

**Enriching Knowledge Series for Junior Secondary History
Revised Curriculum: The founding and development of the
United States (Lecture 1) the causes and impact of the
American Revolution (New)
CDI020181368**

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Date: 31 October 2018 (Wednesday)

Time: 2:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

- **The Causes and Impact of the American Revolution**
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- **Historical Background**
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- **The Western Dream, the American Dream:**
- **“The Impossible Dream”**
- (from “Man of La Mancha” by Peter O’Toole)
- Don Quixote’s the Quest
- “To dream, the impossible dream
- To fight, the unbeatable foe
- To bear, with unbearable sorrow ...”
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- **Cf. “Some men see things as they are and say why, I dream things that never were and say why not.” Quoting Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw by Senator Robert Kennedy.**
- **+ “I have a dream” by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964)**

- **Modern colonialism* started with the Age of Discovery:**
- **In 1492, Christopher Columbus (sponsored by Queen Isabella of Spain) discovered America, and started the Spanish colonization in the Americas.**
- ***Colonialism is defined as “the policy and practice of a power in extending control over weaker peoples or areas.” (*Collins English Dictionary*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011); “control by one power over a dependent area of people.” (*Merriam-Webster*. New York: Merriam-Webster, 2010); “the process of European settlement and political control over the rest of the world, including the Americas.” (*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Palo Alto: Stanford University, 2010).**

- **England followed and settled in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.**
- **King Henry VIII of England (r. 1509-1547) started the Anglican Church*, and later there was the Puritan* Religious Movement: in 1620, Puritans “Mayflower” from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts. Then, King Charles I (r. 1625-1649) persecuted the Puritans, and 20,000 Puritans migrated and settled in Northeastern America, thus, named “New England.” [and New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, etc.]**

- **King George III (r. 1760-1820) [in his early reign, France was defeated by Britain in the Seven Years War/French & Indian War in North America (1756-1763), and Britain became the main force in India and North America. [Nevertheless, French influences have been significant in North America, for instance, Chicago, Michigan, New Orleans, Eastern Canada such as Montreal, Quebec, etc.] and the British government tried to make the colonies pay a larger share toward the expenses of the British Empire. In 1763, British had heavy taxation on the 13 Colonies in America.**

- **(Cf. The decline and fall of the Roman empire – after it had stopped its expansion [sucking blood from the colonies], that was the beginning of the decline and fall!)**

- **In 1763, The Treat of Paris ended the French & Indian War in North America, granting Britain the control there. Then, King George III signed the Proclamation of 1763 declared that all land transactions would be governed by the British government rather than by the colonies. [Historians believed that Britain would like to force the colonies to take the responsibility for the tremendous debts in the French & Indian War.]**

- **In 1773, British East India Company was in difficulties. That year, the British Parliament [where no American representation was allowed – there were cries, such as “no taxation without representation,” and then “no legislation without representation.”] granted the Company the exclusive right to sell tea through its own agents in America to American local dealers.**
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- **(Tea was a large item of business in the commercial capitalism for that time.)**

- **However, the intermediary American merchants would not benefit, so the Company's tea was boycotted in all American ports. In 1774, the Boston Tea Party – the colonists threw the tea overboard into the harbor, destroying all of them. In response to the Boston Tea Party, King George III imposed the “Intolerable Acts”. Finally, war broke out.**

- **The British government reacted by closing the port of Boston, thus, threatening the livelihood (especially, economically and financially) of Boston.**
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- **[In 1775, military conflicts between American militia men and the British troops broke out at the Battles of Lexington and Concord.]**

- **[The Americans appealed to King George III to intervene with the British Parliament, but the King ignored the pleas and labeled the American leaders as traitors. Finally, in 1776, the 13 colonies of America declared their independence.]**
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- **[After years of struggles and wars between Britain and the United States of America (with France, Spain and the Dutch Republic), in 1783, the Treaties of Paris were ratified – Britain finally recognized the Independence of the United States of America.]**

- **The American Revolution, 1776**
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- **After the “Intolerable Acts”, various groups met in some colonies and sent delegates to a continental congress in Philadelphia. They adopted a boycott of British goods. In 1775, fighting began when the British commander in Boston sent a detachment to seize unauthorized weapons.**
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- **Passions grew wild in consequence of the fighting. Radicals persuaded the moderates that the option was between independence and enslavement.**

- **(France appeared to be helpful and supportive.)**
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- **In January 1776, Thomas Paine, in his pamphlet *Common Sense* made his case a kind of international revolution – *Common Sense* (which was widely read in the colonies) identified the independence of the American colonies with the cause of liberty for all mankind!**

- **On July 4, 1776, the Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, by which the United States of America assumed its independence and separation from the British Empire.**
- **<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1776-1785/the-final-text-of-the-declaration-of-independence-july-4-1776.php>**

- **American National Anthem**
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAYPN-1Yjt0>
- **Mariah Carey**
- https://youtu.be/OQo6nYv_HM0
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- **“ ... We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”**

- **The Enlightenment Influenced the American Revolution:**
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- **The Enlightenment paved the way for many defining events in American history, including the American Independence in 1776, the creation of the American Republic under the United States Constitution of 1787, and the Bill of Rights in 1790.**

- **There are many Enlightenment ideas in the Declaration of Independence. One is the idea that all people are entitled to certain rights just by virtue of being human. Another is the belief that a government's legitimacy comes from the consent of the people. Finally, the Declaration of Independence incorporates the Enlightenment idea that a government's main purpose is to protect the rights of the people.**

- **The Declaration of Independence (1776) draws heavily from the ideas of Enlightenment thinkers such as John Locke. Much of what Jefferson wrote in the Declaration comes from Locke's ideas, for instance, The Declaration of Independence says that people have certain rights just because they are people. These rights are not given to them by the government and cannot be taken away from them.**

- **Enlightenment Thinkers:**
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- **John Locke (1632-1704) English**
- John Locke contributed much to the development of liberalism. In his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1689), he advanced a theory that **the self as a blank page (cf. Mencius and Hsun Tzu), with knowledge and identity arising only from accumulated experience. His political theory of government by the consent of the governed people as a means to protect “life, liberty and estate” profoundly influenced the United States Declaration and Constitution.**

- *First and Second Treatises on Government* (1690).
- According to Locke, the Magna Carta (1215) and the Bill of Rights (1689) protected the natural rights of all citizens – that all people had the “**right to life, liberty, and property.**”
- Locke believed that people created government and chose to be governed in order to live in an orderly society, thus, a government arose from an agreement or contract, or between the government and the governed people.

- **John Locke: “A government’s power comes from the consent of the people.”**
- Cf. U.S. Constitution: “We the people of the United States” – to establish legitimacy; to create representative government; and to limit government powers.

- **Montesquieu (1689-1775)** French
- In his book on government, *The Spirit of Laws*, Montesquieu stated that the best way to ensure that the government protects the natural rights of citizens is to limit its powers.

- **Montesquieu: “Separation of powers and limited government”**
- **Cf. U.S. Constitution: Federal government; Powers divided among three branches [legislative, executive, and judicial]; System of checks and balances.**
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- **Rousseau (1712-1778) Swiss**
- In his book, ***The Social Contract***, Rousseau wrote about an ideal society, where people would form a community and make a contract with each other, not with the ruler.

- **Rousseau:** “Direct democracy/popular sovereignty”
- Cf. U.S. Constitution: Public election of President and Congress.

- **Voltaire (1694-1778) French**
- **“Free speech and religious toleration”**
- Cf. U.S. Constitution: Bill of Rights for freedom of speech and religion.
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- Thomas Paine (1714-1818) American
- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) American
- Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) American
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- **The American Revolution then turned into another European struggle for power – most of the weapons by the Americans were from France. Soon, the French government recognized the United States of America, and in 1778, signed an alliance with the United States and declared war on Britain. Spain also followed (hoping to drive the British out from Gibraltar.)**

- **Impact and Significance of the American Revolution**
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- **The American Revolution was many folded: it was the cry for liberty against Britain; it raised echoes within the colonies themselves; and it was a justification of revolution against established authority.**

- **Nevertheless, the American Revolution was political and constitutional. The American leaders were themselves part of the Age of the Enlightenment, sharing its philosophical and intellectual thoughts.**
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- **The Americans were influenced by the thoughts of John Locke, and even the English Puritan movement earlier.**

- **Personal liberty and equality were popularly accepted.**
- **The Americans believe that government should possess limited powers and operate only within the terms of a fixed and written constitutional document.**

- **All the 13 new States soon provided themselves with written constitutions with similar principles. All followed the thought that stated in the Declaration, that it was to protect the people's right, that governments were instituted among men. Whenever the government destructive to this end, the people had the right to institute new government for their safety.**

- **All the constitutions undertook to limit government by a separation of powers. Most appended a bill of rights, stating the natural rights of the citizens.**
- **Federalism, (the allocation of power between the central and local/peripheral governments, went along with the idea of written constitutions. Federalism developed to protest against a centralized sovereign power.**
- **By 1789, the United States of America was a union of 13 independent republics with federal governments.**

- **Adam Smith published his famous *Wealth of Nations* (on free trade movement) in England (in 1776). The American example was pointed to by other peoples wishing to get rid of their colonial status, first by the Latin Americans, then by the colonies of the waning British Empire, ...**

- **In Europe, the American example encouraged nationalism (thus, the unification of Italy in 1870 and then unification of Germany in 1871).**

- **The American Revolution proved that the philosophical thoughts of the Enlightenment were practical.**
- **The rationalists believed that the American Revolution showed how enlightened beings could plan their own affairs.**
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- **The followers of Rousseau considered the United States of America was the paradise of natural equality and political virtue.**

- **The American Revolution and then its Constitutions became a demonstration of the social contract. It definitely affected (back) the French Revolution in 1789, with a declaration of human rights, etc.!**
- **French Revolution (July 14, 1789 “Bastille”)**
- ***La Marseillaise*, French National Anthem:**
- **<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4K1q9Ntcr5g>**
- **<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT7sT1-wLYg>**
- **<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=221UWotqwdo&feature=related>**

- **The United States of America stood as a kind of utopia (Thomas More) of the men, not only for the millions who emigrated to it but for other millions, who stayed at their own countries, yet hoping their countries may become another United States, too (perhaps).**

- **Key people:**
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- **John Adams**
- **Was a lawyer in Boston, then a delegate from Massachusetts in the Continental Congresses, where he rejected proposals for reconciliation with Britain. John Adams served as Vice President to President George Washington and then he himself became President of the United States of America, 1797-1801.**

- **Benjamin Franklin**
- **Was a printer, inventor and patriot in Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin drew the famous “Join or Die” political cartoon (please see below). He was a delegate for the Second Continental Congress and a member of the Committee responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence in 1776.**

- **Thomas Jefferson**
- **Was a planter and then a lawyer in Virginia. In 1776, Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, which justified American independence from Britain. Then, he served as the first Secretary of State under President George Washington, and as Vice President to President John Adams. Thomas Jefferson became the third President of the United States of America, 1801 -- 1809.**

- **Thomas Paine**
- **Was a radical, political activist, revolutionary philosopher who strongly supported republicanism and condemned monarchy. Thomas Paine was most famous for his pamphlet, *Common Sense*, (1776) was widely read in the American colonies, and affected many Americans to rebel against King George III and Britain.**

- **George Washington**
- **Was a planter and then a militia officer in Virginia. He became the first President of the United States of America, 1789-1797. George Washington participated in the French & Indian War in 1754 and later became a Commander-in-chief of the American forces during the American Revolution. He returned home to be a planter after the American Revolution until he was elected the first President in 1789.**

- **Stories of young George Washington ...**
- **“chopping the cherry tree in the garden” – “admitted and apologized to father”**
- ***Christianity – original sin, thus, sociologists: “sin society” [“To err is human, to forgive, humane”; example: Bill Clinton] versus East (Japan and China) = “guilt society”:**
“Chrysanthemum and Sword” – Japanese samurai (commit suicide), Chinese “Face” (book chapter by Prof. Ambrose King.)
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- **Additional materials:**
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- **The Rise of Great Nations [*大國崛起]**
- **第一集 Portugal and Spain *00:40:54 and *01:22:55**
- **c.1450-1506 Christopher Columbus**
- **第十二集 United States of America**
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- **“Two nations divided by a common language” was how George Bernard Shaw described Britain and the United States of America:**
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- **American English versus British English**
- **Spelling:**
- **color/colour, favor/favour, favorite, favourite, savior/saviour, neighbor/neighbour, nite/night, center/centre, meter/metre, theater/theatre, civilization/civilisation, skillful/skilful,**
- **program/programme, ...**

- **Pronunciation:**
- **Derby, clerk, Hertford,**
- **Warwick, Greenwich,**
- **Anti, Semi,**
- **can't ("They said we can't, but yes, we can!")**
- **Moscow, ...**
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- **3/2: March 2 versus 3rd February (+ story)**
- **The U.S.A. is the only country in the world still using "British" system of measurement:**
- **Los Angeles airport: 61(F) = 16(C)**
- **mph = miles per hour versus metres/hour**

- **Democracy and Imperialism**
- **(Historical: Athens, Britain, USA)**
- **[Plato versus Karl Popper]**
- **(U.S.A. -- Jewish/Israel)**
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- **Presidents of the United States of America:**
- **(1) President George Washington, r. 1789-1797**
- **(2) President John Adams, r. 1797-1801**
- **(3) President Thomas Jefferson, r. 1801-1809**
- **(4) James Madison, r. 1809-1817**
- **(5) President James Monroe (r. 1817-1825) and the Monroe Doctrine (Splendid Isolation)**
- **(6) President John Quincy Adams, r. 1825-1829**
- **(7) President Andrew Jackson, r. 1829-1837**
- **(8) President Martin Van Buren, 1837-1841**
- **(9) President William Henry Harrison, r. 1841**
- **(10) President John Tyler, r. 1841-1845**

- **(11) President James K. Polk, r. 1845-1849**
- **(12) President Zachary Taylor, r. 1849-1850**
- **(13) President Millard Fillmore, r. 1850-1853**
- **(14) President Franklin Pierce, r. 1853-1857**
- **(15) President James Buchanan, r. 1857-1861**
- **(16) President Abraham Lincoln (r. 1861-1865),
Emancipation of slaves, and the American Civil
War (April 12, 1861 – May 13, 1865)**
- **(620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War)**
- **(17) President Andrew Johnson, r. 1865-1869**
- **(18) President Ulysses S. Grant, r. 1869-1877**
- **(19) President Rutherford B. Hayes, r. 1877-1881**
- **(20) President James A. Garfield, r. 1881**

- **(21) President Chester Arthur, r. 1881-1885**
- **(22) President Grover Cleveland, r. 1885-1889**
- **(23) President Benjamin Harrison, r. 1889-1893**
- **(24) President Grover Cleveland, r. 1893-1897**
- **(25) President William McKinley, r. 1897-1901**
- **(26) President Theodore Roosevelt, r. 1901-1909**
- **(27) President William Howard Taft, r. 1909-1913**
- **(28) President Woodrow Wilson, r. 1913-1921**
- **(29) President Warren G. Harding, r. 1921-1923**
- **(30) President Calvin Coolidge, r. 1923-1929**
- **(31) President Herbert Hoover, r. 1929-1933**

- **(32) President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945**
- **(33) President Harry S. Truman, r. 1945-1953**
- **(34) President Dwight D. Eisenhower, r. 1953-1961**
- **(35) President John F. Kennedy, r. 1961-1963**
- **(36) President Lyndon B. Johnson, r. 1963-1969**
- **(37) President Richard Nixon, r. 1969-1974**
- **(38) President Gerald Ford, r. 1974-1977**
- **(39) President Jimmy Carter, r. 1977-1981**
- **(40) President Ronald Reagan, r. 1981-1989**
- **(41) President George Bush, r. 1989-1993**
- **(42) President Bill Clinton, r. 1993-2001**
- **(43) President George W. Bush, r. 2001-2009**
- **(44) President Barack Obama, r. 2009-2017**
- **(45) President Donald Trump, r. 2017-**

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