

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE



American Position at Start of War

▶ Disadvantages

- Army disorganized & untrained
- Few cannons, little gunpowder & no navy
- Many did not want to enlist in the army for long periods of time

▶ Advantages

- Many owned rifles & were good shots
- Washington became a brilliant leader
- Fighting for their property & liberty

British position at start of war

▶ Disadvantages

- Fighting 3,000 miles from home
- Unfamiliar with geography
- Soldiers faced constant attacks in the countryside

▶ Advantages

- Highly trained & experienced army
- Best navy in the world
- Many Loyalists supporters in America

Three Phases of the War

- ▶ 1st: Police Action–New England, 1773–1777
 - –The British were attempting to keep the colonists under control & arrest the leadership
 - Few “real” Battles
- ▶ 2nd: Conventional Warfare– mainly in the Middle States, 1775–1778
 - Large battles using linear tactics
 - Huge British advantage
- ▶ 3rd: Pacification and Guerrilla Warfare–mainly in the South, 1777–1781
 - The British attempt to divide and conquer
 - America’s 1st “civil war”

COMMON SENSE;

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS

OF

AMERICA,

On the following Proposals

S U B J E C T S.

- I. Of the Origin and Design of Government in general, with concise Remarks on the English Constitution.
- II. Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succession.
- III. Thoughts on the present State of America under the British Arms.
- IV. Of the present Ability of America, with some antient and modern Reflections.

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Thomas Paine Writes "Common Sense" 1776

"Common Sense," published in January, argued that the time had come to sever colonial ties with England; and that it was in the American interest to do so. This pamphlet sold 120,000 copies in the first three months and was instrumental in convincing many colonists that the time had come for Independence.

Declaration of Independence

It's too late to apologize



- Twelve colonies voted in favor of the Declaration of Independence. New York abstained.
- This Declaration stated that the colonies were free and independent states, absolved of all allegiance to England.
- It made official what had already been happening: the War of Independence was in full swing.