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U.S. History and Government ~ Miss Cummings Colonial America

**HOW DID THE COLONISTS WIN THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE?**

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| THE 13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |  | GREAT BRITAIN |
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| About 2.5 million | POPULATION | About 8 million |
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| Patriots – colonists for independence (also called Whigs & Rebels)About 1/3 of the Americans supported revolution | AMERICANS CHOOSE SIDESAbout 1/3 were neutral | Loyalists – colonists loyal to Great Briton (called Torries & Redcoats)About 1/3 of the colonists were loyal to great Britain |
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| Continental Army – never more than about 18,500 | ARMIES | British Army – About 50,000 regulars. These are never at one place or time |
| State Militias – About 230,000 militiamen served; but never at one time or place (owing to regional loyalties & due to short enlistments of 3-12 months). There were many desertions and time outs to harvest crops.French Troops – after 1778, about 8,000.African-Americans – About 5,000.Native Americans – 2 Iroquois tribes. | German Mercenaries – King George III hired 30,000 soldiers from six German Principalities. (Because more than half came from Hesse-Cassel, they were called Hessians) Most were forced to serve by their local ruler, who pocketed the British payments. Many remained in America after the war.African-Americans – some slaves in return for their freedom.Native Americans – 3 Iroquois tribes. |
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| American – 13 frigates; 40 merchantmen; more than 2,000 privateers | NAVY | British – by 1781, about 460 ships of the line |
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| General George Washington, 1732-1799Commander in Chief | LEADERS | General William Howe, 1729-1814Commander in Chief 1775-1778 |
| General Benedict Arnold, 1741-1801(turned traitor in 1779)General Horatio Gates, 1729-1806General Nathaniel Greene, 1742-1786General Henry Knox, 1750-1806General Charles Lee, 1732-1810General Benjamin Lincoln, 1735-1810Commodore Esek Hopkins,French AlliesLt. General Comte de Rochambeau, 1750-1815Vice-Admiral Comte d’Estaing |  | General Henry Clinton, 1738-1805Commander in Chief 1778-1783General Charles Cornwallis, 1738-1805General John Burgoyne, 1722-1792Admiral Richard Howe, 1726-1799(brother of William Howe)Admiral George Rodney, 1719-1792 |
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|  | ADVANTAGES |  |
| 1. Outstanding leadership of General George Washington, a man of high character who inspired courage.
2. Strong motivation – Americans were fighting to become free to think for themselves, choose their own laws and to govern themselves.
3. Fighting on home ground – knew the territory
4. Experienced officers – including Washington, who had fought in the French & Indian War.
5. Superiority of the American rifle (German made) – in range and accuracy to the British smoothbore musket.
6. Sharpshooters – because of their frontier experience.
 | 1. Military power – strongest army in the world; well equipped and disciplined.
2. Superior numbers – outnumbered the American patriots in most battles.
3. Indian support – from many Native Americans fearful of losing even more land to white settlers
4. Loyalist cooperation – from about 1/3 of Americans who wanted to remain British
5. Hefty war chest – enough money to hire 30,000 German soldiers.
6. Bright red uniform – took pride in appearance.
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|  | DISADVANTAGES |  |
| 1. Inexperienced army & militia – most militiamen were farmers; untrained and undisciplined.
2. Short enlistments – often only 3-12 months.
3. Brand new navy – few ships to defend coastline.
4. Constant shortages – money, food, clothing, medicine.
5. Near-bankrupt treasury – Congress printed Continental paper money that lost its value because of no hard value.
6. Loyalist warfare – often neighbor against neighbor.
 | 1. Weak motivation – not fighting for a cause.
2. Unagressive officers – failed to press advantages.
3. Far from home – 3,000 from Britain; poor communications and a long supply line.
4. Enemy coastline – 1,500 mile stretch to blockade.
5. Vast land – could conquer; unable to hold territory.
6. European aid to America – enemies of Britain coming to the aid of America.
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