

Republique algerienne democratique et populaire  
Ministere de l'enseignement superieur et de  
la recherche scientifique  
Université de 20 aout 1955 SKIKDA



## Lecture 6: The American Revolution (Causes and Results)

**By: Dr. Djihed Messikh**

February, 2026

# Content

## 1. Introduction

### 1. Causes of the American Revolution

**A. Post-war debt policies, Taxations, and  
and Economic Burdens**

**B. Political Oppression and Intolerable**

**Acts**

**C. The Influence of Enlightenment and  
Political Ideology**

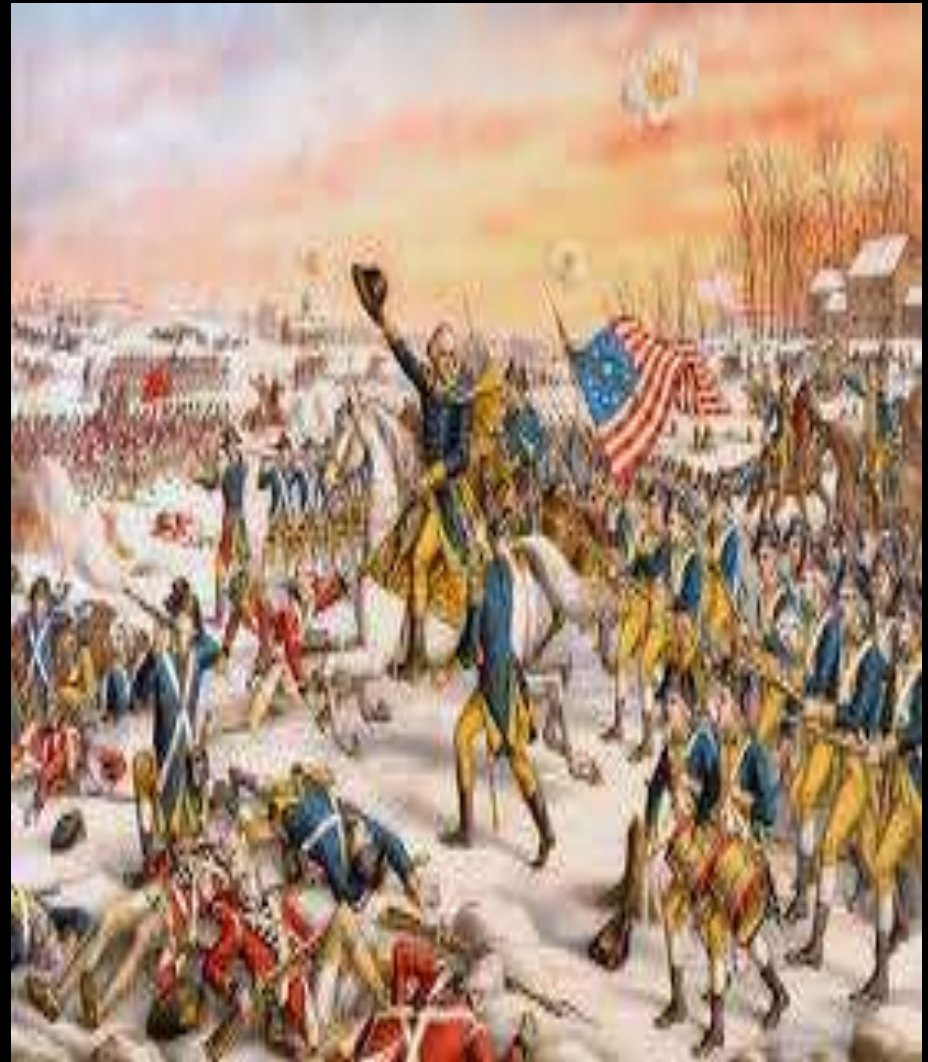
## 2. Effects of the American Revolution

- **Political Effects**
- **Economic Effects**
- **Global Ideological Effects**

**Exercise**

# The American Revolution

The American Revolution was the political and military conflict (1775–1783) in which the Thirteen Colonies of British North America rebelled against Great Britain, culminating in the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the establishment of the United States as a sovereign nation through the Treaty of Paris in 1783.



- France
- Great Britain
- Territories ceded by France to Great Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713
- Spain
- Cities
- Forts



# THE THIRTEEN ORIGINAL COLONIES IN 1774.



Three new provinces, Quebec, East Florida, and West Florida, were made out of the territory acquired from France and Spain.

The Proclamation Line, 1763, divided the territory of the colonies on a line drawn around the heads of the Appalachian rivers. The territory west of this line was reserved for the Indians.

The Quebec Act of 1774 provided that the territory west of the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio River should be a part of the Province of Quebec.



New Hampshire

New York

Massachusetts

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island  
Connecticut

New Jersey

Delaware  
Maryland

Virginia

North Carolina

South Carolina

Georgia



# **What Caused the American Revolution?**

## Causes: The Role of Post-war debts, taxations, and economic burden

Post-war debts, taxations, and economic burdens from the French and Indian War (1754–1763) were central catalysts for the American Revolution, as Britain's victory left it with crippling financial strain passed onto the colonies.

The war cost Britain over £130 million (equivalent to billions today), doubling its national debt; to manage this, Parliament shifted expenses to colonists via standing armies (10,000 troops) and new revenue acts, ending "salutary neglect."

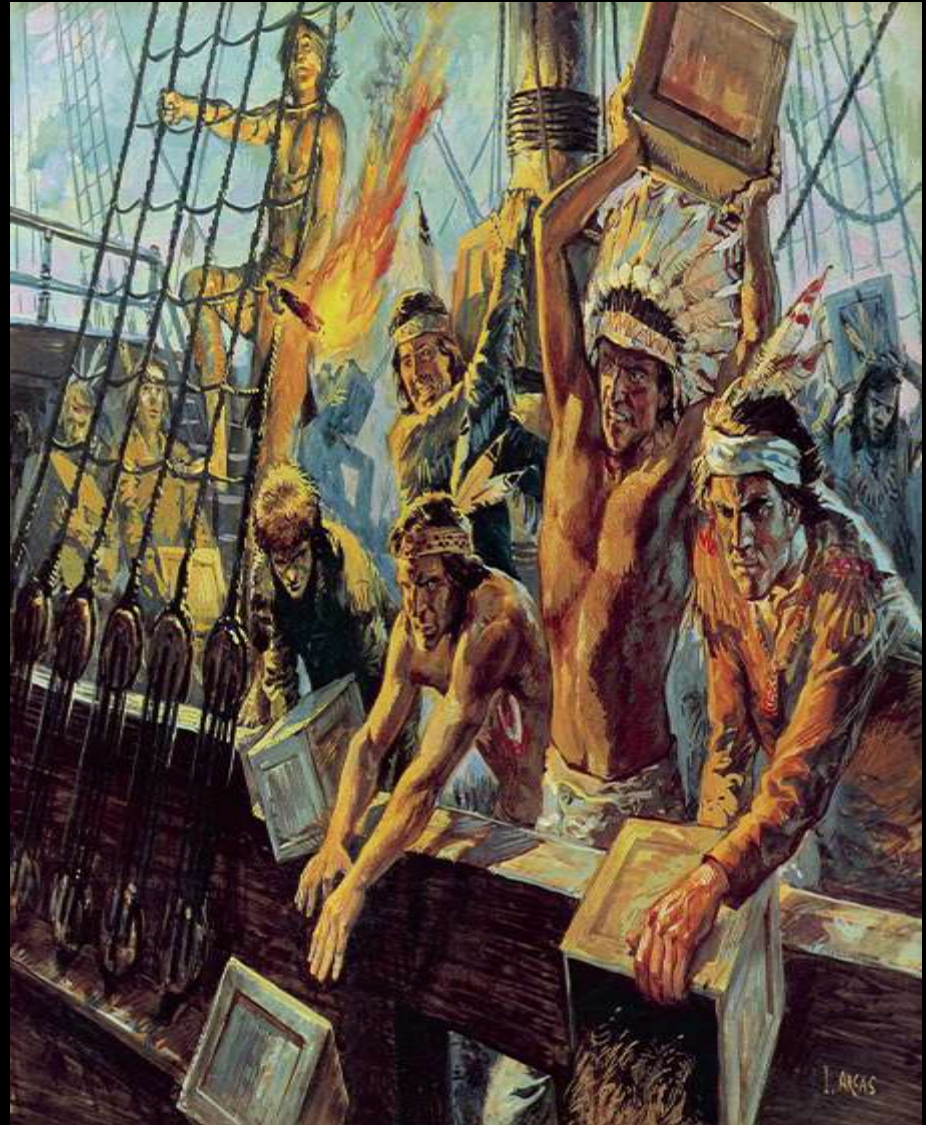
Salutary neglect was Britain's unwritten policy from the early 1700s to 1763 of loosely enforcing trade laws like the Navigation Acts on its North American colonies, allowing self-governance and economic growth as long as the colonies remained loyal and profitable.

Key impositions included **the Sugar Act (1764)** on molasses, **Stamp Act (1765)** on printed materials, and **Townshend Acts (1767)** on imports like tea—framed as internal taxes without colonial consent, igniting "no taxation without representation" protests and boycotts.

These policies disrupted colonial trade, raised living costs amid recession, and denied local control over funds (used for debt/garrisons), fostering resentment that escalated from riots to rebellion.

# Taxation Riots

- Colonists rioted against British taxes like:
- **The Stamp Act Riots** (1765 riots in Boston and New York).
- **Gaspee Affair** (1772): Rhode Islanders burned a customs ship enforcing duties.
- **Boston Tea Party** (1773): Protest against tea tax by dumping cargo.
- **Boston Massacre** (1770): Troops fired on tax protesters, killing five.



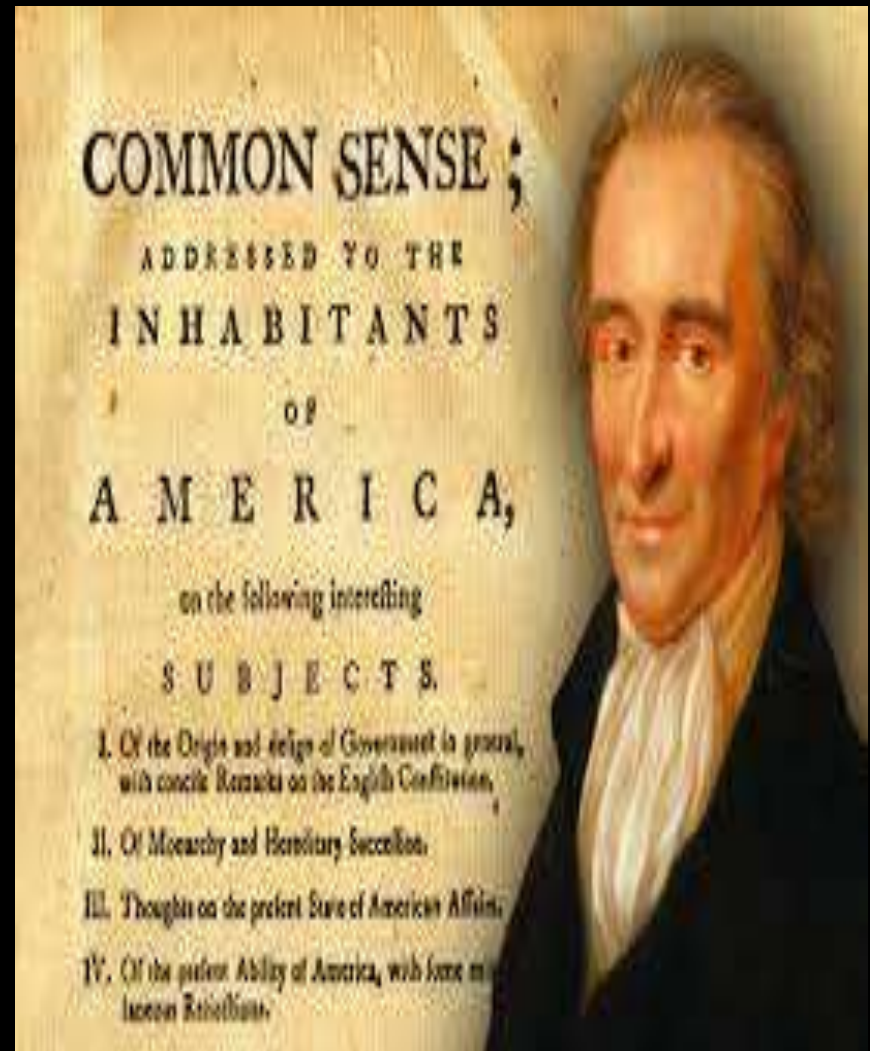
# Causes: The Role of Oppression and Intolerable Acts

- The Intolerable Acts (1774) were punitive British laws punishing Massachusetts for the Boston Tea Party. They exemplified imperial oppression. These included closing Boston Harbor (**Port Act**), revoking Massachusetts' charter and royalizing governance (**Government Act**), shielding officials from colonial trials (**Justice Act**), and forcing troop quartering (**Quartering Act**).



# Causes: The Influence of Enlightenment and political ideology

- Thomas Paine's **Common Sense** (1776) revolutionized colonial thought by selling over 100,000 copies rapidly, demolishing monarchy as hereditary tyranny, highlighting America's self-sufficiency and resources, rejecting British reconciliation as folly, and presenting independence as a moral, universal right.



- John Locke's **Two Treatises of Government** (1689) profoundly influenced the American Revolution by providing philosophical foundations for **natural rights** (life, liberty, property), **government by consent**, and the right to revolt against tyranny—ideas echoed in the Declaration of Independence, where Jefferson adapted Locke's concepts to justify overthrowing King George III as a violator of the **social contract**. Locke rejected absolute monarchy, argued sovereignty resides in the people, and advocated limited government with **separation of powers**, empowering colonists to view British taxes as violation of rights.

## Two Treatises of Government



**John Locke**

**What were the short and long-term effects of the American Revolution ?**

## Political Effects

The American Revolution fundamentally reshaped governance in the former colonies by dismantling royal authority and establishing republican systems. Between 1776 and 1777, each of the 13 states drafted new constitutions emphasizing popular sovereignty, separation of powers, and individual rights, often featuring elected assemblies and bills of rights while limiting executive authority to prevent tyranny. The weak **Articles of Confederation** (ratified 1781) initially unified the states but proved inadequate for national coordination, leading to the 1787 Constitutional Convention, and the U.S. Constitution (1789). Treaty of Paris officially marked the birth of the USA in 1783.



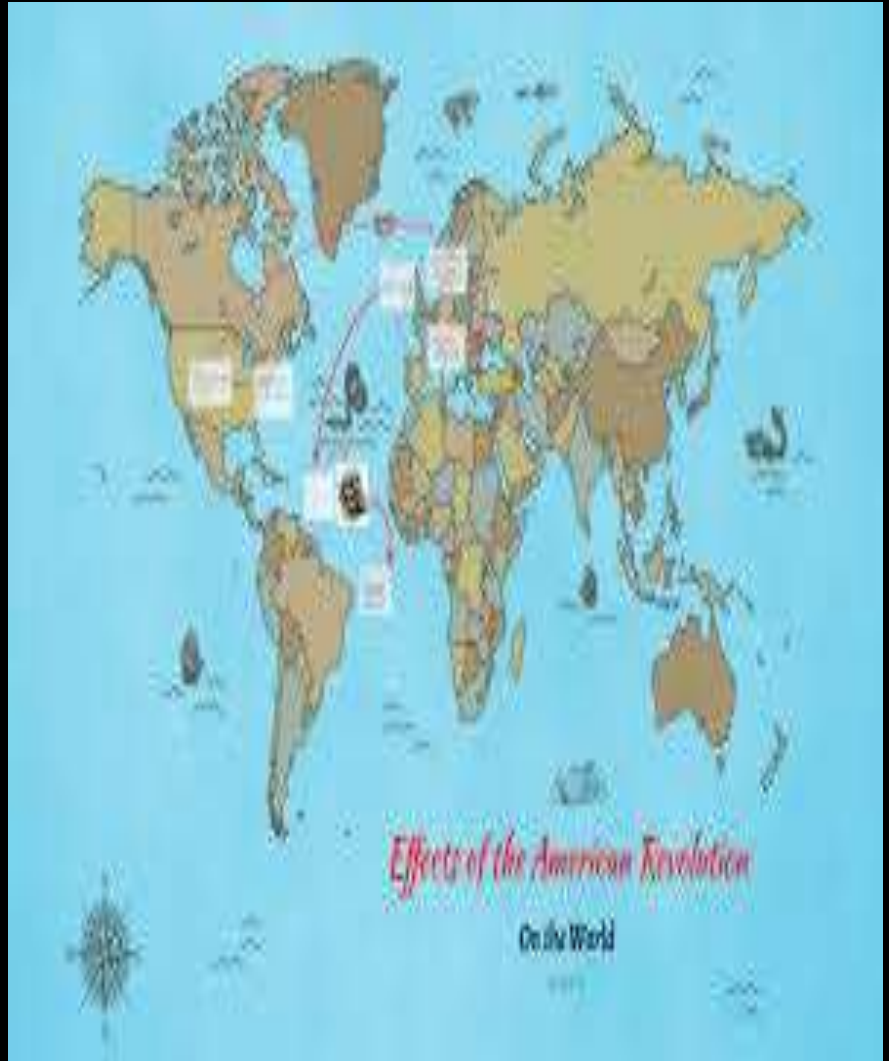
## Economic Effects

Economically, independence freed the U.S. from British mercantilist restrictions like the Navigation Acts, enabling direct trade with global markets and spurring growth in shipping, manufacturing, and agriculture.



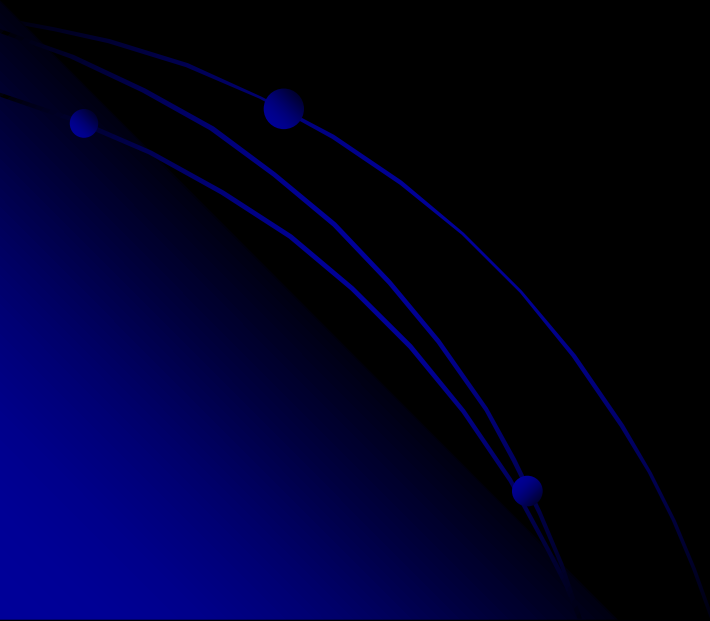
# Global Ideological Effects

The Revolution ignited worldwide republican fervor by demonstrating that ordinary people could overthrow monarchy through Enlightenment principles of liberty, equality, and consent of the governed, directly inspiring the French Revolution (1789), Haitian Revolution (1791), and Latin American independence movements. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and the Declaration of Independence spread ideas of natural rights and anti-colonialism, challenging absolutism and feudalism across Europe and beyond.



# Exercise 1

- Make a presentation about:
  - 1. The Role of John Locke' Ideas in the American Revolution
  - 2. The Role of Thomas Paine's Common Sense.



# Exercise 2

- Listen to the following teaching video and answer the following questions (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al22TPRcF0Q>).
- 1. What is the American Revolution?
- 2. Who ruled over the British Colonies?
- 3. On which products the taxations were placed?
- 4. Why were the taxations introduced?
- 5. What was the Americans' reaction to taxations?
- 6. What happened in the Boston Massacre?
- 7. How did King George III respond to the Boston Tea Party?
- 8. What was the objective of the First Continental Congress?
- 9. What was the name of the first battle fought in the American Revolution?
- 10. Who wrote the declaration of independence?
- 11. What was the name of the peace treaty which officially ended the American Revolution?

# Exercise 3

- Listen to the following teaching video and answer the following questions (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jnhVKAKFLI>).
- 1. When and where did the Boston Tea Party take place?
- 2. How many chests of tea were dumped into the harbor?
- 3. What were the American Colonies protesting in the Boston Tea Party?
- 4. According to Americans, the taxations violated two principles, what were these principles?
- 5. What was the reaction of American colonists to taxes?
- 6. Did the British Parliament respond to American protests against taxes in 1773?
- 7. Why did the British Parliament refuse to repeal the tea tax?
- 8. Why did the three ships of the East India Company stand off the Boston Harbor?
- 9. Who boarded the three ships and unloaded tea into Boston Harbor, disguised as Mohawk Tribe Warriors
- 10. What is the estimated value of the lost cargo?
- 11. How did the leader of Sons of Liberty, Samuel Adams, define Boston Tea Party?
- 12. How did the British Governor, Parliament, and the King view the Boston Tea Party?

*Thank You*

