**EOC Review**

**Chapter 2: The American Revolution**

* Britain and France fought in the French and Indian War (1754–1763). Britain won the war, and France was forced to surrender control of Canada to the British. The war laid the groundwork for future conflict by leaving the British with a large debt.
* King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763 prohibiting the colonists from settling west of the Appalachians in order to prevent conflict with the Indians. This angered many colonists.
* Parliament tried to impose new taxes on the colonists without their consent. Parliament passed the Stamp Act (1765), requiring the colonists to use revenue stamps on newspapers and legal documents. Colonists responded with speeches, protests, petitions, hostile attacks on revenue officials, and boycotts of British goods.
* Samuel Adams started the “Sons of Liberty,” which organized protests and boycotts of British goods. The “Daughters of Liberty,” a group of patriotic women colonists, was also established. “Committees of Correspondence” were formed so that “Patriots” from different colonies could inform each other of their anti-British activities.
* Parliament repealed the Stamp Act but passed new taxes on common household goods, also without the colonists’ consent. This led to further protests, and these taxes were also repealed.
* Parliament imposed a new tax on tea. In December 1773, colonists disguised as Indians threw tea into Boston Harbor in the “Boston Tea Party.” Parliament passed the “Intolerable Acts” (1774), closing Boston Harbor and suspending the Massachusetts legislature until the tea was paid for.
* The American Revolution began in April 1775, when British troops were sent to arrest colonial leaders and recover arms in Lexington and Concord. Patriotic “minutemen” and British redcoats fired on each other.
* Representatives from the colonies met in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress. They created the Continental Army and appointed George Washington, a Virginian, as its commander.
* Washington was able to force the British out of Boston but was defeated in New York City and forced to retreat. To boost sagging morale, he crossed the Delaware River to defeat Hessian mercenary troops at the Battle of Trenton.
* Thomas Paine published an influential pamphlet, *Common Sense*, arguing that the colonies should declare their independence. His arguments were persuasive to many.
* The Second Continental Congress appointed a “Committee of Five,” which included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, to draft a “Declaration of Independence.”
* Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration. He borrowed much of his reasoning from John Locke’s writings on natural rights and the social contract. The Declaration argued that: (1) men have “unalienable rights”—the “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”—which cannot be taken away; (2) governments are created to protect these rights; and (3) when a government tries to destroy these rights, the people have the right to change their government, by force if necessary. Jefferson listed all of the colonial grievances against George III and argued that the King’s actions were so despotic that the colonists had no choice but to declare their independence.
* The Continental Congress voted in favor of independence on July 2, 1776; its members signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
* The British planned to divide the rebellious colonies in two by cutting a line through New York. Three British armies were supposed to meet near Albany, but two of the armies never came and the third surrendered at the Battle of Saratoga (1777).
* Benjamin Franklin and John Adams were sent to negotiate an alliance with France. The French finally signed a treaty of alliance when they received news of the British defeat at Saratoga.
* During a harsh winter at Valley Forge (1777–1778), the Continental Army was short of supplies. Two volunteers from Europe, Baron von Steuben and the Marquis de Lafayette, helped Washington to train and drill his troops.
* The British took the war to the South. In 1781, their troops were trapped at Yorktown by American and French forces. Cornwallis surrendered a large British force. The British Parliament decided not to pursue the war any longer.
* Geography played a crucial role in many battles of the Revolution. At Trenton, the Hessians were surprised that the colonists had re-crossed the Delaware River and could reach them in such cold weather. At Saratoga, the wilderness slowed the British advance. At Yorktown, control of Chesapeake Bay by the French navy blocked a British retreat and forced Cornwallis to surrender. In general, the colonists benefited from the fact that they were fighting on their own soil while the British were fighting a war thousands of miles away from their homeland.
* During the Revolution, many women were active in promoting the Patriot cause. They raised money, sewed clothes, and kept family farms. Many African Americans also helped the revolutionaries, although others were attracted to the British, who offered freedom from slavery. Some Northern states began abolishing slavery in the aftermath of the Revolution. Most Indian tribes sided with the British, who appeared less likely to seize their lands, but a few tribes sided with the colonists.
* In the Treaty of Paris (1783), the British recognized the independence of the United States and its control of lands east of the Mississippi River.