

12:1a American Revolution



✓ England won the **Seven Years War** (Called the French & Indian War in the American colonies). Great Britain emerged as the world's chief colonial empire, which was its primary goal in the war, and France lost most of its overseas possessions, including Canada under the **Treaty of Paris 1763**.

✓ The debts France incurred in this war and later in the **American Revolution** (1775—1783) helped cause the **French Revolution**. The humiliation of the army led to reforms and innovations which were later used with great success by **Napoleon**.



12:1b American Revolution

✓ But a steep price accompanied the fruits of total victory for the British government, which had borrowed heavily from British and Dutch bankers to finance the war, and as a consequence the national debt almost doubled from £75 million in 1754 to £133 million in 1763.



✓ The afterglow of a great victory could not

hide a developing rift between the mother country and her colonies. Ironically, British efforts to tighten controls throughout the empire, including prohibiting settlement of the western Indian territories, served to ignite the flame of revolution in America.

✓ The American colonists no longer needed British protection against the French, and the attempt by Parliament to collect unprecedented taxes on the colonists to help pay for the war sparked the American Revolution.



12:1c American Revolution



✓ Fighting broke out at **Lexington & Concord** on April 19th,

1775 when British troops tried to seize arms and ammunition from the colonists outside of Boston.

✓ **Second Continental Congress** started meeting May 10th, 1775 at Philadelphia. The Continental Army was formed with **George Washington** appointed its commander on June 15th, 1775.



✓ **The Declaration of Independence** was passed July 4th, 1776 by Congress. All the colonies approved it except New York, which abstained.

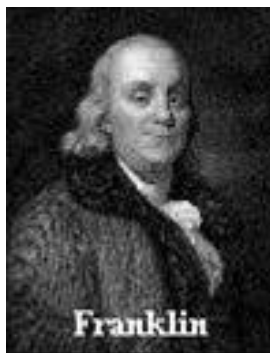


12:1d American Revolution



✓ The turning point of the war occurred when General Burgoyne was defeated by the American General Horatio Gates at **Saratoga** on October 17th, 1777.

Burgoyne was forced to surrender.



✓ The victory at Saratoga demonstrated to France's **King Louis XVI** that the Americans could win. Under the leadership of **Benjamin Franklin's** skilled



negotiations in Paris, America obtained French recognition of independence and **France declared war on Great Britain in February of 1778.**

✓ British **General Cornwallis** made a fateful decision in August of 1781 to retreat to **Yorktown**, Virginia. Located on a narrow peninsula, it was easy to defend, and awaited reinforcements and supplies from New York by sea.

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✓ September 5th, 1781 **the Battle of Chesapeake Bay**, the French navy under **Admiral de Grasse** defeated the British navy trying to reinforce and help Cornwallis. Cornwallis and his 8,000 British and Hessians were

trapped. By September 28 there were 9,000 American and 7,800 French soldiers surrounding Yorktown.

✓ After failing in his attempts to break out, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown to George Washington on October 19th, 1781.



Cornwallis Surrenders



North America
After the Treaty of 1783

✓ Washington's troops returned to attack the British troops in New York, but the war was over. British Prime Minister Lord North resigned in March 1782 and the final **Treaty of Paris 1783** recognizing American Independence was signed.