

American Revolutionary Period

Basic Events:

- 1756-1763: French & Indian War (Seven Years War)
- 1764: Sugar Act
- 1765: Stamp Act
- 1766: Declaratory Act
- 1767: Townshend Acts
- 1767: Boston Massacre
- 1772: Gaspee Affair
- 1773: Boston Tea Party
- 1774: Intolerable Acts & 1st Continental Congress
- 1775: 2nd Continental Congress Convenes
- 1775: Lexington & Concord
- 1776: Declaration of Independence
- 1777: Battle of Saratoga
- 1778: French Alliance
- 1781: Siege of Yorktown
- 1781: Articles of Confederation Signed
- 1783: Treaty of Paris

1776	Declaration of Independence signed, start of Revolutionary War, United States established as an independent nation
Declaration of Independence	July 4, 1776, written by Thomas Jefferson, American colonies declare independence from England, list of grievances against King George III
Thomas Jefferson	Main author of the Declaration of Independence, 3 rd President of U.S.
Unalienable right	Right/privilege which, according to the Declaration of Independence, cannot be taken away, these include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (and property)
Colonial grievances	Taxation without consent, no representation, no trial by jury, quartering troops, standing armies, etc. – addressed by Constitution & Bill of Rights
Revolution	Armed rebellion, uprising against the government or authority, a period of great change
Independence	Free from influence or control of other nations, sovereign
American Revolution	War for U.S. Independence, 1775 – 1783, major battles – Lexington & Concord, Saratoga, Yorktown
George Washington	Commander in Chief of Continental Army, 1 st President of U.S. Was a British General in the French & Indian War.
Confederation	An alliance of states where states have the majority of the power and retain their sovereignty
Articles of Confederation	First government of United States from 1781 – 1788, state sovereignty, weak national government – no standing army, no power to tax, no courts, no executive
Shays Rebellion	An armed uprising in Central and Western Massachusetts, (mainly Springfield) from 1786 to 1787. The rebels were led by Daniel Shays and known as Shaysites (Regulators), were mostly poor farmers angered by crushing debt and taxes. Failure to repay such debts often resulted in imprisonment in debtor's prisons or the claiming of property by the County. The rebellion started on August 29, 1786. A militia that had been raised as a private army defeated an attack on the federal Springfield Armory by the main Shaysite force on February 3, 1787. There was a lack of an institutional response to the uprising, which energized calls to reevaluate the Articles of Confederation and gave strong impetus to the Constitutional Convention which began in May 17, 1787.

<p>Taxation without representation</p>	<p>A slogan in the period 1763–1776 that summarized a primary grievance of the British colonists in the Thirteen Colonies. In short, many in those colonies believed the lack of direct representation in the distant British Parliament was an illegal denial of their rights as Englishmen, and therefore laws taxing the colonists (the kind of law that affects the most individuals directly), and other laws applying only to the colonies, were unconstitutional. In recent times, it has been used by several other groups in several different countries over similar disputes.</p>
<p>John Locke</p>	<p>English Philosopher. Locke is considered the first of the British empiricists, but is equally important to social contract theory. His ideas had enormous influence on the development of epistemology and political philosophy, and he is widely regarded as one of the most influential Enlightenment thinkers, classical republicans, and contributors to liberal theory. His writings influenced Voltaire and Rousseau, many Scottish Enlightenment thinkers, as well as the American revolutionaries. This influence is reflected in the American Declaration of Independence.</p>
<p>Montesquieu</p>	<p>A French social commentator and political thinker who lived during the Era of the Enlightenment. He is famous for his articulation of the theory of separation of powers, taken for granted in modern discussions of government and implemented in many constitutions throughout the world.</p>

U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights

1787	U.S. Constitution written at Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Ratification of Constitution and Federalist Papers in 1788
Philadelphia Convention	1787, constitutional convention resulted in creation of FEDERAL government (separate executive, judicial and legislative branches), replaced the Articles of Confederation and wrote the U.S. Constitution
Constitution	A document that defines the government a constitution restrains the powers of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people
U.S. Constitution 1787-1788	Basic law and government of the United States, based on 7 principles – republicanism, popular sovereignty, federalism, limited government, separation of power, checks and balances, individual rights
Limited government	Limits are placed on the powers of government, everyone including all authority figures must obey the laws set forth in the Constitution, also known as Rule of Law or Constitutionalism
Republicanism	Power is held by the people and exercised through the efforts of representatives elected by those people
Federalism	Distribution of the powers of government between a central (federal) government and the regional (states) governments
Separation of powers	Form of government organized in three branches – a legislative branch (Congress), an executive branch (the President) and a judicial branch (Supreme Court)
Checks and balances	Each branch of the government shares its power and checks the other two, prevents any branch of government from becoming too powerful
Popular sovereignty	All political power rests with the people who can create, alter, and abolish government
Federalist Papers	Newspaper articles in New York state - explained reasons why people should adopt the new US constitution, authors: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay
Individual rights	The rights of the people protected in the Bill of Rights including economic rights related to property, political rights related to freedom of speech and press, and personal rights related to bearing arms and maintaining private residences
Bill of Rights 1st thru 10th Amendments	Basic rights - ① Speech, press, religion, assembly, petition ② Bear arms ③ Quarter soldiers, ④ Searches, ⑤ Due process, ⑥ Fair trial, ⑦ Jury trial, ⑧ Cruel/Unusual punishment, ⑨ States rights reserved, ⑩ Individual rights not listed
Free speech	1 st Amendment right, right to speak one's own mind
Freedom of the press	1 st Amendment right, right to state anything in the printed form
James Madison	An American politician and political philosopher who served as the fourth President of the United States, and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Considered to be the "Father of the Constitution", he was the principal author of the document. In 1788, he wrote over a third of the Federalist Papers, still the most influential commentary on the Constitution. The first President to have served in the United States Congress, he was a leader in the 1st United States Congress, drafted many basic laws and was responsible for the first ten amendments to the Constitution, and thus is also known as the "Father of the Bill of Rights". As a political theorist, Madison's most distinctive belief was that the new republic needed checks and balances to protect individual rights from the tyranny of the majority.
Federalists	Statesmen and public figures supporting ratification of the proposed Constitution of the United States between 1787 and 1789. The Federalist Papers are documents associated with their movement.
Anti-Federalists	A political philosophy which opposes the concept of Federalism. In short, Anti-Federalists dictate that the central governing authority of a nation should be equal or inferior to, but not having more power than, its sub-national states. Opposed the ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America.

