

# THE REVOLUTION IN ACTION

1. Colonists declare their independence....Why?

• Common Sense---Thomas Paine—Winter of 1776 

• Writing of the Declaration of Independence

• 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress---July of 1776 

• Thomas Jefferson----Father of DOI

• George Washington 

• Response to DOI

• Patriots 

• Loyalists

• Neutral

2. British vs. Americans  

3. Key American victories..... 

• Trenton---Dec. 1776

- Saratoga---Oct. 1777 
  - Yorktown---1781 
4. Treaty of Paris---Sept. 3, 1783 

# BATTLE OF SARATOGA



## The Americans



**Guerilla tactics  
[fight an insurgent  
war → you don't  
have to win a battle,  
just wear the British  
down]**

## The British



**1777, separate and  
control New  
England.**



**Break the colonies  
in half by getting  
between the North  
and South.**

# BATTLE OF SARATOGA



General Horatio Gates surrounds the British with the help of Benedict Arnold



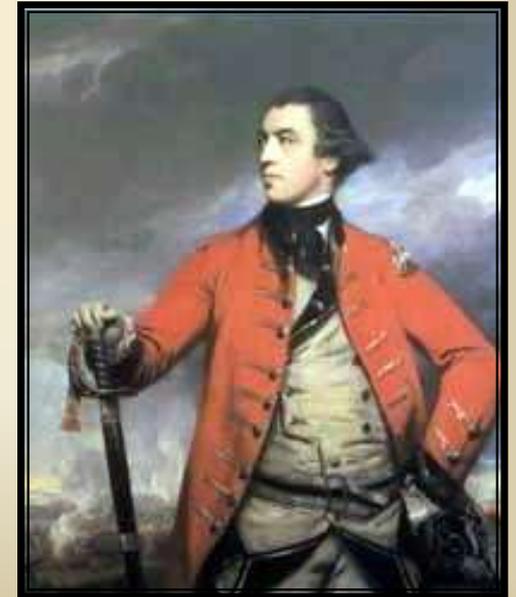
British defeat stopped them from cutting off New England from the rest of the country and ending the war.

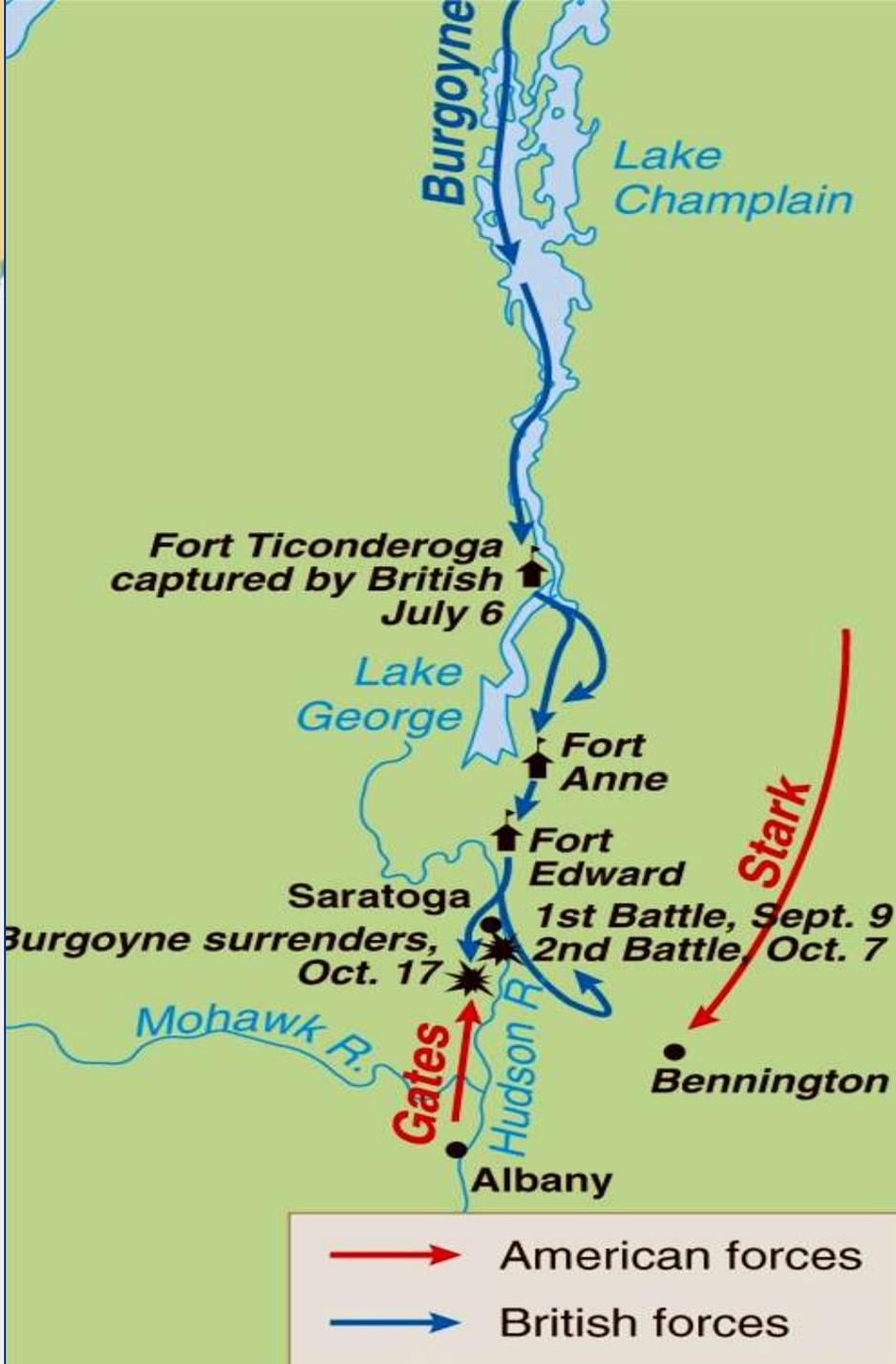


British lacked knowledge of geography and failed at communications.

 Oct. 1777, British General, John Burgoyne was surrounded by US General Horatio Gates and forced to surrender 6,000 British troops.

 Led to a military alliance with France providing soldiers, naval fleet and \$\$\$\$\$. (Franco-American alliance, 1778)





# BATTLE OF SARATOGA



# SURRENDER AT SARATOGA

Surrender/saratoga

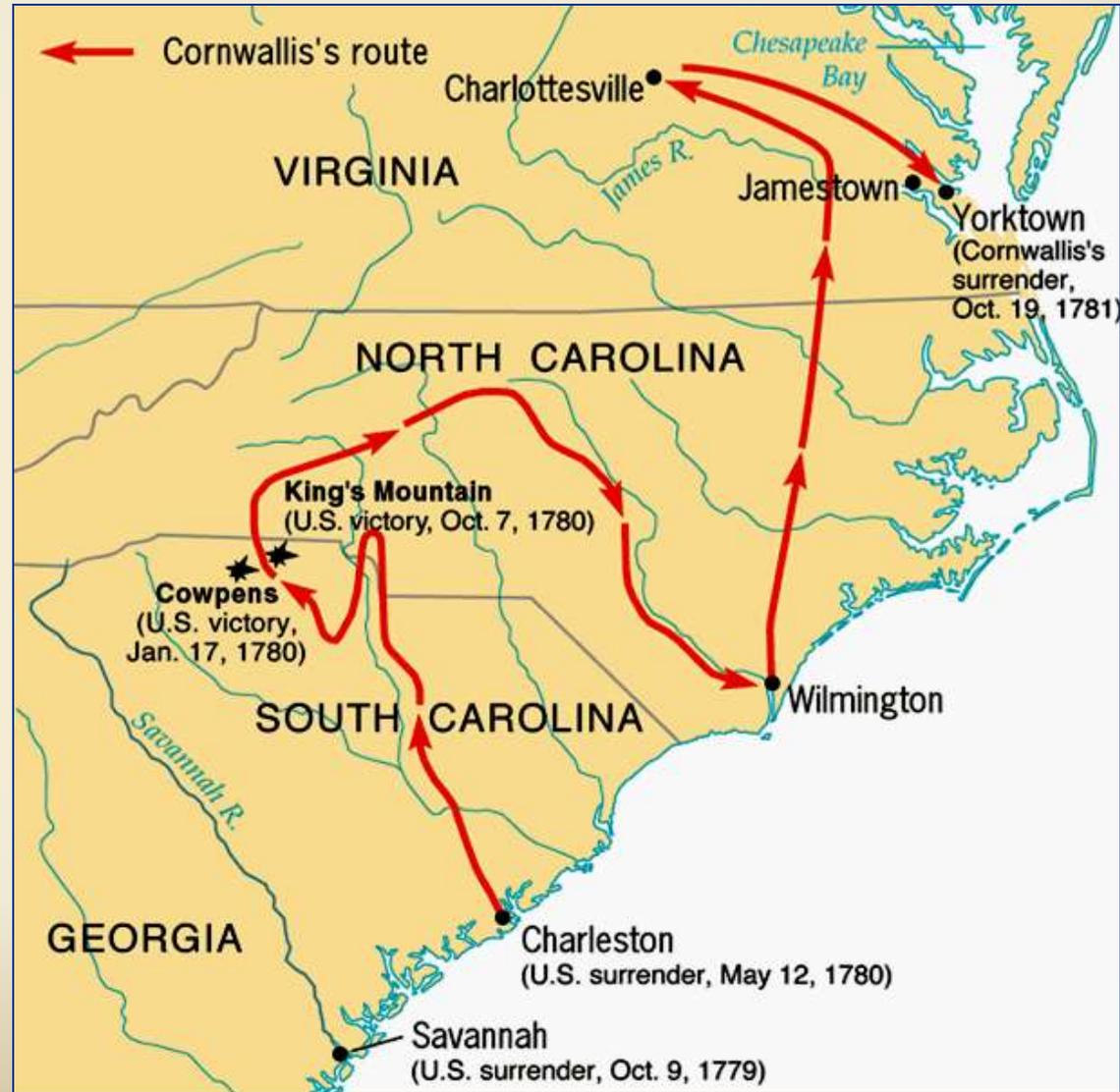




# Britain's "Southern Strategy"

- 🇬🇧 Britain thought that there were more Loyalists in the South.
- 🇬🇧 Southern resources were more valuable/worth preserving.
- 🇬🇧 The British win a number of small victories, but cannot pacify the countryside [similar to U. S. failures in Vietnam!]

# Phase III: The Southern Strategy [1780-1781]



# Battle of Yorktown

•British General Charles Cornwallis wanted to winter his troops in the South believing the war would be won in the Spring.....

•Yorktown was chosen because it provided easy access to be reinforced and re-supplied

•General Washington learned of the British decision to winter their main troops in Yorktown.



# **Battle of Yorktown**

- Strategy included the use of the French navy, French troops and American troops.

- French navy under the direction of Admiral de Grasse, placed a blockade around the Chesapeake Bay.

- 15,000 American and French troops surrounded 8,000 British troops.....

- General Cornwallis is trapped and is forced to his surrender his troops to Washington

- Brings war to an end



# The Battle of Yorktown (1781)



Count de  
Rochambeau



Admiral  
De Grasse



# Cornwallis' Surrender at Yorktown

*"The World Turned Upside Down!"*



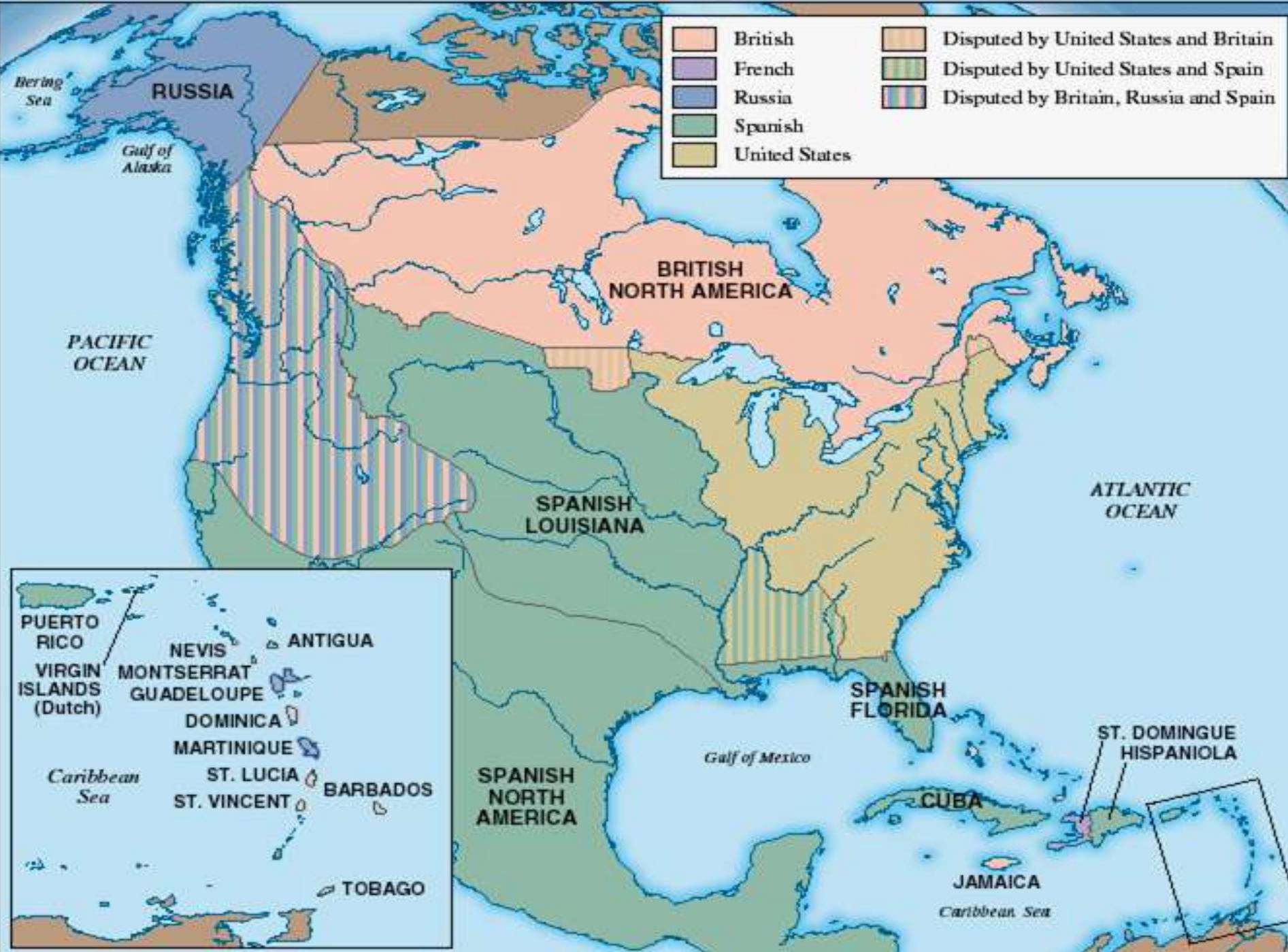
Painted by John Trumbull, 1797





# *Why did the British Lose???*

- Controlled cities but not countryside
  - Generals made key mistakes
    - Communication
      - No respect
    - US had the will to fight
- Alliances with Spain, France and the Netherlands.



# Treaty of Paris

- The Patriot victory at Yorktown, however, convinced the British that the war was too costly.
- In March 1782, King George III appointed new ministers who were prepared to give Americans their independence.
- **Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay** represented the United States in the peace talks in Paris.
- The talks began in April 1782, and six months later the British accepted a preliminary agreement written by the Americans. ↓
- The American Congress **ratified**, or approved, a preliminary treaty in April 1783.

ALASKA

# North America, 1783

Claimed by Britain, Spain, and Russia

Claimed by U.S. and Britain

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON (France)

CANADA

MAINE (Mass.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE MASSACHUSETTS

RHODE ISLAND CONNECTICUT

NEW YORK

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA NEW JERSEY

DELAWARE MARYLAND

VIRGINIA NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA CHARLESTON

GEORGIA

FLORIDA

LOUISIANA

# USA

Claimed by U.S. and Spain  
New Orleans

MEXICO

- United States of America
- British
- French
- Russian
- Spanish

BAHAMAS

CUBA

JAMAICA

PUERTO RICO

HISPANIOLA

Hudson Bay

Nelson R.

Great Lakes

Mississippi River

Colorado R.

Arkansas R.

Rio Grande

Gulf of Mexico

PACIFIC OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

BERMUDA (Britain)



# Treaty of Paris, continued

- Under the treaty, the United States...
  - agreed that British merchants could collect debts owed by Americans.
  - stated that the Congress would “earnestly recommend” to the states that property taken from Loyalists be returned to them. Most of this property was never returned, however.



# African Americans

- At the beginning of the war southern states persuaded congress to ban African Americans from fighting.
- Lord Dunmore, the royal governor of Virginia, announced that slaves who fought on the British side would be freed, and many men answered his call.
- As the need for soldiers grew, some states ignored the ban and let African American fight.

# African Americans, continued

- Lemeul Hayes and Peter Salem were two famous African American patriots.
- African Americans fought for the same reasons other Americans fought-they believed in the cause or they needed the money.
- Some African Americans earned their freedom by fighting.



# Native Americans

- Although some Indians helped the Patriots, more of them sided with the British, who seemed to present less of a threat than the Americans did.
- Settlers continued to push westward, threatening the Native Americans' way of life.
- Mohawk chief **Joseph Brant** led a number of brutal attacks against American settlements in southwestern New York and northern Pennsylvania.
- **Henry Hamilton**—who commanded the main British base in the west, Detroit— was called the “hair buyer” because of rumors that he paid Native Americans for the scalps of settlers

# Valley Forge

- Washington set up camp at **Valley Forge**, 20 miles to the west of the British.
- Washington and his troops endured a winter of terrible suffering, lacking decent food, clothing, and shelter.
- Washington's greatest challenge at Valley Forge was keeping the Continental Army together.

# Valley Forge, continued

- Most of the men at Valley Forge lacked blankets, shoes, and shirts.
- Soldiers made moccasins out of scraps of cowhide.
- Many men **deserted**, or left without permission, and some officers resigned.
- Volunteers—including Washington's wife, Martha—made clothes for the troops and cared for the sick.  
↓
- In April 1778 Washington told his troops of the Patriots' alliance with France, raising their spirits greatly.