I. The Trials of War, 1776–1778

A. War in the North
   1. Fighting begins = Boston, NY
   
   2. Early American retreat
      - We aren’t really ready
      - Undermanned
      - Under supplied
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Britain</th>
<th>Colonists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-trained and equipped army</td>
<td>Familiarity of territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong central government with a strong economy</td>
<td>Capable leadership of Washington and other generals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of Loyalists and some Native Americans</td>
<td>A common cause—fighting for independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaknesses</td>
<td>Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from homeland</td>
<td><strong>Distance from homeland</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troops unfamiliar with terrain</td>
<td><strong>Troops unfamiliar with terrain</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak military leaders</td>
<td><strong>Weak military leaders</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No common cause to rally army or British people</td>
<td><strong>No common cause to rally army or British people</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## MILITARY STRATEGIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Americans</th>
<th>The British</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Flag] Attrition [the Brits had a long supply line].</td>
<td>![Flag] Break the colonies in half by getting between the No. &amp; the So.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Flag] Guerilla tactics [fight an insurgent war → you don’t have to win a battle, just wear the British down]</td>
<td>![Flag] Blockade the ports to prevent the flow of goods and supplies from an ally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Flag] Make an alliance with one of Britain’s enemies.</td>
<td>![Flag] “Divide and Conquer” → use the Loyalists.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who would be our first commanding general?

- 2nd Continental Congress based their decision on the following:
  - Political
  - Economic
  - Military
  - Social

George Washington was chosen based on his qualifications.
George Washington was the key rallying figure for the troops throughout the war.

- Not Military Genius
- Great Leader of Men
- Persistent
War in the North

- The British held most of the military advantages
  - Numbers/Hessians/Supplies
- Siege of Boston (Bunker Hill)
- Sit above Boston and shell it. British finally pick up camp and leave
- British move to NY next
Early patriot losses and a very few wins

New York...turns into a British rout of the Americans

30 Warships, 1,200 cannon, 35K troops, 300 S.Ships
Very impressive showing – Intimidation!
Aug 1776 British crush Washington on Long Island
Retreat to Brooklyn Heights, then NY, then NJ
Fight and run tactic
Crossing of Delaware- Christmas 1776
Defeats Brits at Trenton and Princeton
MAP 6.1 Patriot and Loyalist Strongholds
Chapter 6, America's History, Eighth Edition and America: A Concise History, Sixth Edition
Copyright © 2014 by Bedford/St. Martin's
I. The Trials of War, 1776–1778

B. Armies and Strategies
   1. Continental soldiers
      - Promised 75,000 men......25,000 at most
      - poor, inexperienced
I. The Trials of War, 1776–1778

C. Victory at Saratoga

1. Problems for the British
   - 1777- Goal is to isolate New England…cut head off of Colonies and the body will follow
   - Philly taken and now try to cut NY in half through to Canada.
   - Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne trapped
   - 5,000 British captured
   - Adams/Franklin create alliance with French
Victory at Saratoga

- British attempt to cut off New England failed
- Results: 5,000 troops captured & France joins war
- Turning Point Battle!
“Gentleman Johnny” Burgoyne & N. Campaign

Marches south through wilderness of N. NY
He carries 27 carriages of his personal stuff
Quite the fashion and person comfort man

GB defeated by Benedict Arnold at Saratoga
Much-needed cannon seized
This is the first American victory! We legit!

Burgoyne captured by Gen. Gates
He is shipped back to England in disgrace
Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne
French and American Alliances

Treaty of Alliance =

Alliance not out of Am. love, but mutual hatred of GB
France has an agenda
“The enemy of my enemy is my friend”

Supplied powder, shot, food, blocking action at sea
Franklin and Adams spent much time in Paris
-We kept the war going/France helped win it!

World War-
- French
- Spain/Holland
- All help us and their interests
I. The Trials of War, 1776–1778

D. The Perils of War

1. Wartime difficulties
   - Urban populations fled
   - Economy was crushed and goods scarce
   - Women important to cause
   - Rapes and homelessness
     - Tears family units apart
     - Social Chaos
I. The Trials of War, 1776–1778

E. Financial Crisis

1. State governments
   - weak; paper money issued

2. Continental Congress
   - No authority to issue taxes
I. The Trials of War, 1776–1778

F. Valley Forge

1. General Washington’s retreat= winter of 77’
   -12,000 suffer horribly and 3000 die
   -Baron von Steuben trains remaining
II. The Path to Victory, 1778–1783

B. War in the South

1. Britain’s Southern Strategy

2. Slave combatants: the “triangular war”
   - 30,000 vs 5,000

3. Guerrilla Warfare in the Carolinas
   - Local militias
   - Loyalists defeated
   - Yorktown
• British strategy shifted to fighting for the South
• Frontier is tough fighting
• Benedict Arnold’s defection hurt colonial morale
• Cornwallis’ surrender at Yorktown sealed colonial victory
Britain’s “Southern Strategy”

- Britain thought that there were more Loyalists in the South.
- Southern resources were more valuable/worth preserving.
- The British win a number of small victories, but cannot pacify the countryside [similar to U. S. failures in Vietnam!]
  - Win an area, then leave
  - Colonists move back in
War for Independence in the South, 1778-1781

- **British victories**
- **British troop movements**
- **American victories**
- **American troop movements**

Key Events:
- Savannah, Dec. 29, 1778
- Clinton/Cornwallis, Feb. 1780, from New York
- Campbell, Dec. 1778, from New York
- Yorktown, Aug. 30–Oct. 19, 1781
- Battle of the Virginia Capes (French and American victory), Sept. 5–9, 1781
- de Grasse, 1781 (French fleet)
- Kettle Creek, Feb. 14, 1781
- Kings Mountain, Oct. 7, 1780
- Cowpens, Jan. 17, 1781
- Camden, Aug. 16, 1780
- Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781
- Morgan/Greene, 1781
- Greene, 1781
- Cornwallis, 1781
- Gates, 1780
- Greene, 1780
- Charlotte
- Wilmington
- Clinton/Cornwallis, Apr. 1781
- Newport
- Newtown, Apr. 1781
- Savannah
- Charleston
- New York
- New York/Rochambeau, Aug. 1781
- Washington/Rochambeau, Aug. 1781
- de Grasse, 1781
- Chesapeake Bay
- Atlantic Ocean
- Lake Erie
- Appalachian Mountains
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia
- Carolinas
- Chesapeake Bay
- James River
- York River
- Roanoke River
- Atlantic Ocean

0 50 mi 0 50 km
Battle of Yorktown

- British General Charles Cornwallis wanted to winter his troops in the South believing the war would be won in the Spring.....

- Yorktown was chosen because it provided easy access to be reinforced and re-supplied

- General Washington learned of the British decision to winter their main troops in Yorktown.
Cornwallis’ Surrender at Yorktown

“The World Turned Upside Down”

Painted by John Trumbull, 1797
Why did the British Lose???

• Controlled cities but not countryside
• Generals made key mistakes
• Communication lapse
• No respect/arrogant
• Patriots had the will to fight
• US Alliances with Spain, France and the Netherlands.
Diplomatic Triumph

- American negotiators exploited European rivalries
- US gained land to Mississippi River and recognition
II. The Path to Victory, 1778–1783

D. Diplomatic Triumph

1. The Treaty of Paris
   - Sept 1783 (two years)
   - Formal recommendation of US
   - Fishing Rights
   - US return property to Loyalists