

Early Years of the Revolution

Chapter 4, Section 2

England's Advantages

- Population
 - 9 million Englishmen vs. 2.5 million colonists
- Large standing army
 - 50,000 professional soldiers (Redcoats)
- Strong navy
 - Used to capture port cities
 - Cut colonists off from foreign aid
 - Used to transport troops to the colonies efficiently
- Money to hire mercenaries
 - Paid soldiers
 - Hessians
- Loyalty of many colonists
 - Called Loyalists or Tories
 - Esp. prevalent in the S.
 - Made good spies

England's Advantages

- Slave revolts
 - Had to be careful, though
 - Many slaveholders were loyalists
- Native American support
 - In the Ohio Valley
 - British seen as the lesser of the two evils.
- Canada
 - Remained loyal to Britain
 - Always posed a threat of invasion

England's Disadvantages

- Distance
 - Separated by the Atlantic Ocean (3,000 miles)
 - Made delivery of news, orders, and supplies difficult
 - Often took months
- Tactics
 - Fought according to the code of chivalry
 - Fighting face-to-face
 - Opposed by the colonists using guerrilla warfare
- Objective
 - Had to defeat the colonists
- Poor leadership
 - George III and Lord North (PM) were inept.
- Military difficulties
 - 2nd-rate generals
 - Brutal treatment of soldiers
 - 800 lashes for striking an officer
 - Inadequate, poor provisions
 - Old, rancid, wormy

Colonies' Advantages

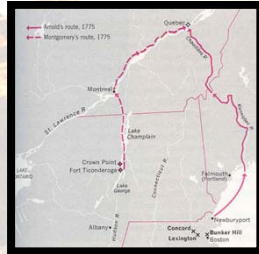
- Leadership
 - Military—Washington
 - Diplomatic—Franklin
- Motive
 - Fighting for independence and survival
- Rifles
 - More accurate and had greater range than the British musket
- Foreign aid
 - Esp. from France
 - Traditional enemy of Britain
- "Home-court advantage"
 - Had to hold out until the British got tired of fighting
 - Self-sustaining agricultural base to supply army
- Tactics
 - Used guerrilla warfare tactics

Colonies' Disadvantages

- Small army
 - Also unorganized and undisciplined
- Few supplies
- No central gov't
 - Weak Continental Congress
 - Fought as 13 independent states
 - Often did not assist one another
- No professional navy
 - Relied upon privateers to carry out the fight

Invasion of Quebec

- Invasion of Quebec
 - Led by Benedict Arnold and Richard Montgomery
 - Failed to conquer Canada
 - Kept the Canadian force occupied for the duration of the war



Battle of Long Island

- British forces began landing on July 2, 1776.
 - Same day independence was declared.
 - They had been forced out of New England.
 - Because of the Battle of Dorchester Heights
- Howe could have outflanked and defeated the Continental Army.
 - Could have ended the war.
 - Indecision cost Howe total victory.
- Washington w/drew to Manhattan Island and then into N. Jersey.
- Howe then settled in for the winter.



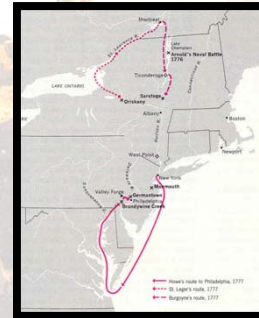
Battles of Trenton and Princeton

- Trenton
 - Garrisoned the hated Hessian mercenaries
- Washington's Crossing the Delaware R.
 - Ice-clogged
 - On Christmas night in 1776
 - Caught the Hessians by surprised
 - And intoxicated from Christmas celebrations
 - 400 Hessians casualties vs. 4 colonials
- Battle of Princeton
 - Washington slipped away from Trenton.
 - Left campfires burning as decoy
 - Dealt a defeat to a small British detachment.
- Kept British pinned down in New York for duration of war



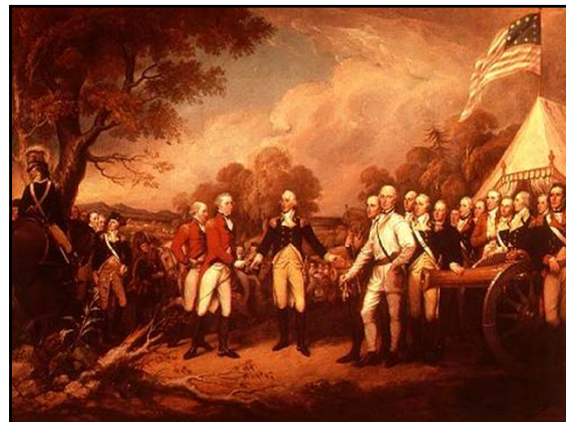
Battle of Saratoga

- Started as British plan to capture Hudson Valley
 - To cut off New England from the rest of the colonies
 - 3-pronged attack
 - Gen. John Burgoyne
 - To push S. from Canada down Lake Champlain
 - Col. Barry St. Leger
 - To push E. from Lake Ontario
 - Gen. Howe
 - To push N. from NYC



Battle of Saratoga

- Not very well coordinated
 - Howe decided to leave NYC to capture Philly.
 - St. Leger turned back.
 - Burgoyne pushed onward to Albany.
 - Bogged down in woods w/ supply train
 - Surrounded by colonials
 - Surrendered 5,700 troops
- Became turning point of the war
 - French entered the war.
 - After seeing the Americans might have a chance
 - Louis XVI recognized the United States.



Valley Forge



- Winter camp of Washington
 - Est. after lose of Philly
- Low point of war for Continental Army
 - Morale was low.
 - Supplies were low.
 - Desertion rate was high.
 - Death rate was high.
- Rumors about replacing Washington
 - W/ Horatio Gates
 - "Hero" of the Battle of Saratoga

