

The American Revolution: 1775-1783



The Second Continental Congress (May 1775, Philly)



- Hoped Britain would listen to grievances
- Adopted ways to raise money for military
- Chose Washington to lead colonial military
- Washington was terrible in battle strategy but a tremendous leader of men

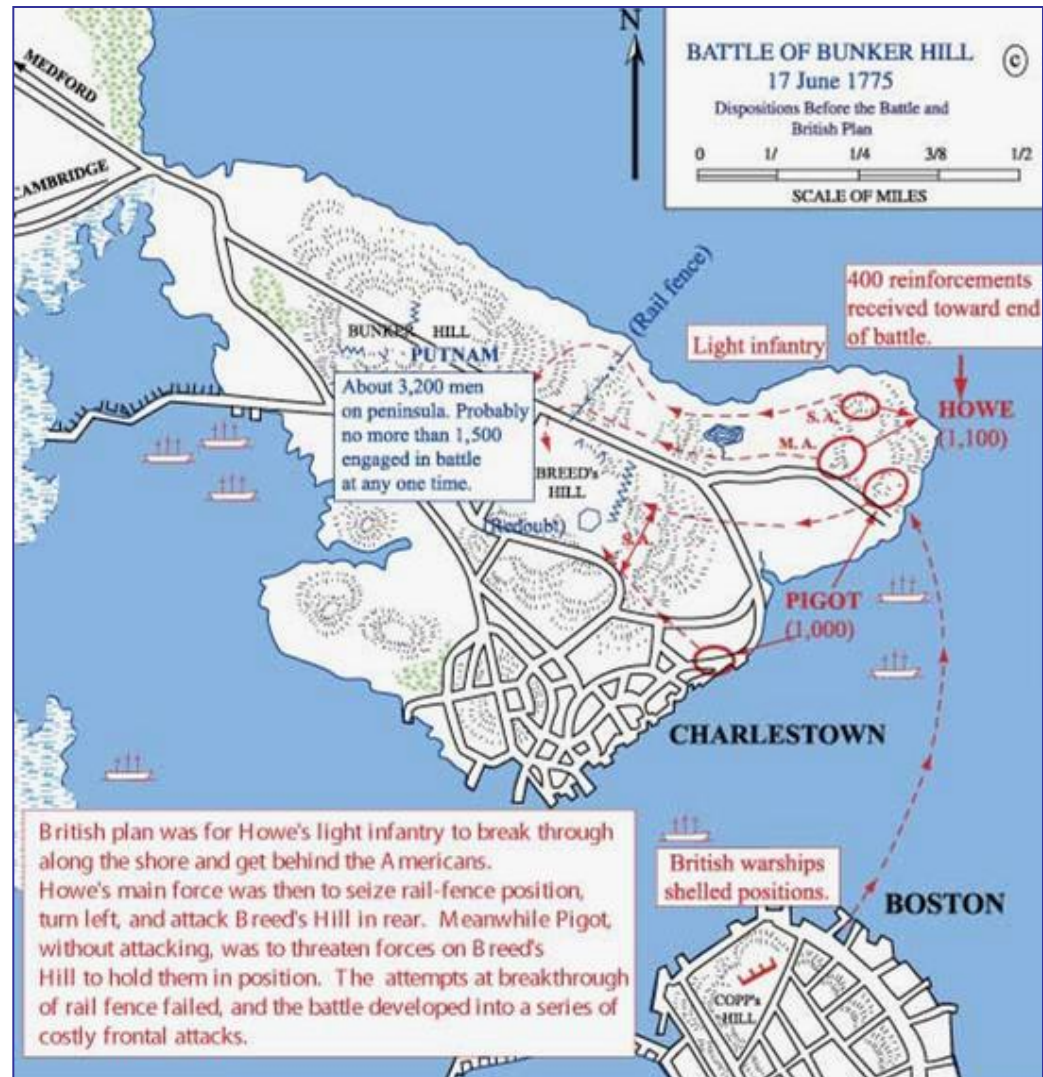
Olive Branch Petition

- Second Con. Congress professes loyalty to the crown and begged King to prevent future fighting
- King George responds by declaring colonies in a state of rebellion
- Hires Germans (Hessians) to help fight colonists

Battle of Bunker Hill

- June 1775
- Bunker Hill (Breed's Hill) just outside of Boston
- British 2,000 Soldiers
- American Militiamen 3,200
- British win the battle but outgunned colonists held their own and suffered fewer casualties
- Moral victory and confidence booster for Militiamen
- The Army led by Gen. Washington would go on to capture Boston using cannons captured by Ethan Allen and the Green Mt. Boys in New York

Bunker Hill (June, 1775)



The British suffered over 40% casualties.

Washington's Headaches



Only 1/3 of the colonists were in favor of a war for independence [the other third were Loyalists, and the final third were neutral].



State/colony loyalties.



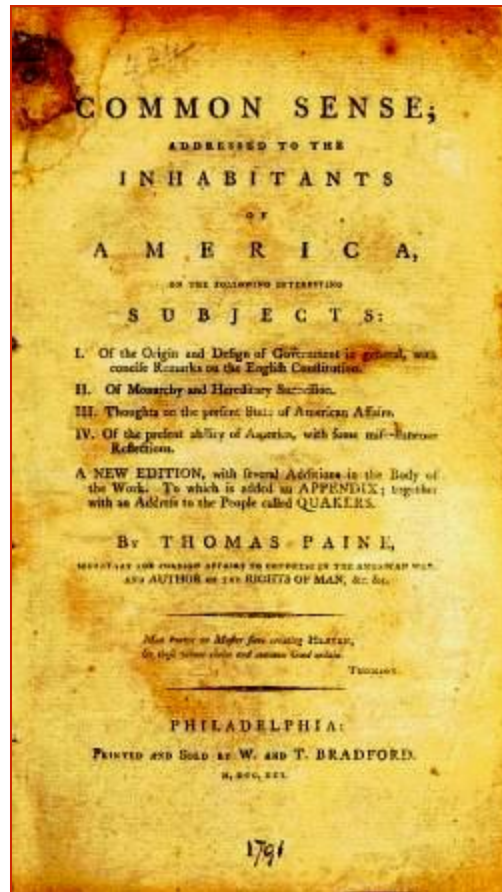
Congress couldn't tax to raise money for the Continental Army.



Poor training [until the arrival of Baron von Steuben.



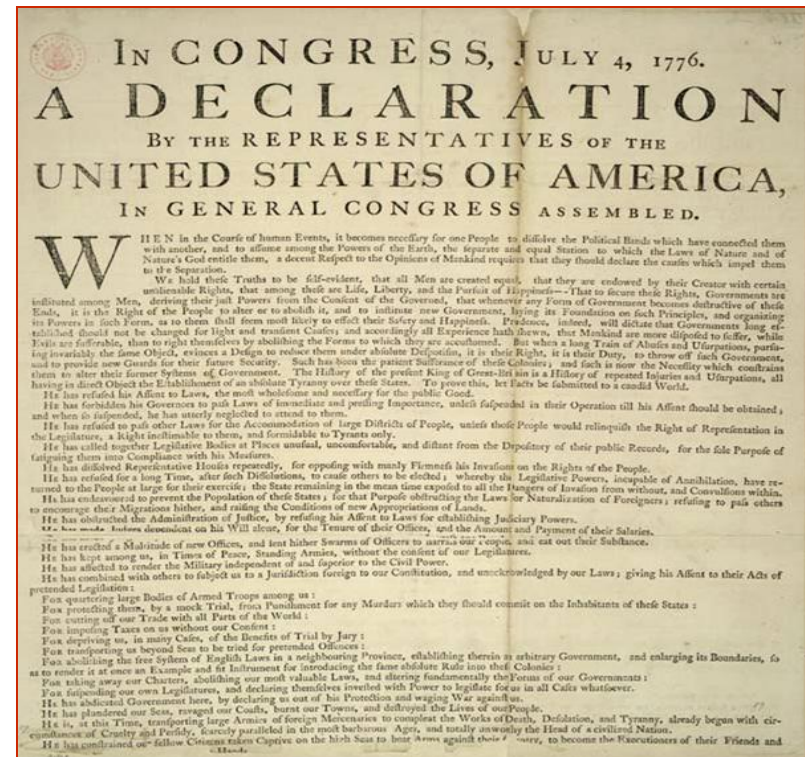
Thomas Paine: *Common Sense*



Common Sense-1776

- Pamphlet written by Paine
- 150,00 copies were distributed
- Called for American Independence
- Called for a new government, a republic to form in which the power of the government came from the common people
- Many colonists agreed and were receptive
- Others felt the need for a republic, but one ran by the aristocrats, not the common man

Declaration of Independence (1776)



Declaration of Independence

- July 4th, 1776
- Written by Thomas Jefferson edited by many
- Based on John Locke's theory that gov. derive their power from the consent of the people who can alter or abolish those that deny their basic freedoms. (Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- Cited many gripes colonists had with British Rule
- "All men are created equal" source of American drama for years to come
- Document was used a barometer for future generations.