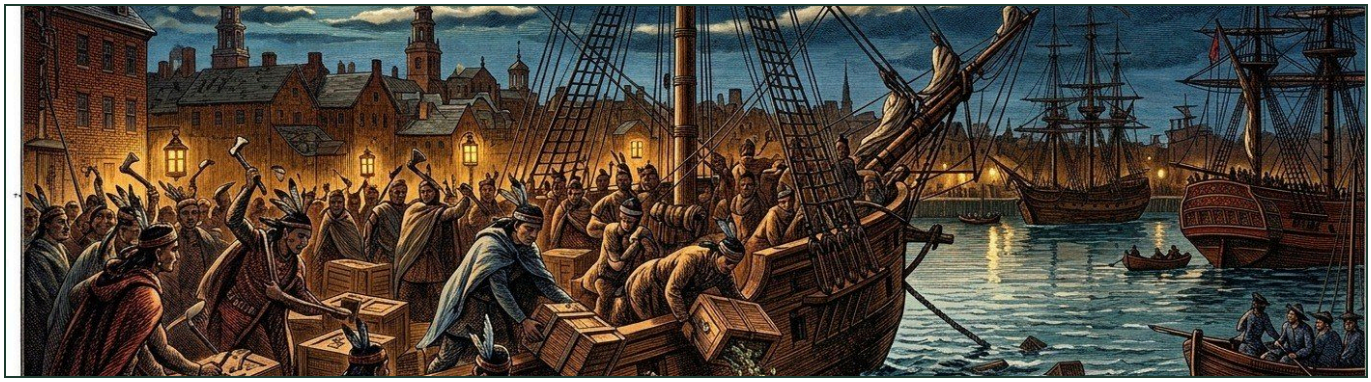


1765 – 1783

American Revolution Timeline

The American Revolution was the war in which the thirteen colonies broke away from Great Britain and became the United States.

1765 Stamp Act

Britain taxes the colonies on printed paper, sparking the cry "no taxation without representation."

> **Why it mattered:** *The first time the colonies organized together against a British tax — planting the idea that they shared a common cause.*

1770 Boston Massacre

British soldiers fire on a crowd in Boston, killing five colonists.

> **Why it mattered:** *Colonial leaders used the deaths as powerful propaganda to turn public opinion against Britain.*

1773 Boston Tea Party

Colonists dump British tea into Boston Harbor to protest the tea tax.

> **Why it mattered:** *Britain struck back with the harsh "Intolerable Acts," which pushed the colonies to unite in the First Continental Congress.*

1775 Lexington and Concord

The first shots of the war are fired in Massachusetts — "the shot heard round the world."

> **Why it mattered:** *Once shots were fired, the argument became a war — there was no turning back.*

American Revolution Timeline *continued*

1776 — **Declaration of Independence**

The colonies declare themselves free from Britain on July 4.

> **Why it mattered:** *It turned a rebellion into a fight for a new nation, and named the ideas — liberty and equality — the country would be built on.*

1776 — **Washington Crosses the Delaware**

A surprise Christmas-night attack wins the Battle of Trenton.

> **Why it mattered:** *The surprise victory revived a failing army and kept the Revolution alive through a desperate winter.*

1777 — **Battle of Saratoga**

An American victory that convinces France to join the war.

> **Why it mattered:** *It brought France in as an ally, adding the money, troops, and navy the colonists badly needed.*

1778 — **Valley Forge**

Washington's army survives a brutal winter and trains into a stronger force.

> **Why it mattered:** *The army that marched out in spring was better trained and tougher — changing how the war was fought.*

1781 — **Battle of Yorktown**

The British army surrenders, effectively ending the fighting.

> **Why it mattered:** *With their army trapped and surrendered, the British lost the will to keep fighting.*

1783 — **Treaty of Paris**

Britain officially recognizes the United States as an independent nation.

> **Why it mattered:** *Britain's signature made independence official and set the borders of the new country.*