

Chapter 6 - The Duel for North America - 1608-1763

In the late 1600's and early 1700's, Spain, England, and France fought over territory in North America. The four big wars were: King William's War, Queen Anne's War, King George's War, and the French and Indian War.

France Finds a Foothold in Canada

In **1598**, the **Edict of Nantes** was issued by the crown of France. It granted limited religious freedom to French Protestants, and stopped religious wars between the Protestants and Catholics.

In **1608**, France established **Quebec**. The leading figure was Samuel de Champlain, an intrepid soldier and explorer whose energy and leadership earned him the title "Father of New France".

The government of New France (Canada) was under direct control of the king. The people did not elect any representative assemblies.

New France Sets Out

New France contained one valuable resource - **beaver**.

French Catholic missionaries, notably the **Jesuits**, tried to convert the Indians to Christianity and to save them from the fur trappers.

Antoine Cadillac- founded Detroit in **1701** to thwart English settlers from pushing into the Ohio Valley.

Robert de La Salle- explored the Mississippi and Gulf basin, naming it Louisiana.

In order to block the Spanish at the Gulf of Mexico, the French placed several fortifications in Mississippi and Louisiana. The French founded **New Orleans** in **1718**.

Illinois became France's garden empire of North America because much grain was produced there.

The Clash of Empires

The early battles between the Europeans for control over North America were mostly between British and French colonists. At this time, neither European power saw North America as a place worth devoting significant military resources. The British colonists referred to these conflicts as **King William's War (1689-1697)** and **Queen Anne's War (1702-1713)**. The wars ended in **1713** with peace terms signed at **Utrecht**. France was terribly beaten in these conflicts, and Britain received French-populated Acadia and Newfoundland and the Hudson Bay. The British also won limited trading rights in Spanish America.

The **War of Jenkins's Ear** started in **1739** between the British and Spanish. This small battle became a war and became known as **King George's War in America**. It ended in **1748** with a treaty that handed Louisbourg back to France (allied with Spain), enraging the victorious New Englanders.

George Washington Inaugurates War with France

In **1754**, George Washington was sent to the Ohio Valley to secure land that had been purchased by some Virginians. His 150 Virginian militia killed the French leader, causing French reinforcements to come. The Virginians were forced to surrender on **July 4, 1754**.

The increase in conflict caused the British in Nova Scotia to worry that the French in Acadia would attack them. So in **1755**, the British in Nova Scotia attacked and defeated the French **Acadians** and scattered them as far as Louisiana.

Global War and Colonial Disunity

The **French and Indian War** started in **1754**. It was the American theater of the **Seven Years' War**. This war was fought in America, Europe, the West Indies, the Philippines, Africa, and on the ocean.

In Europe, the principal adversaries were Britain and Prussia on one side. France, Spain, Austria, and Russia were on the other side. The French wasted so many troops in Europe that they were unable to put enough forces into America.

The **Albany Congress** met in **1754**. Only 7 of 13 colony delegates showed up. It attempted to unite all of the colonies, but the plan was hated by individual colonists and the London regime.

Braddock's Blundering and Its Aftermath

General Braddock set out in **1755** with 2,000 men to capture **Fort Duquesne**. His force was slaughtered by the much smaller French and Indian army.

(**Braddock's Blunder**) Due to this loss of troops, the whole frontier from Pennsylvania to North Carolina was left open to attack. George Washington, with only 300 men, tried to defend the area.

In **1756**, the British launched a **full-scale invasion of Canada**.

Pitt's Palms of Victory

In **1757**, William Pitt became a prominent leader in the London government. He started to take control of British military leadership in North America. He attacked and captured **Louisbourg** in **1758**.

To lead the attack in the **Battle of Quebec** in **1759**, Pitt chose James Wolfe. The French and British armies faced each other on the **Plains of Abraham**, with the British lead by Wolfe and the French lead by Marquis de Montcalm.

Montreal fell in **1760**. The **Treaty of Paris (1763)** ended the battle and threw the French off the continent of North America. Out of this conflict, the British became the dominant power in North America.

Restless Colonists

Intercolonial disunity had been caused by enormous distances; geographical barriers; conflicting religions, from Catholics to Quakers; varied nationalities, from German to Irish; differing types of colonial governments; many boundary disputes; and the resentment of the crude back-country settlers against the aristocrats.

War's Fateful Aftermath

In **1763**, **Ottawa chief**, Pontiac, led several tribes, aided by a handful of French traders who remained in the region, in a violent campaign to drive the British out of the Ohio country. His warriors captured Detroit in the spring of that year and overran all but 3 British outposts west of the Appalachians.

The British countered these attacks and eventually defeated the Indians.

London government issued the **Proclamation of 1763**. It prohibited settlement in the area beyond the Appalachians. (The Appalachian land was acquired after the British beat the Indians). It was made to prevent another bloody eruption between the settlers and Indians. Many colonists disregarded it.

Chapter 7

The Road to Revolution

1763-1775

Because the British controlled more North American territory after the Seven Years War, they had to devote more troops and supplies to secure the territories. The British needed more money to support this, so they started levying taxes on the American colonists.

The Deep Roots of Revolution

Two ideas had taken root in the minds of the American colonists by the mid 18th century (not mutually exclusive):

- 1) **Republicanism**: all citizens willingly work towards the common good, which trumps their private interests. The stability of society and the authority of government depended on society's capacity for selflessness, self-sufficiency, and courage. This school of thought opposed authoritarian institutions.
- 2) **Radical Whigs**: The Radical Whigs was a group of British political commentators who criticized the monarchy's corruption and encouraged citizens to be vigilant against attempts to take away liberty.

Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

British **mercantilism** in the colonies was a system in which the British expected the colonies to export raw materials to Britain and import manufactured goods exclusively from Britain.

Georgia was the only colony to be formally created by Britain.

The British viewed the American colonists as tenants: the colonists should exclusively support Britain (via supply of raw materials, purchase of British exports, etc).

The **Navigation Law of 1650** stated that all goods flowing to and from the colonies could only be transported in British vessels. It aimed to hurt rival Dutch shippers.

The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

British mercantile laws were not strictly enforced in the colonies and these laws benefited the colonies in some ways. However, many colonists did not like the mercantile laws.

The Stamp Tax Uproar

Britain incurred a large debt due to the Seven Years War, most of which was created defending the North American colonies. Britain began to look for ways of getting the colonists to pay for this debt.

In **1763**, Prime Minister George Grenville ordered the British navy to begin strictly enforcing the **Navigation Laws**. He also got Parliament to pass the **Sugar Act of 1764**, the first law ever passed by Parliament to raise tax revenue in the colonies for England. The Sugar Act increased the duty on foreign sugar imported from the West Indies.

The **Quartering Act of 1765** required certain colonies to provide food and quarters for British troops.

In **1765**, Grenville imposed a **stamp tax** on the colonies to raise revenue to support the new military force. This stamp tax, known as the **Stamp Act**, required colonists to use stamped paper to certify payment of taxes on goods like newspapers, legal documents, and diplomas.

American colonists started to rebel against the newly passed taxation measures as they felt the laws were starting to impinge on their liberties.

Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

27 delegates from 9 colonies met in New York City for the **Stamp Act Congress of 1765**. The members drew up a statement of their rights and grievances and requested the king and Parliament to repeal the hated legislation. The meeting was largely ignored by England, but it was one step towards **intercolonial unity**.

Nonimportation agreements (agreements made to not import British goods) were another stride toward unionism.

The **Sons of Liberty** and **Daughters of Liberty** took the law into their own hands by enforcing the nonimportation agreements.

The Stamp Act was repealed by Parliament in **1766**.

Parliament passed the **Declaratory Act, which reaffirmed England's right to rule absolutely over the American colonies**.

The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston Massacre

In **1767**, Parliament passed the **Townshend Acts**. They put a light import tax on glass, white lead, paper, paint, and tea.

American colonists were rebellious to the new taxes and as a result of these rebellions, the British landed 2 regiments of troops in the colonies in **1768**.

On **March 5, 1770**, a crowd of 60 townspeople attacked 10 redcoats and the redcoats opened fired on the civilians, killing/wounding 11 of them. The massacre was known as the **Boston Massacre**.

The Seditious Committees of Correspondence

Lord North, the prime minister of Britain, was forced to persuade Parliament to repeal the Townshend revenue duties.

Samuel Adams: master propagandist and engineer of rebellion; formed the first local committee of correspondence in Massachusetts in **1772** (Sons of Liberty). Committees of Correspondence were created by the American colonies in order to maintain communication with one another. They were organized in the decade before the Revolution when communication between the colonies became essential.

In March of **1773**, the Virginia **House of Burgesses**, the lower house of the Colony of Virginia, proposed that each colonial legislature appoint a standing committee for intercolonial correspondence. Within just a year, nearly all of the colonies had joined.

Tea Brewing in Boston

In **1773**, the **British East India Company** was overstocked with 17 million pounds of unsold tea. If the company collapsed, the London government would lose tax revenue. Therefore, the London government gave the company the exclusive right to sell tea in America (at a discount).

Fearing that it was trick to get the colonists to pay import taxes, the colonists rejected the tea. When the ships arrived in the Boston harbor, the governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson, forced the citizens to allow the ships to unload their tea.

On **December 16, 1773**, a band of Bostonians, disguised as Indians, boarded the ships and dumped the tea into the sea. (**Boston Tea Party**)

Parliament Passes the "Intolerable Acts"

In **1774**, Parliament punished the people of Massachusetts for their actions in the Boston Tea Party. Parliament passed laws, known as the **Intolerable Acts**, which restricted colonists' rights. The laws restricted town meetings and required that officials who killed colonists in the line of duty to be sent to Britain for trial (where it was assumed they would be acquitted of their charges). Another law was the **Boston Port Act**. It closed the Boston harbor until damages were paid and order could be ensured.

The **Quebec Act** was also passed in **1774**, but was not apart of the Intolerable Acts. It gave Catholic French Canadians religious freedom and restored the French form of civil law. The American colonists opposed this act for a variety of reasons: it angered anti-Catholics; it extended the land area of Quebec.

Bloodshed

In **1774**, the **First Continental Congress** met in Philadelphia to respond to colonial grievances over the Intolerable Acts. 12 of the 13 colonies (excluding Georgia) sent 55 men to the convention. (The First Continental Congress was not a legislative body; it was a consultative body. It was a convention rather than a congress.)

After 7 weeks of deliberation, the **1st Continental Congress** created several papers. The papers included a **Declaration of Rights** and appeals to other British-American colonies, to the king, and to the British people.

The creation of **The Association** was the most important outcome of the Congress. It called for a complete **boycott** of British goods: nonimportation, nonexportation, and nonconsumption.

In **April 1775**, the British commander in Boston sent a detachment of troops to **Lexington and Concord**. Their plan was to seize stocks of colonial gunpowder and to capture the "**rebel**" ringleaders, Samuel Adams and John Hancock. At Lexington, 8 Americans were shot and killed. This incident was labelled as the "**Lexington Massacre**." When the British went to Concord, they were met with American resistance and had over 300 casualties and 70 deaths. Because of this, the British realized that they had a **war**, rather than a rebellion, on their hands.

Imperial Strength and Weaknesses

The population of Britain was over 3 times as large as America. Britain also had a much greater economic wealth and naval power.

Unfortunately for the British, though, British troops were committed to fighting the rebellion in Ireland. Troops were also needed in case France decided to attack Britain. (France was bitter from its recent defeat.) Britain was therefore forced to divert much of its military power and concentration away from the Americas.

Britain's army in America had to operate under numerous difficulties; provisions were short, officers were not well-trained, troops were operating far from their home base, the Americans did not have a single city from which they operated (ex: Paris for the French).

American Pluses and Minuses

Americans benefited from good leadership and from the fact that they were fighting defensively. They were poorly organized, though.

Marquis de Lafayette: Frenchman who was made a major general in the colonial army at the age of 19; the "French Gamecock"; his services were invaluable in securing further aid from France.

The **Articles of Confederation** was adopted in **1781**. It was the first written constitution adopted by colonists.

Due to the lack of metallic money in America, Continental Congress was forced to print "**Continental**" paper money. Within a short time, this money depreciated significantly and individual states were forced to print their own paper money.

A Thin Line of Heroes

Food and military supplies were limited in the colonies. At **Valley Forge**, Pennsylvania, American men went without food for 3 days in the **winter of 1777-1778**.

Baron von Steuben: German who helped train the American fighters to fight the British.

Lord Dunmore: royal (British) governor of Virginia. In **1775**, he issued a proclamation **promising freedom** for any enslaved black in Virginia who joined the British army. "**Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment**"

Chapter 8

America Secedes from the Empire

1775-1783

The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in 1775. All 13 colonies were represented. The objective of the meeting was to draft a set of appeals to which the king would respond; independence was still not a widely accepted goal.

Congress Drafts George Washington

The Second Continental Congress selected George Washington to lead the Continental army.

Bunker Hill and Hessian Hirelings

From April 1775 to July 1776, the colonists were mixed in their feelings for independence: some voiced a desire to mend differences, while others raised armies to fight the British.

In May 1775, a small American force led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured the British garrisons at **Ticonderoga and Crown Point**.

In June 1775, the colonists captured **Bunker Hill**. The British took it back, but they had heavy casualties.

In **July 1775**, the Second Continental Congress released the "**Olive Branch Petition**", which professed American loyalty to the king and begged the king to stop future hostilities. The petition was rejected by the king. With the rejection, the Americans were forced to choose to fight to become independent or to submit to British rule and power.

In August 1775, King George III proclaimed that the colonies were in rebellion. He then hired German **Hessians** to bring order to the colonies.

The Abortive Conquest of Canada

In October 1775, the **British burned Falmouth** (Portland), Maine. In the same month, colonists attacked Canada, hoping that they could add it as a 14th colony and remove it as a possible source for a British base. The attack failed when General Richard Montgomery was killed.

In January 1776, the **British burned the town of Norfolk, Virginia**

Thomas Paine Preaches Common Sense

The Americans continued to **deny any intention of independence** because loyalty to the empire was deeply ingrained; many Americans continued to consider themselves apart of a transatlantic community in which the mother country of Britain played a leading role; colonial unity was poor; and open rebellion was dangerous.

Thomas Paine released a pamphlet called **Common Sense** in **1776**. It argued that the colonies had outgrown any need for English domination and that they should be given independence.

Paine and the Idea of "Republicanism"

Thomas Paine called for the creation of a new kind of political society, specifically a **republic**, where power flowed from the people themselves. This was outlined in a pamphlet called the **Common Sense**.

Jefferson's Explanation of Independence

At the Second Continental Congress, Richard Henry Lee proposed that the colonies declare their independence. Thomas Jefferson was appointed to draft up the **Declaration of Independence**. The Declaration of Independence was formally **approved** by Congress on **July 4, 1776**. The "declaration" was more of an "explanation" of why the colonists sought their independence.

Patriots and Loyalists

During the War of Independence, the Loyalists were called "**Tories**" and the Patriots were called "**Whigs**."

The American Revolution was a minority movement. Most colonists were apathetic or neutral. Patriot militias did a good job of winning the "hearts and minds" of the colonists.

The Loyalists made up just 16% of the American population. Many educated and wealthy people remained loyal to England. Loyalists were most numerous where the **Anglican church** was strongest. The **Loyalists** were well entrenched in **New York City, Charleston, Quaker Pennsylvania, and New Jersey**. They were least numerous in New England.

The **Patriots** were numerous where **Presbyterianism and Congregationalism** flourished - mostly in New England.

The Loyalist Exodus

Before the Declaration of Independence, the Loyalists were not extensively persecuted. After the declaration, though, they were subjected to more ridicule, hangings, and imprisonment.

Many Loyalists fled to the British lines.

General Washington at Bay

The **British** concentrated their forces in **New York City** instead of Boston because Boston was evacuated in March 1776.

In **1776**, General Washington and his men were overpowered by the British at the **Battle of Long Island**. Washington and his men escaped to Manhattan Island.

General William Howe was General Washington's adversary.

On **December 26, 1776**, Washington crossed the Delaware River to surprise and capture **1,000 Hessians** in **Trenton**.

Burgoyne's Blundering Invasion

London officials developed a plan for capturing the vital **Hudson River valley in 1777**. It would sever New England from the rest of the states and paralyze the American cause. The main invading force, lead by General Burgoyne, would push down towards Lake Champlain from Canada. General Howe's troops in New York, if needed, could advance up the Hudson River to meet Burgoyne near Albany. The third force was commanded by Colonel Barry St. Leger, who would come in from the west by way of Lake Ontario and the Mohawk Valley.

General Burgoyne was forced to surrender his entire command at **Saratoga** on **October 17, 1777** to American General Horatio Gates (**Burgoyne's Blunder**).

This win made it possible for the Americans to receive much-needed **aid from France**. (Turning point in war.)

Revolution in Diplomacy?

The French wanted to support the American quest for independence in the hopes that they could destabilize the British empire. The Continental Congress drafted a **Model Treaty** which dictated that the Americans would only have a **commercial** trading connection with the French (i.e. no political or military connections).

The British offered the Americans **home rule** after the British lost at the Battle of Saratoga. The French feared American-British reconciliation, so in **1778**, the **French made an open alliance** with the Americans. The French would join the fight against the British for American independence.

The Colonial War Becomes a World War

Spain and Holland became allied against Britain in **1779**. Catherine the Great of Russia led the creation of the **Armed Neutrality**, which passively allied the remaining neutral European countries against Britain.

The British decided to evacuate Philadelphia and concentrate their strength in New York City.

Blow and Counterblow

General Benedict Arnold turned a traitor against the Americans in 1780.

General Nathaniel Greene succeeded in clearing most British troops out of Georgia and South Carolina.

The Land Frontier and the Sea Frontier

In **1784**, the Iroquois were forced to sign the **Treaty of Fort Stanwix**, which was the first treaty between the United States and an Indian nation. They ceded most of their land to the Americans.

George Rogers Clark: conceived the idea of capturing the British forts located in the Illinois country in 1778-1779.

John Paul Jones is known as the father of the navy. He employed the tactic of privateering.

Privateering: when privately owned and crewed vessels were authorized by a government during wartime to attack and capture enemy vessels, men, cargo, etc; it diverted the enemy's manpower from the main war effort; it brought in needed gold, harassed the enemy, and raised American morale by providing victories in a time when victories were few.

Yorktown and the Final Curtain

From 1780-1781, the U.S. government was nearly bankrupt.

British General Cornwallis retreated to the Chesapeake Bay at **Yorktown** to await seaborne supplies and reinforcements. Admiral de Grasse joined the Americans in an assault of Cornwallis via the sea. George Washington, along with Rochambeau's French army and Admiral de Grasse, cornered Cornwallis. He was forced to **surrender on October 19, 1781**.

Peace at Paris

In 1782, a Whig ministry (favorable to the Americans) replaced the Tory regime of Lord North.

Conditions of the Treaty of Paris of 1783:

- British formally recognized the independence of the United States.
- Florida is given to Spain.
- The independent American now consisted of territory stretching to the Mississippi on the west, to the Great Lakes on the north, and to Spanish Florida on the south.
- Yankees were to retain a share in the fisheries of Newfoundland.
- The Loyalists were to no longer be prosecuted.
- Congress was to recommend to the state legislatures that confiscated Loyalist property be restored. The states vowed to put no lawful obstacles in the way of Loyalist property collection.

Ben Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay negotiated the peace terms with Britain.

Chapter 9

The Confederation and the Constitution

1776-1790

Constitution Making in the States

In **1776**, the 2nd Continental Congress called the colonies to draft **new constitutions**. Massachusetts called a special convention to draft its constitution and then submitted the final draft to the people.

As **written** documents, the state constitutions were intended to represent a **fundamental law**, superior to the short-lived impulses of ordinary legislation.

In the Revolutionary era, the capitals of New Hampshire, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia were all moved westward.

Economic Crosscurrents

Economic democracy preceded political democracy.

After gaining its independence, the United States had limited trade with Britain, so it had to start making more products "in-house."

The post-war economy was not very good, and many Americans were poorer after the war.

Creating a Confederation

Shortly before declaring independence in 1776, the 2nd Continental Congress appointed a committee to draft a written constitution for the new nation. The finished product was the **Articles of Confederation**. It was **adopted** by Congress in **1777** and it convinced France that America had a genuine government. The Articles of Confederation wasn't **ratified by all 13 colonies until 1781**.

The Articles of Confederation: America's First Constitution

The 13 colonies were joined together for joint action in dealing with common problems such as foreign affairs.

Congress had 2 major handicaps: 1) It had no power to regulate commerce, and this loophole left the states free to establish conflictingly laws regarding tariffs and navigation. 2) Congress couldn't enforce its tax collection program. The states were NOT required to pay the government taxes, they were merely asked.

The Articles of Confederation had many faults, but it was a stepping stone towards the Constitution.

Landmarks in Land Laws

Land Ordinance of 1785: stated that the acreage of the Old Northwest should be sold and the proceeds should be used to help pay off the national debt.

Northwest Ordinance of 1787: a uniform national land policy; created the Northwest Territories and gave the land to the government, the land could then be purchased by individuals; when a territory had 60,000 people, it might be admitted by Congress as a state, with all the privileges of the 13 other states.

The World's Ugly Duckling

Britain declined to make any commercial treaty with the colonies or to repeal its Navigation Laws (required the use of British ships to trade with Britain). Lord Sheffield argued in his pamphlet that Britain could win back America's trade without repealing the navigation laws.

The **British remained in the Americas** where they maintained their fur trade with the Indians. The American states did not honor the treaty of peace in regard to debts and Loyalists. The British primarily stayed because they wanted to keep the Indians on their side in case the Americans decided to attack Canada.

Spain was openly unfriendly to the Americans. It closed off the Mississippi river to commerce in **1784**.

The Horrid Specter of Anarchy

Shay's Rebellion: occurred in western Massachusetts in **1786**; impoverished back-country farmers, who were losing their farms through mortgage foreclosures and tax delinquencies, attempted to enforce their demands of cheap paper money, lighter taxes, and a suspension of property takeovers; led by Captain Daniel Shays. The uprising was crushed but it led to changes in laws.

A Convention of "Demigods"

In **1786**, Virginia called for a **convention at Annapolis, Maryland** to deal with the issue of **interstate commerce**. Alexander Hamilton saved the convention from collapsing (delegates from only 5 states showed up). He called Congress to meet in Philadelphia the next year to fix the **entire fabric of the Articles of Confederation**.

Alexander Hamilton was an advocate of a powerful central government.

On **May 25, 1787**, 55 representatives from every state except for Rhode Island were sent to Philadelphia to discuss how the government should operate. (**Constitutional Convention**) George Washington was elected as the leader.

Patriots in Philadelphia

The delegates hoped to save the revolutionary idealism and make it into a strong political structure.

Hammering Out a Bundle of Compromises

Some of the delegates decided they would **scrap** the old Articles of Confederation, contradicting instructions from Congress to revise it.

The "**large-state plan**" was proposed by **Virginia** and was the first suggested framework of the Constitution. It said that a state's representation in Congress should be based upon the state's population.

New Jersey presented the "**small-state plan**." It centered on equal representation in Congress without regards to a state's size or population.

A "**Great Compromise**" was eventually agreed upon. It called for representation by population in the **House of Representatives**, and equal representation in the **Senate**. Each state would have 2 senators. The new **Constitution** also called for a President. Because of arguments over if the slaves would count towards the general population of the state, the "**three-fifths compromise**" was created. The new Constitution also called for the **end of the slave trade by the end of 1807**. All new state constitutions except Georgia's forbade overseas slave trade.

The Constitution was meant to be a broad document. It grew out of **common law**, in which it is unnecessary to be specific about every possible detail.

Rhode Island was not present at the Constitutional Convention.

Safeguards for Conservatism

The members of the Constitutional Convention **agreed economically** (they demanded sound money and the protection of private property), and they **agreed politically** (they favored a stronger government with 3 branches with a checks and balances system).

The Clash of Federalists and Anti-federalists

Anti-federalists opposed the stronger federal government because they feared it would take away the power of the common man. They were led by Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and Richard Henry Lee. The anti-federalists mostly consisted of the poorest class.

Federalists were led by George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Most of the Federalists lived in the settled areas along the seaboard. Overall, they were wealthier, more educated, and better organized than the anti-federalists. They also controlled the press.

The Great Debate in the States

Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, and New Hampshire were the first 9 states to sign the Constitution. Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island were the only states to not sign it. (**4 Laggard States**)

The Four Laggard States

Virginia and New York eventually ratified the Constitution before it was put into effect. Rhode Island and North Carolina were the last states to ratify it, and they did so only after the new government had been in operation for a few months.

These 4 states did not want to ratify the Constitution, but they could not safely exist as the only states "outside of the fold."

A Conservative Triumph

The architects of the Constitution believed that every branch (executive, judiciary, and legislative) effectively represented the people.

The Pursuit of Equality

The Continental Army officers formed an exclusive hereditary order called the **Society of the Cincinnati**.

Virginia Statue for Religious Freedom: created in **1786** by Thomas Jefferson and his co-reformers; stated that religion should not be imposed on anybody and that each person decided his/her own faith.

The Philadelphia **Quakers** founded the first **anti-slavery society** in **1775**.

The 1st Continental Congress called for the complete **abolition of the slave trade** in **1774**. Several northern states went further and either completely abolished slavery or provided the gradual emancipation of slaves. No states south of Pennsylvania abolished slavery.

Civic Virtue: the idea that democracy depended on the unselfish commitment of each citizen to the public good.

Republican Motherhood: the idea that the mother was selflessly devoted to her family; this was described as the model of a proper republican mother.

Chapter 10

Launching the New Ship of State

1789-1800

Growing Pains

The American population was doubling every 25 years in the late 1700s.

Washington for President

George Washington was unanimously elected as President by the Electoral College in **1789**. He took the oath of office on April 30, 1789. He established the cabinet.

Washington's cabinet consisted of: Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, and Secretary of War Henry Knox.

Bill of Rights

James Madison wrote the **Bill of Rights** and helped get them passed by Congress in **1791**.

The **Judiciary Act of 1789** created the the federal court system, including the Supreme Court. It also created the office of attorney general.

John Jay became the first Chief Justice.

Hamilton Revives the Corpse of Public Credit

Alexander Hamilton set out to fix the financial system of America. One of his first objectives was to strengthen national credit. In this vein, he pushed for **funding at par**, which meant that the federal government would pay off its debts at face value plus interest. He also pushed for **assumption**, in which the federal government would pay states' debts.

States with large debts, like Massachusetts, accepted Hamilton's proposal, but states with small debts, like Virginia, did not want the government to assume state debts. Hamilton's plan was passed by Congress in 1790 in a deal that placed the District of Columbia on the Potomac River (next to Virginia).

Customs, Duties, and Excise Taxes

Hamilton believed that a **national debt** was good for the country: the more creditors to whom the government owed money, the more people there would be with a personal stake in the success of the government.

Hamilton supported the first tariff law (**1789**), which imposed taxes on certain imports. This brought in much-needed revenue for the government and protected small American industries.

In **1791**, Congress passed an **excise tax** on a few domestic items, including whiskey.

Hamilton Battles Jefferson for a Bank

Alexander Hamilton proposed a **Bank of the United States** that could print paper money and provide a stable national currency. The national bank would also be a place where the Treasury could deposit monies.

Thomas Jefferson strongly opposed the Bank stating it was unconstitutional. He felt that the states had the right to manage their own money. Most of the opposition came from the south and most of the support came from the north.

Hamilton prevailed and the 1st Bank of the United States was created in **1791**. Its charter lasted for 20 years and was located in Philadelphia.

Mutinous Moonshiners in Pennsylvania

The **Whiskey Rebellion** in Pennsylvania in **1794** was led by distillers who strongly opposed the 1791 excise tax on whiskey. The rebellion was ended when President Washington sent in federal troops. Although the troops faced no opposition, a strong message was sent by the government stating that it would enforce the law.

The Emergence of Political Parties

Political parties had not existed in America when George Washington took office.

The personal feud between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton developed into a political rivalry.

In the 1790s, Jefferson and Madison organized their opposition to the Hamiltonian program but confined it to Congress. In due time, this organized opposition grew and the **two-party system** emerged.

The Impact of the French Revolution

When Washington's first administration had ended in 1793, a formation of two political groups had emerged: **Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans** and **Hamilton Federalists**.

Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans: supported states' rights and a smaller government

Hamilton Federalists: supported a powerful federal government

The **French Revolution** started in **1789** and eventually involved many European countries. It began peacefully but entered a violent phase when France declared war on Austria in 1792. Things started to get worse when King Louis XVI was beheaded in 1793, the church was attacked, and the head-rolling **Reign of Terror** was begun.

Washington's Neutrality Proclamation

Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans wanted to **support** the French in their war against the British. The Federalists were **opposed**.

Washington issued the **Neutrality Proclamation of 1793** stating the country's neutrality from the Britain-France war. He was backed by Hamilton.

Embroidments with Britain

For years, the British had retained the frontier posts on U.S. soil, all in defiance of the peace treaty of 1783. The London government did not want to abandon the valuable fur trade in the Great Lakes region, and British agents openly sold firearms to the **Miami Confederacy**, an alliance of 8 Indian nations who terrorized Americans.

The Jeffersonians felt that American should again fight Britain in defense of America's liberties. The Federalists opposed this action because Hamilton's hopes for economic development depended on trade with Britain.

Jay's Treaty and Washington's Farewell

In a last attempt to avoid war, President Washington sent Chief Justice John Jay to London in **1794** to negotiate. Opposed by Democratic-Republicans, Jay hammered out a treaty, **Jay's Treaty**, in which the British promised to evacuate the chain of posts on U.S. soil and pay for damages for the seizures of American ships. Britain did not agree to anything about future maritime seizures or about supplying arms to Indians. The treaty also called for the U.S. to continue to pay the debts owed to British merchants on pre-Revolutionary War accounts.

Jay's Treaty caused Spain, which feared an Anglo-American alliance, to strike a deal with the U.S. In **Pinckney's Treaty of 1795** with Spain, Spain granted the Americans free navigation of the Mississippi River and the large disputed territory north of Florida.

In his Farewell Address to the nation, Washington urged against permanent alliances. He left office in **1797**.

John Adams Becomes President

John Adams (Washington's Vice President) beat Thomas Jefferson to become the **2nd President in 1797**. Hamilton became the leader of the **Federalist Party**, known as the "High Federalists."

Unofficial Fighting with France

France was upset with Jay's Treaty and it started capturing American merchant ships. President John Adams sent John Marshall to France to negotiate in **1797**. Hoping to meet **Talleyrand**, the French foreign minister, Adams's envoy was secretly approached by 3 go-betweens, later referred to as X, Y, and Z (Mme de Villette, Jean Conrad Hottinguer, and Lucien Hauteval). The French spokesmen demanded a bribe of \$250,000 just to talk to Talleyrand. Angered by the intolerable terms, Marshall and the envoy returned to the U.S.

Infuriated with the **XYZ Affair**, America began preparations for war: the Navy Department was created; the three-ship navy was expanded; the United States Marine Corps was re-established.

Adams Puts Patriotism Above Party

Because France did not want another enemy, it said that if the Americans sent another negotiator minister, then he would be received with proper respect.

Napoleon Bonaparte was the dictator of France.

Eager to free his hands of a potential enemy, Napoleon Bonaparte signed the **Convention of 1800** with American representative John Jay. It annulled the alliance between France and America that had existed since the Revolutionary War. The convention also called for France to return captured American ships and for the U.S. to pay the damage claims of American shippers (damages were caused by France).

The Federalist Witch Hunt

To decrease the number of pro-Jeffersonians, the Federalist Congress passed a series of oppressive laws aimed at "aliens", or foreigners who came to America and supported Jefferson.

These **Alien Laws** raised the residence requirements for aliens who desired to become citizens from 5 years to 14 years. They also stated that the President could deport or jail foreigners in times of peace or hostilities.

The **Sedition Act** stated that anyone who impeded the policies of the government or falsely defamed its officials would be liable to a heavy fine and imprisonment.

The Virginia (Madison) and Kentucky (Jefferson) Resolutions

Kentucky and Virginia passed resolutions that stated that the states had the right to refuse laws created by the government. Virtually no other state followed the two states' resolutions.

Federalists versus Democratic-Republicans

Hamilton Federalists supported a strong central government; they believed that the government should support private enterprise, not interfere with it; and they supported the British.

Jeffersonian anti-Federalists demanded a weak central government and supported states' rights.