

# The American Revolution

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# Vocabulary

**Patriots:** Colonists who opposed the British government.

**Boycott:** To refuse to buy certain products.

**Militia:** A military force made up of civilians rather than professional soldiers.

**Popular sovereignty:** The belief that the people are the true sovereigns of the state, so they have the right to choose their own government.

**Minutemen:** Men that were part of American militias and trained to be ready at a minute's notice.

**Guerilla warfare:** Unconventional tactics used in warfare by the American militias, such as ambushing British soldiers and then disappearing into the countryside.

# The Boston Tea Party

- In 1773, the British attempted **to stop the smuggling of tea** into the American colonies by sending cheaper tea straight from India, financially hurting merchants and shopkeepers.
- A group of colonists dressed as Native Americans boarded three merchant ships in Boston Harbour, **throwing 342 chests of tea into the water**.
- This event would become known as the **Boston Tea Party**.
- Boston harbour was closed until all the tea had been paid for, creating resentment and **pushing the colonists towards revolution**.



# The Start of the War (1775-76)

- Many colonists began **boycotting** British goods, and **militias** were formed to fight the British if necessary. In 1775, the British began to take the weapons of Patriots and arrested many Patriot leaders, leading to the start of the war.
- On July 4th, 1776, the American colonies **declared independence from** the British Empire.



# The Declaration of Independence



- At the Continental Congress in 1775, many attendees originally **wanted the colonies to remain in the British Empire**. However, Britain's refusal to negotiate with colonists increased support for independence.
- Thomas Jefferson was then asked to write the Declaration of Independence, and the document was signed on July 4th, 1776.

# European Allies (1778-83)

- **France, Spain, and Holland** all joined the war on the side of the American colonies. They assisted by sending armies, attacking British colonies elsewhere in the world to divert resources, and attacking the British navy.



# The End of the War (1781-83)

- In 1781, the Spanish defeated the British in **Pensacola**, Florida while the Americans and French defeated the British at **Yorktown**.
- The 1783 **Treaty of Paris** officially ended the war, **establishing American independence** and mandating the return of Florida and Minorca to Spain.
- The most important consequence of the revolution was that it **created the first republic based on Enlightenment ideas**.



"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are *Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their *Safety and Happiness*."

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le8mV3c-Bps>**

**<https://create.kahoot.it/details/9ce3f56d-12a0-4fd4-b350-fac2ac53f36c>**