

Patriots Against Loyalists

***By 1775 - split was developing in the colonies.**

~Patriots - colonists who favored independence and were willing to fight (2/3)

~Loyalists - colonists who remained loyal to Britain and king (1/3)

***Loyalists came from all sections of population and all colonies but were a minority. Included people from wealthiest families. Many were leading merchants and large landowners (they feared a rebellion would lead to a change in government and they would lose property).**

Government officials were often Loyalists.

***Enslaved African Americans sided with British, hoping to win freedom. Native Americans sided with British for fear they would lose land if colonists gained independence.**

***During Revolution, Loyalists fought with British. During and after war, 100,000 Loyalists left the country - many settled in Canada.**

Petitioning the King

***Colonists still hoped for peace with Britain and passed two resolutions.**

~Olive Branch Petition - petition sent to King George III that stated that the colonists were loyal to the king. Asked George to stop fighting so all disputes could be solved peacefully.

~Declaration of the Causes and Necessities of Taking Up Arms - partly written by Thomas Jefferson, it stated that the colonists were read “to die freemen rather than to live as slaves.”

***Efforts at peace failed. Parliament voted to send 20,000 soldiers to the colonies to end the revolt.**

An Important American Victory

***May 10, 1775 - Colonists attacked Fort Ticonderoga (south end of Lake Champlain in NY and protected water route to Canada). Leader was Ethan Allen of the Green Mountain Boys. Outnumbered, the British surrendered almost immediately.**

***Victory at Ticonderoga meant Americans controlled the main route between Canada and the Hudson River Valley. It also held valuable weapons, especially cannons (which Americans needed to match British firepower - used by Washington to drive British from Boston)**

Early Battles

***June 1775 - British had 6,500 troops in Boston; Americans had 10,000 surrounding city.**

***1,600 Americans occupied Breed's Hill overlooking Boston. They could fire on British ships in Boston harbor. Americans also controlled nearby Bunker Hill.**

Battle of Bunker Hill

***Americans defending Boston were not trained or experienced soldiers.**

***British marched up Breed's Hill. Short of ammunition, Americans were told, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." Strategy worked on the first and second attacks.**

***Eventually Britain succeeded. Britain lost about 1,000 and the Americans about 400. However, Americans proved they could fight and stand up to professional British soldiers.**

***Although a victory, Battle of Bunker Hill (misnamed because it happened on Breed's Hill) did not aid British in Boston. City was surrounded.**

***Washington had the cannons from Fort Ticonderoga brought to Boston (3-month journey)**

***March 17, 1776 - knowing they could not defend Boston, the British left by sea and never returned.**

***Washington knew war was not over. Britain had the most powerful navy in the world. They used it to transport troops and supplies and to blockade - *shutting off of a port by ships to keep people or supplies from moving in or out* - American ports.**

***Britain strengthened their army by hiring mercenaries - *soldiers who serve another country for money*.**

Invading Canada

***Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold led armies toward Canada**

***Arnold's army boiled candles, bark, and shoe leather for food.**

***Dec. 1775 - Americans attacked Quebec but were turned back; weakened by disease and hunger, Americans left Canada to British.**

Review Questions

1. How did the divided loyalties of the colonists affect the Second Continental Congress?

They passed resolutions that favored both negotiations and a tough stance against the British government.

2. What did the Battle of Bunker Hill show about the American and British forces?

The Americans lost the battles, but had proven that they could stand up to and fight the British.



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