

1754-63, French and Indian War

British stamps of colonial legal and commercial documents



George III

1760 George III crowned "Patriot King"



Key Figures

- 1706-90, Benjamin Franklin
- 1710-76, Richard Bland
- 1711-80, Thomas Hutchinson
- 1712-70, George Grenville
- 1721-93, Roger Sherman
- 1722-1803, Samuel Adams
- 1722-92, John Burgoyne
- 1722-97, Daniel Dulany
- 1723-91, Richard Price
- 1725-92, George Mason
- 1725-83, James Otis
- 1725-67, Charles Townshend
- 1728-1814, Mercy Otis Warren
- 1730-94, Friedrich Wilhelm, Baron von Steuben
- 1730-1809, John Murray, Lord Dunmore
- 1731-1806, Benjamin Banneker
- 1732-1808, John Dickinson
- 1732-94, Richard Henry Lee
- 1732-99, Frederick (Lord) North
- 1732-99, George Washington
- 1734-1806, Robert Morris
- 1735-1826, John Adams
- 1735-1818, Paul Revere
- 1736-99, Patrick Henry
- 1737-1809, Thomas Paine
- 1738-1805, Charles Cornwallis
- 1738-1820, George III
- 1741-1801, Benedict Arnold
- 1741-1821, William Findley
- 1741-1827, Charles Willson Peale
- 1742-1807, Joseph Brant
- 1742-98, James Wilson
- 1743-1826, Thomas Jefferson
- 1744-98, Melancton Smith
- 1745-1829, John Jay
- 1746-1817, Tadeusz Kosciuszko
- 1746-80, Esther De Berdt Reed
- 1747-92, John Paul Jones
- 1749-1815, David Ramsay
- 1751-1836, James Madison
- 1752-1818, George Rogers Clark
- 1752-1816, Gouverneur Morris
- 1752-1836, Betsy Ross
- 1752-1827, St. George Tucker
- 1753-1824, John Taylor
- 1755-1804, Alexander Hamilton
- 1755-1835, John Marshall
- 1756-1836, Aaron Burr
- 1757-1834, Marquis de Lafayette
- 1758-1808, Fisher Ames
- 1758-1831, James Monroe



George Washington



Map of 13 original colonies (undated)



- 1763 Peace of Paris gives Canada and Florida to Great Britain
- 1763 Proclamation Act prohibits western colonial expansion
- 1764 British imperial reform begins with Sugar Act
- 1764 Eight colonies petition Crown to repeal Sugar Act
- 1765 Stamp Act provokes widespread rioting and protests
- 1765 Quartering Act forces colonists to house and supply army
- 1766 Parliament repeals Stamp Act
- 1767 Townshend Acts call for new import levies
- 1768 Colonists in Boston initiate nonimportation agreements against British
- 1770 Boston Massacre—British soldiers fire on crowd, killing five
- 1770 Parliament repeals Townshend Acts, leaving tax on tea



Treaty of Paris, 1783

- 1773 Virginia initiates intercolonial committees of correspondence
- 1773 Boston Tea Party—Tea Act prompts patriots to dump tea cargo in Boston Harbor
- 1774 Parliament responds to colonists' rebellion with Coercive Acts
- 1774 First Continental Congress gathers in Philadelphia
- 1774 Resolution in Congress urging end to slave trade
- 1775 "Shot heard 'round the world" fired at Lexington
- 1775 First abolition society organized by Philadelphians
- 1775 Second Continental Congress gathers in Philadelphia
- 1775 George Washington named commander-in-chief of Continental Army
- 1775 Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* calls for independence

1776 Congress declares independence

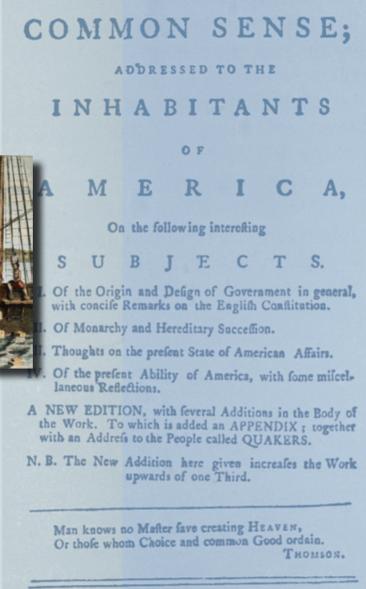
- 1776 Continental Army spends winter at Valley Forge
- 1777 Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga
- 1777 Congress proposes Articles of Confederation
- 1778 Congress ratifies Treaty of Alliance with France



Boston Massacre, 1770



Boston Tea Party, 1773

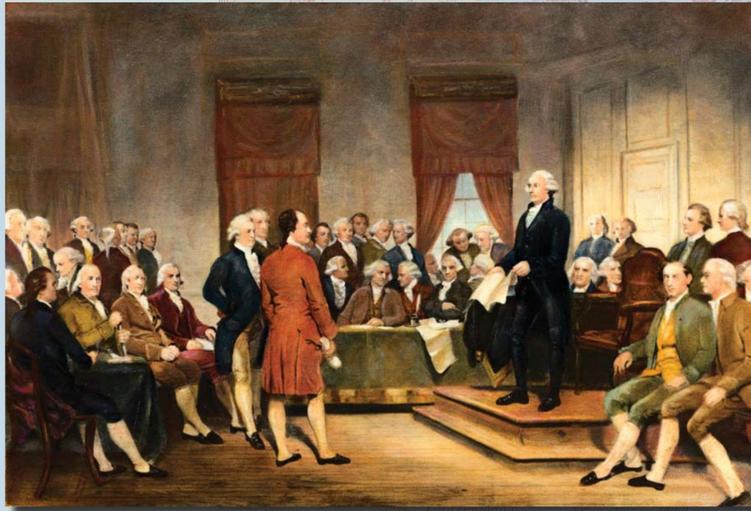


1787-88 Federalist Papers appear in newspapers urging ratification of Constitution

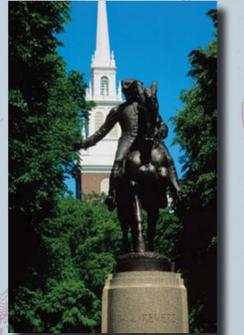


Fight during Shays's Rebellion, 1787

Timeline of Key Figures and Events of the American Founding



Signing of Constitution, 1787



Paul Revere monument in Boston

- 1780 Pennsylvania passes gradual abolition law, first in world
- 1780-1800 Freed slaves establish churches, libraries, and charities
- 1781 Cornwallis surrenders to Washington at Yorktown
- 1781 States ratify Articles of Confederation
- 1782 Virginia statute eases manumission of slaves
- 1783 Treaty of Paris recognizes American independence
- 1783 Maryland joins northern states in outlawing slave trade
- 1783 Massachusetts Supreme Court rules slavery unconstitutional
- 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix opens up Ohio River Valley for settlement
- 1784 Connecticut and Rhode Island adopt gradual emancipation
- 1784 Bank of New York founded
- 1786 Virginia adopts Statute for Religious Freedom
- 1786 Shays's Rebellion—Daniel Shays leads Massachusetts farmers to seize Springfield Armory
- 1787 Northwest Ordinance provides for admission of new states and bars slavery in Northwest Territory
- 1787 Delegates meet in Philadelphia to draft new constitution
- 1788 Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania forbid participation in slave trade
- 1788 Congress announces Constitution ratified July 2
- 1789 Washington inaugurated president; first Congress convenes; Jefferson first secretary of state; Hamilton first secretary of the treasury; John Jay first chief justice
- 1790 Hamilton funds Revolutionary debt and proposes Bank of the U.S.
- 1791 Washington sides with Hamilton on establishment of Bank of the U.S.
- 1791 Vermont enters Union with constitution banning slavery
- 1791 Bill of Rights ratified
- 1791 Excise tax on whiskey passed by Congress
- 1792 Kentucky enters Union as first new slave state
- 1792 Formation of New York Stock Exchange
- 1793 Congress passes law for recovery of fugitive slaves
- 1793 Washington declares America neutral in European conflict
- 1794 Jay Treaty negotiated with Britain
- 1795 Whiskey Rebellion against excise tax put down in western Pennsylvania
- 1795 Treaty of Greenville sets new boundaries for tribes in Ohio Territory
- 1796 Washington gives farewell address; Adams elected president; Jefferson elected vice president
- 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts prompt Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions
- 1799 New York abolishes slavery
- 1800 Jefferson wins presidency
- 1801 Adams appoints John Marshall chief justice
- 1801 Jefferson appoints Madison secretary of state