

Timeline of the American Revolutionary War

June 29, 1767 – The British parliament passed the Townshend Acts [named after Charles Townshend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer] which imposed taxes on common products imported to the Colonies like paper, tea and glass. The Colonial assemblies reiterated by condemning taxation without representation.

October 1, 1768 – British troops were sent to Boston to quell rising political unrest in the colonies. The civilians treated the newly arrived Redcoats as invaders by taunting them. Boston citizens, having gained control of the city, prevented the soldiers from carrying out their duties. This led to rising tension between the two sides.

March 5, 1770 – [Boston Massacre](#) – British soldiers opened fire on a mob of colonists at the Customs House on what was formerly King Street [now, State Street]. Their action resulted to the deaths of 5 individuals — 3 who died on the spot and the other two later on.

April 12, 1770 – The Townshend Acts were repealed.

June 10, 1772 – Rhode Island locals ran the revenue schooner Gaspee aground and burned it in defiance to unfair trade legislation.

May 10, 1773 – To support the failing East India Company, the British parliament exempted the company's tea from import taxations and allowed east India to sell its product to the colonies directly. This angered the colonists seeing the move as as a tax indirectly funding one British company.

July 1773 – The Hutchinson Letters Affair – These letters, written by Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson, were published on a Boston newspaper. Through these, many colonists were convinced that the British were planning to squelch their freedoms.

December 16, 1773 – [Boston Tea Party](#) – An act of vengeance for the Tea Acts, colonists – American patriots – dressed as Mohawk Indians dumped some 300 chests of tea of the East India Company into sea at Boston Harbor.

May-June 1774 – The Parliament's answer to the Boston Tea Party was the passing of four laws known as the Intolerable Acts, harsh laws that stripped Massachusetts off of its power to govern itself and of judicial independence. The colonists, in turn, boycotted from buying British goods.

September 1774 – The Continental Congress was formed in direct opposition to the Intolerable Acts.

April 19, 1775 – Battles of Lexington and Concord – the first skirmish of the American Revolution between the British soldiers and the Minutemen. The latter had been warned by the upcoming attack by the American Patriot Paul Revere.

June 16, 1775 – [George Washington](#) was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army by the Continental Congress.

June 15, 1775 – The Battle of Bunker Hill occurred, the first major battle in the American Revolutionary War. While the use of Bunker Hill as the location of the battle is common, majority of the fight happened on Breed's Hill. At this time, after the colonists learned the British were planning to send troops to occupy the hills surrounding Boston, some 1,000 Continental Army

soldiers under the command of Colonel William Prescott built earthen fortifications on Breed's Hill and waited for the enemy forces.

The British won the battle, obviously, as they had more ammunition and experience when it came to fighting. But their victory came with a staggering 1,054 casualties compared to the Patriots' 367. The fight was a morale booster for the Americans as they realized they had a chance at winning against the British. The British, in turn, also realized that war in the colonies wasn't easy and that it would be costly.

July 5, 1775 – The Continental Congress extended the Olive-Branch Petition, a proposal requesting the British Crown to recognize American rights and end the Intolerable Acts. In return, there will be a cease fire. But British King George III rejected it.

August 23, 1775 – George III declared the 13 British colonies to be in open rebellion.

Winter 1775-1776 – The Invasion of Quebec [Canada] – This was the first major military move made by the Continental Army during the American Revolution and was headed by Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold.

January 9, 1776 – The pamphlet Common Sense was anonymously published in Philadelphia. The 48-page booklet was written by Thomas Paine and encouraged the citizens of the 13 British colonies to gain independence from the British Crown.

May 2, 1776 – France started to give secret aids to the Continental Army.

July 4, 1776 – greatly celebrated in recent times as the Fourth of July, on this day, the Continental Congress signed [the Declaration of Independence](#).

August-December 1776 – Battles of Long Island and White Plains

Battle of Long Island – also known as the Battle of Brooklyn and the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, this fight was the first major one of the American Revolution fought after the Continental Congress declared America's independence. It was also the revolution's biggest battle in terms of fighting and troop deployment. The battle was won by the British.

October 26, 1776 – Battle of White Plains – fought on October 26, 1776, the battle resulted in the British winning with Washington's troops retreating farther north.

December 26, 1776 – fought between the Americans and the Hessians, the Battle of Trenton was a small but vital battle for the Americans. After a series of defeats, the Continental Army was at its lowest point until George Washington and his army defeated the Hessian soldiers at Trenton. The win boosted American morale and army re-enlistments.

January 2-3, 1777 – in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey, General Washington attacked the British rearguard and train situated near Princeton after left Trenton to avoid the advances of the enemy. The Americans won this round.

September 19-October 7, 1777 – [Battles of Saratoga](#) – These series of battles were part of the British-initiated Saratoga Campaign wherein they attempted to capture the strategic Hudson River valley. The fight consisted of two small battles fought on the same ground — 14 kilometers south of Saratoga, New York. The Americans won the battles. The Saratoga battles marked a number of things — 1) It was the climax of the Saratoga Campaign, 2) The resulting victories were very decisive for the Continental Army and 3) The battles' greatest outcome was British surrender.

October 13, 1777 – 5,700 British soldiers together with German and Loyalist troops surrendered following the British' defeat in Saratoga. It was a great turning point for the Americans in the American Revolution.

February 6, 1778 – France recognized United States' independence.

August 16, 1780 – the Battle of Camden resulted in the defeat of Major General Horatio Gates' army against the British forces led by Lieutenant General Charles, Lord Cornwallis. It was an embarrassing defeat for Gates following his victory at Saratoga. He also had the bigger army. But his political connections greatly helped his not being questioned or court martialed with regards to the disastrous defeat.

March 1, 1781 – the Articles of Confederation were ratified by the Second Congress. These articles served as the First Constitution of the United States.

September 5, 1781 – Battle of the Capes [also known as the Battle of the Chesapeake and the Battle of the Virginia Capes] This naval battle fought between France [Rear Admiral Francois Joseph Paul, the Comte De Grasse] and Britain [Rear Admiral Thomas Graves] ended with the French winning strategically for the Americans as the win basically denied the British troops evacuation and reinforcements.

October 19, 1781 – this date marked the end of the Siege of Yorktown [also known as the Battle of Yorktown, Surrender at Yorktown, German Battle and the Siege of Little York] fought by the British [Lord Charles Cornwallis] against the combined forces of the Americans [General George Washington] and the French [Comte de Rochambeau]. The battle ended with Cornwallis' surrender and the start of peace negotiations between the warring parties.

March 5, 1782 – the British Parliament gave peace negotiations the nod.

September 3, 1783 – the date of the signing of the Treaty of Peace in Paris [more commonly known as the Treaty of Paris] which formally ended the American Revolutionary War.