



Timeline of the American Revolution (1760–1791)¹

The American Revolution includes political, social, and **military aspects**. The Revolutionary era is generally considered to have begun with the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765 and ended with the ratification of the United States Bill of Rights in 1791. The military phase of the Revolution, the American Revolutionary War, lasted from 1775 to 1783.

1760

- * Sep 8. Pierre de Rigaud, Governor of New France, capitulates to Field Marshal Jeffrey Amherst. This ends most fighting in North America between France and Great Britain in the French and Indian War. Amherst becomes the First British Governor-General of territories that would later become Canada plus lands (Ohio Country and Illinois Country) west of the American Colonies.
- * Oct 25. King George II of Great Britain dies. He is succeeded by his grandson George III.

1761

- * New England Planters immigrate to Nova Scotia, Canada (1759-1768) to take up lands left vacant after the Expulsion of the Acadians.

1763

- * Feb 10 The Treaty of Paris formally ends the French and Indian War. France cedes most of its territories in North America to Great Britain, but Louisiana west of the Mississippi River is ceded to Spain. Previously allied with France, Native American tribes in the Great Lakes region resist the policies of the British under Amherst. Pontiac's Rebellion begins, lasting until 1766. The extent of America's territorial growth prior to the Revolution. The westward border established by the Royal Proclamation of 1763 is shown.
- * Oct 7. King George's Royal Proclamation of 1763 establishes administration in territories newly ceded by France. To prevent further violence between settlers and Native Americans, the Proclamation sets a western boundary on the American colonies. The Navigation Acts are re-enforced by George Grenville as a part of his attempt to reassert unified economic control over the British Empire following the Seven Years' War.

1764

¹ Adapted from Wikipedia

- * Apr 5. The Sugar Act intended to raise revenues
- * Sep 1. Currency Act prohibiting the colonies from issuing paper money, are passed by Parliament. These Acts, coming during the economic slump that followed the French and Indian War, are resented by the colonists and lead to protests.

1765.

- * Mar 22. To help defray the cost of keeping troops in America, Parliament enacts the **Stamp Act**, imposing a tax on many types of printed materials used in the colonies. Seen as a violation of rights, the Act sparks violent demonstrations in several Colonies.
- * May 29. Virginia's House of Burgesses adopts the **Virginia Resolves** claiming that, under British law, Virginians could be taxed only by an assembly to which they had elected representatives. Oct 19 Delegates from nine colonies attend the Stamp Act Congress which adopts a Declaration of Rights and Grievances and petitions Parliament and the king to repeal the Act.
- * Mar 24. Parliament enacts the **Quartering Act**, requiring the Colonies to provide housing, food, and other provisions to British troops. The act is resisted or circumvented in most of the colonies. In 1767 and again in 1769, Parliament suspended the governor and legislature of New York for failure to comply.

1766

- * Mar 18 The British Parliament repeals the unpopular Stamp Act of the previous year, but, in the simultaneous Declaratory Act, asserts its "full power and authority to make laws and statutes ... to bind the colonies and people of America ... in all cases whatsoever".
- * May 21 Liberty Pole erected in New York City commons in celebration of the Stamp Act repeal. An intermittent skirmish with the British garrison over the removal of this and other poles, and their replacement by the Sons of Liberty, rages until the Province of New York is under the control of the revolutionary New York Provincial Congress in 1775

1767

- * June 29 The Townshend Acts, named for Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend, are passed by Parliament, placing duties on many items imported into America.

1768.

- * April, Britain's Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Hillsborough, orders colonial governors to stop their own assemblies from endorsing Samuel Adams' circular letter. Hillsborough also orders the governor of Massachusetts to dissolve the general court if the Massachusetts assembly does not revoke the letter. By month's end, the assemblies of New Hampshire, Connecticut and New Jersey have endorsed the letter.
- * May, a British warship armed with 50 cannons sails into Boston harbor after a call for help from custom commissioners who are constantly being harassed by Boston agitators.

- * June, a customs official is locked up in the cabin of the Liberty, a sloop owned by John Hancock. Imported wine is then unloaded illegally into Boston without payment of duties. Following this incident, customs officials seize Hancock's sloop. After threats of violence from Bostonians, the customs officials escape to an island off Boston, then request the intervention of British troops.
- * July, the governor of Massachusetts dissolves the general court after the legislature defies his order to revoke Adams' circular letter.
- * August, in Boston and New York, merchants agree to boycott most British goods until the Townshend Acts are repealed. In September, at a town meeting in Boston, residents are urged to arm themselves.
- * September, English warships sail into Boston Harbor, then two regiments of English infantry land in Boston and set up permanent residence to keep order.

1769

- * Dec. To the Betrayed Inhabitants of the City and Colony of New York broadside published by the local *Sons of Liberty*

1770

- * **Jan 19. Golden Hill incident in which British troops wound civilians, including one death.**
- * Jan 28. Lord North becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain
- * **Mar 5. Boston "Massacre"**

1771

- * **May 16. Battle of Alamance in North Carolina**

1772

- * Samuel Adams organizes the Committees of Correspondence
- * Jun 9. Gaspee Affair
- * The Watauga Association in what would become Tennessee declares itself independent.

1773.

- * May 10. Parliament passes the Tea Act
- * Dec 15. Association of the Sons of Liberty in New York published by local Sons of Liberty
- * Dec 16. Boston Tea Party

1774

- * Benjamin Franklin, Massachusetts' agent in London, is questioned before Parliament. Lord Dunmore's War.
- * British pass Intolerable Acts, including:
 - o Mar 31. Boston Port Act
 - o May 30. Administration of Justice Act
 - o May 20. Massachusetts Government Act

- Jun 2. Second Quartering Act
- Jun 22 Quebec Act.
- * **Sep 1 The Powder Alarm, General Gage's secret raid on the Cambridge powder magazine.**
- * The First Continental Congress meets; twelve colonies send delegates.
- * **Oct 19. Burning of the *HMS Peggy Stewart***
- * Oct 26. Petition to the King
- * Dec 22. Greenwich Tea Party

1775

- * Mar 23 Patrick Henry delivers his “Give me liberty, or give me death!” speech.
- * **Apr 19 Battles of Lexington and Concord, followed by the Siege of Boston**
- * **Apr 20 Gunpowder Incident Skenesboro**
- * **May 9 New York (now Whitehall, New York) captured by Lt Samuel Herrick.**
- * **May 10. Fort Ticonderoga captured by Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold and the Green Mountain Boys.**
- * Jun 14 Continental Army established by a resolution of Congress. This would later become the modern United States Army
- * **Jun 17 Battle of Bunker Hill.** The Second Continental Congress meets
- * Jul 5 Olive Branch Petition sent to King George III
- * **Jul 6. Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms also sent to King George III**
- * **Aug 23 The Proclamation of Rebellion, officially titled A Proclamation for Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition, was the response of George III of Great Britain to the news of the Battle of Bunker Hill**
- * Nov 10 Continental Marines established by Continental Congress. They would become the modern day United States Marine Corps (November 10)
- * Dec 5 Henry Knox transported fifty-nine captured cannons (taken from Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Crown Point) from upstate New York to Boston, MA. Trip took 56 days to complete (Jan. 24,1776)

1776

- * New Hampshire ratifies the first state constitution
- * Jan 10. Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*
- * **Feb 27. Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge**
- * **Mar 3 – 4 Battle of Nassau**
- * **Mar 4- 5 Fortification of Dorchester Heights results in British forces evacuating Boston**
- * **Mar 17. British evacuate Boston**
- * **Jun 29. Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet**
- * Jul 2. The Second Continental Congress enacts a resolution declaring independence from the British Empire, and then approves (July 4) the written Declaration of Independence.
- * **Aug 27. New York Campaign - Battle of Brooklyn**
- * British prison ships begin in Wallabout Bay, New York
- * Sep 11. Staten Island Peace Conference

- * Sep 15. New York Campaign - Landing at Kip's Bay
- * Sep 16. New York Campaign - Battle of Harlem Heights
- * Sep 21-22. New York Campaign - Great Fire of New York
- * Sept 22. New York Campaign - Nathan Hale captured and executed for espionage
- * Oct 11. Battle of Valcour Island
- * New York Campaign
 - o Oct 29. Battle of White Plains
 - o Nov 16. Battle of Fort Washington
 - o Nov 20. Battle of Fort Lee
- * Trenton Campaign
 - o Dec 23-26. Battle of Iron Works Hill
 - o Dec 25. Washington Crossing the Delaware
 - o Dec 26. Battle of Trenton

1777

- * Princeton Campaign
 - o Jan 2. Battle of the Assunpink Creek
 - o Jan 3. Battle of Princeton
- * The first "Forage Wars"
 - o Jan 20. Battle of Millstone
 - o Feb 1. Battle of Drake's Farm
 - o Feb 8. Battle of Quibbletown
 - o Feb 23. Battle of Spanktown
 - o Apr 13. Battle of Bound Brook
 - o May 28 to Jul 2. Middlebrook encampment
 - o Jun 26. Battle of Short Hills
- * Jul 5. Fort Ticonderoga abandoned by the Americans due to advancing British troops placing cannon on Mount Defiance
- * Jul 6. British retake Fort Ticonderoga
- * Jul 7. Battle of Hubbardton
- * Jul 8. Delegates in Vermont, which was not one of the Thirteen Colonies, establish a republic and adopt a constitution—the first in what is now the territory of the United States to prohibit slavery. (Vermont would become the fourteenth state in 1791.)
- * Aug 6. Battle of Oriskany
- * Aug 16. Battle of Bennington
- * Philadelphia Campaign
 - o Sep 11. Battle of Brandywine
 - o Sep 20. Battle of Paoli "*Paoli Massacre*"
 - o Sep 26. British occupation of Philadelphia
 - o Oct 4. Battle of Germantown
- * Saratoga Campaign
 - o Sep 19 Battle of Freeman's Farm
 - o Oct 7. Battle of Bemis Heights
 - o Oct 17. Burgoyne Surrender
- * Oct 22 Battle of Red Bank

- * Nov 15. Articles of Confederation adopted by the Second Continental Congress
- * Nov 16. Capture of Fort Mifflin
- * Nov 18. Fort Mercer
- * Dec 5 to 8. Battle of White Marsh
- * Dec 11. Battle of Matson's Ford
- * Dec 19. Continental Army begins winter encampment at Valley Forge. Troops are trained under the guidance of "Baron" de Steuben. Troops stay at Valley Forge until Jun 19 to shadow British troop movement from Philadelphia north to New York resulting in the Battle of Monmouth.

1778

- * Feb 6. Treaty of Amity and Commerce and Treaty of Alliance with France
- * May 20. Battle of Barren Hill
- * Jun. British occupation of Philadelphia ends
- * Jun 28. Battle of Monmouth
- * Dec 28. Capture of Savannah British successfully launch their southern strategy
- * Nov 30. 1778–1779 – Continental Army in winter quarters at Middlebrook encampment ending Jun 3.

1779

- * Feb 23 – 25. Siege of Fort Vincennes
- * Jul 16. Battle of Stony Point
- * Aug 19. Battle of Paulus Hook
- * Dec. 1779–1780 – Continental Army in winter quarters at Morristown ending May 1780

1780

- * Jan 15. Congress establishes the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture to provide for final adjudication of appeals from state court prize cases involving disposition of ships and cargo allegedly seized from the British.
- * Jan 28. A stockade known as Fort Nashborough is founded on the banks of the Cumberland River. Two years later the site is renamed Nashville.
- * Feb 1. Some 8,000 British forces under General Henry Clinton arrive in Charleston, South Carolina, from New York.
- * Feb 1. New York cedes to Congress its western claims, including territory west of Lake Ontario. In 1792 New York will sell the Erie Triangle to Pennsylvania
- * Mar 14. Bombardment of Fort Charlotte: After a two-week siege, Spanish general, colonial governor of Louisiana, and Viceroy of New Spain Bernardo de Gálvez captures Fort Charlotte, taking the port of Mobile (in present-day Alabama) from the British. Fort Charlotte was the last remaining British frontier post capable of threatening New Orleans in Spanish Louisiana. Its fall drove the British from the western reaches of West Florida and reduced the British military presence in West Florida to its capital, Pensacola.
- * Apr 8. Siege of Charleston: British Army troops under General Henry Clinton and naval forces under Admiral Mariot Arbuthnot besiege Charleston, South Carolina. British ships sail past Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island to occupy Charleston Harbor.

Washington will order reinforcements to Charleston, but the city falls on May 12 in what is arguably the worst American defeat of the war.

- * May 6 – Siege of Charleston: Fort Moultrie falls to the British.
- * May 12 – Siege of Charleston: American General Benjamin Lincoln surrenders Charleston to the British. The British lose 255 men while capturing a large American garrison.
- * May 29 – Battle of Waxhaws: A clash between Continental Army forces under Abraham Buford and a mainly Loyalist force led by Banastre Tarleton occurs near Lancaster, South Carolina in the Waxhaws area (close to present-day Buford). The British destroyed the American forces.
- * Jun 6. Battle of Connecticut Farms (Union, NJ)
- * Jun 23. Battle of Springfield. With the attempted British invasion of New Jersey stopped at Connecticut Farms and Springfield, major fighting in the North ends.
- * Aug 16. Battle of Camden. British General Cornwallis gains a humiliating victory over Gates in South Carolina.
- * Sep 23. John André captured and the treason of Benedict Arnold is exposed
- * Sep 26. Battle of Charlotte
- * Oct 7. Battle of Kings Mountain

1781

- * Jan 17. Battle of Cowpens
- * Mar 1. Articles of Confederation ratified
- * Mar 15. Battle of Guilford Court House
- * Sep 5. Battle of the Chesapeake
- * Sep 8. Battle of Eutaw Springs
- * **Oct 19. The British surrender at Yorktown**
- * Dec 31. Bank of North America chartered

1782

- * Feb 27. The British House of Commons votes against further war, informally recognizing American independence.
- * Aug 27. Battle of the Combahee River
- * Dec 14. British evacuate Charleston, South Carolina

1783

- * Jun 20 Battle of Cuddelore (Bay of Bengal) Adm. Sir Edward Hughes engages the French Vice Adm. Pierre André de Suffren in what will become the final battle of the American Revolution and Anglo-Franco Wars.
- * Sep 3. The Treaty of Paris ends the American Revolutionary War
- * Nov 25. The British evacuate New York, marking the end of British rule, and General George Washington triumphantly returns with the Continental Army.

1784

- * Jan 14. The Treaty of Paris is ratified by the Congress.
- * Apr 9. The Treaty of Paris is ratified by the British

- * May 12. Ratified treaties are exchanged in Paris between the two nations.
- * August – "The state of Frankland," later known as Franklin, secedes from North Carolina

1785

- * Treaty of Hopewell (November 28)
- * Congress refuses admission of Franklin to the Union

1786

- * **Shays' "Rebellion"**
- * Annapolis Convention fails

1787

- * Northwest Ordinance
- * Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
- * Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey ratify the constitution

1788

- * North Carolina reconquers Franklin, which ceases to exist.
- * Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia and New York ratify the constitution

1789

- * United States presidential election, 1789
- * Constitution goes into effect
- * George Washington is inaugurated as President in New York City
- * The First United States Congress passes the Judiciary Act of 1789 and Hamilton tariff
- * Jay-Gardoqui Treaty
- * Nov 21. North Carolina becomes the 12th state to ratify the Constitution, with a vote of 194–77

1790

- * May 29. Rhode Island and Providence Plantations becomes the 13th state to ratify the Constitution, with a vote of 34–32

1791 - Ratification of the United States Bill of Rights