

The Role of Virginia in the American Revolution



The Colonies Against Great Britain

- Conflicts developed between the colonies and Great Britain.
- The colonists and the English disagreed and had different ideas about how the colonies should be governed.



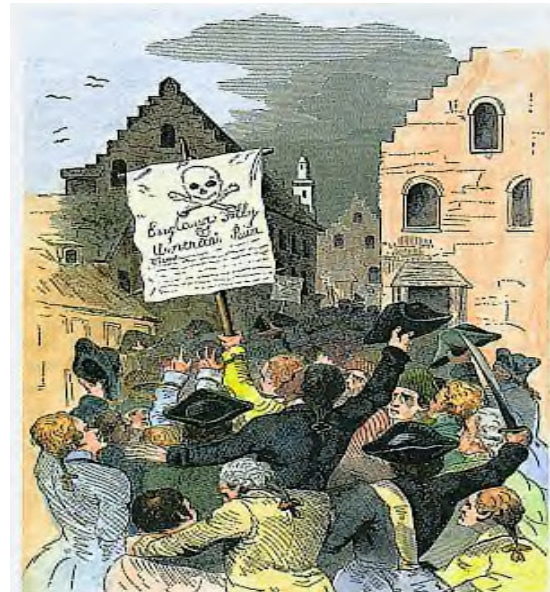
The Colonies Against Great Britain



- The British Parliament believed it had the legal authority in the colonies, while the colonists believed their local assemblies had legal authority.
- This means both sides thought they should be in charge.

No Taxation Without Representation!

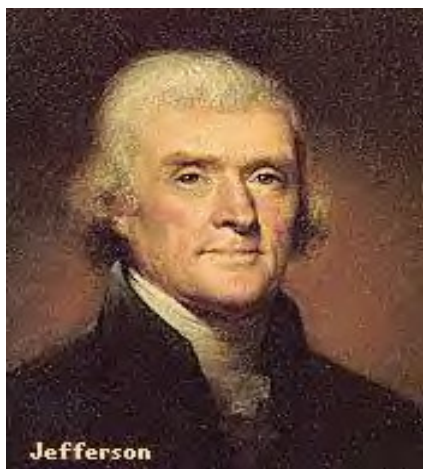
- The British Parliament believed it had the right to tax the colonies, while the colonists believed that they should not be taxed since they had no representation in the British Parliament.



The Major Differences

- The colonists and Great Britain disagreed over how to finance (pay for) the French and Indian War.
- The colonists favored local assemblies. This means they thought they should rule themselves.
- The British Parliament thought they should govern the colonies.
- The colonists were upset that they had to pay taxes to Great Britain but had no representatives to speak for them in the British Parliament.

The Declaration of Independence



- The Declaration of Independence gave reasons for independence and ideas for self-government.
- The Declaration of Independence was written by a Virginian named Thomas Jefferson.

The Declaration of Independence

- The Declaration of Independence states (says) that authority to govern belongs to the people rather than to kings.



The Declaration of Independence



- It also states (says) that all men are created equal and have rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Various Roles Played By Virginians and Others in the American Revolution

- Virginians made significant contributions during the Revolutionary War era.
- Whites, enslaved African Americans, free African Americans, and American Indians all had various roles during the American Revolution.



Virginians' Roles in the American Revolution

The Patriot



*Heroes
of the
American
Revolution*

- patriot – a person who supported the American Revolution, on or off the battlefield.

Virginians Contribute to the American Revolution



- Virginia patriots served in the Continental Army and fought against Great Britain, that eventually led to the British surrender at Yorktown.



Virginians Contribute to the American Revolution

- Some Virginians were neutral and did not take sides.
- Other Virginians remained loyal to Great Britain.
- Loyalist – someone who remained loyal to Great Britain during the Revolutionary War.

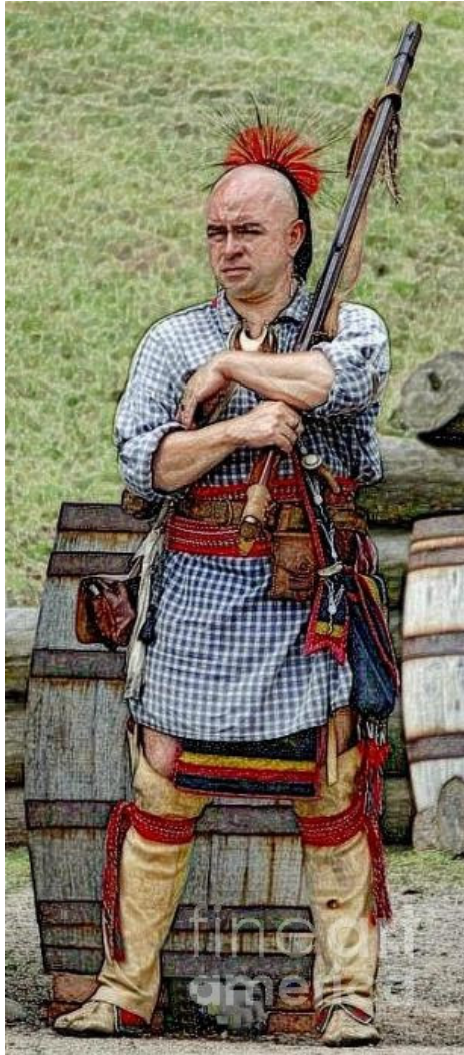


African Americans and the Revolutionary War



- Some enslaved African Americans fought for a better chance of freedom.
- Some free African Americans fought for independence in the American Revolution.

American Indians and the Revolutionary War



- Many American Indians fought along side both the Virginia patriots and the British.

African Americans and Women in the Revolutionary War

- James Lafayette, an enslaved African American from Virginia, served in the Continental Army and successfully requested his freedom after the war.
- Women took on more responsibility to support the war effort.



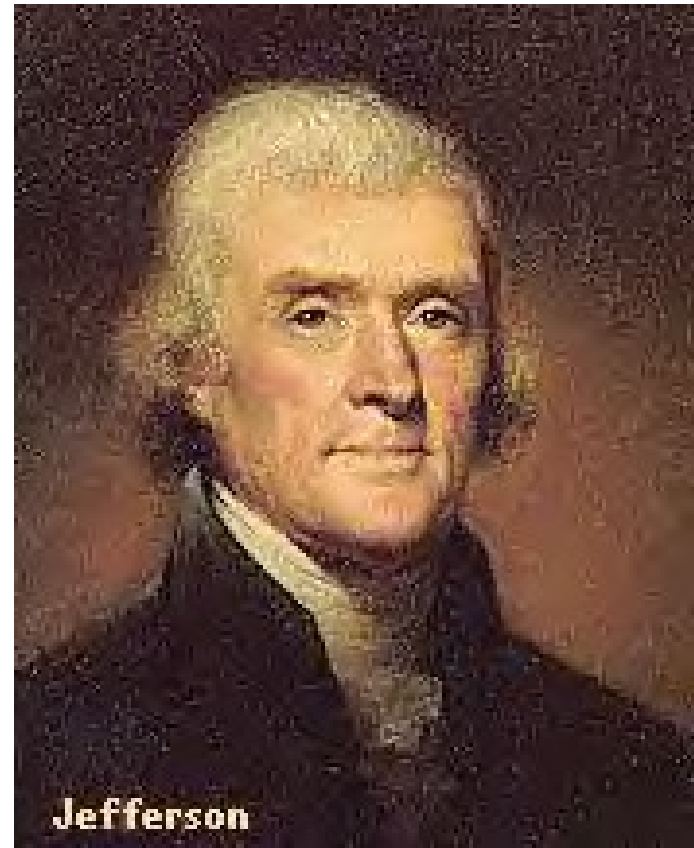
Contributions of Virginians During the Revolutionary War Era



- George Washington provided military leadership by serving as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

Contributions of Virginians During the Revolutionary War Era

- Thomas Jefferson provided political leadership by expressing the reasons for colonial independence from Great Britain the Declaration of Independence.



Contributions of Virginians During the Revolutionary War Era



- Patrick Henry inspired patriots from other colonies when he spoke out against taxation without representation by saying, "...give me liberty or give me death."

The Battle of Great Bridge



- The Battle of Great Bridge was the first land battle of the American Revolution fought in Virginia.
- The American victory forced the British colonial governor to flee the city of Norfolk.



Jack Jouett



- The actions of Jack Jouett prevented the capture of key members of the Virginia General Assembly.

Jack Jouett



- Jack Jouett rode on horseback through the backwoods of Virginia to Charlottesville to warn Thomas Jefferson, then governor of Virginia, that the British were coming to arrest him and members of the General Assembly.

The Americans Win the War!

- The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was fought at Yorktown, Virginia.
- The American victory at Yorktown resulted in the surrender of the British army, which led to the end of the war.

