**Revolution and the Republic**

**Terms:**

**French and Indian War (Seven Years’ War)-** This war began in 1754 between Britain (allied with Prussia) and France, Austria, and Spain in three key areas of conflict. The first area of conflict was along the northern Atlantic coast because of the consecutive losing and recapturing of Louisburg from British and French relations. The second area of conflict was the border region between New France and New York, from Niagara Falls to Lake Champlain, where there was competition for fur trade in the area. Here, the Iroquois Confederacy would have the advantage over both. The third area of conflict, the Ohio country, was the most important and was the focus of both British and French because of the resources in the fertile land.

* Before: began because of conflict over Ohio country, tensions between British and French in North America
* During: Washington sent, but surrendered at Monogahela River→Canadians controlled interior country from Fort Duquesne→British sent Braddock and regiments to capture Fort Duquesne, colonial militias would attack New York fronter and North Atlantic coast→ British failure; Prime minister Pitt sent over Prussian militaries to fight in Europe and personally handled own forces in colonies→ conquest of Canada and eliminate French competition in North America→ got Indian support by addressing grievances and establish clear boundaries→ reversed the war by capturing **Louisburg** and a French fort at **Oswego** preventing their trade, got **Fort Duquesne,** conquered **Quebec,** conquered **Montreal**
* After: ended with Treaty of 1763, France gave up its territory in North America, east of Mississippi (except for New Orleans, which was given to Spain) → victory for British
* Effects: British became the colonial superpower; greater sense of patriotism, nationalism, and identity of colonies; Indians were upset because of land issue→ Pontiac’s Rebellion

**Pontiac Rebellion-** This was caused by the resolution of the French and Indian War because of the French land cession to the British. The Indians were upset because they did not believe that the land was something that could be even given away, since they believed it was their land anyway, not the French’s. Then there a new set of policies that prevented the original tradition of gift-exchanging between the British and Indians, which hurt the Indians because they relied on the British for necessities and ammunition for hunting. An Indian visionary named Neolin taught about how they had been corrupted by European ways and sought to purify by returning to traditional ways and preparing for a holy war. Plans were made to attack British posts in the west, and this was carried out by Ottawa chief Pontiac. There was an attack on Fort Michilimackinac, as well as backcountry raids. Germ-infested blankets from the British were given to the Indians, which caused an epidemic among the Indians. A stalemate emerged as most Indians sued for peace to prevent further devastation and the British knew they could not fully overcome the Indians.

**The Acts-** Because of more newspapers and public opinion emerging due to Enlightenment ideals of popular sovereignty, natural rights, democracy, and the social contract, British wanted to restrict the liberties and independence of the colonies. As a way to exert authority over the colonies and generate revenue, Britain began imposing taxes through acts. The beginning of these acts started with the Sugar Act, a tax on sugar imported in the colonies, which was to raise revenue for the British military. Then, there was the Stamp Act on products requiring special paper for newspapers, legal documents, playing cards, etc. The phrase “no taxation without representation” emerges and began nonimportation. The Stamp Act is repealed, but a new tax--The Declaratory Act--is enforced, which gave Britain the authority to make laws or the colonies. Because of more riots, debt, and high unemployment, the Townshend Revenue Acts are enacted, placing taxes on imported goods like lead, glass, paint, paper, and tea. There is a greater response for the colonists, and the Boston Massacre occurs. The Townshend Acts are repealed except for the tax on tea. This led to the Boston Tea Party, which led to the British implementing the Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts), closing Boston’s port and placing martial law in Massachusetts until tea is paid for in full. Then the Quartering Act, legalizing housing of troops at public expense, and the Quebec Act, authorizing a permanent government that was both authoritarian and anti-republican, were also implemented. This would create an unifying cause for the American colonists against Britain.

**Boycotts-** Boycotts emerged as a way for colonists to peacefully protest these acts, while still having a large impact. Two forms of boycotting were used--nonimportation and nonconsumption. There was a greater reliance on self-sufficiency, with the help of the Daughters of Liberty, moving away from the reliance for goods from Britain. This would help the colonies become more united in a cause, add to the revolutionary sentiment, and make the colonies more independent and autonomous, while affecting the economy of Britain because of the decrease in trade.

**Sons of Liberty-** The Sons of Liberty formed for a cause to protect the natural rights of American citizens and helped unify this cause throughout the colonies. They would play a vital role in leading boycotts and protests, such as the Boston Tea Party. Some of the members involved, like John Adams, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and John Hancock, would be involved in the leading the Revolution and organizing of the newly-independent America after the war.

**Declaration of Independence-** Richard Henry Lee proposed the independence of the colonies from Great Britain, to the Continental Congress. A committee emerged of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Thomas Jefferson, who would write the Declaration. The majority of the Declaration focuses on the grievances against Great Britain, while establishing the independence and natural rights of people. These principles were agreed upon by the majority of the delegates, men with wealth and high positions in society, because they knew they would need the support from the masses in order for this to work. The Declaration of Independence was officially ratified on July 4, 1776.

**First Continental Congress**- In 1774, 55 delegates from the 12 colonies hoped to avoid war and favored a policy of economic coercion. The agenda of the meeting was to decide acceptable forms of colonial protest. They all agreed that the intolerable acts were unconstitutional. In this time period, people began to start to call the colonies, States.

**Second Continental Congress**- The continental congress was reconvened to figure out how to deal with the worsening British oppression. They decided to start an official government and to build an army, they wanted to be put into a state of defense. The Continental Army was then created and had George Washington lead the army.

**Alliance With France-** Throughout the Revolution, French helped aid the colonies in war for multiple reasons. For starters, they wanted the British to be let down for once, or hurt the British Empire. They also thought that by helping out the americans, they would be provided with the land that they lost in the Seven Years War. Americans needed to French because they needed arms, money, and ammo to fight against the British.

**Treaty of Paris (1783)-** This treaty fully recognized the independence of the 13 colonies and it granted all western colonies to the Americans. Americans could no longer prosecute loyalists and gave back the land that was rightfully them. The americans would honor the debts to British merchants.

**Articles of Confederation-** They were essentially the first draft in the constitution, establishing a confederation of states with a national government. They created congress but the Articles of Confederation had multiple weaknesses. When trying to pass a law, there had to be 9 out of 13 votes and 13 out of 13 to amend. It provided the basis that the government could not tax to raise armies.

**Land Ordinance of 1785 and Northwest Ordinance-** They were both major successes of the Articles of Confederation. They laid the patchwork of how all the land out west would be divided up and sold. Thomas Jefferson came up with the plan and he enforced that these states ban slavery and each of these states would have their own governing. The Northwest ordinance was a revised Land Ordinance but both consisted of the main idea of separating the land into all equal pieces.

**Constitutional compromises-** While drafting a new constitution many clashes occurred between different delegates. Most notable were the Great Compromise which established a bicameral legislature and the 3/5ths compromise which counted every slave as three fifths of a person for representation and taxation purposes.

**Federalists and Anti-federalist**- Federalists favored a strong central government and were mostly comprised of rich northerns. While the Anti-federalists believed that a strong central government would directly endanger their rights. Their supporters were western frontiersmen and the common U.S citizen.

**Bill of Rights-** Much debate between Federalists and Antifederalists over the ratification lead to the addition of a bill of rights which clearly stated the rights of men.(Speech, Religion, Assembly)

**Hamilton’s economic program and its opposition-** In order to save the United States financially Alexander Hamilton created a three step plan: Pay off National debt and have the government assume state’s war debts, Place a tariff on all imported items and levy taxes on certain goods(whisky). To not only nurture growing industries but also begin paying debts, create a national bank that would hold funds and print bank notes which would create a stable form of national currency. Opposition came from Anti-federalists that thought the bank was only being created to help rich merchants and further the power the Government had.

**Farewell Address-** President Washington Farewell address urged the nation to not become involved in european affairs. Also to not make permanent allies with any nations. Domestically Washington pushed for no political parties and no sectionalisation.

**Shay’s Rebellion-** Post revolution recession caused many farmers to fall into debt and become imprisoned. Eventually, their anger became violent and manifested itself in the attempted capture of an arsenal.

**Jay’s Treaty** – In April 1794, Washington sent Chief Justice John Jay to London to arrange a settlement with the British. In November, they signed an agreement providing for British removal of troops from America by 1796. The treaty, known as Jay’s Treaty, also called for limited trade with the British East and West Indies, and the creation of a status in which each nation would enjoy the trade benefits equal to those the other accorded any other nation states. The treaty was a victory for Hamilton’s supporters, but Jeffersonians were outraged with hurting France. The treaty was ratified in June 1795 despite massive protests from Jeffersonians and Democratic Societies.

**Rise of political parties** – Political groups began to separate and polarize during the Jay’s Treaty debate. Agrarians, Westerners, Southerners and supporters of France joined against the supporters of the treaty, who called themselves the Federalists. The opposition to the Federalists became known as the Republicans.

**Alien and Sedition Acts** – Congress passed acts that severely limited freedom of speech and press and threatened foreign liberty in the U.S. The Naturalization Act extended the period of residence required for U.S. citizenship. The Alien Act and Alien Enemies Act authorized the imprisonment or deportation of suspected aliens during wartime. The Sedition Act provided heavy fines and imprisonment for anyone speaking or writing against the government. Federalists used these acts to defeat the Republicans, who opposed the acts.

**VA and KY Resolutions** – Madison’s and Jefferson’s anonymously authored resolutions to the Alien and Sedition Acts. They were passed by the Virginia and Kentucky state legislatures, who deemed that state governments had the power to “nullify” unconstitutional laws. These moves would ultimately lead to trouble in later years as they gave the consent of two of the founding fathers for succession. The resolutions, for instance were used to justify the succession of the Southern states in the beginning of the Civil War.

**XYZ Affair** – After Jay’s Treaty, the French suspended diplomatic relations with the U.S. and created a tough policy regarding American shipping, in which they seized over 300 ships and seized cargo worth an estimated $20 million. Adams sent an American delegation to resolve the situation, but the French demanded a bribe before negotiations could be made. Adams released the documents, substituting the letters X, Y, and Z for the names of the diplomats, which sparked huge support for the anti-French sentiment of the Jeffersonian Republicans

**Election of 1800** – The Election of 1800 was the first presidential election in which the two party system was active. The Jeffersonians nominated Jefferson and Aaron Burr, while the Federalists nominated Adams and Charles Pinckney. Jefferson ultimately won the election.

**Review Questions**

**1.** Since the British became so militarily involved in the Seven years war they accumulated much debt. The burden of paying for it fell upon the colonists through the levying of taxes such as the stamp act. Many colonists believed that this taxing was unjust and began to speak of breaking british control.

**2.** The British had difficulty fighting in North America because the unfamiliar terrain and the unconventional tactics used by the continental army. Furthermore, the British couldn't focus their military efforts on a central area being unable to crush the rebel movement.

**3.** The French helped the colonies for the common cause of defeating their enemy, Great Britain. Other desires were to retake some claims of land that had been taken during the French and Indian War. The French essentially provided the Americans with important necessities like military support and training, resources, and money. This would cause friction in 1783 with the ending of the Revolutionary War with the Treaty of Paris. France would not receive what it originally expected.

**4.** The Articles of Confederation would reflect America’s political experiences of the previous twenty years because it created a confederation of states with a national government, recognizing the need for the organization in a new country. States, for the majority, maintained their sovereignty, reflecting the tradition of autonomy, and limited the power of the national government. Even though the government was declared the national authority and had the ability to produce currency, regulate trade with Indian nations, established a postal system, and was the final authority in the jurisdictional disputes between states, it lacked several key powers--the ability to directly tax the citizens and regulate interstate commerce. This reflects the political experiences with Britain because of the taxes from Parliament and how this led to protesting and disorder. However, these factors, along with the difficulties in dealing with state powers, would lead to a national government that was uncentralized and incapable of running the new, vulnerable country. After these flaws were revealed, the Constitution would eventually emerge as the new guideline for the effective government.

**5.** The Constitution was not a betrayal of the American Revolution because the constitution allowed for stability in the country. The constitution gave the states the right to object though representatives when in the process of voting. The Constitution protected individual rights through the Bill of Rights, it also protected the country against tyranny and dictatorships. The Constitution was a representation of freedom and opportunity because it expressed the values of the Declaration of Independence.

**6.** The Federalists triumph over the Anti-Federalists in the ratification struggle because the different views resulted in the countries confusion of what was right. Many Federalists believed that a strong central government would benefit the country, while the anti- federalists believed that having a central government would give too much power to the government.

**7.** Hamilton’s financial plan had both a political and an economic agenda. He meant to clear the debt of the national government by assuming the obligations of the states through an issue of new, interest bearing bonds. He hoped to inspire the confidence of domestic and foreign investors. He also proposed to establish the National Bank of the United States, and to allow the government to fund the start-up of “infant industries.” Despite an economic agenda, his plans significantly changed governmental structure and layout if approved.

**8.** Native populations were decimated with the outcome of the Revolution. American attempts to treat them as conquered peoples only led to more violence and fighting. American expansion pushed populations continually west, creating conflict and destruction, famine, and disease. Ultimately, with the creation of the new nation, the sovereignty of the Americans diminished the importance of relations with the Natives, and in few years, populations were almost nonexistent.