Colonists declare their independence and win a war to gain the right to govern themselves. Leaders meet to write the Constitution. George Washington guides the new nation as two major political parties emerge. The country also faces conflict with European nations.
Revolution and the Early Republic, 1763–1800

SECTION 1  Colonial Resistance and Rebellion
SECTION 2  The War for Independence
SECTION 3  Confederation and the Constitution
SECTION 4  Launching the Nation
Colonial Resistance and Rebellion

Conflicts between Great Britain and the American colonies escalate, until the colonists finally declare their independence.
The Sugar Act

- **King George III**—British king during the American Revolution
- Writs of assistance allow searches for smuggled goods, even in homes
- Prime Minister Grenville passes Sugar Act to end colonial smuggling
- **Sugar Act**—taxes on imports changed
- Violators tried by vice-admiralty court, not colonial court
- Merchants and traders fear reduced profits
Chapter 2

Section-1

The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain \{continued\}

The Stamp Act

- **Stamp Act** (1765) taxes printed items like wills and newspapers
- Colonial assemblies protest lack of representation in Parliament
- Merchants in New York, Boston, Philadelphia boycott British goods
- Parliament repeals Stamp Act (1766), passes Declaratory Act same day
- Townshend Acts tax imports from Britain, like paint, paper, tea
- Samuel Adams, a founder of the Sons of Liberty, leads new boycott
Chapter 2

Section 1

Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

Violence Erupts in Boston

- **Boston Massacre**—British guards fire on a colonial mob, kill five
- Lord North, prime minister, has most of the Townshend Acts repealed

The Boston Tea Party

- Tea Act lets British East India Co. avoid tax; undercuts colonists
- **Boston Tea Party**—disguised Boston rebels dump tea into Boston harbor

The Intolerable Acts

- Intolerable Acts close Boston harbor; place Boston under martial law
- In 1774 First Continental Congress meets, declares colonial rights
Fighting at Lexington and Concord
  • 700 British troops march to Concord to disarm colonial militia
  • At Lexington, British soldiers fight 70 minutemen, 8 colonists killed
  • British find Concord’s arsenal empty; return to Boston, are ambushed

The Second Continental Congress
  • Congress forms Continental Army; George Washington in command

The Battle of Bunker Hill
  • 2,400 British battle militia on Breed’s Hill, suffer 1,000 casualties
  • King George III rejects Continental Congress’s Olive Branch Petition
The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century

Chapter 2

Section-1

The Patriots Declare Independence

The Ideas Behind the Revolution

• 1760s to 1770s—Enlightenment ideas spread throughout colonies
• John Locke, English philosopher, influences colonists:
  — people have natural rights to life, liberty, property
  — people consent to obey a government that protects these rights
  — people can resist or overthrow government
• British have religious, legal tradition of civil and property rights
The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century

Chapter 2

Section-1

The Patriots Declare Independence {continued}

Thomas Paine’s Common Sense

- *Common Sense*—pamphlet attacking King George and monarchy
- Argues for independence, influences many colonists

Declaring Independence

- Congress appoints committee to prepare declaration to Britain
- **Thomas Jefferson**, Virginia lawyer, writes document
- **Declaration of Independence** is colonies’ formal statement of freedom
- Lists British violations and colonists’ rights as citizens
- July 4, 1776 delegates adopt declaration
Section-2

The War for Independence

Key American victories reverse British advances during the American Revolutionary War.
Chapter 2

Section-2

The War for Independence

The War Begins

Loyalists and Patriots

- **Loyalists**—colonists who support King George III and Britain
- **Patriots**—colonists in favor of independence from Britain

Early Victories and Defeats

- British take New York in 1776; Washington retreats to Pennsylvania
- Washington takes Trenton; British take Philadelphia in 1777
The War Begins *continued*

**Saratoga and Valley Forge**

- **Saratoga**—Patriot’s victory convinces French to aid Continental Army
- **Valley Forge**—winter camp where Continental Army loses over 2,000 (1778)
Life During the Revolution

Economic Changes During the War

- Congress prints paper money, causing inflation—rising prices
- Robert Morris and Haym Salomon raise money to pay Continental Army
- Women manage homes, businesses; some fight in war
- Many slaves escape during the war; about 5,000 join Continental Army
Chapter 2

Section-2

Winning the War

Foreign Military Aid

- **Marquis de Lafayette**—encourages France to send reinforcements, 1779
- European military leaders help train the Continental Army

The British Move South

- **Charles Cornwallis**, British general, wins many southern victories
- He camps at **Yorktown**, plans to take Virginia

The British Surrender at Yorktown

- Cornwallis is surrounded at Yorktown, surrenders in October 1781
- **Treaty of Paris** (1783) establishes colonial independence and borders
New Ideas After the War

- War stimulates egalitarianism—belief in equality of all people
- In 1780s, egalitarianism applies to white men only
- Women have few legal or political rights
- African Americans still face slavery or discrimination
- Native Americans continue to be pushed off their land by settlers
American leaders create the Constitution as a blueprint of government for the United States.
Confederation and the Constitution

Experimenting with Confederation

Plans for a New Government

- Many people want a republic—rule through elected representatives
- Some fear democracy—government directly by the people

Continued...
Experimenting with Confederation  \textit{continued}\textit{\end{input}}

The Articles of Confederation

- Congress creates laws to unite 13 states—Articles of Confederation
- All states ratify (1781); Articles create weak central government
- Confederation solves problem of Northwest Territory:
  - Land Ordinance of 1785—plan for surveying the Northwest Territory
  - \textbf{Northwest Ordinance of 1787}—plan to divide land into 3–5 new states
Experimenting with Confederation {continued}

Shays’s Rebellion

- **Shays’s Rebellion**—Daniel Shays leads protest of Massachusetts taxes
- Some fear democracy—government directly by the people
- He and 1,200 farmers attempt to raid arsenal (1787)
- State militia kills four; nation calls for a stronger national government
- 12 states participate in convention to create stronger government
Creating a New Government

Conflict and Compromise

- **James Madison** proposes Virginia Plan—representation based on population
- Small states favor New Jersey Plan—each state has an equal vote
- Great Compromise establishes Senate and House of Representatives
- Three-Fifths Compromise counts three-fifths of slaves as population

Division of Powers

- Delegates create Federalist government with three branches
- **Federalism**—power divided between national and state governments

Continued...
Creating a New Government {continued}

Separation of Powers

• Legislative branch makes laws
• Executive branch enforces laws
• Judicial branch interprets laws
• **Checks and balances**—system preventing any branch from dominating

Changing the Constitution

• Delegates create process to amend, or change, the Constitution
Ratifying the Constitution

Getting the States’ Approval
• Ratification—approval of Constitution by states; nine votes needed

Federalists and Antifederalists
• Federalists—favor the Constitution’s balance of power
• Antifederalists—against Constitution, want Bill of Rights
• Federalists promise Bill of Rights, Constitution ratified June 1788

Adoption of a Bill of Rights
• Bill of Rights—first ten amendments, guarantee citizens’ rights
Continuing Relevance of the Constitution

A “Living” Document

- Constitution is oldest written national constitution still in use
- Constitution’s elastic clause allows expansion of government power
- Amendment process is difficult to prevent arbitrary changes
- Only 27 amendments passed in the last 200 years
Launching the Nation

With George Washington as its first president, the United States begins creating a working government for its new nation.
Launching the Nation

Washington Heads the New Government

Judiciary Act of 1789

- **Judiciary Act of 1789**—federal courts are superior to state courts

Washington Shapes the Executive Branch

- Congress creates three executive departments to help president govern
- Thomas Jefferson heads Department of State, foreign affairs
- Henry Knox heads Department of War, military matters
- Alexander Hamilton heads Department of Treasury, finances
- **Cabinet**—these department heads become president’s chief advisors
Hamilton and Jefferson: Two Conflicting Visions

- Jefferson favors weak central government and farming economy
- Hamilton favors strong central government and commercial economy

Hamilton’s Economic Plan

- Hamilton wants to pay off national debts from the Revolution
- He also wants a national bank to print money, handle taxes
- James Madison and others say government lacks power to create bank
- Hamilton favors loose, Madison strict interpretation of Constitution
Washington Heads the New Government {continued}

The First Political Parties

- **Two-party system**—two political groups within the government
- Federalists favor Hamilton, want strong central government
- **Democratic-Republicans** favor Jefferson, want strong state governments

The Whiskey Rebellion

- **Protective tariff**—import tax to encourage American production
- An excise tax levied on whiskey angers whiskey producers
- Pennsylvania producers attack tax collectors; federal militia responds
Chapter 2

Section-4

Challenges at Home and Abroad

Addressing Foreign Affairs

• French monarchy overthrown (1789); France at war with Britain (1793)
• Federalists support Britain, Democratic-Republicans support France
• Washington keeps country neutral and warns against alliances

Challenges in the Northwest

• Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794) U.S. military defeats Native Americans

Jay’s Treaty

• British evacuate Northwest Territory posts but continue fur trade
• Did not settle Caribbean trade dispute; treaty barely passes Senate
Adams Provokes Criticism

Parties and Sectionalism
- Federalist John Adams becomes president
- Democratic-Republican Jefferson becomes vice-president

Adams Tries to Avoid War
- France seizes U.S. ships to retaliate for U.S. treaty with Britain
- **XYZ Affair**—low-level French officials demand bribe from Americans
- U.S. and France seize each other’s ships; Adams rejects war
Adams Provokes Criticism \textit{(continued)}

**The Alien and Sedition Acts**
- Federalists curb critics of government, pass \textit{Alien and Sedition Acts}:  
  - restrict citizenship, free speech; aimed at Democratic-Republicans  
  - raise residency requirements, allow jailing or deportation  
  - allow jailing or fining people expressing anti-government views

**Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions**
- Jefferson, Madison organize state opposition in Kentucky, Virginia  
- \textit{Nullification}—when a state invalidates laws it deems unconstitutional
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