

Major Issues on the War and Peace

The first 6 issues are information selected from Revolution in Action. (Click [here](#) if you want to see the complete Revolution in Action or if you want an explanation of the column headings used.) Revolution in Action uses current abbreviations for states to identify the equivalent colony; for example, MA is used for Massachusetts. These specific abbreviations are used:

Br.= British – Those in the colonies who favor the British are called Loyalists or Tories.

Pat. = Patriot (also called Whig), those who favored the American Revolution

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1776 and Beyond – Essential Foreign Help

If Military Event ▶	H e s s i a n s	I n d i a n s	B r i t i s h	L o y a l i s t s	P a t r i o t s	F r e n c h	Casualty Status ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s	Type ▶	U n o r t h o d o x ?	Significance OR General Event ▼	Victor ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s
When? ▼							Where?/Who? ▼			What? ▼					
1776-05							—			—		French secretly give munitions to Pat.—Ex: 80% of gunpowder 1776-77 [Question: Why is France helping the Patriots?.]	-	-	
1776-07							—			—		2nd Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence passed. Subsequent: Benjamin Franklin to France as lobbyist	-	-	
1776-07 +							—			—		Foreign experts such as: Marquis de Lafayette (unpaid) Thaddeus Kosciusko – engineer Baron von Steuben [Question: Why do foreigners come to fight?.]	-	-	

1776 and Beyond – Government and Funding and Troops

If Military Event ▶	H e s s i a n s	I n d i a n s	B r i t i s h	L o y a l i s t s	P a t r i o t s	F r e n c h	Casualty Status ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s	Type ▶	U n o r t h o d o x ?	Victor ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s
When? ▼							Where?/Who? ▼			What? ▼		Significance OR General Event ▼		
1780-05							NJ: no supplies at Washington's camp			Continental currency worthless, soldiers receiving 1/8 of regular rations		Soldiers demanding back pay, but blocked by PA troops. <i>[Question: How vulnerable is the Continental currency? The Patriot army?]</i>	-	-
1781-01							PA: mutiny by 1500 out of 2400 veteran soldiers			New recruits were getting currency not paper. 1/1779 – 8 to 1; 12/1779 –40 to 1		Put down militarily; 2 executions. (See also 1780-05 and 1783-03.)	-	-
1783-03							Pat. mutiny, pay			—		Washington calms the mutiny	-	-

1775 and Beyond – What Happened to Slaves in the Revolutionary War After the War

If Military Event ▶	H e s s i a n s	I n d i a n s	B r i t i s h	L o y a l i s t s	P a t r i o t s	F r e n c h	Casualty Status ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s	Type ▶	U n o r t h o d o x ?	Victor ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s
When? ▼							Where?/Who? ▼			What? ▼		Significance OR General Event ▼		
1775-12			X	X			VA: Br. governor – martial law, slave and Loyalist recruitment. VA: Great Bridge			Raised a slave regiment (promise of freedom). ¹ Br. defeated by Virginians, North Carolinians		Obviously led to planter class concerns [Question: Is that a smart move for the Br. to make if they want Southern support?]		X

¹ The blacks recruited to this and other service had a mixed fate. Some were sold into slavery; some were settled in Nova Scotia by the British; and some migrated to Sierra Leone (West Africa). (Source: Brendan McConville, essay in the *Oxford Companion to American History*, p. 668)

1777 - Saratoga and Its Significance

If Military Event ▶	H e s s i a n s	I n d i a n s	B r i t i s h	L o y a l i s t s	P a t r i o t s	F r e n c h	Casualty Status ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s	Type ▶	U n o r t h o d o x ?	Victor ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s
When? ▼							Where?/Who? ▼			What? ▼		Significance OR General Event ▼		
1777-08 (1st)		X	X		X		Br. plan – Burgoyne, one wing NY: Oriskany Leader: Mohawk Joseph Brant (alliance of 3 remaining Iroquois nations...)		H	Successful ambush of the Pat. and a near defeat of them, but Br. wing retreats.		Adds to the anti-Indian view of colonists Adds to volunteers joining Pat. to defend their region from violent Indian attack Blocks a wing of Burgoyne's forces		X
1777-08 (2nd)			X		X		Br. plan – Burgoyne – a force sent to get supplies followed by another force sent to reinforce them VT: Bennington	H		Pat. volunteers + veterans defeat Br. in multiple engagements		Burgoyne withdraws to Saratoga Pat. volunteers (citizen soldiers) coming forward		X
1777-10			X		X		PA: Germantown Gen. George Washington		H	Washington's attack unsuccessful		Washington to Valley Forge for winter	-	-
1777-10			X		X		Br. plan – Burgoyne NY: Saratoga but also on the Hudson with Br. fleet burning a city	H		Pat. had entrenched position and had multiple engagements		Burgoyne surrenders 5,700.soldiers—a turning point in the war because it leads to French support		X
1777-12							—			—		News of the Pat. victory at Saratoga ... Br. Lord North: offer of home rule	-	-

1781 – Yorktown and Its Significance – and the Essential Role of the French

If Military Event ▶	H e s s i a n s	I n d i a n s	B r i t i s h	L o y a l i s t s	P a t r i o t s	F r e n c h	Casualty Status ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s	Type ▶	U n o r t h o d o x ?	Significance OR General Event ▼	Victor ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s
When? ▼							Where?/Who? ▼			What? ▼					
1781-03			X	X			NC: Guilford Courthouse	H2		Additional guerrilla warfare by Francis Marion. Tarleton (of Tarleton's quarter—see 1780-08)— 350 killed after surrender.	Y	Blocks Cornwallis Southern campaign—needs reinforcement.		X	
1781-05			X	X			VA: Cornwallis campaigns			Tarleton (see 1781-03) almost takes Jefferson (then governor of VA) and the legislature.		Cornwallis, under Clinton's orders, retreats to Yorktown		-	-
1781-05 +						X	Major force of French navy, expeditionary force arrive			Washington leaves a deceptive force in the North and heads South.	Y			-	-
1781-10			X	X	X		NY: Yorktown			—		Cornwallis surrenders 7,500			X
1782-02							Br. Lord North's ministry fails							-	-

² Br. 100 dead, 400 wounded

1782 - Terms of the Peace (and What Happened to the Loyalists)

If Military Event ▶	H e s s i a n s	I n d i a n s	B r i t i s h	L o y a l i s t s	P a t r i o t s	F r e n c h	Casualty Status ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s	Type ▶	U n o r t h o d o x ?	Significance OR General Event ▼	Victor ▶	B r i t i s h	P a t r i o t s
When? ▼							Where?/Who? ▼			What? ▼					
1782-02 +							Pat. negotiators: Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, John Adams			—		(Preliminary peace in November)—separate negotiation with Britain (Spain wanted Gibraltar); Franklin keeps peace with Vergennes. The peace terms included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the independence of the U.S. • Territory from Canada to Florida and the Atlantic to the Mississippi (although the Br. did not rapidly leave the territories) • Recommendation to the States of restoration of Loyalists' rights and property (although the American States did not) 	-	-	
1783-03							Pat. mutiny, pay			—		Washington calms the mutiny	-	-	
1783-04							NY: 7,000 Loyalists leave					Total: 100,000 leave for Europe or Canada because of the animosities (An estimated 1/5 to 1/3 of the colonists are Loyalists.)	-	-	

Bringing Issues Together: Comparing the Two Sides

General Comparisons of the British and Patriot Vulnerabilities and Strengths

Issue	British	Patriots
Battlegrounds		
Power, relative		
Public position		
Requirement for victory		

British Specific Strength and Weakness

Repeatedly, the British seem to fail because they don't think through how their actions will look to others or how the enemy may act in innovative ways. Bottom line: It is a strength to have a self-righteous enemy.

Issue	Strength	Weakness
Experienced, trained army		
Experienced, trained naval force		
Need for soldiers in the region		

Patriot Specific Strength and Weakness

Issue	Strength	Weakness
Citizen-soldier		
Funding		
Government in foreign relations		
Government in general		
Navy		

Final Outcomes: Economy and Religion

The economy was vulnerable. Both states and the national government had large war debts. The new nation entered a three-year recession. Some new trading patterns were established with China and with other previously restricted regions.

Religion, which had been a key factor since the 1600s, changed. The Anglican Church was no longer an established church, financially subsidized by the government; it reformed as an independent Protestant Episcopal Church after the Revolution. Quakers, with their pacifist position, were weakened, but those supporting the Patriot cause—the Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Baptists, and somewhat the Catholics—were strengthened.

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