



U.S. Revolutionary War: Notes

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Causes of the Revolutionary War:

- There had been **tensions between the American colonists and Great Britain for over 10 years**
- Great Britain **raised taxes in order to raise revenue**
 - Stamp Act - 1765
 - Townshend Acts - 1767
- **1770 - Boston Massacre:** Protest by colonists led the British to brutally kill 5 people
- **1773 - Boston Tea Party:** Several Bostonians dropped about 350 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor

1776-1777: Declaration of Independence:

- **1774:** George Washington, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and John Jay meet to discuss their complaints against the British. They **consider taking action against them.**
- **April 18th, 1775:** Paul Revere and his men realize that the **British are mobilizing their troops and beginning to attack, which led to the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Massachusetts.**
- **July 4th, 1776:** The declaration of independence was drafted by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin.
 - This officially **began the U.S. Revolutionary War against Great Britain.**

1777-1778: Turning Point in Saratoga:

- **1777:** The British strategy was to **divide their attacks between New England and the rest of their colonies.**
 - This strategy worked for a while, including the fight at Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania, however, the British began moving towards the other colonies very quickly, leaving one of their armies exposed in Saratoga, New York.



- The Americans used this chance, and defeated the British in two Battles of Saratoga.
- **September 19th, 1777: The Battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the American Revolution because it gave France the opportunity to enter the war on the American side and to declare war on Great Britain.**
 - This causes the **Revolutionary War to become a world affair.**

1778-1781: War in the North and South:

- **1778: The northern colonies were trained and disciplined by a Prussian military officer sent by the French, Baron Frederick von Steuben.**
- **1779 - 1781: The Americans suffered many defeats from the British in their southern colonies**
- **January 17th 1781: The Americans defeated the British under General Daniel Morgan in Cowpens, South Carolina**

1781-1783: Ending of the Revolutionary War:

- **1781: Although the Americans were having large victories, such as in the Battle of Yorktown, a decisive victory was not seen.**
- **Late 1782: The British removed their troops from Charleston and Savannah, implying that the war was over.**
- **September 3rd 1783: The Treaty of Paris was signed, formally giving the U.S. independence from Great Britain.**