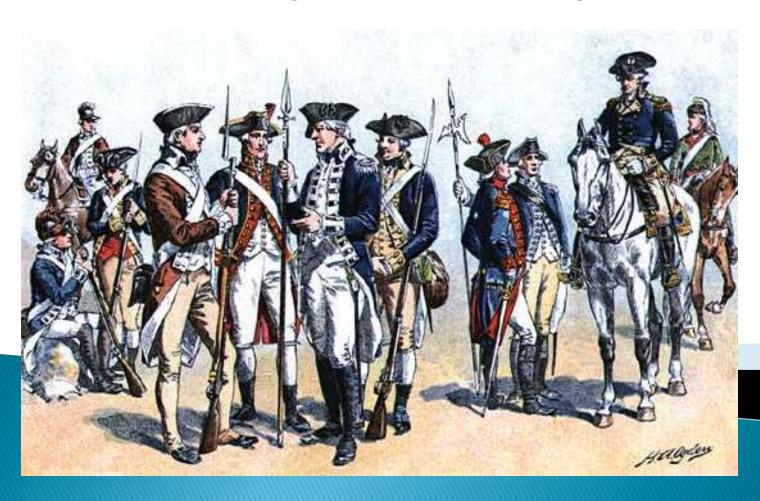
# THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE



### 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

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

#### COMMON SENSE;

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#### INHABITANTS

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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 was instrumental and convincing many colonists that the time had come 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.
- Independence was in full swing.