

America: The Story of Us ~15:18 – 22:00

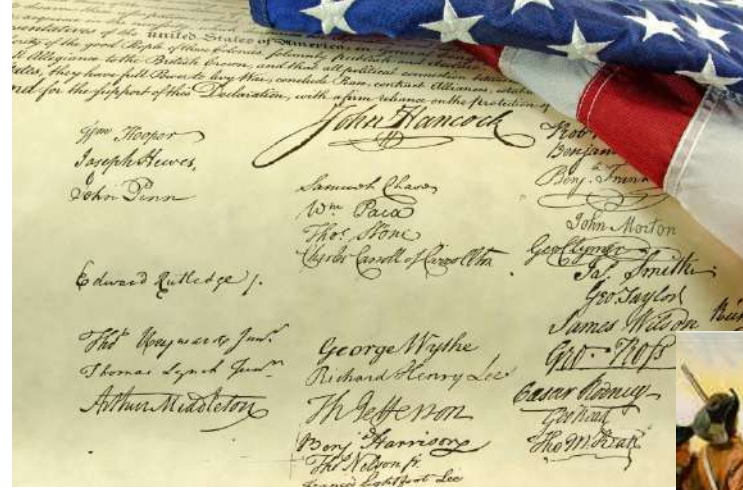
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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
 BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

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 decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

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 a new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience has shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing the same Object, arrives at such a Degree that a bold and manly Spirit of Liberty appears in the Minds of the People, it is their Right, it is their Duty, it is their Honor, to throw off such Government, 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; 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; 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.



Chapter 5 Poster Notes

The Spirit of Independence



Dealing with Great Britain

The order issued by King George III that forbade colonial settlement west of the Appalachian

Mountains: 1) **Proclamation of 1763**. 2) **Writs of Assistance** were

documents that allowed British customs officers to search almost anywhere for smuggled goods in the colonies.

In the hope it would convince colonists to pay tax and stop smuggling , in 1764 the British passed the

3) **Sugar Act** . Colonist believed the new laws passed by Parliament violated their rights to:

4) **trial by jury** , **innocent until proven guilty** , and **security in their homes** . .

New Taxes on the Colonies

To increase government revenues, in 1765, Parliament passed the 5) Stamp Act,

which taxed almost all printed materials in the colonies. In response to the law, Patrick Henry got the Virginia

House of Burgesses to pass a resolution declaring that the 6) House of Burgesses had “the only

and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes” on its citizens. Other protests occurred throughout the colonies

including the formation of 7) The Sons of Liberty by Samuel Adams which took protests to

the streets of Boston. A formal organization of colonial delegates called the 8) Stamp Act Congress,

sent a statement to the King and Parliament declaring that only the 9) colonial assemblies

could tax the colonies. An effective form of protest were, 10) boycotts, which hurt British

merchants. Another attempt to tax in 1767 were the 11) Townshend Acts which taxed various

imported goods including tea.

Trouble in Massachusetts

With Boston on the brink of rebellion, Parliament sent thousands of troops to keep peace and order. On

March 5, 1770, violence erupted in Boston in which British soldiers killed 5 colonists and became known as the

12) **Boston Massacre**. To organize stronger resistance, Samuel Adams revived the

13) **committees of correspondence** that sprang up throughout the colonies.



Crisis in Boston

In order to save the British East India Company and the British economy from the boycotts on tea, Parliament passed the 14) Tea Act which gave the company total control of the colonial tea market. Rather than unload British tea in Boston ports, the Sons of Liberty organized the 15) Boston Tea Party which destroyed 342 chests of tea and cost the British millions in lost profits. To punish New England and clamp down on resistance and force them to pay for the destroyed tea, Parliament passed the 16) Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts) which forced the colonies to allow 17) British soldiers to be housed in private home, banned 18) Town meetings, and closed 19) Boston Harbor. In addition, Parliament passed the 20) Quebec Act which placed Canada and the Ohio River Valley territory under Royal control.

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A Meeting in Philadelphia

In response to the situation in New England, the colonists sent delegates to Philadelphia and formed the 21) _____

Continental Congress. The delegates discussed complaints against Britain and called for the 22) repeal of 13

acts of Parliament. They also voted to 23) boycott British goods and endorse the 24) Suffolk Resolves

which declared the Coercive Acts illegal and authorized the colonies to 25) arm themselves. As tensions

between Britain and the colonies grew, towns began to 26) organize militias.

Fighting Begins

In New England, some militias were known as 27) Minute men because

they would be ready to fight at a “minute’s notice.” On the night of April 18, 1775, British troops

moved out of Boston toward Concord in order to seize and destroy

28) weapons & ammunition. The British were met at the town of

29) Lexington by colonial minutemen and eight colonials were killed. Another short

battle took place at Concord in which the British took heavy losses.

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More Military Action

To gain important military supplies and control a key location in upstate New York, Connecticut militia captain Benedict Arnold along with Ethan Allen's "Green Mountain Boys" from Vermont led a force to seize 29) **Fort Ticonderoga**. Although a British victory, the 30) Battle of **Bunker Hill** was costly for the British who were learning that defeating the Americans on the battlefield would be neither quick nor easy. Colonist who sided with Britain were called 31) **loyalists** and did not think rebellion was justified. And colonist who supported fighting for independence were called 32) **patriots**. They believed that the colonists had the right to govern themselves and were willing to fight to do so.

The Second Continental Congress

After the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress began to take steps to begin governing the colonies. It authorized: 33) printing money and set up a post office. It also set up committees to handle relations with 34) Natives and foreign nations. Most importantly, it created the 35) Continental Army and chose George Washington to command it. The Second Continental Congress offered the British a last chance to avoid war by sending the 36) Olive Branch Petition to King George III.

The Second Continental Congress , continued

The king soundly rejected the offer and made preparations for war. Meanwhile, in a move that surprised the British, General Washington moved dozens of cannon into position and forced the British to withdraw from the key city of 37) **Boston**. While many colonists help on to hope that the colonies could remain part of Great Britain, support for independence was growing. An English immigrant, Thomas Paine wrote, 37) **Common Sense**, a widely read and influential pamphlet that listed powerful reasons why Americans would be better off free from Great Britain.

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Declaring Independence

As the rebellion progressed toward a revolution, the Second Continental Congress debated about the question of declaring Independence. Key figure rose and were asked to form a committee to draft a 38) Declaration of Independence. Using the ideas of English philosopher, 39) John Locke, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. In it, Jefferson expressed the reasons for the revolution stating that people are born with certain 40) natural rights to life, liberty, and property; and people form 41) governments to protect those rights; and a government interfering with those rights could be rightfully 42) overthrown. After some changes, the delegates approved the document on 43) July 4, 1776 which was printed and sent out to the newly declared states.

Declaring Independence, continued

The Declaration of Independence begins with the *Preamble* stating that all people are “endowed with 44) unalienable rights”; that government exists to protect these rights and if government fails, “it is the right of the people to 45) abolish it and to institute new government. The Declaration goes on to list the grievances (complaints) against the King and Parliament. These include 46) cutting off trade and imposing taxes without consent.

The Americans had 47) “petitioned for redress” but the British had ignored or rejected these petitions. Finally, the Declaration announces to Britain and the world that America had declared itself a 48) new nation, pledging to each other our 49) Lives, our Fortunes, and our Honor. The struggle for independence – the American Revolution – had begun.

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