Chapter #8: American Secedes from the Empire – Big Picture Themes

1. Nearly every advantage on paper went to Britain during the revolution. They had better troops, training, a much better navy, experienced generals, more money, better weapons and equipment.

2. The Americans had on their side heart and geography. America was very big and ocean removed from England.

3. Perhaps due to necessity rather than plan, American employed a drawn-out strategy where the war drug on for six years. America won by constantly withdrawing to the nation’s interior and moving on to fight another day.

4. Meanwhile, as the war waged, the Declaration of Independence was written, signed, and approved.

5. The Treaty of Paris 1763 legitimized the new nation.

IDENTIFICATIONS:

Second Continental Congress
The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775. Three delegates added to the Congress were Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Hancock. The Congress took on governmental duties. (United all the colonies for the war effort.) They selected George Washington as Commander in Chief. They encouraged the colonies to set themselves up as states. On July 4, 1776 they adopted the Declaration of Independence. The Congress ended March 1, 1781 when a Congress authorized by the Articles of Confederation took over.

Hessians
They were German mercenaries who were comprised of approximately 30,000 soldiers in the British army during the Revolutionary War. They fought among 162,000 other Britons and loyalists but were outnumbered by the 220,000 troops of the Continental Army.

Thomas Paine/Common Sense
Common Sense written in 1776 was one of the most potent pamphlets ever written. It called for the colonists to realize their mistreatment and push for independence from England. The author Thomas Paine introduced such ideas as nowhere in the universe sis a smaller heavenly body control a larger. For this reason their is no reason for England to have control over the vast lands of America. The pamphlet with its high-class journalism as well as propaganda sold a total of 120,000 copies within a few months.

Natural Rights Theory
theory that people are born with certain "natural rights." Some say these rights are anything people do in the pursuit of liberty--as long as the rights of others are not impeded.
George Washington
He had led troops (rather unsuccessfully) during the French and Indian War, and had surrendered Fort Necessity to the French. He was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and was much more successful in this second command.

Marquis de Layfette
A wealthy French nobleman, nicknamed "French Gamecock", made major general of colonial army, got commission on part of his family.

John Burgoyne
Burgoyne is best known for his role in the American War of Independence. During the Saratoga campaign he surrendered his army of 5,000 men to the American troops on October 17, 1777. Appointed to command a force designated to capture Albany and end the rebellion, Burgoyne advanced from Canada but soon found himself surrounded and outnumbered. He fought two battles at Saratoga, but was forced to open negotiations with Horatio Gates. Although he agreed to a convention, on 17 October 1777, which would allow his troops to return home, this was subsequently revoked and his men were made prisoners. Burgoyne faced criticism when he returned to Britain, and never held another active command.

Benedict Arnold
He was an American General during the Revolutionary War (1776). He prevented the British from reaching Ticonderoga. Later, in 1778, he tried to help the British take West Point and the Hudson River but he was found out and declared a traitor.

Treaty of Paris, 1783
The British recognized the independence of the United States. It granted boundaries, which stretched from the Mississippi on the west, to the Great Lakes on the north, and to Spanish Florida on the south. The Yankees retained a share of Newfoundland. It greatly upset the Canadians.

Battle of Trenton (Dec 26, 1776)
Washington crossed the Delaware river going south and surprised the British by coming back across the river; Washington split his 2400 men into two divisions and attacked the British from two sides. The colonials were successful and the victory gave the troops a great boost of confidence and the colonies a great positive push.

Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1774)
General Gage, stationed in Boston, was ordered by King George III to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock. The British marched on Lexington, where they believed the colonials had a cache of weapons. The colonial militias, warned beforehand by Paul Revere and William Dawes, attempted to block the progress of the troops and were fired on by the British at Lexington. The British continued to Concord, where they believed Adams and Hancock were hiding, and they were again attacked by the colonial militia. As the British retreated to Boston, the colonials continued to shoot at them from behind cover on the sides of the road. This was the start of the Revolutionary War.

Battle of Saratoga
British General John Burgoyne felt overwhelmed by a force three times larger than his own, and surrendered on October 17, 1777. This forced the British to consider whether or not to continue the
war. The U.S. victory at the Battle of Saratoga convinced the French that the U.S. deserved diplomatic recognition.

**Battle of Yorktown**
Washington, along with Admiral de Grasse’s French fleet, trapped British General Cornwallis on the Yorktown peninsula. The Siege of Yorktown began in September of 1781, and ended when Cornwallis realized that he lost three key points around Yorktown and surrendered.
Congress Drafts George Washington
Know: Second Continental Congress, George Washington
1. Why was George Washington chosen as general of the American army?

Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings
Know: Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold, Fort Ticonderoga, Bunker Hill, Redcoats, Olive Branch Petition, Hessians
2. George III "slammed the door on all hope of reconciliation." How and why?

The Abortive Conquest of Canada
Know: Richard Montgomery
3. Did the fighting go well for Americans before July of 1776? Explain.

Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense
4. Why was Common Sense important?

Paine and the Idea of "Republicanism"
Know: Republic, Natural Aristocracy
5. Why did Paine want a democratic republic?

Jefferson's "Explanation" of Independence
Know: Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence, Natural Rights

6. What does the Declaration of Independence say?

Patriots and Loyalists
Know: Patrick Henry

7. What kinds of people were Loyalists?

Makers of America: The Loyalists

8. What happened to Loyalists after the war?

The Loyalist Exodus

9. What happened to Loyalists during the war?

Burgoyne's Blundering Invasion
Know: John Burgoyne, Benedict Arnold, Saratoga, Horatio Gates
10. Why did the Americans win the battle of Saratoga? Why was it significant?

Revolution in Diplomacy?
11. Why did the French help America win independence?

The Colonial War Becomes a Wider War
Know: Armed Neutrality
12. Why was foreign aid so important to the American cause?

Blow and Counterblow
Know: Nathaniel Greene, Charles Cornwallis
13. Would an American Patriot, reading news of the war in 1780, have been happy about the way the war was going? Explain.

The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier
Know: Iroquois Confederacy, Fort Stanwix, George Rogers Clarke, John Paul Jones, Privateers
14. Was frontier fighting important in the outcome of the war?

Yorktown and the Final Curtain
Know: Charles Cornwallis, Yorktown
15. If the war did not end at Yorktown, then why was it important?
Peace at Paris
Know:  Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Jay, Treaty of Paris

A New Nation Legitimized
Know:  Whigs

Whose Revolution?

FIVE EXPLANATIONS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

1. Political Conflict:  A struggle between tyrannical control of England & the liberty-loving Americans who saw an opportunity to carry out the beliefs of the Enlightenment thinkers
2. **Practical:** the impossibility of England’s maintaining colonies 3,000 miles away as part of its empire as well as the internal political conflicts in British government

3. **Economic Conflict:** between the growing American free enterprise system & the English mercantile system

4. **Religious Conflict** – between the variety of religions that settled in the colonies & the Church of England, the dominant religion of English officials & aristocrats

5. **Social Conflict:** The development of a new class structure in the colonies due to the ending of heredity, birthright status, & primogeniture, & the availability of land & the expansion of the the right to vote as social “level-ers”