Chapter 8
America Secedes from the Empire, 1775–1783
I. Congress Drafts George Washington

• The Second Continental Congress meets- May 10, 1775. What did they do?
• George Washington commander-in-chief-why? Practical and political reasons
II. Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings

• Conflicting messages being sent by the colonists?
• Bunker Hill- What happened? What is its significance?
• Olive Branch Petition- What does it say about Americans attitudes and concerns?
• Who were the Hessians? Why did the British seek mercenary help? Were they good soldiers? What was their general weakness? What happened with many of them?
III. The Abortive Conquest of Canada

• Why Canada?

• General Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold.

• Quebec; Norfolk, Va.; Boston; Moore’s Creek Bridge, N.C.; Charleston
IV. Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense

- Thomas Paine
- “Common Sense”- What is it? What impact did it have? P. 136 excerpt
V. Paine and the Idea of “Republicanism”

• Source of political power—Paine’s concept of “republicanism”
• Impact of the colonist’s experience?
• Citizen “virtue”? 
• Did everybody agree with Paine?
VI. Jefferson’s “Explanation” of Independence

- Who made the motion to declare independence? When?
- Thomas Jefferson selected to write the declaration.
- John Locke influence—natural rights; consent of the governed; limited government; right to rebel or change governments; purpose of government?
- Impact on French Revolution—Declaration of the Rights of Man
- Read Declaration of Independence!
VII. Patriots and Loyalists

- Loyalists? What are they? Who are they? How many?
- Patriots? What are they? Who are they?
- Apathy or neutrality
- “Rebel education”
- Where were the Loyalists most prevalent?
- Where were they least prevalent?
- Where were rebels most prevalent?
Ungrateful Britons to abandon thus your loyal friends.
No thee to the devil.  Even Butcher's corps.
We will go Madam, no peace, no place.
Johnson aiding B羿ole thus to disgrace my wretched name.
Brothers forever.
VIII. The Loyalist Exodus

• Loyalists more fiercely persecuted after the Declaration of Independence

• About 80,000 driven out or fled. Several hundred thousand allowed to stay—the more moderate.

• Estates confiscated and sold to finance the war.

• About 50,000 bore arms for the king. Some were spies, incited Indians, etc.
IX. General Washington at Bay

- New York base of operations for British. 500 ships and 35,000 men.
- Washington 18,000 troops.
- Battle of Long Island—colonists routed—Washington narrowly escaped across the Hudson then the Delaware.
- British commander Howe failed to pursue and destroy colonial army while he had the chance. Had bad experience at Bunker Hill. (Winter)
- Battle of Trenton Dec. 26, 1776—Washington surprises Hessians and captures a thousand. Moved on and defeated the British at Princeton
X. Burgoyne’s Blundering Invasion

• British plan to capture the vital Hudson Valley was to bring General Burgoyne from Canada through Lake Champlain, General Howe in New York would meet up with him, and Colonel Barry St. Leger from the west by Lake Ontario.

• Benedict Arnold slowed down Burgoyne on Lake Champlain and Burgoyne was forced to wait until the next year. If not slowed down, plan probably would have succeeded. When he began his invasion with 7,000 troops, it was very slow with a baggage train and many women. Americans gathered like hornets.

• Howe took his main force to Philadelphia to pursue Washington directly. Affected plan
continued

• Washington transferred troops to vicinity of Philadelphia and was defeated in two battles and Burgoyne settled in Philadelphia while Burgoyne in Upper New York. Washington retired to Valley Forge, 20 miles northwest of Philadelphia-the infamous there but troops trained by Baron von Steuben.

• Burgoyne’s army struggled and was trapped by the swarming Americans. Burgoyne was forced to surrender at Saratoga in Oct., 1777. One of the most important battles in American history and world history. Also, made aid from France possible
XI. Revolution in Diplomacy?

- French desires
- American goals-rule of law v. raw power
- The Model Treaty
- Benjamin Franklin’s arrival in Paris- appearance and perception? Did it have an impact?
- France and America enter into an alliance after the Battle of Saratoga success- It’s not the Model Treaty but self-interest trumps idealism.
XII. The Colonial War Becomes a Wider War

- France, Spain, and Holland enter the war against Britain. Combined French and Spanish navy outnumbered British ships.
### Table 8.1 Britain Against the World

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Britain and Allies</th>
<th>Enemy or Unfriendly Powers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>United States, 1775–1783</td>
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<td>Some Loyalists and Indians</td>
<td>France, 1778–1783</td>
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<td>30,000 hired Hessians</td>
<td>Spain, 1779–1783</td>
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<td><em>(Total population on Britain’s side: ca. 8 million)</em></td>
<td>Holland, 1779–1783</td>
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<td>Belligerents</td>
<td>Ireland (restive)</td>
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<td><em>(Total population: ca. 39.5 million)</em></td>
<td>Members of the Armed Neutrality (with dates of joining)</td>
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<td>Russia, 1780</td>
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<td>Denmark-Norway, 1780</td>
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<td>Sweden, 1780</td>
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<td>Holy Roman Empire, 1781</td>
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<td>Portugal, 1782</td>
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<td>Two Sicilies, 1783 (after peace signed)</td>
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XIII. Blow and Counterblow

• 1780, army of 6,000 French under Comte de Rochambeau arrive in R.I.

• Benedict Arnold turns traitor. Plot detected and Arnold fled to Britain.

• British success- Georgia overrun, Charleston fell-5,000 captured.

• Heavy fighting in Carolinas. Nathaniel Greene- stand and retreat wore the British down under Cornwallis-most of Georgia and South Carolina cleared of British troops by 1781.
XIV. The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier

- British paid bounty for American scalps.
- Role of Joseph Brant, Mohawk chief—thought a British win would halt American expansion west.
- Treaty of Fort Stanwyx—Iroquois forced to sign by Americans—first treaty between U.S. and an Indian nation. Forced to cede most of their land.
- Expansion west continued during the war. "Lexington, KY; Louisville
continued

• Vulnerable British forts in the West seized under plan of George Rogers Clark-impact on treaty negotiations at the end of the war?

• Americans infant navy-best known commander was John Paul Jones. Not a dent made in British navy but some success in destroying British merchant ships.

• “Privateers” more successful. They were privately owned and armed. Authorized by Congress-over 1,000. Captured over 600 British prizes. British about same number of Americans. Forced British to sail in convoys. British merchants pressured Parliament to end war soon.
XV. Yorktown and the Final Curtain

• 1780-81 darkest period of war. Inflation, government almost bankrupt paid only 2.5 cents on the dollar. Despair, some mutiny, unity disappearing.

• Cornwallis had fallen back to Yorktown to await seaborne supplies. Americans needed a win!

• Washington coordinated with French navy and marched from New York to Chesapeake (along with Rochambeau). Washington attacked (16,000 troops) by land and French navy blockaded the sea. Cornwallis was trapped and surrendered his entire force of 7,000.

• French ½ of the troops and all of the sea power. War continued for a year but Yorktown the decisive battle. Washington was able to keep people unified.
XVI. Peace at Paris

• British people were tired and ready to end the war. Tories were replaced by the Whigs and were more favorable for the Americans.
• Peace negotiators meet at Paris in 1782. Ben Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay. Americans in a precarious position with French and France with them. And Spain was a problem. Everybody wanted something.
• Under leadership of John Jay, Americans pursued terms independent of France.
• Provisions of Treaty of Paris
XVII. A New Nation Legitimized
Dear Mama, say no more about it.

Be a good Girl and give me a Bufu.

George for Ever.
**CHRONOLOGY**

1775
- Battles of Lexington and Concord
- Second Continental Congress
- Americans capture British garrisons at Ticonderoga and Crown Point
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- King George III formally proclaims colonies in rebellion
- Failed invasion of Canada

1776
- Paine’s *Common Sense*
- Declaration of Independence
- Battle of Trenton

1777
- Battle of Brandywine
- Battle of Germantown
- Battle of Saratoga

1778
- Formation of French-American alliance
- Battle of Monmouth

1778–1779
- Clark’s victories in the West

1781
- Battle of King’s Mountain
- Battle of Cowpens
- Greene leads Carolina campaign
- French and Americans force Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown

1782
- North’s ministry collapses in Britain

1783
- Treaty of Paris

1784
- Treaty of Fort Stanwix