



The American Revolution: 1775-1783

On the Eve of the Revolution ?



	Britain	Americans
Advantages	?	?
Disadvantages	?	?

The Contenders

Britain

- Wealth
- Confidence
- Professional Army
- Firepower
- Navy
- Distance & supplies

Colonists

- Home turf
- Defensive War
- French
- Dispersed
population
- Size of region
- Local
noncombatants



The Soldiers

- I). **Continental Army**
 - A). Washington trained them
 - B). Lower classes, peasants, landless, workers
 - C). Underpaid & fed, occasional mutinies



The Soldiers

II). British "Redcoats"

A). Hunger, disease,
infection, amputation

B). Harsh Discipline

C). Lower classes

III). German Mercenaries

--Hessians



Revolutionary Armies – The British



- British Army most powerful in world
- Well-equipped with weapons
- Highly trained and disciplined for war on land or high seas



Revolutionary Armies – The Americans



- Revolutionary Army knew lay of the land
- Used weapons appropriate for landscape
- Wore pieces of different uniforms
- Brown army clothing

British Advantages



- Well-equipped
- Disciplined
- Strongest navy

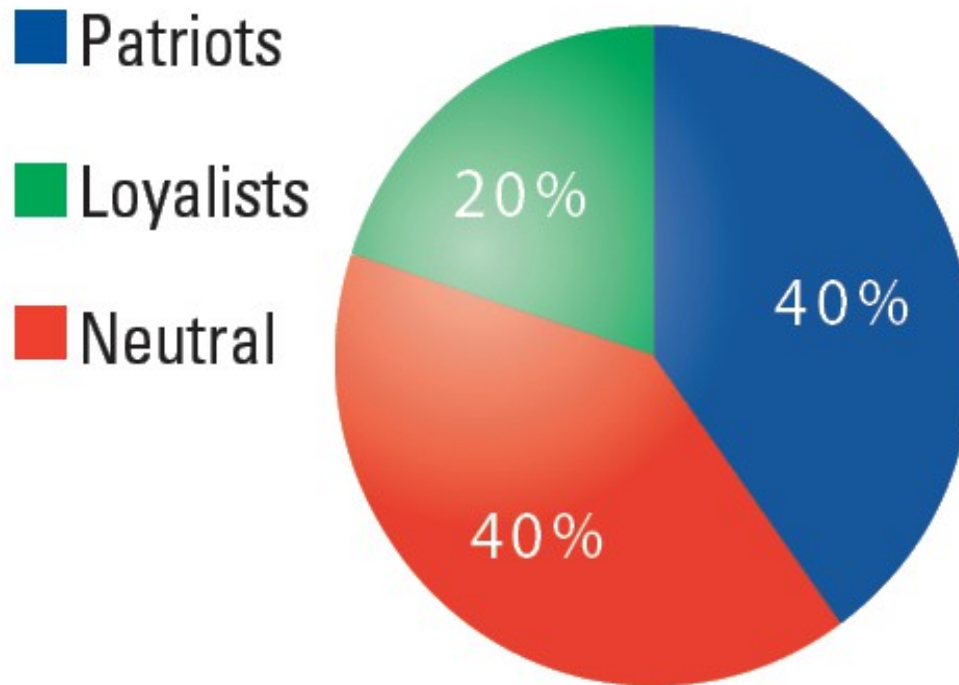
American Advantages



- Accuracy of the rifle
- Knowledge of the land
- Guerilla warfare tactics
- Superb command



Choosing Sides



Source: Blackwell Encyclopedia
of the American Revolution



Loyalists and Patriots

- **Loyalists**—oppose independence, loyal to Crown
for different reasons:
 - work in government, unaware of events, trust crown to protect rights
- **Patriots**, almost half of population, support independence:
 - think independence will mean economic opportunity



Loyalist Strongholds





Washington's Headaches



Only $\frac{2}{5}$ of the colonists were in favor of a war for independence [$\frac{1}{5}$ were Loyalists and $\frac{2}{5}$ were neutral].



State/colony loyalties.



Congress couldn't tax to raise money for the Continental Army.



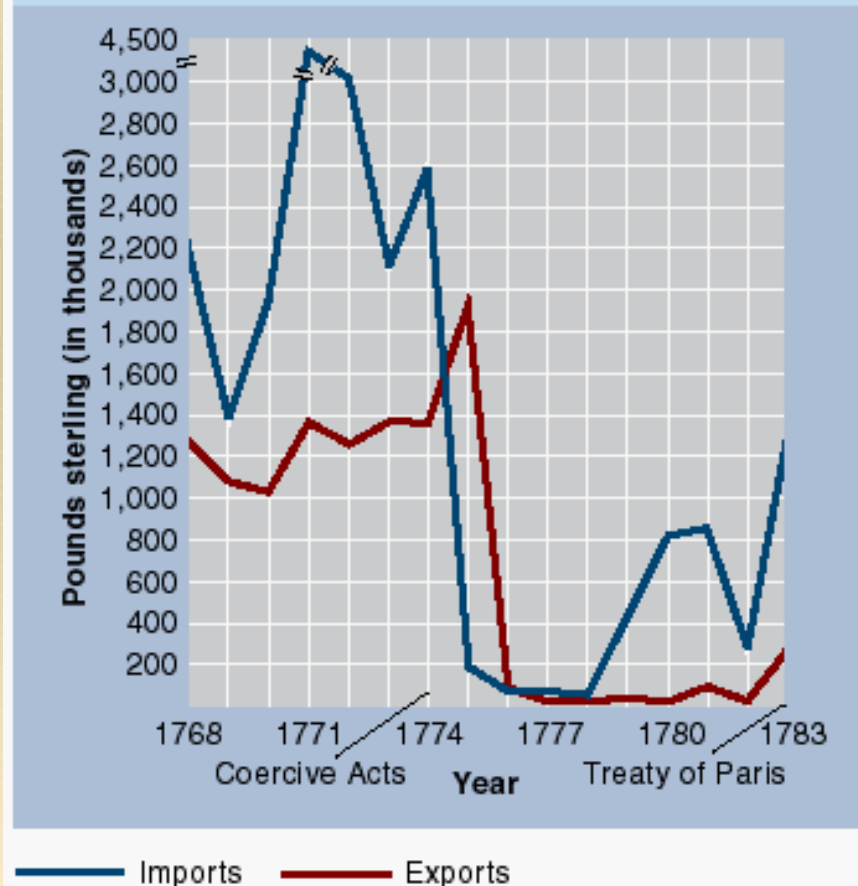
Poor training [until the arrival of Baron von Steuben.



Exports & Imports: 1768-1783



Nonimportation affected colonial commerce during the late 1760s and early 1770s, but exports as well as imports plummeted with the Coercive Acts and the outbreak of war:



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Military Strategies



The Americans



Attrition [the Brits had a long supply line].



Guerilla tactics [fight an insurgent war → you don't have to win a battle, just wear the British down]



Make an alliance with one of Britain's enemies.

The British



Break the colonies in half by getting between the No. & the So.



Blockade the ports to prevent the flow of goods and supplies from an ally.



"Divide and Conquer" → use the Loyalists.

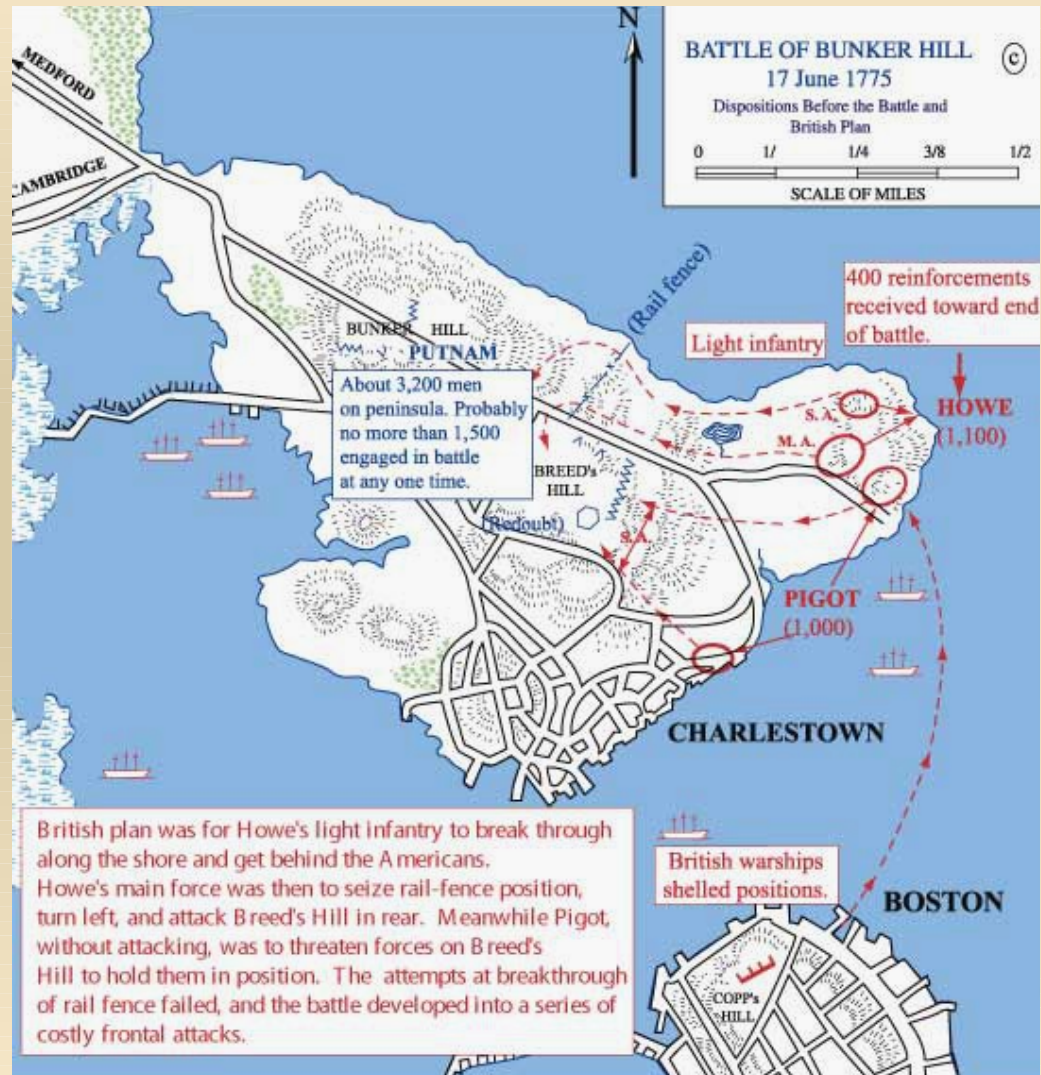
Revolutionary War 1775–1778



Phase I: The Northern Campaign [1775-1776]



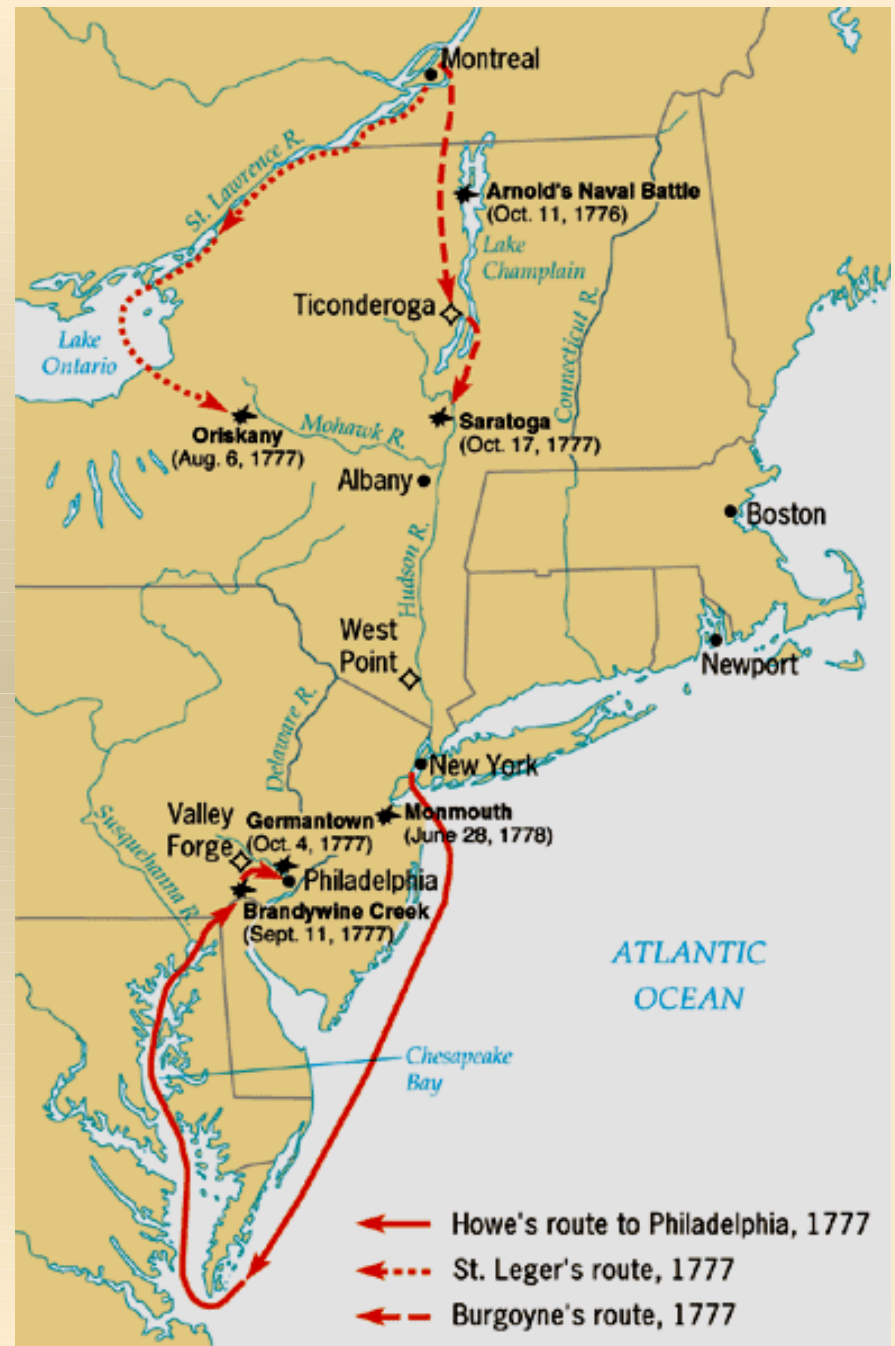
Bunker Hill (June, 1775)



The British suffered over 40% casualties.



Phase II: NY & PA [1777-1778]



The War Moves to the Middle States

Defeat in New York

- British decide to stop rebellion by isolating New England
- 32,000 British soldiers and Hessians take New York, summer 1776
- Many of Washington's recruits killed; retreat to Pennsylvania



New York City in Flames (1776)





The Battle of Trenton

Christmas 1776, Washington crosses Delaware River into New Jersey

- Washington surprises Hessian garrison, wins Battle of **Trenton**
- Eight days later, Americans win Battle of Princeton against British

Washington Crossing the Delaware



Painted by Emanuel Leutze, 1851



The Fight for Philadelphia

Gen. William Howe beats Washington at Brandywine, PA, summer 1777

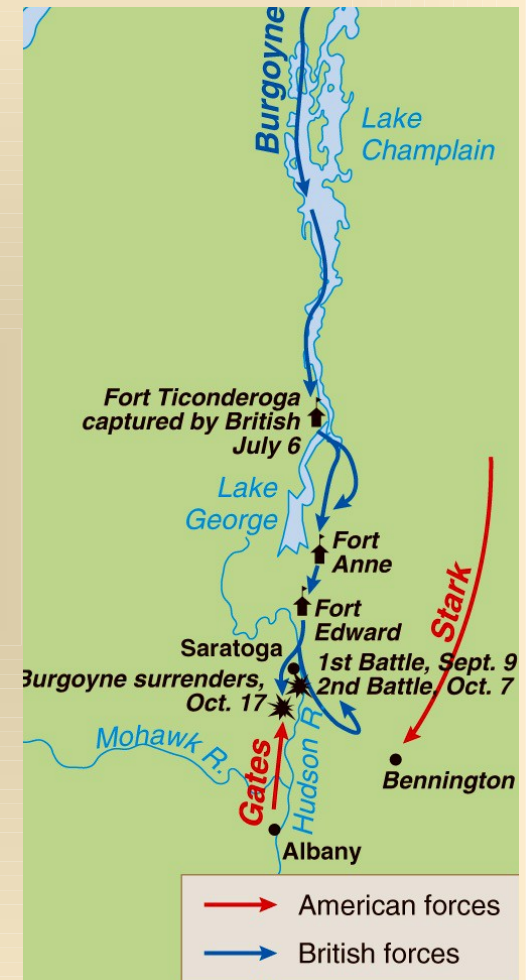
- Howe takes U.S. capital, Philadelphia; Continental Congress flees

Saratoga:

"Turning Point" of the War?



A modern-day re-enactment





Winter at Valley Forge

- **Valley Forge**—site of Continental Army's winter camp (1777–1778)
- Of 10,000 soldiers, more than 2,000 die of cold and hunger





Financing the War

- To get money, Congress sells bonds to investors, foreign governments
- Prints paper money (Continental), causes **inflation** (rising prices)
- Few U.S. munitions factories; must run arms through naval blockade
- Some officials engage in **profiteering**, sell scarce goods for profit



Civilians at War

While husbands fight, women manage homes, businesses

- Many women go with troops to wash, cook, mend; some fight
- Thousands of African-American slaves escape to cities, frontier
- About 5,000 African Americans serve in Continental Army
- Most Native Americans stay out of the conflict



Training the Continental Army

- 1778, Prussian captain **Friedrich von Steuben** goes to Valley Forge
- Trains colonists in fighting skills, field maneuvers of regular army

Lafayette and the French



- **Marquis de Lafayette**—aristocrat, joins Washington at Valley Forge
- Lobbies for French troops, 1779; leads command in last years of war



Phase III: The Southern Strategy [1780-1781]





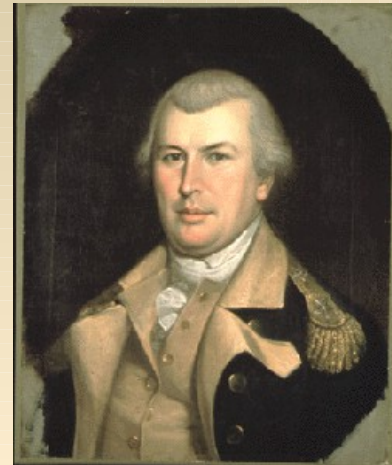
Britain's "Southern Strategy"

🇬🇧 Britain thought that there were more Loyalists in the South.

🇬🇧 Southern resources were more valuable/worth preserving.

🇬🇧 The British win a number of small victories, but cannot pacify the countryside [similar to U. S. failures in Vietnam!]

🇬🇧 Good US General:
Nathanial Greene



Early British Success in the South

1778, British take Savannah; royal governor reinstated in Georgia

British armies capture Charles Town, 1780—greatest victory of war

British commander **Charles Cornwallis** smashes through South Carolina





British Losses in 1781

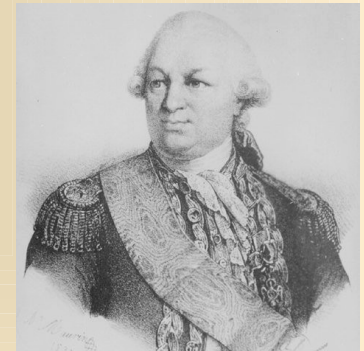
1781, Cornwallis fights
Daniel Morgan, Nathaniel
Greene in Carolinas

Weakened Cornwallis gets
reinforcements, camps at
Yorktown

The Battle of Yorktown (1781)



Count de
Rochambeau



Admiral
De Grasse

Cornwallis' Surrender at Yorktown: *"The World Turned Upside Down!"*



Painted by John Trumbull, 1797



Why
did the British
Lose???



How did it happen?

British arrogance

Leadership

French assistance

Distance

Familiarity

Non-combatants

Defensive War

Dispersed population

Peace of Paris, 1783

Negotiated by Ben Franklin, John Adams, John Jay

- A). Accept independence
- B). New boundaries
- C). Spain gained Florida



North America After the Treaty of Paris, 1783



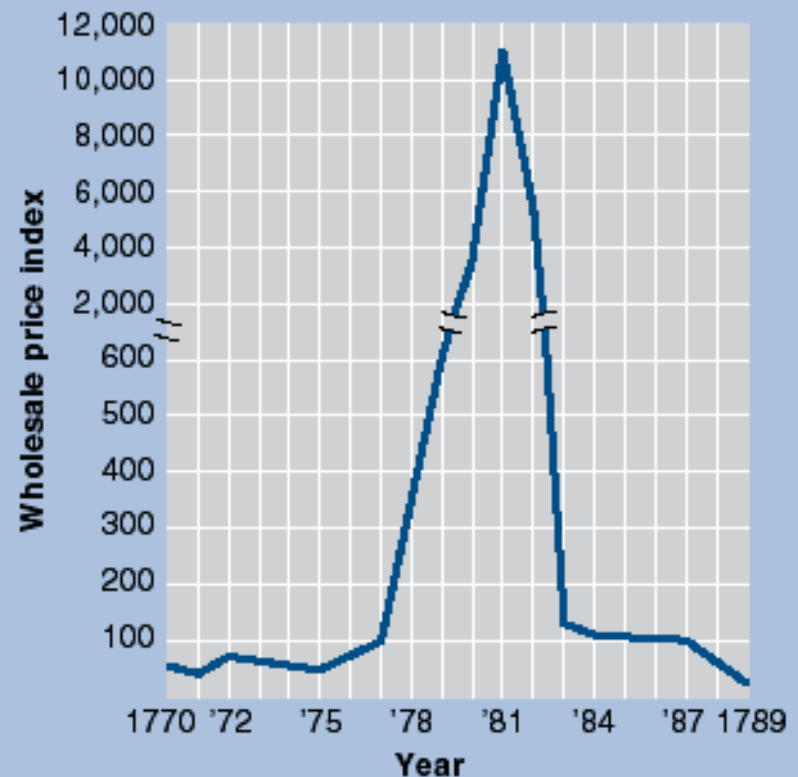


Articles of Confederation Government: 1781-1789



Wholesale Price Index: 1770-1789

Prices skyrocketed as Congress and the state governments printed huge amounts of paper money to cover the costs of the war and as the British blockage reduced the supply of goods. The resulting inflation was the worst in U.S. history.



Note: 1850-1859 = 100

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist Strongholds at the End of the War



Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation



A unicameral Congress
[9 of 13 votes to pass a law].



13 out of 13 to amend.



Representatives were
frequently absent.



Could not tax or raise armies.



No executive or judicial
branches.

State Constitutions



Republicanism.



Most had strong governors with veto power.



Most had bicameral legislatures.



Property required for voting.



Some had universal white male suffrage.



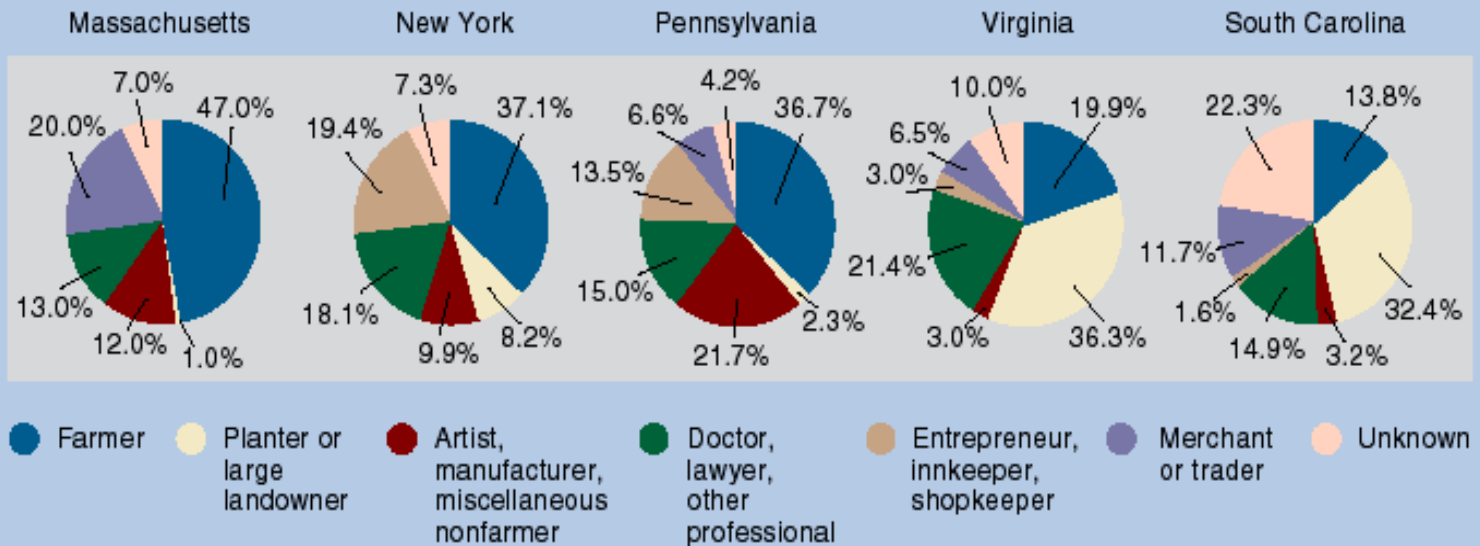
Most had bills of rights.



Many had a continuation of state-established religions while others disestablished religion.

Occupational Composition of Several State Assemblies in the 1780s

Membership in the revolutionary assemblies reflected differences in the economies and societies of the various states. Those differences often generated political conflict throughout the Revolutionary era. What are the major differences between northern and southern state assemblies, and how do you explain them?



Indian Land Cessions: 1768-1799



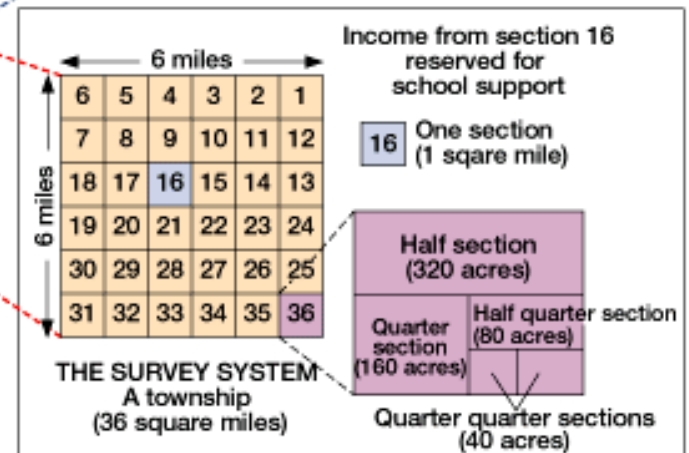
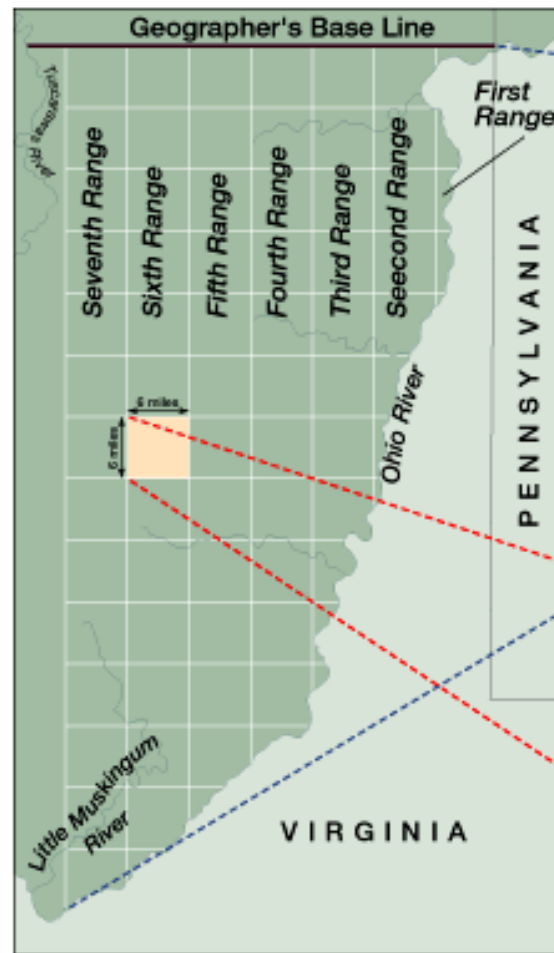
Disputed Territorial Claims Between Spain & the U. S.: 1783-1796



State Claims to Western Lands



Land Ordinance of 1785



Northwest Ordinance of 1787



One of the major accomplishments of the Confederation Congress!



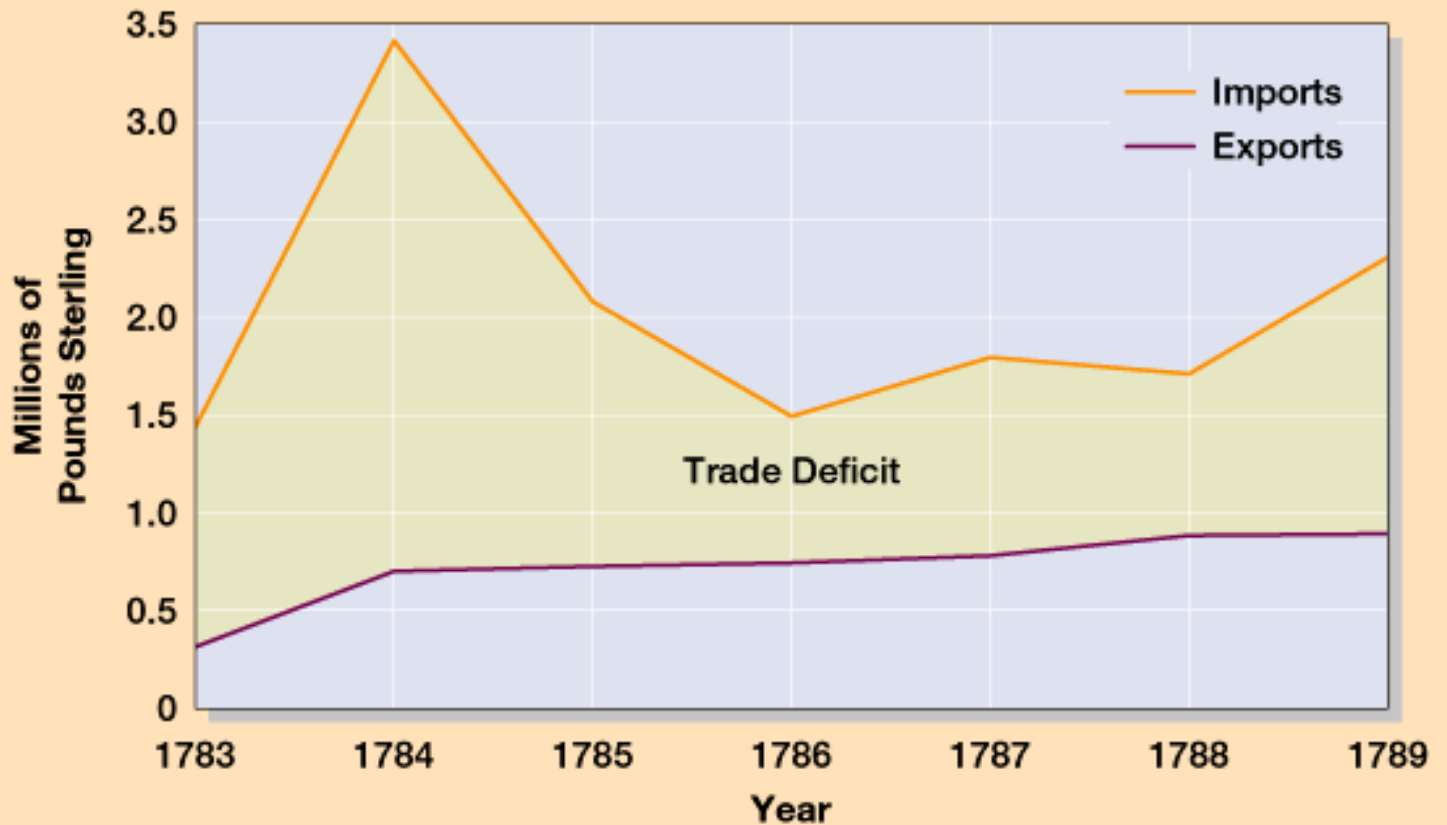
Statehood achieved in three stages:

1. Congress appointed 3 judges & a governor to govern the territory.
2. When population reached 5,000 adult male landowners → elect territorial legislature.
3. When population reached 60,000 → elect delegates to a state constitutional convention.

The United States in 1787



American Exports, To & From Britain: 1783-1789



Annapolis Convention (1786)



12 representatives from 5 states
[NY, NJ, PA, DE, VA]



GOAL → address barriers that
limited trade and commerce between
the states.



Not enough states were represented
to make any real progress.



Sent a report to the Congress to call
a meeting of all the states to meet
in Philadelphia to examine areas
broader than just trade and
commerce.



Shays' Rebellion: 1786-7



Daniel Shays



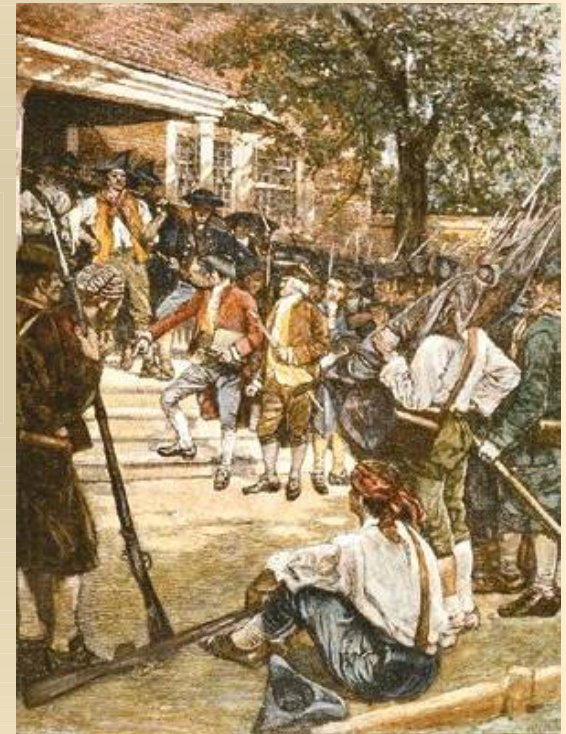
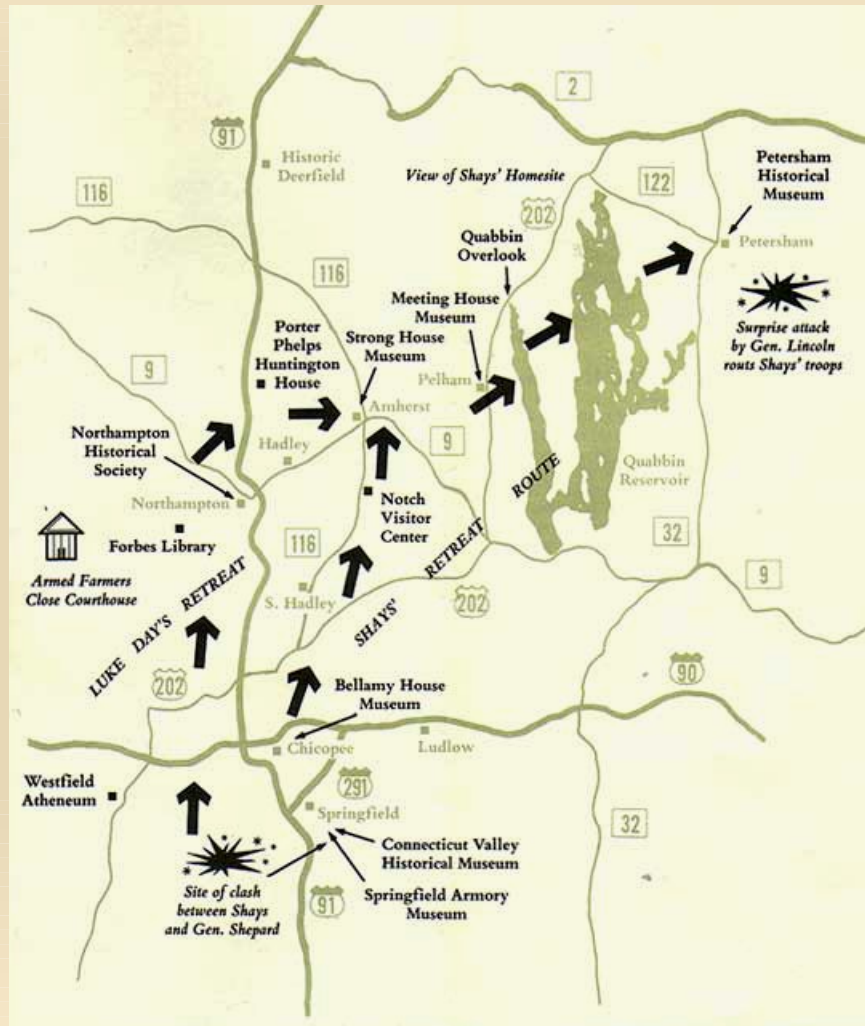
Western MA



Small farmers angered by crushing debts and taxes.



Shays' Rebellion: 1786-7



Shays' Rebellion: 1786-7

There could be no stronger evidence of the want of energy in our governments than these disorders.

-- George Washington

