**1.The Industrial Revolution**

The Industrial Revolution began in the 18th century in Great Britain. It was only the first stepping-stone to the modern economic growth that is still growing to this day. With this new bustling economic power force Britain was able to become one of the strongest nations.While the nation was changing so was the way that literature was written. The Industrial Revolution led to a variety of new social concerns such as politics and economic issues. With the shift away from nature toward this new mechanical world there came a need to remind the people of the natural world. This is where Romanticism came into play; it was a way to bring back the urban society that was slowly disappearing into cities.

**Causes of the Industrial Revolution:**

* The Agricultural Revolution: Between 1750 and 1900 Europe’s population was dramatically increasing, so it became necessary to change the way that food was being produced, in order to make way for this change. The Enclosure Movement and the Norfolk Crop Rotation were instilled before the Industrial Revolution;they were both involved in the separation of land, and the latter dealt more with developing different sections to plant different crops in order to reduce the draining of the land. The fact that more land was being used and there weren’t enough workers it became necessary to create power-driven machines to replace manual labor.
* Socioeconomic changes: Prior to the Industrial Revolution, the European economy was based on agriculture. From the aristocrats, to the farmers, they were linked by land and crops. The wealthy land owners would rent land to the farmers who would in turn grow and sell crops. This exchange was an enormous part of how the economy ran. With the changes that came with the Industrial revolution, people began leaving their farms and working in the cities. The new technologies forced people into the factories and a capitalistic sense of living began. The revolution moved economic power away from the aristocratic population and into the bourgeoisie (the middle class).

**Working Condition**

The working conditions in the factories during the Industrial Revolution were unsafe, unsanitary and inhumane. The workers, men, women, and children alike, spent endless hours in the factories working. The average hours of the work day were between 12 and 14, but this was never set in stone. In “Chapters in the Life of a Dundee Factory Boy”, Frank Forrest said about the hours “In reality there were no regular hours, masters and managers did with us as they liked. The clocks in the factories were often put forward in the morning and back at night. Though this was known amongst the hands, we were afraid to speak, and a workman then was afraid to carry a watch” (Forrest, 1950). The factory owners were in charge of feeding their workers, and this was not a priority to them. Workers were ofter forced to eat while working, and dust and dirt contaminated their food. The workers ate oat cakes for breakfast and dinner. They were rarely given anything else, despite the long hours. Although the food was often unfit for consumption, the workers ate it due to severe hunger.

**Child Labor:**

During this time of economic change and population increase, the controversial issue of child labor came to industrial Britain. The mass of children, however, were not always treated as working slaves, but they were actually separated into two groups. The factories consisted of the “free labour children” and the “parish apprentice children.” The former being those children whose lives were more or less in the hands of their parents; they lived at home, but they worked in the factories during the days because they had to. It was work or die of starvation in this case, and their families counted on them to earn money. Fortunately these children weren’t subjected to extremely harsh working conditions because their parents had some say in the matter. Children who fell into the “parish apprentice” group were not as lucky; this group mainly consisted of orphans or children without families who could sufficiently care for them. Therefore, they fell into the hands of government officials, so at that point their lives as young children turned into those of slaves or victims with no one or nothing to stand up for them. So what was it exactly that ended this horror? Investments in machinery soon led to an increase in wages for adults, making it possible for child labor to end, along with some of the poverty that existed. The way that the Industrial Revolution occurred may have caused some controversial issues, but the boost in Britain’s economy certainly led toward the country becoming such a powerful nation.

**Literature:**  
When a society finds that it must become an industrialized one, to build factories bigger, with higher production value, to replace the connection they had with Mother Nature with machines, it is also expected that society’s authors and scholars will seek to define new philosophical ideals. For example, while novelists like Charles Dickens warned society of the consequences associated with abandoning human emotion and adopting the way of the machine in novels like *Hard Times*, poets like William Wordsworth wondered where the introspective artist belongs in a time known as the “Mechanical Age.” Surely, just as the Watts steam engine sought to redefine expectations of an industrialized society, the British literati searched for a new perspective inside Romanticism that would explain the switch between appreciation of man and a newfound reliance on the machine.

**Effects**

The Industrial Revolution brought about sweeping changes in economic and social organization.

These changes included a wider distribution of wealth and increased international trade.

Managerial hierarchies also developed to oversee the division of labor.

By the late 1700s many people could no longer earn their living in the countryside. Increasingly, people moved from farms and villages into bigger towns and cities to find work in factories.

Cities grew larger, but they were often dirty, crowded, and unhealthy.

Machines greatly increased production. This meant that products were cheaper to make and also cheaper to buy. Many factory owners became rich.

Although the machines made work easier in some ways, factory work created many problems for the laborers. Factory employees did not earn much, and the work was often dangerous. Many worked 14 to 16 hours per day six days per week. Men, women, and even small children worked in factories.

**2.The French Revolution of 1789**

The [French Revolution](https://crossref-it.info/repository/atoz/French-Revolution) and the fall of the [Bastille](https://crossref-it.info/repository/atoz/Bastille) in July 1789 had an enormous impact on British public opinion in England and influenced the terms on which political debate would be conducted for the next thirty years.

**The settlement of 1689 and the British Constitution**

Since the constitutional settlement of 1689, which balanced the powers of Parliament and the monarchy, the British system of government had enjoyed support across the political spectrum and was much admired by observers from other countries. This system gave distinct roles in the process of governance and legislation to:

* The Crown
* The House of Lords
* The House of Commons

It was felt to combine the best aspects of monarchical, aristocratic and democratic modes of government. It was believed that this combination of forces worked to offset the dangers inherent in allowing any one of them to predominate:

* Monarchy could easily degenerate into tyranny
* Aristocracy could degenerate into oligarchy, or the concentration of power in a ruling elite
* Democracy could become anarchy and the rule of the mob

If anything occurred to upset the balance, such as the emergence of corrupt practices in appointments to political offices, the system would work to restore equilibrium.

**The growth of political dissent**

By the 1760s, however, this consensus of opinion was beginning to break down. There had been political dissent earlier in the eighteenth century but it had tended to object to and seek to remedy abuses of the system without questioning the system itself. In the 1760s and 1770s, various strands of radical political opinion began to question the basis on which the British Constitution was founded:

* It was argued that democracy was only partial and that this limited the representativeness of the House of Commons.
* The right to vote, as well as being granted only to men, depended on a property qualification, thus excluding the great mass of the population.
* Religious [dissenter](https://crossref-it.info/repository/atoz/dissenter)s, including Roman [Catholic](https://crossref-it.info/repository/atoz/Catholic)s as well as members of [nonconformist](https://crossref-it.info/repository/atoz/nonconformist) sects, did not enjoy such full voting rights as were available. Because MPs were required to swear an oath of conformity to the [Church of England](https://crossref-it.info/repository/atoz/Church-of-England), religious dissenters were not eligible for election to public office.

Effects and causes of the French Revolution

The political discontent of France was one of the causes of the Revolution. In the 17th and 18th centuries, France was ruled by an absolute government. The king had all the political powers. Anyone who criticized the government could be arrested and put in prison without trial. Louis XVI was king at the time of the French Revolution. He was more interested in hunting than governing France. He and his Austrian queen, Marie Antoinette, lived an extravagant life at the Palace of Versailles. They did not really care about the state of their country. The excerpt from the cahiers mentioned in document 3 shows that the votes in the assembly were not taken by head. The people of the 3rd estate felt a sense of betrayal when the king supported the block voting over the head voting. The first two estates worked together to outvote the large third estate to keep them from becoming a threat to the power. Lord Acton, an Englishmen, states that the monarchy being overthrown wasn’t the spark of the Revolution. He recognizes the American Independence as the spark of the French Revolution. The French government was inefficient, unjust and corrupt. There were numerous government departments, different laws in different parts of the country and officials. Many people became livid at the way France was governed. The people couldn’t do anything to bring about a change. The French Parlement was called the Estates-General. It had not met since 1614 and couldn’t without the consent of the king. It basically had no power.

The economic problems created by the French kings also contributed to the Revolution. During the 18th century, the French government spent more money than it collected in taxes. By 1788, the country was bankrupt. Arthur Young, an Englishmen and observer, who traveled to France from 1787 to 1789 angrily describes the living conditions of the peasants in his book Travels in France. The amount of tax each person must pay is unfair. Landholders found in the nobility weren’t taxed much. The landholders found in the commoners were taxed heavily. There was lack of bread. The price of bread was a lot higher then one’s ability to pay which caused great misery for the people of France. Most of the money was spent on wars. France had been at war for nearly 50 years out of the previous one hundred years. France supported the Americans in the American War of the Independence. After that, France was in financial ruins. A large sum of money was also spent on palaces, entertainment and gifts by the kings of France. The government spent a lot of money which put forth high taxes. The tax system was unjust. The nobles and the clergy hardly paid any tax. The Church owned one-tenth of the land in France and did not pay any taxes. The peasants were the victims of the heavy taxation. Louis XVI tried to reform the taxation system but the nobility and the clergy refused to accept the new reforms. Therefore, the king was unable to make any financial reforms. The gabelle, salt tax, was also levied by the French Kings. When Jacques Turgot tried to impose the corvee, tax on land property, he was opposed by the nobility. He failed to pass the corvee and was dismissed by Louis XVI..

Social problems were also a major factor that brought about the French Revolution. In the 18th century, France was a feudal country with class divisions. People were divided into three estates. The First Estate consisted of the clergy. The Second consisted of the nobility, and the Third included the bourgeoisie, the city workers and the peasants. The state you belonged to decided your power and rights. Document 2 shows the social class distinctions. The first estate was made up of 1% of the people and owned 10% of the land in France. The second estate consisted of 2% of the people and owned 35% of the land. The third estate held 97% of the people who owned 55% of the land. The people-to-land proportion was unjust looking at the amount of people in each estate. The third estate held very little land compared to the amount of people it had. It was overcrowded. The first and the second estate were the privileged classes. They clergy and the nobility were exempt from many taxes. They had to pay about four-fifths of their income on tax. They also needed to pay the land tax: also the taxes on property, roads, and salt. The third estate was the most discontented class. The bourgeoisie were well educated. They were strongly influenced by the ideas of Voltaire and Rousseau who attacked the injustices of the time. Rousseau believed that people are basically good but become corrupted by society. In an ideal society, people would make the laws and would obey them willingly. Probably the most famous of the philisophes was Francois-Marie Arouet who took the name Voltaire. He used biting wit as a weapon to expose the abuses of his day. He targeted corrupt officials and idle aristocrats. With his pen, he battled inequality, injustice, and superstition. He detested the slave trade and deplored religious prejudice. They resented the privileges of the nobility and wanted a larger role in state affairs. City workers were angry because their wages were not enough to buy goods when prices were going up rapidly. The peasants made up 80% of the population and had to pay heavy taxes. In his book The French Revolution, Albert Mathiez states that the Revolution was caused by the middle classes. The working classes weren’t able to control or start the Revolution. They were just starting to learn how to read. French peasants were subject to certain feudal dues, called banalities. These included the required used-for-payment of the lord’s mill to grind grain and his oven to bake bread. The lord could also require a certain number of days each year of the peasant’s labor. Peasants were targeted by society. They couldn’t do anything on there own or try to fight back.

**3.The war of American Independence**

The **American Revolutionary War** (1775–1783), also known as the **American War of Independence** or the **Revolutionary War**, was initiated by delegates from the [thirteen American colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Colonies) in [Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Congress) against [Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) over their objection to [Parliament's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Great_Britain) taxation policies and [lack of colonial representation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_taxation_without_representation).[[l]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-44) From their founding in the 1600s, the colonies were largely left to govern themselves. The cost of victory in the 1754 to 1763 [French and Indian War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_and_Indian_War) and 1756 to 1763 [Seven Years' War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Years%27_War) left the British government deeply in debt; attempts to have the [colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Thirteen_Colonies) pay for their own defense were vigorously resisted. The [Stamp Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_Act_1765) and [Townshend Acts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Townshend_Acts) provoked colonial opposition and unrest, leading to the 1770 [Boston massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_massacre) and 1773 [Boston Tea Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party). When Parliament imposed the [Intolerable Acts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intolerable_Acts) upon [Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Massachusetts_Bay), twelve colonies sent delegates to the [First Continental Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Continental_Congress) to draft a [Petition to the King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petition_to_the_King) and organize a boycott of British goods.[[m]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-45)

Fighting broke out on 19 April 1775: the British garrison at Boston was harassed by Massachusetts militia at [Lexington and Concord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Lexington_and_Concord) after destroying colonial Assembly powder stores. In June the [Second Continental Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Continental_Congress) appointed [George Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington) to create a [Continental Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Army) and oversee the [capture of Boston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Boston). The [Patriots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriot_(American_Revolution)) sent their [Olive Branch Petition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olive_Branch_Petition) to the King and Parliament, both of whom rebuffed it. In response they invaded [British Quebec](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Quebec_(1775)) but were repulsed. In July 1776, Congress unanimously passed the [Declaration of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence). Hopes of a quick settlement were supported by [American sympathizers within Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockingham_Whigs) who opposed [Lord North](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_North,_Lord_North)'s "coercion policy" in the colonies. However, the new British commander-in-chief, General [Sir William Howe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Howe,_5th_Viscount_Howe), launched a [counter-offensive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_New_Jersey_campaign) and captured New York City. Washington retaliated with [harassing fire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harassing_fire) at the [Battle of Trenton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Trenton) and [Battle of Princeton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Princeton). Howe's 1777–1778 [Philadelphia campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia_campaign) captured the city, but the British lost the [Battles of Saratoga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Saratoga) in October 1777. At [Valley Forge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_Forge) during the winter of 1777–1778, Prussian emigrant General [Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Wilhelm_von_Steuben) trained the [Continental Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Army) with a system of progressive training.

French Foreign Minister [Vergennes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Gravier,_comte_de_Vergennes) saw the war as a way to create an America economically and militarily dependent on France, not Britain. Although talks on a formal alliance began in late 1776, they proceeded slowly until Patriot victory at [Saratoga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Saratoga) in October 1777. Fears Congress might come to an early settlement with Britain resulted in France and the United States signing two treaties in February 1778. The first was a [commercial treaty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Amity_and_Commerce_(United_States%E2%80%93France)), the second a [Treaty of Alliance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Alliance_(1778)); in return for a French guarantee of American independence, Congress agreed to join the war against Britain and defend the [French West Indies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_West_Indies). Although Spain refused to join the Franco-American alliance, in the 1779 [Treaty of Aranjuez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Aranjuez_(1779)) they agreed to support France in its [global war with Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-French_War_(1778%E2%80%931783)), hoping to regain losses incurred in 1713.

In other fronts in North America, Governor of Spanish Louisiana [Bernardo Gálvez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernardo_de_G%C3%A1lvez,_1st_Viscount_of_Galveston) routed British forces from [Louisiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_(New_Spain)). The Spanish, along with [American privateers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privateer#United_States) supplied the 1779 American conquest of [Western Quebec](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois_campaign) ([later the US Northwest Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Territory#British_control)).[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-46) Gálvez then expelled British forces from Mobile during the [Battle of Fort Charlotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Fort_Charlotte) and the [Siege of Pensacola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Pensacola), cutting off British military aid to their American Indian allies in the interior southeast. Howe's replacement, General [Sir Henry Clinton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Clinton_(British_Army_officer,_born_1730)), then mounted a 1778 "[Southern strategy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_theater_of_the_American_Revolutionary_War#British_campaign_in_the_South)" from Charleston. After [capturing Savannah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capture_of_Savannah), defeats at the [Battle of Kings Mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Kings_Mountain) and the [Battle of Cowpens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Cowpens) forced [Cornwallis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Cornwallis,_1st_Marquess_Cornwallis) to retreat to [Yorktown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Yorktown_(1781)), where his army was besieged by an allied French and American force. An attempt to resupply the garrison was repulsed by the French navy at the [Battle of the Chesapeake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Chesapeake), and Cornwallis surrendered in October 1781.

Although their war with France and Spain continued for another two years, Yorktown ended the British will to continue the war in North America. The [North Ministry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Ministry) was replaced by [Lord Rockingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Watson-Wentworth,_2nd_Marquess_of_Rockingham), who accepted office on the basis [George III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_III) agreed to American independence. Preliminary articles were signed in November 1782, and in April 1783 Congress accepted British terms; these included independence, evacuation of British troops, cession of territory up to the [Mississippi River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_River) and navigation to the sea, as well as fishing rights in Newfoundland. On September 3, 1783, the [Treaty of Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1783)) was signed between Great Britain and the United States, then ratified the following spring.



**Taxation and legislation**

Although directly administered by the Crown, acting through a local Governor, the colonies were largely governed by native-born property owners. While external affairs were managed by [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London), colonial [militia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia_(United_States)) were funded locally but with the ending of the French threat in 1763, the legislatures expected less taxation, not more. At the same time, the huge costs of the Seven Years' War meant [Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Great_Britain) expected the colonies to fund their own defense.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-50) The outcome was a series of disputes as to how these expenses should be paid.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-51)

The 1763 to 1765 [Grenville ministry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenville_ministry) began by instructing the Royal Navy to clamp down on smuggled goods and enforce customs duties levied in American ports.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-52) The most important was the 1733 [Molasses Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molasses_Act); routinely ignored prior to 1763, it had a significant economic impact since 85% of New England rum exports were manufactured from imported molasses. These measures were followed by the [Sugar Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugar_Act) and [Stamp Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_Act), which imposed additional taxes on the colonies to pay for defending the western frontier.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-53) In July 1765, the [Whigs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whigs_(British_political_party)) formed the [First Rockingham ministry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Rockingham_ministry), which repealed the Stamp Act and reduced tax on foreign molasses to help the New England economy, but re-asserted Parliamentary authority in the [Declaratory Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaratory_Act).[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-54)

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However, this did little to end the discontent; in 1768, a riot started in Boston when the authorities seized the sloop [*Liberty*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Liberty_(1768)) on suspicion of smuggling.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-55) Tensions escalated further in March 1770 when British troops fired on rock-throwing civilians, killing five in what became known as the [Boston massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_massacre).[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-56) The Massacre coincided with the partial repeal of the [Townshend Acts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Townshend_Acts) by the Tory-based [North Ministry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Ministry), which came to power in January 1770 and remained in office until 1781. North insisted on retaining duty on tea to enshrine Parliament's right to tax the colonies; the amount was minor, but ignored the fact it was that very principle Americans objected to.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-57)

Tensions escalated following the destruction of a customs vessel in the June 1772 [Gaspee Affair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaspee_Affair), then came to a head in 1773. A [banking crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis_of_1772) led to the near collapse of the [East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company), which dominated the British economy; to support it, Parliament passed the [Tea Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea_Act), giving it a trading monopoly for North America. Since most American tea was smuggled by the Dutch, the Act was opposed by those who managed the illegal trade, while being seen as yet another attempt to impose the principle of taxation by Parliament.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-58) After the December 1773 [Sons of Liberty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sons_of_Liberty) protest known as the [Boston Tea Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party), Parliament passed the so-called [Intolerable Acts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intolerable_Acts). While aimed specifically at Massachusetts, many in America and within the Whig opposition considered them a threat to liberty in general; it led to increased sympathy for the Patriot cause locally, as well as in Parliament and the London press.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-59)

**Break with the British Crown**

Over the course of the 18th century, the [elected lower houses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_government_in_the_Thirteen_Colonies#Assembly) in the colonial legislatures gradually wrested power from their Royal Governors.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-60) Dominated by smaller landowners and merchants, these Assemblies now established ad hoc provincial legislatures, variously called Congresses, Conventions, and Conferences, effectively replacing Royal control. With the exception of [Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Georgia), twelve colonies sent representatives to the [First Continental Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Continental_Congress) to agree a unified response to the crisis.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-61) Many of the delegates feared that an all out boycott would result in war and sent a [Petition to the King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petition_to_the_King) calling for repeal of the Intolerable Acts.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-62) However, after some debate, on September 17, 1774, Congress endorsed the Massachusetts [Suffolk Resolves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffolk_Resolves) and on October 20 passed the [Continental Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Association); based on a draft prepared by the [First Virginia Convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Virginia_Convention) in August, this instituted [economic sanctions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_sanctions) against Britain.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-63)

While denying its authority over internal American affairs, a faction led by [James Duane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Duane) and future Loyalist [Joseph Galloway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Galloway) insisted Congress recognise Parliament's right to regulate colonial trade.[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-64) [[n]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-65) Expecting concessions by the North administration, Congress authorized the extralegal committees and conventions of the colonial legislatures to enforce the boycott; this succeeded in reducing British imports by 97% from 1774 to 1775.[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-66) However, on February 9 Parliament declared Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion and instituted a blockade of the colony.[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-67) In July, the [Restraining Acts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restraining_Acts_1775) limited colonial trade with the [British West Indies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_West_Indies) and Britain and barred New England ships from the [Newfoundland cod fisheries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Newfoundland_and_Labrador#Fishing). The increase in tension led to a scramble for control of militia stores, which each Assembly was legally obliged to maintain for defense.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-68) On April 19, a British attempt to secure the Concord arsenal culminated in the [Battles of Lexington and Concord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Lexington_and_Concord) which began the war.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#cite_note-69)

The American Revolution began in Massachusetts at Lexington and Concord on 19 Apr 1775. On 3 Sep 1783, 8 years later it officially ended. Although the war took 8 years to end, the fighting was not one constant continuous effort without any major battle being fought after 1781 (Revolutionary War, 1996). The war was victorious with 13 British colonies in North America winning their freedom and becoming what is now known as the United States.

In 1770 the Boston Massacre occurred. It was a direct result of Parliament, being compelled by British store owners who were losing their colonial trades (Agresto, 1979). This was an effort to try to soothe the colonists by repelling the Townshend Acts. The Townshend Acts came into existence in 1767 and was created by Charles Townshend. The act was passed by English Parliament. It was put into place to collect taxes from American Colonists by adding import customs to items such as paint, glass, lead, and the well-know tea (Townshend Act, 2007).

Colonial relationships with their home country were already strained due to events such as the Townshend Acts and the Boston Massacre. However, it is believed that when an attempt was made to tax tea is what laid the foundation for the American Revolution. Parliament was already facing resistance from the colonies as they would not pay the taxes on the Townshend Acts. They argued that they were not obligated to pay because they were not represented by Parliament. Parliament went along with this; however, tea was excluded (The Boston Tea Party, 2002). Parliament attempted to devise a plan to fool the Colonies thinking they would rather pay taxes than live without tea, but it failed with tea sitting in a Charleston dock warehouse for 3 years. That December in Boston, tea from 3 ships was dumped into the harbor and the Boston Tea Party was born.

In 1776 the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. The rebel leaders wanted their independence more and more as year one of war was ending and the Common Sense Pamphlet by Thomas Paine was in mass circulation (Independence Declared, p. 200). A committee was appointed by the Continental Congress to propose a draft for the “declaration of free rights”. Eventually, on 4 July 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted which was pen and inked by Thomas Jefferson.

At this point, the war was becoming one that was willing to give men the right to be free and also the right to set up their own government. Although the King may have more than encouraged a fight, independence was imminent. Talk of independence spread through the colonies like wildfires. The Royal government was eventually forced out as the colonies started devising out constitutions which was exhilarating as everyone loved the thought of freedom (Independence, 2004).

Although the Declaration of Independence was passed in 1776, what followed that passing was grim for the Americans. Immediately after the Declaration of Independence was passed, a British fleet arrived in New York City with soldiers hired by German rulers. The Battle of Trenton was fought in Trenton, New Jersey on the Delaware River. It was a battle between the British Troops and Hessians against the Americans (Battle of Trenton, 2010).

Washington had no choice but to organize his own troops. Washington and his men paraded into Trenton with blood traces following them in the snow. Colonel Rahl, which was the commander for the Hessians had direct orders to build defenses throughout the towns, but decided to go against the orders. Rahl was given information about the imminent American attack the prior night at dinner, but he did not respond; those missteps lead to his death and an American victory.

In the year to follow, 1777, it was a critical one with many developments. General John Burgoyne concocted a plan to conquer the Americans. A British Army lead by General Burgoyne began to move from Canada to Saratoga, New York. The bands of American soldiers were completely warned of the fact that of Burgoyne and his being there (Burgoyne, 2004). Because of this information the American’s were ready and out in record numbers.