

Toronto Model United Nations Presents

THE DAWN OF REVOLUTION

1775. The world is about to witness the American Revolution unfold.

Background Guide

Letter from the Director:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to TMUN X 1775: The Dawn of Revolution Crisis Committee! I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to direct this committee and witness the unfolding events of the American Revolution with all of you.

My name is Skylar Gao, and I will be your director for this exciting journey. Currently, I am in grade 11 at Satec @ W.A. Porter Collegiate Institute in Scarborough. I started on my Model UN journey in eighth grade, and over the years, I have developed a deep passion for diplomacy and debate—especially within crisis committees. There is something uniquely exhilarating about the fast-paced, energetic, and creative nature of crises that I truly enjoy, and I aim to bring that same vibrant spirit to our committee sessions together.

Throughout our time in this committee, you can expect to see plot twists and challenges that will test your critical thinking and collaboration skills. I encourage each of you to embrace the spontaneity of the crisis and approach every debate with enthusiasm and creativity. Together, we will explore the motivations and decisions of key historical figures, grapple with complex issues, and craft solutions that could alter the course of history.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need guidance as you prepare for our sessions. My email will be listed at the end of this letter. I look forward to seeing the unique insights and perspectives each of you will bring, and I am confident that we will create memorable experiences together.

So, buckle up for an incredible journey through one of the most pivotal moments in history. I can't wait to see how each of you will contribute to the unfolding narrative of the American Revolution!

Best regards,

Skylar Gao
Director, TMUN X 1775: The Dawn of Revolution Crisis Committee
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Committee Description:

The battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, sparked the start of a revolution that will change the course of American history. What began as a mission by British forces to seize colonial weapon stockpiles quickly escalated into open conflict, as colonial militias, enraged by years of taxation without representation and growing British oppression, stood their ground. The first shots were fired, and what was a growing political dispute erupted into the start of the American Revolutionary War.

The American colonies now face a pivotal moment: will they unite for independence or reconcile with the British Crown? King George III views the colonies as a threat to his order and has sent forces to crush the resistance, while the Continental Congress debates its next move—diplomacy, war, or full independence. In this committee, you'll step into 1775 as Colonial leaders, navigating alliances, strategy, and key decisions that will shape the American Revolution. Will you broker for peace, push for war, or fight for independence? History is watching—are you ready to take command?

Historical Context:

The build-up to the American Revolution was sparked by years of rising tensions between Britain and its American colonies. The shift really started after the French and Indian War ended in 1763. Britain, now deeply in debt from fighting the war, needed funds to maintain its expanded empire and decided to tax its American colonies.¹ The British government issued the Proclamation of 1763, preventing settlers from moving west past the Appalachian Mountains, hoping this would reduce conflicts with Native Americans and keep the costly colonial expansion in check. However, many colonists felt that they had earned the right to this land, which only increased resentment toward British policies.²

To offset the debt, Britain introduced the Stamp Act in 1765, marking the first direct tax on the colonies. This tax required that almost all printed materials in the colonies carry a stamp showing that a tax had been paid. Colonists objected, arguing they should not be taxed without having representatives in Parliament.³ This principle of "no taxation without representation" quickly gained traction, fueling colonial outrage. The opposition to the Stamp Act was so strong that it led to the formation of the Stamp Act Congress, and colonial merchants organized a boycott that hurt British trade, ultimately forcing Parliament to repeal the act in 1766. But in the same breath, Britain passed the Declaratory Act, asserting its right to legislate for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever," which only deepened colonial mistrust.⁴

In 1767, the British passed the Townshend Acts, imposing duties on everyday items like glass, tea, and paper. While British leaders saw these as reasonable to cover the colonies' administrative costs, the colonists were furious. This wasn't just about money—it was about control and rights. In response, colonists organized more boycotts and smuggling became rampant.⁵ The unrest boiled over in Boston, leading to the Boston Massacre in 1770, where British soldiers killed five colonists during a confrontation. This incident was heavily publicized by leaders like Samuel Adams, who used it to illustrate British cruelty and fuel anti-British sentiments across the colonies.⁶

The Tea Act of 1773 reignited tensions when the British East India Company was given a monopoly over the colonial tea trade. Colonists saw this as a sneaky way for Britain to force them to accept British taxes on tea. The anger culminated in December 1773 when a group of

¹ Middlekauff, Robert. *The Glorious Cause : The American Revolution, 1763-1789*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2007.

² Bailyn, Bernard. *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*. Cambridge, Mass. Etc., The Belknap Press Of Harvard University Press, 1967.

³ DuRivage, Justin, and Claire Priest. "The Stamp Act and the Political Origins of American Legal and Economic Institutions." *Southern California Law Review*, vol. 88, 2014,

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Chaffin, Robert J. "The Townshend Acts of 1767." *The William and Mary Quarterly: A Magazine of Early American History* (1970): 90-121.

⁶ Middlekauff, Robert.

colonists, disguised as the Mohawk Peoples, boarded British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor, an event that became known as the Boston Tea Party. In retaliation, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts in 1774, which colonists called the "Intolerable Acts." These acts restricted colonial self-government, closed Boston's port, and allowed British officials accused of crimes in America to be tried back in Britain. The harshness of these laws spurred the colonies to meet at the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia to discuss a unified response, pushing them closer to open rebellion.⁷

The final spark came in April 1775. British General Thomas Gage, stationed in Massachusetts, was ordered to seize colonial military supplies stored in Concord and to arrest leaders of the rebellion like John Hancock and Samuel Adams. On April 18, British troops moved toward Concord but were met by local militias, thanks to warnings from riders like Paul Revere.⁸ On April 19, at Lexington, the first shots were fired in what became known as "the shot heard 'round the world." This marked the official start of open hostilities, with further fighting that day at Concord driving British troops back to Boston under relentless colonial gunfire along the way.⁹

⁷ Carp, Benjamin L. *Defiance of the patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the making of America*. Yale University Press, 2010.

⁸ Ellis, Joseph J. *Founding Brothers : The Revolutionary Generation*. New York, Vintage Books, 2002.

⁹ Frothingham, Richard. *History of the Siege of Boston: And of the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. Also an Account of the Bunker Hill Monument. With Illustrative Documents*. Little, Brown, & Company, 1873.

Timeline:

1763

Proclamation of 1763: British government restricts westward expansion past the Appalachian Mountains to ease tensions with Native Americans, frustrating colonists eager to settle the newly acquired land.

1765

Stamp Act: First direct tax on colonies requires stamps on printed materials. Colonists rally around “no taxation without representation,” sparking boycotts and the Stamp Act Congress.

1766

Stamp Act Repeal & Declaratory Act: Britain repeals the Stamp Act but asserts full authority over the colonies with the Declaratory Act, deepening colonial distrust.

1767

Townshend Acts: New taxes on glass, tea, and paper intensify protests. Colonists respond with organized boycotts, especially in Boston.

1770

Boston Massacre: British troops kill five colonists during a confrontation in Boston. The event is publicized as a symbol of British oppression, fueling anti-British sentiment.

1773

Tea Act & Boston Tea Party: The Tea Act grants a monopoly to the British East India Company, leading to the Boston Tea Party, where colonists dump British tea into Boston Harbor as a protest.

1774

Intolerable Acts: In response to the Tea Party, Britain enacts punitive measures that close Boston’s port and restrict local governance. Colonies convene the First Continental Congress, uniting in opposition to British policies and organizing militias.

1775

Battles of Lexington and Concord: British troops march to Concord to seize colonial arms and arrest leaders. Militia intercepts them, leading to the “shot heard round the world” and marking the official start of armed conflict.

¹⁰ American Battlefield Trust. “American Revolution Timeline.” *American Battlefield Trust*, 17 July 2018, www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/american-revolution-timeline.

Topic One: Reconciliation

The recent clash at Lexington and Concord has intensified the divide between the American colonies and Britain, making reconciliation a more difficult, but not entirely impossible, path. Though violence has erupted between the two sides, both have reasons to consider a negotiated settlement. Although the battles have been significant, they are still relatively limited in scope. As tensions rise, it's important to understand that despite the violence, both the colonies and Britain remain invested in preserving the possibility of peace, though the path to reconciliation is now more challenging than ever.

Reconciliation between Britain and the colonies has been a topic of heated debate for years. The imposition of taxes like the *Stamp Act* (1765) and the *Townshend Acts* (1767), and the subsequent colonial resistance, significantly strained relations between the colonies and the British government.¹¹ These events were not isolated, but part of a larger pattern where Britain's policies seemed to disregard colonial interests in favor of imperial control. By 1774, with the passage of the *Coercive Acts*, which included the closing of Boston Harbor and the revocation of Massachusetts' charter, tensions reached a breaking point. The colonies' frustration was not solely about taxes, but also about their lack of political representation in Britain's Parliament, which led to the rally of "no taxation without representation."¹²

Throughout these years, the colonies made multiple attempts at reconciliation. The First Continental Congress in 1774 convened to address these concerns, and it was there that colonial leaders emphasized a desire for peace and negotiation.¹³ At the same time, Britain made few concessions. The British government's refusal to listen to the colonies' grievances only solidified the idea that the colonies were powerless to change their circumstances through negotiation alone. While many colonial leaders, including George Washington and John Adams, hoped for a peaceful resolution, their calls for reform fell on deaf ears in London.¹⁴

After these years of growing resentment and failed attempts at negotiation, the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, became the immediate trigger for wider violence. It was not, however, the first instance of conflict between the two sides, nor was it necessarily the point of no return for reconciliation. The shots fired at Lexington and Concord, though historic,

¹¹ "British Acts That Angered the American Colonists." www.studentsofhistory.com, 2024, www.studentsofhistory.com/stamp-sugar-intolerable-acts.

¹² Galiani, Sebastian, and Gustavo Torrens. *Why not taxation and representation? A note on the American Revolution.* No. w22724. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2016.

¹³ Gish, Dustin. "RECONCILIATION VS. REVOLUTION: Jefferson's Declaration and Paine's Common Sense."

¹⁴ Ibid

were a continuation of the struggles that had been brewing for over a decade.¹⁵ Even after these events, both sides still had reasons to negotiate rather than escalate to full-scale war.

The Possibilities and Challenges

In the immediate aftermath of the violence at Lexington and Concord, the idea of reconciliation still remains a possibility, even though it is difficult to achieve. One of the key factors in the potential for peace is the fact that, despite the battle, the colonies are still not united in their calls for full independence. While a growing faction of the population is pushing for full independence, many remain hopeful that their grievances can be addressed without completely cutting ties with Britain.¹⁶ The colonies' desire to maintain their status as part of the British Empire, but with greater autonomy, still persists among moderates.

The Continental Congress, still meeting in its early stages, has yet to declare independence and has been cautious in its demands. Despite the battle, some still view reconciliation as possible through constitutional reform and the recognition of colonial rights. Leaders like John Dickinson from Pennsylvania, who had been an advocate for peaceful negotiation, argue that the colonies should still appeal to the Crown and Parliament for a redress of their grievances.¹⁷ These moderates insist that the colonies do not seek to destroy their relationship with Britain, but rather to create a new balance of power that respects their rights.

However, this view is increasingly at odds with a growing number of colonists who now believe that any form of reconciliation is futile. The battle of Lexington and Concord demonstrated that colonial forces could stand up to British troops, emboldening the call for independence.¹⁸ Radical leaders like Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, and others are beginning to see the conflict as a clear fight for freedom and self-determination. Their influence is swelling, particularly in places like New England, where the recent bloodshed has turned many against Britain completely.¹⁹

In Britain, there is also division. King George III's reaction to the battle has been severe. His insistence on punishing the colonies as rebels suggests little interest in reconciliation.²⁰ However, there are factions within Parliament who understand that pursuing a full-scale war with the colonies could be disastrous. The costs of such a war would stretch Britain's military and

¹⁵ Daughan, George C. *Lexington and Concord: The Battle Heard Round the World*. WW Norton & Company, 2018.

¹⁶ Ferling, John. *Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

¹⁷ Gish, Dustin

¹⁸ Schwoerer, Lois G., ed. *The revolution of 1688-89: Changing perspectives*. Cambridge University Press, 1992.

¹⁹ *Ibid*

²⁰ Conway, Stephen. "The Politics of British Military and Naval Mobilization, 1775-83." *The English Historical Review* 112.449 (1997): 1179-1201.

financial resources thin, especially when the empire is already stretched by conflicts in Europe.²¹ For Britain, maintaining peace with the colonies might be preferable to escalating violence, though this perspective is in the minority.

The Strategic and Economic Importance of Reconciliation

For both Britain and the colonies, the strategic and economic benefits of reconciliation could still be significant. The colonies rely heavily on British markets for trade, and a breakdown in the relationship could devastate the colonial economy.²² As a result, many colonists recognize that maintaining ties with Britain could offer economic benefits, especially in the form of trade, while still pushing for reforms and greater self-governance. For them, reconciliation would offer a way to avoid the economic strain of war while still securing some degree of autonomy.²³

For Britain, keeping the colonies under its control is economically important. The American colonies provide crucial resources, including tobacco, timber, and other raw materials. If Britain were to lose the colonies, it would also lose access to these resources.²⁴ Moreover, the colonies provide a vital market for British goods. A peaceful resolution that grants the colonies greater autonomy while maintaining British economic dominance could allow Britain to preserve its strategic interests without resorting to war.

However, the desire for peace must also be weighed against the larger political stakes. For Britain, losing the colonies could send a signal to other parts of the empire that rebellion is an acceptable course of action. For the colonies, accepting British rule without addressing their grievances would undermine their struggle for greater self-determination. These competing interests make reconciliation more difficult, but not impossible.²⁵

The Road Ahead

Though the prospects for reconciliation are fading as the violence grows, they are not entirely gone. The path to peace will require both sides to make difficult choices and to be willing to compromise. For the colonies, this might mean accepting some form of British oversight, but with greater autonomy in local governance and economic matters. For Britain, it might involve recognizing the colonies' right to self-government in exchange for continued economic ties and political loyalty to the Crown.

Yet, as the colonies move further from reconciliation and closer to full independence, the question becomes whether the benefits of staying within the British Empire outweigh the costs of rebellion. Both sides must consider the long-term consequences of their actions. The next

²¹ Conway, Stephen. "The Politics of British Military and Naval Mobilization"

²² Wood, Gordon S. *The American revolution: a history*. Modern Library, 2002.

²³ *Ibid*

²⁴ *Ibid*

²⁵ Middlekauff, Robert.

steps will be crucial in determining whether a peaceful resolution is still possible or if the road to full independence is inevitable.

Guiding Questions:

1. How can the colonies encourage Britain to enter into negotiations, given the recent violence at Lexington and Concord?
2. What economic benefits could both Britain and the colonies stand to gain from reconciliation, and how can these be achieved in negotiations?
3. How do radical and moderate colonists affect the chances for peace, and what role do they play in the overall conflict?
4. What would the long-term consequences be for both Britain and the colonies if reconciliation is not pursued and full independence is declared?

Topic Two: Independence

In the wake of recent events, the prospect of independence has become a rallying point for those envisioning a new, self-determined future for the American colonies. While reconciliation with Britain remains an option, the case for independence grows stronger as colonists reflect on their grievances, shared identity, and potential as a sovereign nation. For advocates, independence represents an opportunity to protect their rights, establish a government of their own design, and escape the long history of perceived British exploitation.

A Vision of Self-Governance

Achieving independence for the colonies is not a simple or immediate process, but it is becoming increasingly clear that it is the only viable path forward. Following the recent conflicts, including the events at Lexington and Concord, the need for decisive action grows more urgent. The colonies must take several crucial steps to break free from British control, and these steps involve coordination, military strategy, diplomacy, and public persuasion.²⁶

The first challenge is to unify the colonies, which, despite their shared grievances, have often acted independently and may hold differing views on what independence should look like.²⁷ The Continental Congress has been central to bringing these diverse colonies together. By working through the Continental Congress, leaders like John Adams and Benjamin Franklin aim to develop a shared vision for independence, focusing on their common desire to establish a government free from British influence.²⁸ Although regional differences remain, there is increasing recognition that independence is the only way to protect colonial interests and rights.

Another critical step is the formation of a continental army. While militias have been effective in local battles, such as the one at Lexington and Concord, they are not organized or equipped to take on the British military in a prolonged conflict.²⁹ Under George Washington's leadership, the Continental Army must be strengthened and properly supplied to face the might of Britain's professional forces. This task requires significant coordination among the colonies to raise funds, recruit soldiers, and organize the army in a way that ensures it can defend the colonies and eventually challenge British forces.³⁰

Securing international support is also essential to the success of an independence movement. France, which has long been an adversary of Britain, could prove to be a valuable ally. By sending representatives to France, the colonies should seek to gain military and financial support, as well as recognition from other foreign powers. While France is cautious, the

²⁶ Gish, Dustin.

²⁷ York, Neil L. "The First Continental Congress and the Problem of American Rights." *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 122.4 (1998)

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Wright, Robert K. *The Continental Army*. Washington, DC: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1983.

³⁰ Ibid

prospect of weakening Britain's hold on its colonies offers clear strategic benefits. Securing this support is vital to tipping the balance of power in favor of the colonies.

Finally, the colonies must address public sentiment and build widespread support for independence. While some remain loyal to Britain, many are beginning to question whether the Crown will ever honor their rights.³¹ Pamphlets like "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine have been instrumental in shaping public opinion by presenting independence as not only possible but morally right. Local assemblies and town meetings provide opportunities to strengthen the case for independence and unite the public behind this goal. As the colonies face the prospect of war, it is essential that a majority of the population is behind the cause of independence, ensuring a sustained effort against British rule.

Breaking Away From British Control

Breaking away from Britain would free the colonies from restrictive trade policies, such as the Navigation Acts, which required them to trade primarily with Britain and its territories. These regulations stifled economic growth by limiting the colonies' ability to seek competitive markets for their goods.³² The Proclamation of 1763 restricted westward expansion, frustrating colonists eager to settle and profit from newly acquired lands after the French and Indian War.³³ Taxation measures, such as the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act, were imposed to pay for Britain's debts and global ambitions, not to benefit the colonies themselves.³⁴ These actions have left a lasting impression that the colonies are being used to serve British interests, rather than their own. An independent America could forge trade relationships with other nations, including France and Spain, potentially boosting its economy and fostering growth in industries like agriculture, shipbuilding, and manufacturing.

Independence would also allow the colonies to keep revenue generated within their borders, rather than sending a portion of it to Britain in the form of taxes.³⁵ This financial autonomy could be used to develop infrastructure, fund local governments, and support the war effort, laying the groundwork for long-term prosperity.

Independence would allow the colonies to prioritize their own needs and ambitions, rather than serving as a financial and geopolitical resource for an empire that seems indifferent to their well-being. It would also eliminate the threat of future punitive measures, such as those seen after the Boston Tea Party, which punished the entire colony of Massachusetts for the actions of a few.³⁶

³¹ Frothingham, Richard.

³² Fiske, John. *The American Revolution*. Vol. 1. Library of Alexandria, 1894.

³³ Monroe McCutchen, Jennifer. "Proclamation Line of 1763." *George Washington's Mount Vernon*, 2024.

³⁴ DuRivage, Justin.

³⁵ Fiske, John.

³⁶ Carp, Benjamin L.

The Challenges

While independence presents undeniable opportunities, it also carries risks. The colonies lack the centralized authority and resources necessary to wage a prolonged war against Britain's formidable military.³⁷ Securing alliances with foreign powers like France or Spain would be crucial to balancing the scales, but these partnerships could come with demands that might limit the colonies' newfound sovereignty.³⁸

Internally, divisions among the colonies and their populations pose a challenge. Loyalists, who remain committed to the Crown, could undermine efforts toward independence and create conflicts within communities.³⁹ The colonies must address these divisions carefully, ensuring that the pursuit of independence does not lead to lasting fractures.

Independence is more than a practical necessity; it is a stand against tyranny. Many colonial leaders believe that staying under British rule conflicts with the core values of liberty and justice. With lives already lost in the growing conflict, they question whether reconciliation would truly fix the deeper issues. For many, the only answer is a new path that rejects oppression and builds a society based on freedom and equality.⁴⁰

On a practical level, independence would give the colonies control over their own trade, laws, and governance. It would free them from policies made by a distant government that prioritizes its own interests. Independence is not just about breaking ties; it is about building a future that better serves the colonies and their people.

Guiding Questions

1. How can the colonies ensure unity in their push for independence?
2. What strategies can be employed to secure foreign support for the independence movement?
3. How might the colonies address the concerns of Loyalists while pursuing independence?
4. What steps should the colonies take to build a sustainable government and economy after independence?

³⁷ Fiske, John.

³⁸ Middlekauff, Robert.

³⁹ Ferling, John. **Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence.** Oxford University Press, 2007.

⁴⁰ Middlekauff, Robert.

Current State of Affairs:

The day after the Battle of Lexington and Concord, tensions are at a breaking point, but full-scale war has not yet been declared. British troops, numbering about 4,000 in Boston, are regrouping after being forced to retreat by colonial militias, who have swelled to around 15,000 from surrounding towns.⁴¹ While the colonists showed they could stand up to the British, they remained untrained and poorly supplied compared to the professional British soldiers.

Support for the revolution is strongest in New England, but many Loyalists remain in New York, parts of the South, and some coastal cities. Roughly 20% of the population is loyal to Britain, while others are unsure whether to support independence or seek peace. This division makes it hard for the colonies to present a united front.⁴²

Britain's navy, with over 130 warships, controls the coast, threatening colonial trade and supplies.⁴³ Internationally, France and Spain are watching closely but have not offered help yet. They might support the colonies if it weakens Britain, but only if they see clear unity and determination.

The colonies are not yet at war as a whole, but the fighting has made peace much harder to imagine. Delegates at the Continental Congress now face critical decisions about whether to push for reconciliation or prepare for independence. What happens in the next days and weeks will shape the future of the colonies.

⁴¹ Conway, Stephen

⁴² Middlekauff, Robert.

⁴³ *Ibid*

Research Guide:

Researching the American Revolution can be an intimidating task, but a focused and strategic approach will make it manageable. Here are some tips and things to keep in mind:

- Start broad: Begin with general overviews to get a sense of the time period. Wikipedia, online encyclopedias, youtube videos, and summaries can help establish a basic understanding of what you are working with.
- Once you have a general sense of the period, dive deeper into specific topics. Focus on researching your character, but don't overdo it, since it is a crisis, and things will be changing constantly
- Research enough to feel confident discussing the issues in debate, but don't aim to master every detail.

If there are any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the email linked in the Letter from the Director.

Starting Links:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/American-Revolution>

<https://allthingsliberty.com/>

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/overview-american-revolutionary-war>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/americanrevolution/timeline.htm>

Character Guide:

1. George Washington

George Washington, a respected Virginian and experienced soldier, was chosen to lead the Continental Army. He believed the colonies had to stand together to defend their rights. While he hoped for peace at first, Washington understood that preparing for war was necessary after the British refused to back down. His calm and steady leadership made him a unifying figure, and his focus on discipline was important for the army's success.

2. John Adams

John Adams, a lawyer from Massachusetts, strongly supported independence. He believed the colonies had no choice but to break away from Britain to protect their freedoms. Adams often spoke out against British policies and worked to convince others to support the idea of independence. His clear thinking and ability to argue made him a key voice in the committee.

3. Samuel Adams

Samuel Adams, John Adams' cousin, was a passionate leader in the fight against British rule. He believed the colonies had to take strong and immediate action to win their freedom. Samuel organized protests like the Boston Tea Party and worked to get people angry about British taxes and soldiers. In the committee, he would push for bold moves and encourage others to stand firm against Britain.

4. John Hancock

John Hancock was a rich merchant from Massachusetts and the president of the Continental Congress. He was a public supporter of the revolution, using his money and influence to help fund the Patriot cause. After the British tried to arrest him at Lexington, Hancock became more committed to independence. In the committee, his leadership and resources would help organize the colonies' efforts.

5. Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin, from Pennsylvania, was a famous inventor, writer, and diplomat. He believed the colonies had to unite to win independence. Franklin was skilled at convincing others to join the cause and had experience working with British officials before the war. His wisdom and ability to negotiate would be helpful in planning the colonies' next steps.

6. Joseph Warren

Joseph Warren was a Boston doctor and an early leader of the revolution. He was involved in organizing resistance and played a key role in warning of the British advance on Lexington and

Concord. Warren believed strongly in the colonies' right to govern themselves. As someone who worked closely with many key figures, his advice and bravery were highly respected.

7. Nathanael Greene

Nathanael Greene, a self-taught military leader from Rhode Island, believed that the colonies needed to fight hard to win their freedom. Though he had little formal training, Greene quickly became one of Washington's most trusted generals. His strategic thinking and determination would be valuable to the committee as they discussed how to organize their forces.

8. Paul Revere

Paul Revere, a silversmith from Boston, was a member of the Sons of Liberty and famous for his midnight ride to warn colonists of the British advance. Revere believed in taking swift action to resist British rule. His ability to organize communication and spread information quickly made him an important part of the revolutionary effort.

9. Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson, a lawyer and plantation owner from Virginia, believed strongly in liberty and self-government. He thought the colonies had to break away from Britain and was known for his skill in writing. Jefferson's ability to clearly explain the reasons for independence would help the committee gain support for their cause.

10. Henry Knox

Henry Knox, a Boston bookseller with a deep interest in military strategy, believed the colonies needed to prepare for a long fight against Britain. He helped bring cannons to Boston after the battles at Lexington and Concord, which became a turning point for the Continental Army. Knox's knowledge of artillery and his commitment to the cause would help the committee with military planning.

11. John Dickinson

John Dickinson, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, hoped to avoid war and believed in trying to make peace with Britain. He thought the colonies should prepare to defend themselves but still try to negotiate. His careful and thoughtful approach could help the committee balance calls for independence with efforts to gain more support from undecided colonies.

12. Alexander Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton, a young immigrant from the Caribbean, was already a rising figure in New York. He believed in a strong, united effort to resist British rule. Hamilton's skill as a writer and speaker helped rally support for the revolution. His ideas about strategy and organization would help the committee plan for the future.

13. Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, was a strong supporter of independence and believed in equal rights for women. She often wrote letters advising her husband, offering thoughtful ideas on politics and society. While she wasn't directly involved in the fighting, her voice reminded leaders to think about the future they were creating.

14. Aaron Burr

Aaron Burr, a young and ambitious lawyer from New York, supported the Patriot cause and believed the colonies had to fight for their rights. Though not yet a major leader, Burr's military skill and determination would soon make him a key figure. His ideas and drive would help push the committee to take decisive action.

15. Martha Washington

Martha Washington, wife of George Washington, was known for her support of the troops. She believed in her husband's mission and spent time at army camps, helping boost morale. Though not directly involved in decisions, her presence symbolized the importance of unity and resilience.

16. Benedict Arnold

Benedict Arnold, a skilled military leader from Connecticut, believed in fighting hard for independence. He led successful early campaigns, such as the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. However, Arnold was ambitious and often clashed with other leaders. His military experience made him an important figure in planning battles, though his loyalty was sometimes questioned.

17. Mercy Otis Warren

Mercy Otis Warren, a writer and political thinker from Massachusetts, used her talents to support the revolution. She wrote plays and pamphlets that criticized British rule and encouraged colonists to fight for their rights. Her ability to spread ideas and rally support made her a valuable voice for the Patriot cause.