



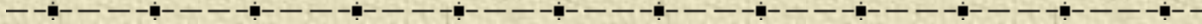
Chapter Six

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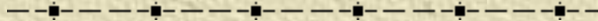
**From Empire to Independence,
1750-1776**

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Part One



Introduction



Chapter Focus Questions

- ✦ What was the final struggle among Great Britain, France, and American Indian tribes for control of eastern North America?
- ✦ How did the aftermath of the French and Indian War influence American nationalism?
- ✦ What were Great Britain's changing policies toward its North American colonies?
- ✦ What were the political assumptions of American republicanism?
- ✦ How did the colonists try to achieve unity in their confrontation with Great Britain?



Part Two

The First Continental Congress Shapes a National Political Community

The First Continental Congress

- ✦ In 1774, delegates from 12 colonies met for seven weeks in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress forging a community of national leaders.
- ✦ The Congress took the first step toward creating a national political community.
 - ◆ Twelve distinct colonies with different traditions and concerns joined together in an attempt to create a unified political community.
- ✦ With repressive actions, Great Britain had forced the colonists to recognize a community of interests distinct from that of the mother country.



Part Three

The Seven Years' War in America

The Albany Congress of 1754

- ✧ The Albany Congress included delegates from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Iroquois Confederacy.
- ✧ The agenda included:
 - considering a collective colonial response to the conflict with New France and the Indians of the interior.
 - negotiation of a settlement with the Iroquois Confederacy, who had become unhappy with colonial land-grabbing.
- ✧ The Conference resulted in:
 - The Iroquois leaving without an agreement.
 - adoption of Benjamin Franklin's Plan of Union, though this was rejected by colonial assemblies.

Colonial Aims and Indian Interests

- ✦ The three principal flash points of conflict in North America were:
 - ✦ 1. The northern Atlantic coast where British Nova Scotia and French Louisburg faced each other.
 - ✦ 2. The border region between New France and New York from Niagara Falls to Lake George where competition for the Indian trade was fierce.
 - ✦ 3. The Ohio country was the primary focus of British and French attention due to competition over land.
- ✦ The impending war involved Indian peoples of the interior.
- ✦ The Iroquois Confederacy and Creeks successfully played the European powers off one another.

Frontier Warfare

✦ Map: The War for Empire in North America, 1754-1763

- ✦ The defeat of General Braddock in 1755 was followed by the outbreak of war between Britain and France in 1756.
- ✦ The French achieved early victories in New York.
- ✦ The British harshly treated French-speaking farmers of Acadia by expelling them from their homes. Many moved to Louisiana where they became known as “Cajuns.”

The Conquest of Canada

- ✦ William Pitt became British Prime Minister promising to win the war.
- ✦ Pitt's plan called for the conquest of Canada and the elimination of all French competition from North America.
- ✦ The British gained Iroquois Confederacy and Ohio Indians and committed over 50,000 British and colonial troops to the Canada campaign.
- ✦ British forces captured Louisburg, the French forts on the New York border, Quebec, and, lastly, Montreal in 1760.

The Removal of the French from North America

✦ Map: European Claims in North America, 1750 and 1763

✦ In the Treaty of Paris of 1763, the French lost all its North American mainland possessions.

The Struggle for the West

- ✦ The removal of the French stimulated a revitalization movement among the Ohio Indians led by Neolin, the Delaware Prophet.
- ✦ Pontiac, an Ottawa, forged a confederacy that achieved early success, was crippled by a disease epidemic, and then failed.
- ✦ The British had earlier issued the Proclamation of 1763.
- ✦ American colonists opposed the Proclamation of 1763 and the British could not stop westward migration.
- ✦ The Indians were forced to make concessions.



Part Four

The Imperial Crisis in British North America

The Emergence of American Nationalism

- ✦ The Seven Years War affected the American colonists by
 - ◆ making them proud to be members of the British empire.
 - ◆ noting important contrasts between themselves and the British.
 - ◆ strengthening a sense of identity among the colonists.
- ✦ A nationalist perspective emerged.

The Press, Politics, and Republicanism

- ✦ The weekly newspaper was an important means of intercolonial communication.
- ✦ The colonial press expressed the political assumptions of informed colonists, often reprinting the writings of radical Whigs.
- ✦ The notion of republicanism emerged from Whig warnings of government's threats to liberty.

The Sugar and Stamp Acts

- ✦ The costs of the Seven Years War and the subsequent defense of the North American empire added to the huge government debt.
- ✦ In 1764, Parliament passed the Sugar Act to raise revenue from the colonies.
- ✦ Colonial protest arose in the cities, especially Boston where a nonimportation movement soon spread to other cities.
- ✦ James Otis, Jr. developed the doctrine of no taxation without representation.
- ✦ Prime Minister Grenville ignored American protests and passed the Stamp Act.

The Stamp Act Crisis

- ✦ The Stamp Act precipitated an unprecedented crisis.
- ✦ Colonial concerns included the long-term constitutional implications regarding representation of the colonists in the British government.
- ✦ Several colonies passed resolutions denouncing the Stamp Act.
- ✦ Massachusetts, especially Boston, emerged as a center of protest.
- ✦ To counter the growing violence, the Sons of Liberty was formed.

Repeal of the Stamp Act

- ✦ Map: Demonstrations against the Stamp Act, 1767
- ✦ British merchants worried about the effects of the growing nonimportation movement petitioned Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act.
- ✦ Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in March 1767 but passed the Declaratory Act.



Part Five

**“Save Your Money and
Save Your Country”**

The Townshend Revenue Acts

- ✦ During the 1760s, there were rapid turnover of government leaders.
- ✦ In 1767, Charles Townshend became prime minister.
- ✦ Townshend proposed a new revenue measure that placed import duties on lead, glass, paint, paper, and tea.
- ✦ In response, John Dickinson's Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania stated that Parliament had no right to tax goods to raise revenue on America.
- ✦ Townshend enacted several measures to enforce the new Acts.

Nonimportation: An Early Political Boycott

- ✦ Associations of nonimportation and non-consumption reformed to protest the Townshend Acts.
- ✦ Appeals to stimulate local industry had strong appeal in small towns and rural areas.
- ✦ Colonial newspapers paid much attention to women supporting the boycott.
- ✦ These efforts reduced British exports by 41 percent.

The Massachusetts Circular Letter

- ✦ Boston and Massachusetts were the center of the agitation over the Townshend Revenue Acts.
- ✦ Samuel Adams drafted a circular letter that led to British forcing the Massachusetts House of Representative to rescind the letter.
- ✦ Rumors of mob rule and riots in Boston led to the British army occupying the city.

The Politics of Revolt and the Boston Massacre

- ✦ The British troops stationed in the colonies were a source of scorn and hostility.
- ✦ Confrontations arose in New York City and Boston between colonists and British soldiers.
- ✦ In Boston, competition between British troops and townsmen over jobs was a source of conflict.
- ✦ On March 5, 1770:
 - ◆ a confrontation between British soldiers and a crowd ended in the Boston Massacre that left five dead.
 - ◆ the Townshend Act was repealed.



Part Six

From Resistance to Rebellion

Intercolonial Cooperation

- ✦ In the early seventies, several colonies established committees of correspondence to:
 - ◆ share information;
 - ◆ shape public opinion; and
 - ◆ build cooperation among the colonies.
- ✦ Statements and letters by Thomas Hutchinson outraged colonists.

The Boston Tea Party

- ✦ Parliament passed a new tax on tea to save the East India Company from failing.
- ✦ Colonial protests included:
 - ◆ the Boston Tea Party;
 - ◆ a tea party in New York;
 - ◆ burning a ship loaded with tea in Annapolis;
and
 - ◆ burning a warehouse in New Jersey.

British Acts that led to Revolution

✦ Map: The Quebec Act of 1774

✦ The Coercive “Intolerable” Acts 1774

- ◆ Prohibited loading and unloading of ships in Boston Harbor until the colonists paid for the tea
 - ◆ Annulled the colonial charter of Massachusetts
 - ◆ Terminated self-rule by colonial communities
 - ◆ Legalized housing of troops in private homes at public expense
 - ◆ Quebec Act
- ✦ These acts were calculated to punish Massachusetts and strengthen the British.

The First Continental Congress

- ✦ The delegates to the First Continental Congress included the most important leaders of the American cause.
- ✦ The delegates passed the Declaration and Resolves that:
 - ◆ asserted colonial rights
 - ◆ declared 13 acts of Parliament in violation of their rights
 - ◆ pledged sanctions until the 13 acts were repealed
- ✦ To enforce the sanctions, the delegates urged formation of Committees of Observation and Safety to assume the functions of local government.
- ✦ The Committees organized militia, called extralegal courts, and combined to form colonywide congresses or conventions.

Lexington and Concord

- ✦ Map: The First Engagements of the Revolution
- ✦ Despite a stalemate between the British and colonists in Massachusetts, the British government decided on military action.
- ✦ When British troops left Boston to capture American ammunition at Concord, armed conflicts occurred at Lexington and Concord.



Part Seven

Deciding for Independence

The Second Continental Congress

- ✦ The Second Continental Congress aimed to organize the defense of the colonies.
- ✦ The Congress designated the militia forces besieging Boston as the Continental Army and made George Washington commander-in-chief.
- ✦ The Olive Branch Petition was rejected by King George.

Canada, the Spanish Borderlands, and the Revolution

- ✦ The rest of colonial North America reacted in various ways to the coming war.
- ✦ The French Canadians did not support the rebellion.
- ✦ Several British Caribbean islands did support the Continental Congress but the British navy stopped any involvement.
- ✦ Spain adopted a neutral position officially, but secretly sought to help the Americans.

Fighting in the North and South

- ✦ Fighting continued throughout New England.
- ✦ An unsuccessful effort to take Canada ended in the spring of 1776.
- ✦ By March the British had been forced out of Boston.
- ✦ British efforts in the South had also failed.
- ✦ On July 4, 1776, Congress announced the Declaration of Independence.

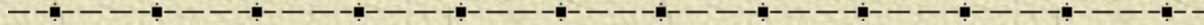
No Turning Back

- ✦ King George III rejected the “Olive Branch Petition” and issued a proclamation declaring that the colonists were in open rebellion.
 - ◆ Colonist hopes for reconciliation died
- ✦ Spain and France opened trade with the colonies.
- ✦ In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine helped cut Americans’ emotional ties to Britain and the King.
 - ◆ The “two ancient tyrannies” of aristocracy and monarchy were not appropriate for America.
 - ◆ Labeled King George as the “royal Brute”
- ✦ North Carolina became the first state to vote for a declaration of independence.

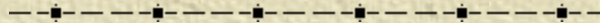
The Declaration of Independence

- ✦ The text of the Declaration of Independence was approved without dissent on July 4, 1776.
- ✦ The writers blamed King George III for the events leading up to the decision for Independence.
- ✦ They could be condemned as traitors and sentenced to death but they chose to sign.

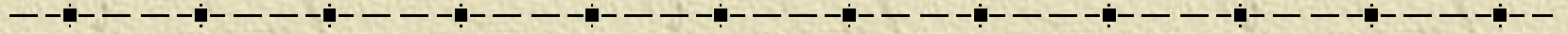
Part Eight



Conclusion



From Empire to Independence, 1750-1776



✦ Media: Chronology