

Timeline of major events up to the American Revolution

- 1756 - 1763 The French & Indian War
- 1763 Treaty of Paris
- 1764 Sugar Act
- 1765 Stamp Act
- 1765 - 1767 Quartering Act
Declaratory Act
Townshend Acts
- 1773 Tea Act
- 1773 Boston Tea Party
- 1774 The Intolerable Acts
- 1774 First Continental Congress
- 1775 Lexington and Concord
- 1775 Second Continental Congress

Documents: American Revolution

FLT: I will be able to explain the causes and course of the American Revolution and its influence on the world.

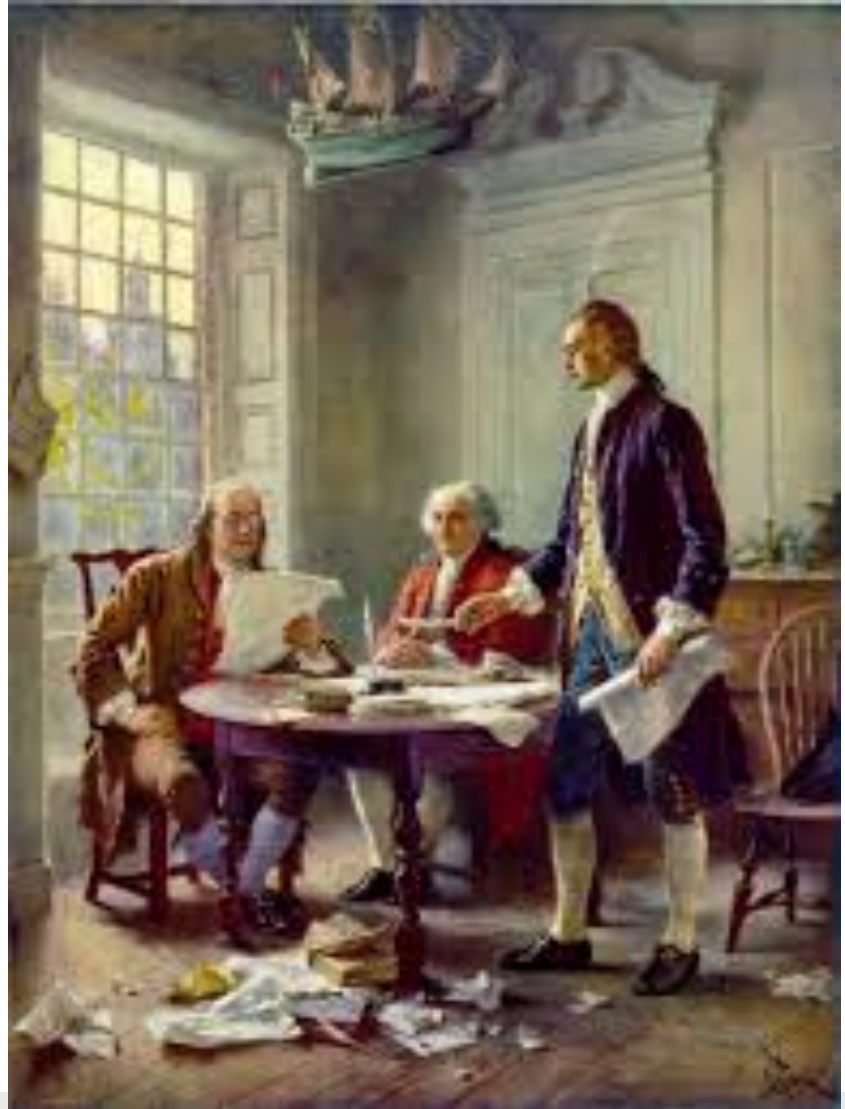
Documents: American Revolution

- ▣ Declaration of Independence (1776)
- ▣ Articles of Confederation (1781)
- ▣ U.S. Constitution (1787)
- ▣ Bill of Rights (1791)

1. Declaration of Independence

(July 4, 1776)

- Document written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776
- It told King George that the U.S. wanted to separate from England and explained why
- Inspired by ideas of John Locke



Declaration of Independence

(July 4, 1776)

- American colonists were heavily influenced by Enlightenment ideas

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed... it is [the people's] right, it is their duty, to throw off [unjust] Government...”

Declaration of Independence

(July 4, 1776)

- Where the [Second Continental Congress](#) adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776



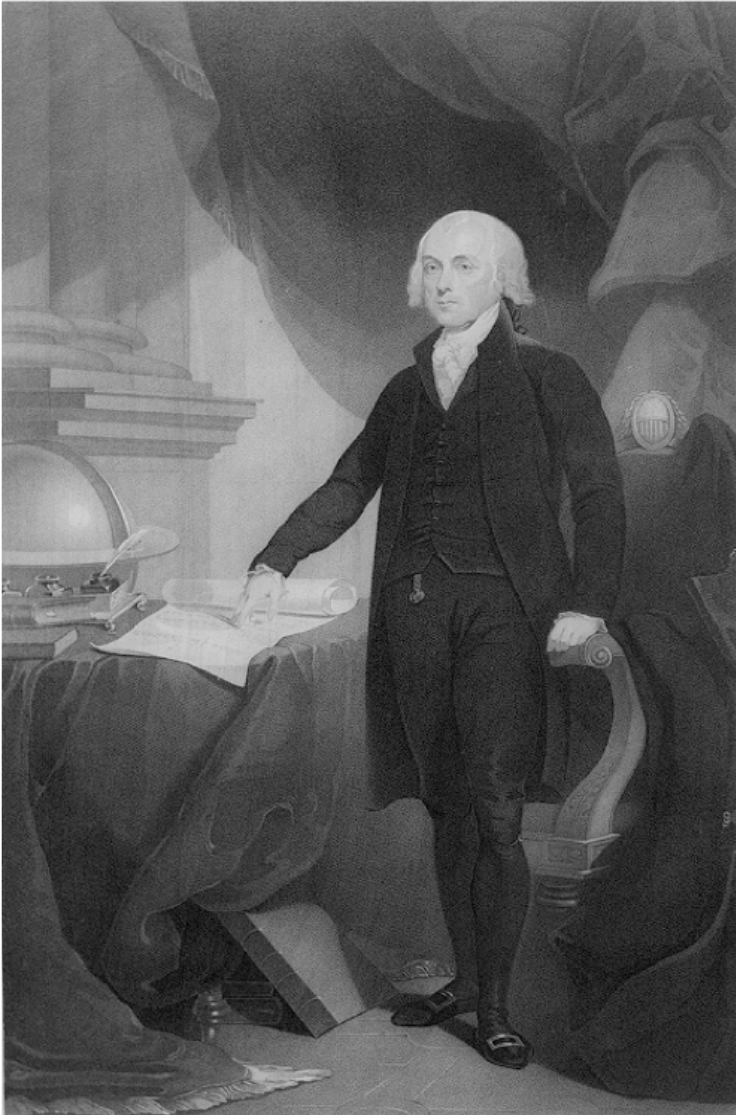
2. Articles of Confederation (1781 – 1787)

- An agreement among the 13 founding states that established the U.S.A. as a **confederation of states**
- Served as its **first Constitution**
- States agree to a **weak central government**
- Replaced by the US Constitution, which gave the states a **much stronger national government**
- One reason that the American Revolution resulted in a stable democracy = **both a strong government and protection for individual rights**

3. U.S. Constitution (May 25 – Sept. 17, 1787)

- ▣ **Goal:** To create a written document that would outline the government structure of the United States of America
- ▣ **Who:** 55 Delegates (George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison; “The Founding Fathers”)

U.S. Constitution (May 25 – Sept. 17, 1787)

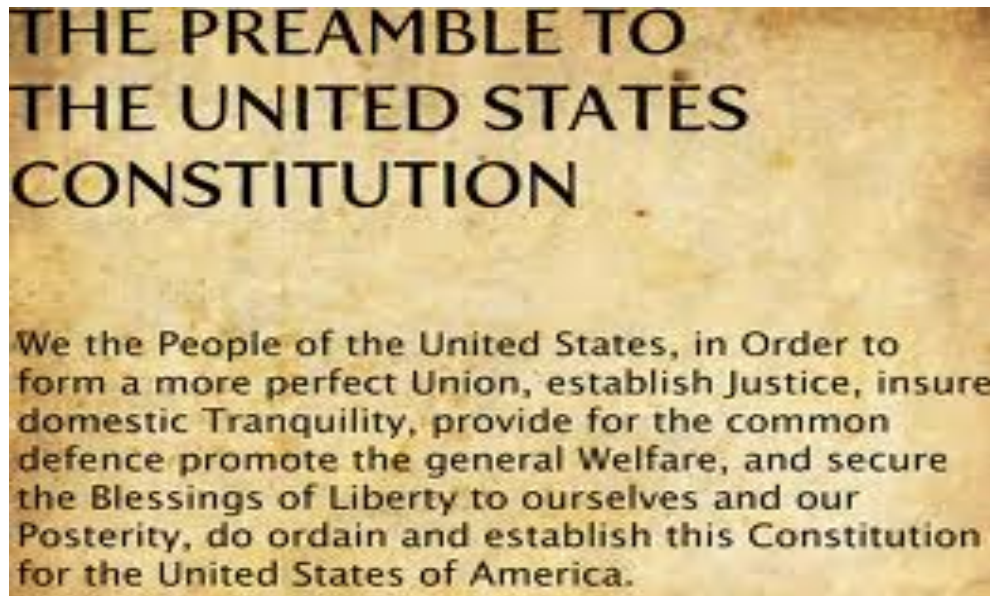


- **James Madison:**
The “father” of the Constitution
- Helped make compromises during the writing of the Constitution

U.S. Constitution (today)



- ▣ Preamble
- ▣ Articles (I – VII)
- ▣ Amendments (27)



4. Bill of Rights (added in 1791)



- First 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution
- Protected people from an evil government
 - Freedom of speech, religion, press, etc.
 - The right to bear arms, speedy trial, etc.

Influences for and of these docs.

□ Declaration of Independence

- Enlightenment ideas (John Locke)

□ Articles of Confederation / U.S. Constitution

- Enlightenment ideas (Social Contract, 3 branches of government, Checks & Balances), Roman Republic

□ Bill of Rights

- English Bill of Rights, Magna Carta

The American Revolution also helped influence a series of wars for independence that shared some common beliefs – power of the people
- French - Haitian - Latin-American - Batavian (Netherlands)

Paragraph Response

- How have the documents of the American Revolution and the revolution itself been influenced by other beliefs and events from history? How has the American Revolution influenced other movements throughout the world?