

Crisis Committee: American Revolution: Patriots



"Give me liberty, or give me death!"

—Patrick Henry, Virginia Convention

9/27/2025

Letters from Co-Chairs

Howdy Delegates,

My name is Robbie Luddy and I am very excited to be a Co-Chair at our first TorreyMUN in the American Revolution: Patriots Committee. I am a junior and three-year member of our Model United Nations team and I am also active in many other clubs at Country Day including student ambassadors, economics, Lucky Ducklings, and Academic League. In my free time I like to swim, go to the gym, and fish. I am also a very avid skier and ski Lake Tahoe all the time. I am also a professional level grilled cheese chef. History has always been one of my favorite subjects and I am very excited to see your ideas as we move through the American Revolution. I hope to create a fun and productive committee and kick those British out! Feel free to reach out to me at robert.luddy@ljcds.org.

—Robbie Luddy

Salutations,

My name is Iris Matanza, and I am honored to serve as a chair for this committee. I am currently a third year student at La Jolla Country Day School, with a deep interest in history, political philosophy, and revolutionary movements. I have been involved with Model UN for one year, participating both as a delegate and a chair, and I am particularly excited to explore this crisis-driven historical committee. My goal is to create a dynamic experience that challenges delegates to collaborate strategically, think critically, and shape the future of a nation on the brink of revolution. Good luck delegates, and enjoy the Revolutionary War experience! If you have any questions, please contact me at imatanza2027@ljcds.org.

—Iris Matanza

"You are to decide the important question, on which rest the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn."

TorreyMUN Crisis Position Paper Guidelines

- Length: 1 single-spaced page, not counting sources
- Format:
 - Background,
 - Character's position/experience with this issue,
 - Proposed arc for the day/character's goals
- Style requirements: 12-pt font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, no headers or section breaks, no images
- Header:
 - Committee
 - Character Name

Committee Synopsis & Structure:

The day is July 5th, 1776, one day after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The British colonies have suffered many abuses and taxes at the hands of the King and British Parliament. Events such as the Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party have proven the spirit of the colonists, one that will resist injustice. It is up to you, delegates, to fight and write your way to freedom!

During the conference there will be frequent updates from the crisis staff. They will address important news and directives that affect the committee. We encourage sending directives but please to not overload our backroom staff, for the sake of all delegates it is better to focus on the important directives to keep the committee moving. The first half of the committee will be spent with a round-robin discussing delegates' stances and ideas, then multiple moderated caucuses before we have our first unmoderated caucus. The second half will be much more intense and fast paced as we deal with heightened tensions and constant updates from our crisis staff. We intend to have a rather laid back and fun committee, but do wish to keep ideas clear cut and have the committee moving at a decent pace.

Background Information

Early Settlement:

Permanent British colonial settlement in the Americas began with Jamestown in 1607. One-hundred and five men began the settlement however many of them were gentlemen and sailors and thus did not know much about agriculture.¹ This led to very rough winters in 1609 and 1610



where the colonists resorted to eating leather from their shoes and fishing nets. Access to food was also hindered by conflicts with the natives through the Powhatan Wars which would last into the middle of the 1600s, including the Massacre of 1622 where natives attacked and killed 25% of the colonists in Jamestown.² Eventually Jamestown stabilized thanks to the implementation of tobacco in 1612 and its eventual hybridization in 1614. The environment in Jamestown was well suited for such a crop because of Virginia's long growing season and fertile soil. Tobacco became a very successful cash crop and its exportation saved the colony from near failure.

The pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1620 and despite their fame they were rather insignificant in American history. They were an offshoot group of the Puritans who arrived in

¹ "History of Jamestown." n.d. Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Accessed May 30, 2025. <https://www.jyfmuseums.org/visit/jamestown-settlement/history-of-jamestown>.

² Joshua J, Mark. 2021. "Indian Massacre of 1622." World History Encyclopedia. https://www.worldhistory.org/Indian_Massacre_of_1622/.

great numbers at Massachusetts Bay in 1630. Residents of Massachusetts Bay wanted to create a representative colony that demonstrated the success and order of Puritanism. Ultimately, the settlers hoped to sway English public opinion so that all English Christians adopted Puritanism. Massachusetts Bay colony succeeded quickly due to high literacy rates, low mortality rates, and high birth rates where families had an average of eight children. Agriculturally, however, there were a few downsides for the New England colonies because of the much rockier soil and shorter growing seasons due to the more Northern locations. Despite these challenges, Massachusetts and other Puritan colonies in New England reached self-sufficiency and even prosperity with remarkable speed.

Proprietary colonies were colonies that were given to individuals, proprietors, by the King of England. Proprietors enjoyed near complete control of their land grants, including naming rights and the right to establish systems of government that reflected their values. The first of these colonies were the Carolinas, established as a buffer between the British colonies of Virginia and Maryland and the Spanish just to the south in Florida. The Carolinas grew rice, indigo, and meat, developing a huge export economy. They depended entirely on slave labor not just for the workforce but also for the African slaves' expertise in rice planting.

Pennsylvania was another proprietary colony given to William Penn. The colony was settled in 1681 mostly by Quakers who were a rather egalitarian society for the time. They

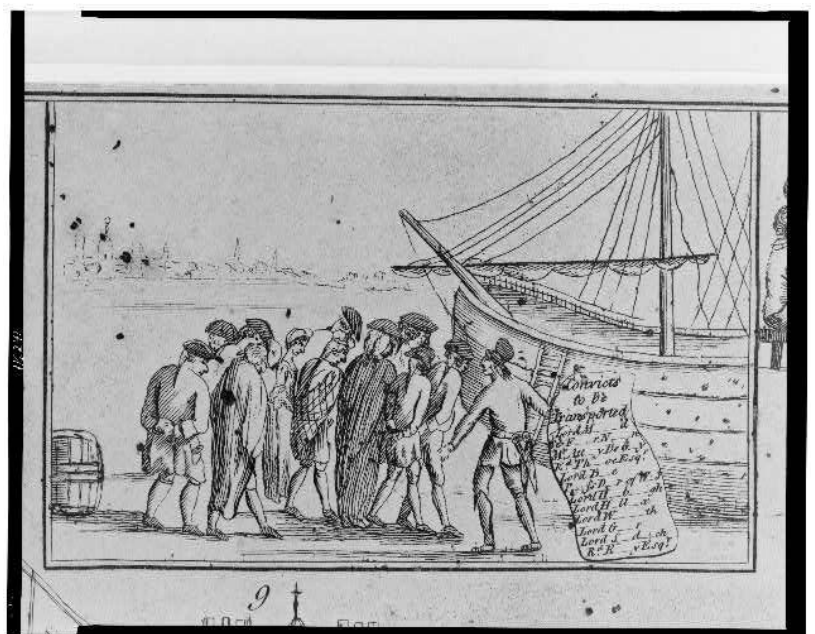


believed that everyone had the right to go to heaven and everyone had equal participation in church - there was no pastor. Pennsylvania became a safe haven for people of all religions and enjoyed a peaceful society. However, the Penn family and Quakers eventually lost power in the colony and relations with the natives fell into conflict soon after. This led to the Walking Purchase in 1737 in which settlers claimed that some fifty years ago there was a treaty made between them and the Natives that said the British could have as much land as a man could walk in a day. The settlers sent their three fastest runners and gained about a Rhode Island's worth of land in a day. The man to run farthest completed around fifty-two miles, massively expanding the colony.

Other colonies, such as Delaware and New Jersey, helped to expand the British presence in North America. Eventually, with the founding of Georgia, the final count reached thirteen colonies. These thirteen represented a wide range of social, political, economic, and religious communities. In common, though, they held their sense of themselves as British. Relying on British law, interacting with the Parliament in London, and protected by the British Army and Navy, these colonies both thrived and chafed as British outposts.

Slavery:

Tobacco, rice, and indigo were very labor intensive crops which initially caused many indentured servants to be brought in. The process of indentured servitude was a system where poor English settlers paid back



their debts through five to seven years of servitude in exchange for transportation costs and maintenance. Each servant negotiated his or her contract, usually for a set time and set conditions of employment. Indentured servants had it much better than slaves legal limitations applied to them, as well. To marry, they needed permission from their owners and some found themselves stuck in the system for much longer than they were contracted for. Many died before ever reaching freedom. Indentured servitude began to fall quickly after Bacon's Rebellion. Led by Nathaniel Bacon, a recent arrival in Virginia, the Rebellion resisted the power of the colonial governor, demanded the right to attack Native Americans along the western border, and protested the fate of poor men - free, indentured, and enslaved. This challenge to colonial authority terrified Virginia's elite and led it not only to crush Bacon but to ensure that no future rebellion could emerge from the ranks of current or former indentured servants. The Rebellion caused a major upsurge in power for the planters in Virginia and a massive shift to slave labor as it had been very successful in sugar colonies in the Caribbean. From the planters' point of view, enslaved people could never demand land or freedom, so they offered a more stable labor force than indentured servants.

African slavery in the British colonies began in 1619 with the introduction of twenty slaves in Jamestown.³ Slavery became massively successful in southern colonies, where labor intensive crops drove the economy. Most colonies had slave codes, laws that perpetuated slavery by controlling the behavior of both enslaved people and owners of slaves. One example from Virginia stated that the status of a child relied on the status of its mother. If a baby's mother was enslaved, so was the baby.⁴ Groups of slaves attempted to rebel at times. Examples include the

³ Stephanie, Hall. and Alan Gallay. 2019. "Beyond 1619: Slavery and the Cultures of America | Folklife Today." Library of Congress Blogs. <https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2019/08/beyond-1619/>.

⁴ "Slavery in America - Timeline - Jim Crow Museum." 2024. Jim Crow Museum. <https://jimcrowmuseum.ferris.edu/timeline/slavery.htm>.

1712 rebellion in New York and the Stono Revolt in 1739. Both failed and only ended up tightening restrictions on slaves. Many elements of the Slave Codes reflected the fears of enslavers after a rebellion, for instance the prohibition on enslaved people carrying weapons.

The use of enslaved labor fundamentally divided the colonies. Northern colonies permitted slavery but had far fewer slaves and never required slavery for economic success. In the southern colonies, by contrast, the export economy grew directly from slave labor on a massive scale. The British colonies, thus, differed from one another economically but also in terms of their social composition and legal structures.

Salutary Neglect:

Salutary neglect was an unofficial British policy, practiced from the 1600s to the mid 1700s, where the British government relaxed the enforcement of laws, especially trade laws, related to the American colonies. While the idea of loosening control on the colonies had existed before, it is primarily credited to the political environment during Prime Minister Robert Walpole's tenure.⁵ During this time many colonies developed their own forms of government like the House of Burgesses in Virginia and the Mayflower Compact, these are the earliest examples of semi-independent rule in the British colonies.

Salutary Neglect provided enough laxity in enforcement that colonies began to govern themselves, both in terms of political norms and in terms of trade regulations. The colonies thrived under Salutary Neglect so colonists, despite their pride in their British identity, assumed not only that they could govern themselves but that it was preferable for everyone that they do

⁵Jeff, Wallenfeldt. 2025. "Salutary neglect | Definition, Significance, & Facts." Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/salutary-neglect>.

so. When the Crown decided to change its approach and impose new taxes, new regulations, and new enforcement mechanisms on the colonies, it felt like a loss of liberty to many colonists.

The Great Awakening:

The Great Awakening was a large religious movement that united many colonists across a variety of colonial boundaries. It lasted from the 1730s to the mid 1780s and preached the value of emotion and listening to the heart rather than the brain. A personal, emotional, bond with God sat at the heart of Great Awakening theology. It also revised many religious practices and traditions. One such revision altered church services. Pastors preached Awakening ideas everywhere from fields to streets bringing huge crowds wherever they went. George Whitefield expanded church culture by going on a coastal tour preaching anywhere he liked, impacting the tens of thousands of people who heard him.



Many historians argue that the changes of the Great Awakening helped support political unrest in the 1760s and 1770s. Americans who had questioned worship, the ideas of their pastors, and the class barriers to an egalitarian community of God found it easier, these scholars say, to question the political leadership of Parliament or the King.

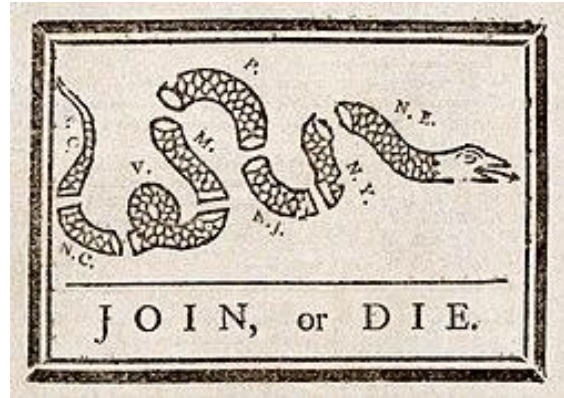
French and Indian War (Seven Years War):

Despite the name “French and Indian War,” this conflict pitted the French not against the Indians but against the British. The French fought with help from their native allies, as did first

the Americans and then the British Empire. Serving as the the Northern American theater of the Seven Years' War, the French and Indian war lasted nine years from 1754-1763. Several inciting events led to the start of this war. First and foremost, both Britain and France claimed large areas of land in North America, especially in an area known as the Ohio River Valley, spanning across modern-day Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and parts of Illinois and along the spine of the Mississippi River. Tensions rose when British colonists continued their push westward, encroaching on French and Native American territory. Furthermore, both empires sought control over the widely profitable fur trade with Native American lands. For decades, the French had fortified strong trade relationships with Native American tribes, trading European goods for beaver pelts, which were a hot commodity in Europe.

In 1754 a young George Washington led a failed attempt to kick out the French out of the Ohio River valley, where they built Fort Duquesne (present-day Pittsburgh). Defeated in a skirmish, Fort Necessity was hastily created by Washington as a shelter but the French breached its wooden defenses and captured Washington within days. In 1755, British General Edward Braddock led another expedition to try and take Fort Duquesne, but he was ambushed by the French and their Native American allies. Braddock died at the Battle of Monongahela alongside many British soldiers. In 1756, the war expanded to European, Caribbean, and Indian Ocean theaters.

Then, around 1758, the tides shifted heavily under the leadership of British Prime Minister William Pitt. He drastically increased funding and manpower to North America. This



new strategy led to success in key battles, specifically in 1759 in the Battle of Quebec, where British General James Wolfe led a bold attack on the cliffs surrounding the city. Finally, in 1760, the British took control of Montreal, effectively ending French military presence in Northern America and securing British dominance.

During the war, one source of conflict within the British Empire related to the question of who should pay for the expenses incurred to resist French expansion. Colonial assemblies worried that they would be forced to pay. Doing so might harm the thriving colonial economies of colonies like New York so colonial assemblies resisted that responsibility. Questions about money led to serious conflict with generals like Lord Loudon. Part of the success of William Pitt's plan lay in its recognition that the colonies refused to pay and its solution of that problem with financial support obtained through Parliament.

In 1754, delegates from seven of the British colonies met at the City Hall in Albany, New York, in an event known as the Albany Congress. The purpose of the conference was to gather representatives from the British colonies to discuss a plan for defense against the threat of the French and the Indians. However it was at this conference that Benjamin Franklin also proposed the Albany Plan of Union with his infamous "Join or Die" cartoon. This plan called for all of the colonies North of Virginia (because those South of Maryland did not send representatives to the

conference) to unite. While the Albany plan failed, it established the idea of unity among the colonies, particularly unity in the face of Parliamentary demands for funding. The platform this conference created was very important to future events like the First and Second Continental Congress.

Taxation Crisis:



The French and Indian War proved to be very expensive. Pitt's plan for victory required huge loans to buy ships, pay men, and obtain supplies. In the aftermath of the war, those debts had to be paid. Parliament decided that the

colonists they protected should be the ones to pay for it. Moreover, it had been clear during the war that the colonists perceived themselves as semi-autonomous. Thanks to Salutary Neglect and years of being ignored by Britain, Americans presumed that they could and should make their own governance and regulatory decisions. So after the war, Parliament needed both to pay its debts and to reassert control over the colonies. What better tool to do both than taxes?

The taxes started with the Sugar Act of 1764, then the Stamp Act of 1765 which essentially taxed all paper goods bought by the colonists. There were numerous other taxes during this time, one of the most important being the Tea Act of 1773, which elicited one of the most legendary moments of the pre-revolutionary period. Led primarily by American founding-father Samuel Adams, the Sons of Liberty (a secretive political group with members in many colonies), dressed as Mohawk Indians, boarded British trade vessels and dumped

three-hundred and forty-two chests of tea into the Boston harbor.⁶ This led to the closure of the Boston harbor, enraged members of Parliament, and drove the Crown to impose the Intolerable Acts, a series of punitive measures designed to punish Boston and demonstrate Crown control over all the colonies. The Intolerable Acts, aka the Coercive Acts, aka the Boston Port Act, Massachusetts Government Act, Administration of Justice Act, and the Quartering Act, unified the colonists against British rule as nothing else could have done, sparking greater cooperation between the colonies. Even colonies where many Americans disagreed with the Tea Party sent food and other support to Boston. Members of the Sons of Liberty, meanwhile, went into hiding and became colonial heroes.

Lexington and Concord:

As the political situation slipped into potential rebellion, Parliament, colonial Crown officials, and the Army worried that colonists might use British Army war materiel (stored in various places since the war) to support armed resistance. Getting control of those guns and supplies was an urgent matter, therefore. On April 19th, 1775, a quiet morning quickly turned into the first of three major battles of the War for Independence in 1775: Lexington and Concord.

General Gage, head of the Army in Boston, wanted to gain control of an armament store in Concord, Massachusetts. Seeking to claim it, he took soldiers west from Boston but encountered a local militia and found



⁶ Willard M, Wallace. 2025. "Boston Tea Party | Facts, Summary, & Significance." Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Boston-Tea-Party>.

himself in a wholly unanticipated battle. This clash, known ever after as “the shot heard round the world,” marked the official start of the battle for independence. Technically, this fight (and the other two in 1775 - Bunker Hill and Quebec) ended in British victory. However, the three battles marked the beginning of a unified resistance to British rule. Despite no *political* decision to engage in revolution, the colonies found themselves at war.

Independence... It's *Common Sense*:

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* is one of America's best selling books of all time. This genius work used religion, economics, politics, and serious insults to argue for a republican democracy and an end to British monarchical rule.⁷ He argued that government was a “necessary evil” that protected liberty from oppression and should exist entirely to ensure that society could function smoothly - never to serve the needs or whims of a king.⁸ Paine outlined his ideas of an independent government in which colonies would be split into districts with representatives, very similar to the eventual legislative branch. Paine also argued for the rapid creation of a strong military, both land and sea-based, to defeat the British. *Common Sense* initially appeared as an anonymous pamphlet, read aloud to soldiers and civilians alike. Eventually, it sold 500,000 copies before the end of the war.⁹ Many early patriots commented on the ideas of the book and it had a massive impact on common people in the colonies creating much more unity towards the idea of independence.

The Declaration:

⁷ Thomas, Paine. 2001. *Common Sense and Related Writings*. Edited by Thomas P. Slaughter. Bedford/St. Martin's. 85

⁸ Paine, “*Common Sense*,” 82

⁹ “Thomas Paine: The original publishing viral superstar | Constitution Center.” 2023. The National Constitution Center.
<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/thomas-paine-the-original-publishing-viral-superstar-2>.

July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence at the Pennsylvania State House. It was unanimously ratified by all thirteen colonies just over a year into the war for independence. Overnight two-hundred copies were printed out, with one being sent straight to George Washington. He read the declaration to his troops in New York.¹⁰ The declaration inspired many to tear down statues and symbols of British rule all across the new country. The declaration talked about the abuses of the colonies under the Crown's rule and the previous attempts the colonists made to try and revise these policies. It also gave a general idea of the future government left for these patriots to build, although many details felt very ambiguous such as "All men are created equal" and the idea that the people have a duty to overthrow the government should they find it does not suit their best interests.¹¹ These sentiments are rather perplexing as slavery was a contested issue in the colonies with ideas of racial superiority being the norm. What, exactly, the drafters of the Declaration meant by "all men" or "equal" remains to be determined. With independence achieved, the door opened to victory against the British. The question for this committee? What to do next.

¹⁰Pauline, Maier. 1997. *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence*. Knopf.

¹¹Founding, Fathers. 2022. *The Declaration of Independence, Smithsonian Edition*. Smithsonian.

Questions to Consider:

1. What future would your character have in an independent America?
2. Should the British stay in any part of North America, how far is far enough?
3. What laws should exist around slavery in the new nation?
4. What should happen with Native Americans and the constant encroachment of their lands?
5. Is violence the only way to gain independence from Britain?
6. How can we ensure a permanent and safe government that will last generations?
7. What nations/empires would be willing to work to achieve American independence?
8. What economic system is best suited for the collection of colonies?
9. What are the possible consequences of our independence, will other colonies follow in our footsteps?
10. How should the nation handle the Loyalists? They're in the next room, trying to prevent this revolution from ending with victory for us and independence for all. What steps should this body take with regard to them?

Character List:

Catherine McAuley:

Catherine McAuley (1778-1841) was born in Ireland and used her inheritance to create a House of Mercy where she would help homeless women. She later founded various covenants to promote her causes and worked with the Irish Sister of Charity.

Mercy Otis Warren:

Mercy Otis Warren (1728-1814) was a political writer and historian during the American Revolution. Despite the era's constraints on women, she published satirical plays and political commentaries on British authority. Her influential work, *History of the Rise, Progress, and the Termination of the American Revolution*, provided an account of the Revolution from a Patriot's perspective, making her one of the first female historians of the United States.

George Washington:

George Washington (1732-1799) served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and later became the first president of the United States. His leadership was instrumental in securing American independence, and he set many precedents for the new nation, including the two-term limit for presidents.

Alexander Hamilton:

Alexander Hamilton (c.1755-1804) was a Founding Father who played a crucial role in the American revolution as an aide to General George Washington. After the war, he became the first Secretary of the Treasury, where he established the national bank and laid the foundations to the U.S. financial system.

Francis Marion:

Francis Marion (c.1732-1795), nicknamed the “Swamp Fox,” was a military officer who utilized guerrilla warfare tactics against the British forces in the South. His unorthodox methods disrupted enemy operations and contributed significantly to the American victory.

John Adams:

John Adams (1735-1826) was a leading voice for independence in the Continental Congress and a key figure in drafting the Declaration of Independence. He later served as the first Vice President and, under the Federalist platform, became the second President of the United States, promoting strong central government policies.

Samuel Adams:

Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was an enthusiastic Patriot and organizer of resistance against British policies. He was one of the leaders of the secret American organization “The Sons of Liberty”, and played a central role in events like the Boston Tea Party and helped solidify colonial opposition, laying the cornerstones for revolution.

Paul Revere:

Paul Revere (1735-1818) was a silversmith and Patriot famous for his midnight horse ride to warn colonial militia of British movements. His actions were important in the early stages of the Revolutionary War, especially in the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Abigail Adams:

Abigail Adams (1744-1818), wife of John Adams, was an early advocate to women’s rights and education. She influenced her husband’s political decisions and famously urged him to “remember the ladies” when drafting new laws.

Ethan Allen:

Ethan Allen (1738-1789) led the Green Mountain Boys, a militia group, in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775, securing a strategic victory for the American forces. His strong leadership strengthened the Patriot morale in the early days of the Revolution.

Charles Pinckney:

Charles Cotesworth Minckney (1746-1825) was a Revolutionary War veteran and delegate in the Constitutional Convention. He advocated for a strong national government and later served as a diplomat, particularly in the XYZ affair with France.

Ben Franklin:

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was a polymath who contributed to the American Revolution as a diplomat, securing crucial French support. He also assisted in drafting the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, leaving a lasting legacy on the nation.

Richard Henry Lee:

Richard Henry Lee (1732-1794) was a Virginia statesman who proposed the motion for independence in the Continental Congress, leading to the Declaration of Independence. He was a strong advocate for states' rights and individual liberties.

Patrick Henry:

Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was a fiery orator best known for his declaration, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" in the second Virginia convention. His speeches galvanized support for the Patriot cause, and he served multiple terms as Virginia's governor.

Thomas Paine:

Thomas Paine (1737-1809) authored hugely influential pamphlets like *Common Sense*, which strongly advocated for American independence and rallied public support. His writings were instrumental in shaping revolutionary ideology.

Elijah Henry Lovejoy:

Elijah Parish Lovejoy (1802-1837) was an abolitionist and journalist who became a martyr for the anti-slavery movement after being killed by a proslavery mob. His death highlighted the growing tensions of slavery in America.

Nathanael Greene:

Nathanael Greene (1742-1786) was a major general in the Continental Army who led successful campaigns in the Southern theater, weakening British forces and contributing to the eventual American victory.

John Paul Jones:

John Paul Jones (1742-1792) was a naval commander known for his bold raids against British ships. His leadership and his tenacity earned him the title “Father of the American Navy.” He is famous for saying, “I have not yet begun to fight!” during a battle against a British ship.

Marquis de Lafayette:

Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was a young French nobleman who fought for the American cause. He became a close friend of George Washington and a skilled military leader. Lafayette helped secure French military aid and support. After the war, he returned to France and advocated for liberty there as well.

Charles Lee:

Charles Lee (1732-1782) was a British-born general in the Continental Army who clashed with Washington. He was court-martialed after the Battle of Monmouth for disobeying orders. Lee had military experience from the French and Indian War but was often regarded as arrogant and divisive, and faded from importance after being dismissed.

Anthony Wayne:

Anthony Wayne (1745-1796) was a bold and aggressive general during the American Revolution, earning him the nickname “Mad Anthony” for his fearless attacks. His most famous victory came at the Battle of Stony Point.

Daniel Shays:

Daniel Shays (1747-1825) was a former Revolutionary War soldier who led a rebellion entitled “Shays’ Rebellion” in Massachusetts in 1786. He and other farmers protested high taxes and economic hardship, especially to veterans who just participated in the war. His uprising scared many leaders and exposed weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation, leading for calls for a strong national government.

Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben:

Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (1730-1794) was a Prussian officer who helped train the Continental Army at Valley Forge. He taught American soldiers European military drills and discipline. His training greatly improved the army’s effectiveness, and he later became a respected military leader in the U.S.

Crispus Attucks:

Crispus Attucks (1723-1770) was the first person killed in the 1770 Boston Massacre. He was of African and Native American descent. His death made him the first martyr of the American revolution, making him a symbol of the sacrifice for liberty.

James Armistead Lafayette:

James Armistead (1748-1830) was an enslaved African American who served as a spy for the Continental Army. He provided key intelligence to help trap British forces at Yorktown. After the war, he gained his freedom and added “Lafayette” to his name.

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