lives and Liberties.

- The document was signed and sent to King George III on July 4, 1776.

John Hancock, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, etc. (List of signatories)

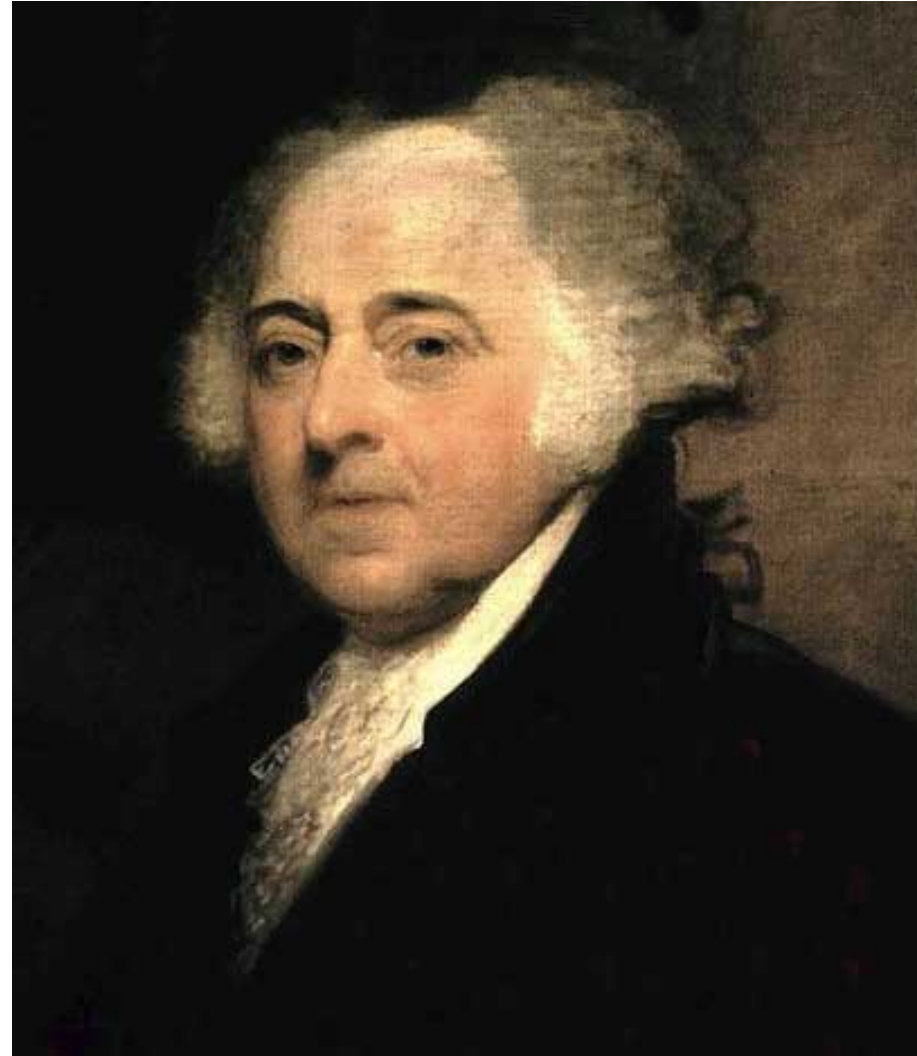
# C. Victory

- The fighting began in 1775 and ended in 1781
- Americans won by using hit and run tactics and with the assistance of the French





- John Adams stated “The Revolution was in the hearts and minds of the people” because it was rooted in the beliefs of the people.
- They wanted to win so they could create a true democracy



# D. Articles of Confederation (1781)

- The colonies (now states) established their first democratic government called the Articles of Confederation in 1781
- The national government had very little power, but the states had a lot of power.
- The government was ineffective and only lasted until the writing of the Constitution in 1787.