

CHAPTER 2 Section 2 (pages 59–65)

The War for Independence

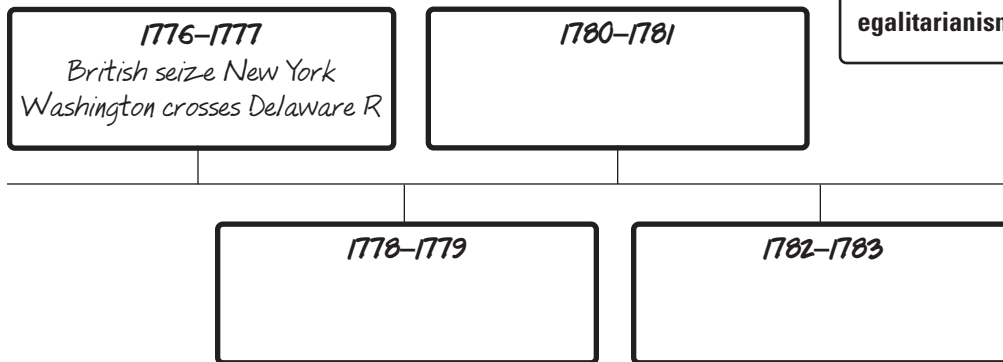
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned why the colonists rebelled against the British.

In this section, you will see how the Americans won the Revolutionary War and established a new nation.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on the important battles and other events of the Revolutionary War.



TERMS AND NAMES

Loyalists Colonists who were loyal to Britain

Patriots Colonists who wanted independence from Britain

Saratoga Battle won by the Americans in 1777

Valley Forge Place where Washington's army spent the winter of 1777–1778

inflation Rise in the price of goods

Marquis de Lafayette French noble who helped the Americans

Charles Cornwallis British general

Yorktown Battle that gave the Americans victory in the war

Treaty of Paris Treaty that officially ended the war

egalitarianism A belief in equality

Americans Choose Sides (pages 59–60)

Who were the Loyalists and Patriots?

Colonists were divided equally between Loyalists and Patriots. The Revolution was both a war for independence and a civil war.

Loyalists supported the British and were loyal to the king. Some felt that the British could protect their rights better than a new government could. Others did not want to be punished as rebels. Many went to British North America, or Canada.

Patriots wanted independence. Some wanted to be free of British rule. Others saw economic opportunity in a new nation.

Many African Americans joined the Patriots. Others fought on the British side because they were offered freedom from slavery. Most Native Americans supported the British.

1. Why did some colonists remain loyal to Britain?

The War Moves to the Middle States (pages 60–62)

What were the important battles?

In March 1776, the British army seized New York City. Their aim was to *isolate* New England. But on Christmas night of 1776, Washington crossed the Delaware River and took Trenton, New Jersey. He soon scored another victory. These wins gave Americans hope.

In the fall of 1777, the Americans won an important victory at **Saratoga**, New York. This win proved

that American forces could defeat the British army. It convinced France to support the Americans.

Later, Washington's army suffered from cold and hunger during a winter at **Valley Forge**, Pennsylvania.

2. Why was the Battle of Saratoga important?

Life During the Revolution

(pages 62–63)

How did the war affect people?

The war touched all Americans. Congress printed money to pay American troops. The more money they printed, the less the money was worth. This caused **inflation**, which is a rise in the price of goods.

As men went to war, many women took their husbands' places running homes, farms, and businesses. Some women earned money washing and cooking for the troops. A few even went into battle.

Thousands of slaves escaped to freedom during the war. About 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army. Their courage and loyalty impressed many white Americans.

3. How did the war affect different groups of Americans?

Winning the War (pages 63–65)

Why did the Americans win?

In 1778, the Americans got help. The **Marquis de Lafayette**, a French nobleman, joined Washington. He helped make the American army an effective fighting force. The French also sent soldiers and their navy to help the Americans.

The British moved their war effort south. British general **Charles Cornwallis** moved his army to Yorktown, Virginia. Meanwhile, French military forces arrived in America. French and American forces surrounded the British at **Yorktown**. French ships defeated British naval

forces. Cornwallis could not get help. The British surrendered at Yorktown on October 19, 1783.

The **Treaty of Paris** was signed in 1783. Britain recognized the United States as a nation with borders from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River.

4. How did the French help the Americans win the war?

The War Becomes a Symbol of Liberty (page 65)

What did the Revolution mean?

The ideas that led to the Revolution influenced the new nation. The war also brought changes. Differences between rich and poor had not been important during the war. Military leaders had shown respect to their men. These changes caused a rise in **egalitarianism**, a belief in equality. It included the idea that people should be valued for ability and effort—not wealth or family.

This egalitarianism applied only to white males. The status of women, African Americans, and Native Americans did not change. They still did not have the rights that white male property-owners did.

5. Whom did the rise in egalitarianism apply to?

Chapter 2: Revolution and the Early Republic (pages 46–85)

Section 2: The War for Independence (pages 59–65)

1. Some remained loyal because they liked the king. Others felt the British would protect their rights better than the new government.
2. It proved the Americans could beat the British and convinced the French to support the Americans.
3. Inflation affected all Americans. Many men left their farms and jobs and went to fight. Many women took their husbands' places on farms and in businesses. Many slaves escaped. Some fought for the Continental Army.
4. The French sent officers to help train troops. They also sent soldiers and their navy to help the Americans.
5. It only applied to white males.