

AP United States History

Declaration of Independence and the War

- Contradictions of the Declarations of Independence
 - Inalienable rights and liberty when the Founding Fathers have slaves
 - "All men are created equal" excludes women
- Not everyone supports the War of Independence
 - Loyalists make up 20-30% of the population (including Ben Franklin's son)
 - These people often found themselves increasingly harassed by patriots when expressing their opinions
 - They also fear anarchy and slave rebellions as a result of a decentralized government
 - Neutrals made up of pacifist Quakers and Germans because of religion
 - They just wanted to hold on to their existing property
- Northern states begin abolishing slavery
 - Massachusetts and Vermont abolish slavery soon after the Declaration of Independence immediately
 - New Jersey and Pennsylvania institute gradual emancipation abolishment
- The Battle of Saratoga
 - American victory and huge British defeat
 - French are convinced to join the war in favor of the Americans
 - Not because they liked the Americans, but for enmity against the British
 - Spanish and Dutch also eventually join the war in 1779 and 1780 respectively
- Why do the British lose the war? Because they stopped wanting to win. They decided that it wasn't worth it
- Treaty of Paris- 1783—The Americans win against the British
 - United States are granted independence from Britain
 - Florida goes to Spain, Britain keeps Canada
 - United States get unlimited fishing rights from Georgia to Maine
 - The British must be paid back their private debt and confiscated loyalist lands would be returned