

Period 3: 1754–1800

In a Nutshell

British imperial attempts to reassert control over its colonies and the colonial reaction to these attempts produced a new American republic, along with struggles over the new nation's social, political, and economic identity.

Key Concepts

Part 1

- A. Britain's victory over France in the struggle to control North America led to new conflicts among the British government, the North American colonists, and American Indians. This struggle culminated in the creation of a new nation, the United States.
- B. Throughout the second half of the eighteenth century, various American Indian groups repeatedly evaluated and adjusted their alliances with Europeans, other tribes, and the new United States government.
- C. During and after the imperial struggles between Britain and France in the mid-eighteenth century, new pressures began to unite the British colonies against perceived and real constraints on their economic activities and political rights. These constraints sparked a colonial independence movement and war with Britain.
- D. In response to domestic and international tensions, the new United States debated and formulated foreign policy initiatives and asserted an international presence.

Part 2

- E. In the late 18th century, new experiments with democratic ideas and republican forms of government, as well as other new religious, economic, and cultural ideas, challenged traditional imperial systems across the Atlantic World.
- F. During the 18th century, new ideas about politics and society led to debates about religion and governance, and ultimately inspired experiments with new governmental structures.
- G. After experiencing the limitations of the Articles of Confederation, American political leaders wrote a new Constitution based on the principles of federalism and separation of powers, crafted a Bill of Rights, and continued their debates about the proper balance between liberty and order.
- H. While the new governments continued to limit rights to some groups, ideas promoting self-government and personal liberty reverberated around the world.

Part 3

- I. Migration within North America, cooperative interaction, and competition for resources raised questions about boundaries and policies, intensified conflicts among peoples and nations, and led to contests over the creation of a multiethnic, multiracial national identity.
- J. As migrants streamed westward from the British colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, interactions among different groups that would continue under an independent United States resulted in competition for resources, shifting alliances, and cultural blending.

- K. The policies of the United States that encouraged western migration and the orderly incorporation of new territories into the nation both extended republican institutions and intensified conflicts among American Indians and Europeans in the trans-Appalachian West.
- L. New voices for national identity challenged tendencies to cling to regional identities, contributing to the emergence of distinctly American cultural expressions.

Significant Topics

1. English Population Growth

English population growth and expansion into the interior disrupted existing French-Indian fur trade networks and caused various Indian nations to shift alliances among competing European powers.

- a. Scots-Irish

2. Colonial Religious and Political Philosophy

Protestant evangelical religious fervor strengthened many British colonists' understandings of themselves as a chosen people blessed with liberty, while Enlightenment philosophers and ideas inspired many American political thinkers to emphasize individual talent over hereditary privilege.

- a. The Enlightenment (Age of Reason)

3. Effects of the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War) on American–British Relations

Great Britain's massive debt from the Seven Years' War resulted in renewed efforts to consolidate imperial control over North American markets, taxes, and political institutions — actions that were supported by some colonists but resisted by others.

- a. French and Indian War, 1754-1763 (aka The Seven Years' War, 1756-1763)

- b. British defeat of the French, 1763

4. Effects of the French and Indian War on American Indians

After the British defeat of the French in 1763, white-Indian conflicts continued to erupt as native groups sought to continue trading with Europeans and to resist the encroachment of British colonists on traditional tribal lands. The French withdrawal from North America and the subsequent attempt of various native groups to reassert their power over the interior of the continent resulted in new white–Indian conflicts along the western borders of British and, later, the U.S. colonial settlement and among settlers looking to assert more power in interior regions.

h. Boston Tea Party, 1773

i. First Continental Congress, 1774

j. Battle of Lexington and Concord, 1775

k. Second Continental Congress, 1775

6. **Philosophy of the American Independence Movement**

The colonists' belief in the superiority of republican self-government was based on the natural rights of the people found its clearest American expression in Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and in the Declaration of Independence.

a. John Locke

b. republican form of government

c. Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776

d. Declaration of Independence, 1776

e. Adam Smith

i. Benjamin Franklin

j. John Adams

k. Thomas Jefferson

l. James Madison

m. Alexander Hamilton

12. International Effects of the American Revolution and the Creation of the U.S. Government

The American Revolution and the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence had reverberations in France, Haiti and Latin American, inspiring future rebellions.

a. French Revolution, 1789

b. Toussaint L'Ouverture

c. Latin American Wars of Independence

13. U.S. Foreign Policy, 1783-1800

The continued presence of European powers in North America challenged the United States to find ways to safeguard its borders, maintain neutral trading rights, and promote its economic interests. The French Revolution's spread throughout Europe and beyond helped fuel Americans' debate not only about the nature of the United States's domestic order, but also about its proper role in the world.

a. Proclamation of Neutrality, 1793

b. Jay's Treaty, 1795

c. XYZ Affair, 1797

14. Foreign Affairs and the Formation of Political Parties

Although George Washington's Farewell Address warned about the dangers of divisive political parties and permanent foreign alliances, European conflict and tensions with Britain and France fueled increasingly bitter partisan debates throughout the 1790s.

a. Washington's Farewell Address, 1796

b. Federalist Party

c. Democratic-Republican Party

15. Domestic Affairs and the Formation of Political Parties

As the first national administrations began to govern under the Constitution, continued debates about such issues as the relationship between the national government and the states, economic policy, and the conduct of foreign affairs led to the creation of political parties.

a. Hamilton's Financial Plan

b. First Bank of the United States, 1791

c. Whiskey Rebellion, 1794

d. Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798

e. Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, 1798

16. Regionalism and the Formation of Political Parties

As national political institutions developed in the new United States, varying regionally based positions on economic, political, social, and foreign policy issues promoted the development of political parties.

17. Slavery and the New Nation

The constitutional framers postponed a solution to the problems of slavery and the slave trade, setting the stage for recurring conflicts over these issues in later years. The expansion of slavery in the lower South and adjacent western lands, and its gradual disappearance elsewhere, began to create distinctive regional attitudes toward the institution.

a. Pennsylvania Gradual Emancipation Law, 1780

18. American Indians and the New Nation

The Constitution's failure to precisely define the relationship between American Indian tribes and the national government led to problems regarding treaties and Indian legal claims relating to the seizure of Indian lands.

a. Battle of Fallen Timbers, 1794

b. Treaty of Greenville, 1795

19. American Women and the New Nation

Enlightenment ideas and women's experiences in the movement for independence promoted an ideal of "republican motherhood," which called on white women to maintain and teach republican values within the family and granted women a new importance in American political culture.

a. republican motherhood

b. Mercy Otis Warren

c. Abigail Adams

20. The Westward Movement before 1800

Migrants from within North America and around the world continued to launch new settlements in the West, creating new distinctive backcountry cultures and fueling social and ethnic tensions.

a. Northwest Ordinances

21. Spanish Colonization before 1800

The Spanish, supported by the bonded labor of the local Indians, expanded their mission settlements into California, providing opportunities for social mobility among enterprising soldiers and settlers that led to new cultural blending.

22. U.S. Foreign Relations with Spain, 1789-1800

As western settlers sought free navigation of the Mississippi River, the United States forged diplomatic initiatives to manage the conflict with Spain and to deal with the continued British presence on the American continent.

a. Pinckney's Treaty, 1795

Additional Information

Examples:

1. Jean Jacques Rousseau
2. tariff and currency disputes

Topic Number

#6 – Philosophy of the Independence Movement

#11 – Weakness of the Articles of Confederation