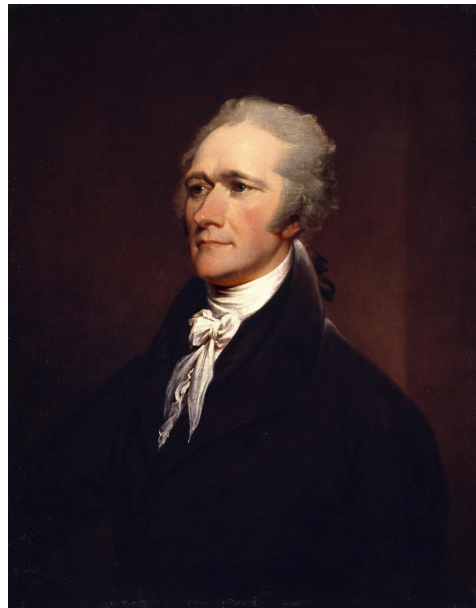


Table Of Contents:

| | |
|--|---|
| Preview..... | 1 |
| An Overview Of The American Revolution..... | 2 |
| Alexander Hamilton: In The Makings Of Our Country..... | 3 |
| Alexander Hamilton: A Dive Inside His Thoughts..... | 5 |
| Alexander Hamilton: Why He Is Important..... | 6 |

Preview

In the present day, The United States Of America is one of the most powerful and influential powers in the world. It has sent rovers to Mars and emerged from two world wars and a depression, stronger than ever. But before the America we know today, she was a colony of Britain. Before she was powerful, our country was a ragtag group of settlers struggling to survive. How did our country grow so much? We shall explore this topic today along with one of the most interesting of our founders and leaders: Alexander Hamilton. We will first explore a main overview of the Revolutionary War, as knowing about this is important in understanding Hamilton. Then, we shall explore an early Hamilton and his role in the revolution, as well as what Hamilton did after the war, which is perhaps even more interesting than him in the war. We will then understand what Hamilton thought in one of the most important events in this war for freedom, then finish with an essay about why Hamilton was important.



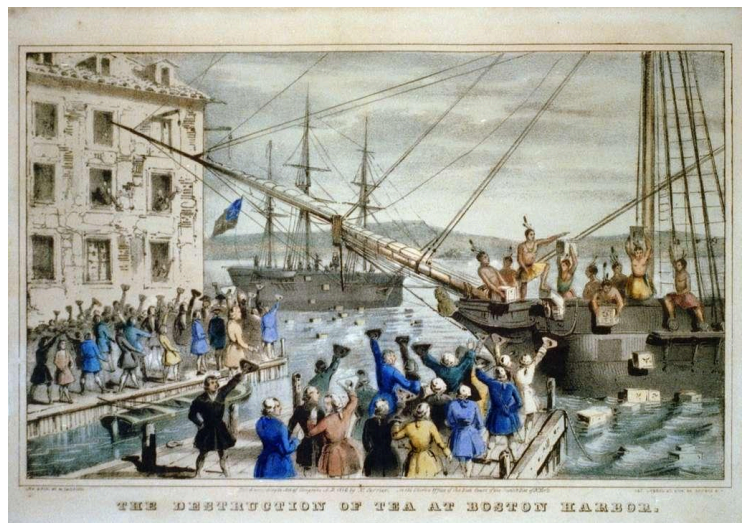
An Overview Of The American Revolution

Most would trace the start of our revolution to the end of the French and Indian War, also known as the Seven Years War, in 1763. This war was a fight for land between Britain and France. The war ended with a British victory, and turning French Canada to Britain. Despite this victory, though, the war had been costly. Great Britain was quite deeply in debt, and they were in quite a dilemma. The Parliament, or the British Government, had a solution: Tax! The Parliament passed a series of acts that aimed to force the colonies to buy British goods, and pay a tax on them. They passed a series of acts taxing everyday items, such as tea, paper, lead, glass, and so on. The colonies, understandably, were not delighted. They had no representatives in the Parliament to debate the taxation, but still had to abide by the Parliament decisions. Some even believed the Parliament had no right to tax them at all, unless they could send representatives to the Parliament. “No Taxation Without Representation!” became a rallying cry along the colonies. They thought of themselves as British citizens, so they thought they should have the same rights as British citizens. As retaliation to this, the colonies started brewing trouble. The Sons of Liberty, along with their sisters The Daughters of Liberty, organized boycotting of British goods, instead resorting to homemade products, as well as storing weapons and ammunition for the case of war. The soldiers in New England were especially hated and harassed, and many fled back to England. Others fought. In the early March of 1770, some colonists started taunting a group of British soldiers. One panicked and fired. His comrades followed.

That day, four shot victims passed away, and it was branded the Boston Massacre.

When word came to King George of England, he and the Parliament repealed most of the taxation——except tea. The colonies loathed that act and started drinking coffee instead of tea. Soon, in 1774, the Boston tea party took place, where the colonies threw almost a million of today's dollars worth of tea into the sea.

Because of this, King George decreed a series of acts called the Coercive Acts, More often known as the Intolerable acts because of the



intolerable punishments they inflicted on the Bostonians. This broke the final straw, and the colonists prepared for battle.

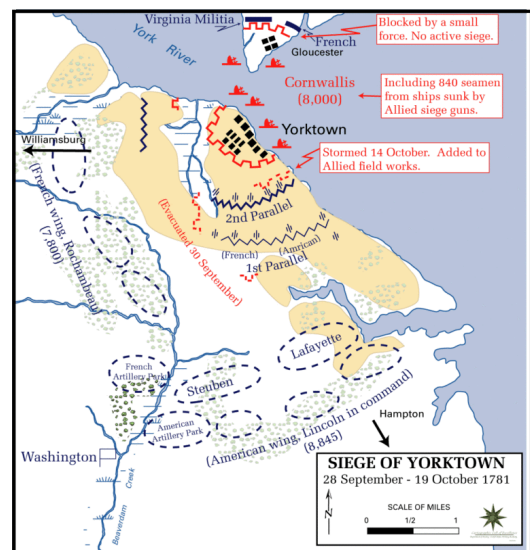
The chance to fight soon came in April of 1775. The British learned of supplies in Concord, and set out to take and destroy them. Through spies, Paul Revere found out about this plan and embarked on his famous midnight ride. In this battle, known as the Battle of Lexington and Concord, started the Revolutionary War. This was an American victory, and showed extremely clearly how this war would not be an easy British victory like most thought. Then came the Battle of Bunker Hill, where the Americans slaughtered thousands of British, compared to the around four hundred Americans casualties, before running out of ammunition and retreating. From early on, it was clear this would be a hard war. Until, that is, a series of defeats, where much of New York, and her surrounding areas are captured by the British. However, hope was not lost for the Patriots. Here came Washington's stroke of genius. While British troops were spending their Christmas in the luxury of New York, they left defense to the Hessians, German mercenaries hired by the British, who were expecting no attack on Christmas Day. Washington seized this chance and marched his starved army across the freezing cold Delaware River to attack the Hessian camp. Caught in surprise, the Hessians, though well trained, were quickly defeated. This victory not only led to the Patriots regaining rural New York and laying siege to New York City, it also boosted morale greatly. The other Patriot armies attacked with newfound bravery and hope, which led to them slowly defeating the British troops in other places, especially the south. But while this was happening, Washington and Rochambeau's forces were marching to Yorktown and surrounding Cornwallis and his British forces. While Washington and Rochambeau were blocking land routes from Yorktown, French warships blocked escape via sea. The surrender of Cornwallis's forces was the first domino in American victory, and soon, other British forces fell and surrendered, and the Americans achieved victory.

But think about this for a moment. The American forces, a ragtag group of volunteers with little to no military experience, beat the British Royal Army, which was the most powerful and skilled military group in the world at that time. How could that have happened? One important reason is great leaders, such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and so much more. However, today we will focus on perhaps the most interesting leaders: Alexander Hamilton.

Alexander Hamilton: In The Makings Of Our Country

One reason Hamilton was so interesting was likely his modest beginnings. Other founding fathers were often children of wealthy and well off families, but Hamilton was quite different. He was born on a small island in the British Isles. His father left the family soon after he was born and his mother died when he was five. He moved in with his uncle, in the Caribbean, who passed away, leaving nothing for Hamilton. However, he was determined to change his life. He started reading and learning, and almost immediately caught the eye of locals. They knew he would make a great impact on the world with his intelligence, and together, they worked a fortune to send him to mainland America. There, he enrolled for King's college, a leading college at the time, while using his superior writing skills to become a popular advocate for the Revolution.

In early 1775, Hamilton got his wish. The Battles of Lexington and Concord broke out, marking the official start of the War of Independence. Hamilton and his colleagues immediately volunteered to fight. They participated in quite a handful of small skirmishes, before Hamilton caught the eye of Washington himself. Washington noticed some of Hamilton pamphlets campaigning for the revolution, and Hamilton's writing skill caught Washington's eye. Around 1777, Washington invited Hamilton to be lieutenant colonel, which made him in charge of handling communication and letters between officers and armies. Even though he favored military fame, the position was too good to deny. For the next four years, Hamilton handled communication, drafted orders and speeches for Washington, and was in charge of planning and negotiation—skills that all required the vast intelligence that Alexander Hamilton had. However, in the back of his head, he still thought about military glory. However, every time Washington needed a new officer, he promoted another person: Lafayette, Schuyler, Greene, and so on. In 1779, the war was nearing an end, and so were Hamilton's military chances. So in 1781, he requested military leadership again, and this time, threatened to quit if not satisfied. Washington relented, and promoted him to general of a couple infantry units. Again, he led the battalion through quite some small skirmishes but with the battle of Yorktown coming, so was the final test. Washington and Rocheabeau (the French general), assigned some more battalions to Hamilton. His job was to quickly



take the British redoubts 9 and 10, and lead the way for the other American forces into Cornwallis's main forces. This was his time to shine! He didn't disappoint. In only a couple minutes, he captured the redoubts and laid siege, and he played an important role in the surrender of the British. Without Hamilton, the Continental Army perhaps would not have won. He played an immense role in the victory of the war.

However, winning the war was only the first step of America's creation. Alexander Hamilton would also play a role in the creation of the American government. After the war, Hamilton, like Washington, wished for a peaceful but prosperous life outside of the government. In 1782, after just six months of self studying, he passed the oral bar exam and was given a law license. Although most are required to study for three years, Hamilton finished the same in just six months, again illuminating his bright mind and his boundless intelligence. Whoever, the mess of the new country government was too much for Hamilton to ignore. He campaigned and was selected by New York to be a delegate in the Congress. He wrote many papers encouraging people to support the new government, and repressed many rebellions. However, all this trouble was because of how weak the government was after the Articles of Confederation. He heavily supported a strong central government as the fix of this dilemma. In doing this, he founded and campaigned for the Federalist Party, the same party George Washington and James Madison were in. They voted for a strong, central government with proposals for a national bank and heavy government interference with state affairs. Many, though not all, of his ideas were put in the Constitution when he represented New York in the Constitution Convention in Philadelphia, 1787, the meeting to discuss how to solve the new country's problems. He wrote 50 out of the 80 articles in the Federalist Papers, a series of articles campaigning for the federalist causes and to support the constitution. They were a big reason many states ratified the constitution. They especially helped convince the anti-federalist New York to ratify the constitution. After the country fixed the constitution's main problems, George Washington was elected president, and with that, Hamilton was appointed Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton made the First Bank of the United States a centerpiece of his financial plan. Modeled on the Bank of England, the bank held government funds, issued loans to the government, provided currency, and increased liquid capital to facilitate economic growth. He stayed Washington's second-in-command during his presidency as well, and even helped draft his farewell speech. He then returned to practicing law until an argument with Aaron Burr escalated to a duel, and he met his end from gunshot.

Alexander Hamilton: A Dive Inside His Thoughts

Hamilton was surprisingly determined and resilient, especially in times of great danger and agony. He showed this as he rose from a poor orphan to a major founding father of the American nation. With all that taken in mind, it would be immensely intriguing to dive into his thoughts, especially during the most important moments in the war, the Battle of Yorktown. After readings of the journals and letters that he wrote, this is what would be expected for him to think, written in a first person perspective:

“Our forces were well trained for spring, thanks to military expert and general Friedrich von Stuebon. However, the situation could hardly be worse. We were on the outskirts of New York City, a city which is still captured by the Redcoats. Food was scarce and disease washed the camp several times over. I had already lost many friends to disease and hunger, and through the especially grueling winter, almost a third of our forces passed away. While waiting for further orders, death strikes, man by man. In times of desperation, we sometimes cook leather and rats. This cycle has gone for months upon months, and it had only recently been improved when around 5000 frenchmen came to our aid. However, orders finally came. Washington personally addressed us, saying that we are to march to Yorktown, and attack the British army there. Despite these hardships, however, I was beaming. This is likely going to be the most important battle since Trenton, and this time, I have a role to play! My forces and I are to capture the British Redoubts 9 and 10. Then, the rest of the American troops march in from that gap and attack. The French would attack from the opposite side, and our forces would surround and besiege the British camp. This could perhaps end this war and win it for us. Every major army and important military leader is here. This is my chance for military glory, and I would either come back as a hero, or die trying...”

“We are currently preparing for a siege on Yorktown. We cannot afford to be heard or seen before we are ready to attack, and we must unload our guns while we sneak, so a stray bullet will not give us away. My heart is pounding out of my chest as I lead my battalion towards our position. There we wait for a signal from Washington and charge to take the Redoubts. We wait in the cover of night, barely daring to breathe, until a gunshot is shot in the distance. This is our cue to charge, and I yell, ‘Friends, Charge!’ I run with my bayonet straight at the fort, and my comrades do the same. We fiercely attack the surprised and sleepy opponent, determined to quickly take the fort. Bullets whiz all around me, and I narrowly dodge a bayonet before stabbing its holder. Around me, I see a few of my soldiers fall or get shot, and I feel a surge of anger and protectiveness. These were my men, and I was responsible for their well-being and success. I must bring us victory.”

Alexander Hamilton: Why He Is Important

Alexander Hamilton certainly played an important role in the Revolution as well as the making of our country. His vast intelligence helped win the war, as he used it in making plans and strategies. He made sure communication got through, which is vastly important to any army, then and now. He wrote many, many articles, either rallying moral and support for the Revolution or calling for much needed change in the early government. His effect in changing the government is also giant. Without him, this country would not have turned out the way it is today. Hamilton's lasting impact affects us today, and that's why he is important.

For beginners, one reason of importance is his affect as Wahington's aide-de-camp. During that time, he took charge of communication between different armies, as well as draft speeches and orders for Washington. Although there was much less glory in this job, it is actually much more difficult and impressive. Any army with unclear communication can be easily defeated. Orders would be lost, battle plans would be heard by the enemy, and the battle would be complete chaos. It takes a smart, diligent person to fix these issues, and no one but Hamilton could be up for the job. In addition, his superior writing skill enhanced letters and speeches, and without him, motivation and morale would be much, much lower. This could likely have made the difference between American victory and its defeat.

In addition, his role in the Battle of Yorktown is not neglectable. His forces capture the British redoubts guarding the city in less than ten minutes, allowing more American forces to easily march through to attack. He led the front lines himself in a bold and effective bayonet charge. The capture of the Redoubts led to much larger forces, such as Laffayette and Washington's forces, and allowed them to achieve victory. Without him, victory would be much harder and possibly impossible.

Lastly, his effect on the government and the bank is enormous. The official American Bank he designed and created is still used and modified today. The U.S. government is modeled on many of his ideas. He edited the Constitution, as well as provided many ideas for the amendments. He wrote many, many papers and newsletter campaigning for various causes, from supporting the Constitution to not interfering with the French Revolution. He did so much to the way our government shaped and grew, as well as how our national Bank and taxing system created and expanded.

Alexander Hamilton, the face of the ten dollar bill, was a major influence and founding father on the creation of our nation. His intelligence and determination enabled him to rise from a lost orphan to one of the greatest founding fathers of our country, and it allowed him to shape the future. Anyone less

resilient is sure to have never reached any of his achievements. He is obviously a great father of our nation, and his legacy will never be forgotten.

A Timeline of The Revolutionary War



Sources:

Websites:

- <https://oll.libertyfund.org/page/chronology-alexander-hamilton>
- <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/americanrevolution/timeline.htm>
- <https://revolutionarynj.org>
- <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/alexander-hamilton/>

Books:

- Alexander Hamilton By Chernow, Ron
- 1776 by McCullough, David