

1: France Spain American Revolution, Apr 20 | Video | www.enganchecubano.com

French involvement in the American Revolutionary War began in 1776, when France, a rival of the British Empire, secretly shipped supplies to the Continental Army. A Treaty of Alliance in 1778 followed, which led to shipments of money and materiel to the United States.

The non-aristocratic members of the Third Estate now represented 98 percent of the people but could still be outvoted by the other two bodies. In the lead-up to the May 5 meeting, the Third Estate began to mobilize support for equal representation and the abolishment of the noble veto – in other words, they wanted voting by head and not by status. While all of the orders shared a common desire for fiscal and judicial reform as well as a more representative form of government, the nobles in particular were loath to give up the privileges they enjoyed under the traditional system. Tennis Court Oath By the time the Estates-General convened at Versailles, the highly public debate over its voting process had erupted into hostility between the three orders, eclipsing the original purpose of the meeting and the authority of the man who had convened it. On June 17, with talks over procedure stalled, the Third Estate met alone and formally adopted the title of National Assembly; three days later, they met in a nearby indoor tennis court and took the so-called Tennis Court Oath *serment du jeu de paume*, vowing not to disperse until constitutional reform had been achieved. Within a week, most of the clerical deputies and 47 liberal nobles had joined them, and on June 27 Louis XVI grudgingly absorbed all three orders into the new assembly. The Bastille and the Great Fear On June 12, as the National Assembly known as the National Constituent Assembly during its work on a constitution continued to meet at Versailles, fear and violence consumed the capital. Though enthusiastic about the recent breakdown of royal power, Parisians grew panicked as rumors of an impending military coup began to circulate. A popular insurgency culminated on July 14 when rioters stormed the Bastille fortress in an attempt to secure gunpowder and weapons; many consider this event, now commemorated in France as a national holiday, as the start of the French Revolution. The wave of revolutionary fervor and widespread hysteria quickly swept the countryside. Revolting against years of exploitation, peasants looted and burned the homes of tax collectors, landlords and the seigniorial elite. Drafting a formal constitution proved much more of a challenge for the National Constituent Assembly, which had the added burden of functioning as a legislature during harsh economic times. For instance, who would be responsible for electing delegates? Would the clergy owe allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church or the French government? Perhaps most importantly, how much authority would the king, his public image further weakened after a failed attempt to flee the country in June, retain? This compromise did not sit well with influential radicals like Maximilien de Robespierre, Camille Desmoulins and Georges Danton, who began drumming up popular support for a more republican form of government and for the trial of Louis XVI. On the domestic front, meanwhile, the political crisis took a radical turn when a group of insurgents led by the extremist Jacobins attacked the royal residence in Paris and arrested the king on August 10. The following month, amid a wave of violence in which Parisian insurrectionists massacred hundreds of accused counterrevolutionaries, the Legislative Assembly was replaced by the National Convention, which proclaimed the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of the French republic. On January 21, it sent King Louis XVI, condemned to death for high treason and crimes against the state, to the guillotine; his wife Marie-Antoinette suffered the same fate nine months later. In June, the Jacobins seized control of the National Convention from the more moderate Girondins and instituted a series of radical measures, including the establishment of a new calendar and the eradication of Christianity. They also unleashed the bloody Reign of Terror *la Terreur*, a month period in which suspected enemies of the revolution were guillotined by the thousands. Many of the killings were carried out under orders from Robespierre, who dominated the draconian Committee of Public Safety until his own execution on July 28. Over 17,000 people were officially tried and executed during the Reign of Terror, and an unknown number of others died in prison or without trial. Executive power would lie in the hands of a five-member Directory *Directoire* appointed by parliament. Royalists and Jacobins protested the new regime but were swiftly silenced by the army, now led by a young and successful general named Napoleon Bonaparte. By the late 1790s, the directors relied almost

entirely on the military to maintain their authority and had ceded much of their power to the generals in the field.

2: The American Revolution

After years of spiraling tensions in Britain's American colonies, the American Revolutionary War began in 1775. The revolutionary colonists faced a war against one of the world's major powers, one with an empire that spanned the globe. To help counter this, the Continental Congress created the Continental Army.

How vital was that support? Who was the Marquis de LaFayette and how did he help the revolution? What were the consequences in France of this expensive war? From the fight against Benedict Arnold to the siege of Yorktown, the French have been involved in many key events of the American Revolution. What about this channel? French Possum is a video channel on which I talk about the French culture every week. Last week, we talked about Marianne, who is a symbol of the French Republic. This treaty was a promise from France to help the fight against the British. But it was defeated due to the incompetency of the Admiral and had to return to France. A second fleet left on May 2, with approximately 10,000 soldiers, battle ships, weapons and a lot of money. The convoy was under the orders of two men: Another famous man was part of the French convoy: The convoy arrived in Newport in July but it was unable to move for several months, due to the presence of the British fleet. Only a few ships managed to leave and go back to France, asking for more men and money. Back in Newport, the situation was terrible. There was not enough food and many men were sick, including the Chevalier de Ternay who died in December. After more ships joined them from France, the French troops participated in the fight against the American traitor Benedict Arnold, both on land and at sea. While doing so, they fought against the British Navy several times. They also participated in the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. This prevented the Navy from rescuing their troops in Yorktown. Following the battle, the French ships blocked all possible retreat while bombarding the city. At the same time, the troops of Washington, Rochambeau and LaFayette attacked by land. Yorktown surrendered on October 19, 1781. Those who were defeated marched out in between the American and the French armies. This battle was key to assure the almost certain defeat of Britain. While this was happening in America, the French also attacked British troops at many other places, and especially in the colonies. France also played a major role in the negotiations that led Spain and the Netherlands to declare war on Britain and support the American Patriots. In 1783, a treaty was signed in Paris which it acknowledged the end of the war and the independence of the United States. Thanks to this treaty, the French got back former colonies such as Sainte Lucie and Tobago. The French were therefore a key ally in the American War of Independence. France did not only supply men and weapons, the country also supplied a fleet which enabled the Patriots to win against the Royal Navy. But this military campaign had huge implications in France and it can be acknowledged as one of the reasons that led to the French revolution of 1789. Furthermore, why would one fight to free a foreign country of a monarchy and not want to do the same at home? He participated in battles as soon as summer 1777. Two years later he travelled back to France to increase the popularity of the American cause among the French population. In 1780, he went back to America, where he was asked by Washington to lead the Virginia troops. He kept harrying Cornwallis, the leader of the British troops, and also used his personal fortune to pay the soldiers. After the Yorktown victory, he went back to France. In the following years, he travelled back to America twice, in 1783 and in 1784. Each time he received public acclamation. He also signed several peace treaties with Native Americans. Until the death of Washington, they exchanged frequent letters, writing about liberty, the principles of Republic and Human Rights. He brought back from America a bit of soil which was sprinkled upon his grave 10 years after his last journey. In the United States, more than 100 places are named after him. The Marquis de LaFayette is a fascinating historical figure. He survived one of the most troubles times in French History, which includes the Revolution, the Terror and many changes in political regimes. He deserves a video that focuses only on him! This is why I will do a video about his life and career in the upcoming months. I hope you liked this video. If you did, please subscribe to my channel and follow me on social networks. See you soon, bye bye. Elle avait deux chefs: Yorktown se rendit le 19 Octobre. Le Marquis de LaFayette est un personnage fascinant.

3: Milestones: " - Office of the Historian

French Alliance, French Assistance, and European Diplomacy during the American Revolution, During the American Revolution, the American colonies faced the significant challenge of conducting international diplomacy and seeking the international support it needed to fight against the British.

Spain was losing money heavily on the ownership of vast Louisiana territory, and was eager to turn it over to Napoleon in He envisioned it as the base along with Haiti of a New World empire. Louisiana would be a granary providing food to the enslaved labor force in the West Indies. President Jefferson could tolerate weak Spain but not powerful France in the west. He considered war to prevent French control of the Mississippi River. Jefferson sent his close friend, James Monroe, to France to buy as much of the land around New Orleans as he could. Surprisingly, Napoleon agreed to sell the entire territory. Because of an insuppressible slave rebellion in St. British bankers financed the deal, taking American government bonds and shipping gold to Paris. The size of the United States was doubled without going to war. Both challenged American neutrality and tried to disrupt trade with its enemy. The presupposition was that small neutral nations could benefit from the wars of the great powers. Jefferson distrusted both Napoleon and Great Britain, but saw Britain with its monarchism, aristocracy and great navy and position in Canada as the more immediate threat to American interests. Therefore, he and Madison took a generally pro-French position and used the embargo to hurt British trade. Both Britain and France infringed on U. The British infringed more and also impressed thousands of American sailors into the Royal Navy; France never did anything like impressment. Designed to hurt the British, it hurt American commerce far more. The destructive Embargo Act, which had brought U. Both Britain and France remained hostile to the United States. The War of was the logical extension of the embargo program as the United States declared war on Britain. However, there was never any sense of being an ally of France and no effort was made to coordinate military activity. Before three more decades had passed, the United States had annexed Texas. On the left are French politicians, depicted as little frogs, complaining about the Americans. Relations between the two nations were generally quiet for two decades. The French had a strong interest in expanding commercial opportunity in Latin America, especially as the Spanish role was faltering. There was a desire among top French officials that some of the newly independent countries in Latin America might select a Bourbon king, but no actual operations ever took place. French officials ignored the American position. France and Austria, two reactionary monarchies, strenuously opposed American republicanism and wanted the United States to have no voice whatsoever in European affairs. France did pay European claims, but refused to pay the United States. President Andrew Jackson was livid, In ordered the U. Navy to stand by and asked Congress for legislation. France was annoyed but finally voted the money if the United States apologized. Jackson refused to apologize, and diplomatic relations were broken off until in December Jackson did offer some friendlier words. The British mediated, France paid the money, and cordial relations were resumed. Modest cultural exchanges resumed, most famously and intense study visits by Gustave de Beaumont and Alexis de Tocqueville , the author of Democracy in America The book was immediately a popular success in both countries, and to this day helps shape American self-understanding. French utopian socialists Projected an idealized American society as a model for the future. French travelers to the United States were often welcomed in the name of the Lafayette , who made a triumphant American tour in Numerous political exiles found refuge in New York. Balance of power considerations made Britain want to keep the western territories out of U. However Napoleon III favored the seceding Southern states of the Confederacy , hoping to weaken the United States, create a new ally in the Confederacy, safeguard the cotton trade and protect his large investment in controlling Mexico. France was too weak to declare war alone which might cause Prussia to attack , and needed British support. The British were unwilling to go to war and nothing happened. The United States protested and refused to recognize the new government. He did not want a war with France before the Confederacy was defeated. When the French troops left the Mexicans executed the puppet emperor Maximilian. The victory of the Union, French withdrawal from Mexico, British disengagement from Canada and the Russian sale of Alaska left the United States dominant, yet with

Canadian and Mexican independence intact. During the Siege of Paris, the small American population, led by the U. Minister to France Elihu B. Washburne, provided much medical, humanitarian, and diplomatic support to peoples, gaining much credit to the Americans. Trade was at a low level, and mutual investments were uncommon. All during this period the relationship remained friendly—as symbolized by the Statue of Liberty, presented in as a gift to the United States from the French people. From until, France was the only major republic in Europe, which endeared it to the United States. Many French people held the United States in high esteem, as a land of opportunity and as a source of modern ideas. Few French people emigrated to the United States. Intellectuals, however, saw the United States as a land built on crass materialism, lacking in a significant culture, and boasting of its distrust of intellectuals. Very few self-styled French intellectuals were admirers. However, as the Americans grew mightily in economic power, and forged closer ties with Britain, the French increasingly talked about an Anglo-Saxon threat to their culture. The French were annoyed that so many Americans were going to Germany for post-graduate education, and discussed how to attract more Americans. After, hundreds of American women traveled to France and Switzerland to obtain their medical degrees. The best American schools were closed to them and chose an expensive option superior to what they were allowed in the U. Thousands of American soldiers, waiting for their slow return to America after the war ended in late, enrolled in university programs set up especially for them. During World War I the United States was initially neutral but eventually entered the conflict in and provided much-needed money—as loans to be repaid—that purchased American food, oil and chemicals for the French effort. The American troops were sent over without their heavy equipment so that the ships could carry more soldiers. In the United States sent over a million combat troops who were stationed to the south of the main French lines. They gave the Allies a decisive edge, as the Germans were unable to replace their heavy losses and lost their self-confidence by September. The burning ambition of French Premier Georges Clemenceau was to ensure the security of France in the future; his formula was not friendship with Germany restitution, reparations, and guarantees. Clemenceau had little confidence in what he considered to be the unrealistic and utopian principles of US President Woodrow Wilson: The two nations disagreed on debts, reparations, and restraints on Germany. Clemenceau was also determined that a buffer state consisting of the German territory west of the Rhine River should be established under the aegis of France. In the eyes of the U. The territory in question was to be occupied by Allied troops for a period of five to fifteen years, and a zone extending fifty kilometers east of the Rhine was to be demilitarized. Republican leaders in Washington were willing to support a security treaty with France. It failed because Wilson insisted on linking it to the Versailles Treaty, which the Republicans would not accept without certain amendments Wilson refused to allow. One result was that in the s the French deeply distrusted the Americans, who were loaning money to Germany which Germany used to pay its reparations to France and other Allies, while demanding that France repay its war loans from Washington. It served as the French embassy from to. During the interwar years, the two nations remained friendly. Beginning in the s, U. A number of American artists, such as Josephine Baker, experienced popular success in France. Paris was also quite welcoming to American jazz music and black artists in particular, as France, unlike a significant part of the United States at the time, had no racial discrimination laws. Numerous writers such as William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and others were deeply influenced by their experiences of French life. However, anti-Americanism came of age in the s, as many French traditionalists were alarmed at the power of Hollywood and warned that America represented modernity, which in turn threatened traditional French values, customs, and popular literature. It attracted larger crowds than the Louvre, and soon it was said that the iconic American cartoon character Mickey Mouse had become more familiar than Asterix among French youth. Walter Thompson Company of New York was the leading American advertising agency of the interwar years. It established branch offices in Europe, including one in Paris in. Most of these branches were soon the leading local agencies, as in Britain and Germany, JWT-Paris did poorly from the late s through the early s. The causes included cultural clashes between the French and Americans and subtle anti-Americanism among potential clients. Furthermore, The French market was heavily regulated and protected to repel all foreign interests, and the American admen in Paris were not good at hiding their condescension and insensitivity. The pact, which was endorsed by most major nations, renounced the use

of war, promoted peaceful settlement of disputes, and called for collective force to prevent aggression. Its provisions were incorporated into the United Nations Charter and other treaties and it became a stepping stone to a more activist American policy. Roosevelt from to The successful performance of German warplanes during the Spanish Civil War 1939 suddenly forced France to realize its military inferiority. Germany had better warplanes, more of them, and much more efficient production systems. In late he told Roosevelt about The French weaknesses, and asked for military help. Roosevelt was forthcoming, and forced the War Department to secretly sell the most modern American airplanes to France. France and Britain declared war on Germany when it invaded Poland in September , but there was little action until the following spring. Many French soldiers were evacuated through Dunkirk, but France was forced to surrender. This led the Roosevelt administration to maintain diplomatic relations.

France Allied with American Colonies February 6, Friends, and in French, amis! On February 6, , Benjamin Franklin was in France signing the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance.

French left and British ships right at the battle of the Chesapeake. French participation in North America was initially maritime in nature and marked by some indecision on the part of its military leaders. In American and French planners organized an attempt to capture Newport, Rhode Island, then under British occupation. He then sailed for Boston after his fleet was damaged in a storm. About 3, French joined with 2, Americans in the Siege of Savannah , in which a naval bombardment was unsuccessful. An attempted assault of the entrenched British position was repulsed with heavy losses. Support became more notable when, in , 6, soldiers led by Rochambeau landed at Newport, itself abandoned in by the British, where the French established a naval base. These forces were largely inactive since the fleet was closely watched by the British fleet from its bases in New York and eastern Long Island. By early , with the war dragging on, French military planners were finally convinced that more significant operations would be required in North America to bring a decisive end to the war. De Grasse asked to be supplied with North American pilots and to be informed of possible operations in North America to which he might contribute. Rochambeau and Washington met at Wethersfield, Connecticut in May to discuss their options. Virginia was also seen as a potent threat that could be fought with naval assistance. These two options were dispatched to the Caribbean along with the requested pilots. Rochambeau, in a separate letter, urged de Grasse to come to the Chesapeake Bay for operations in Virginia. De Grasse received these letters in July at roughly the same time Cornwallis was preparing to occupy Yorktown, Virginia. De Grasse concurred with Rochambeau and subsequently sent a dispatch indicating that he would reach the Chesapeake at the end of August but that agreements with the Spanish meant he could only stay until mid-October. The arrival of his dispatches prompted the Franco-American army to begin a march for Virginia. The Siege of Yorktown and following surrender by Cornwallis on October 19 were decisive in ending major hostilities in North America. Kitts , but losing St. Lucia at the beginning of the war. A planned Franco-Spanish invasion of Jamaica was aborted after the decisive Battle of the Saintes in . At the end of the war the French captured the Turks and Caicos Islands. In European waters, France and Spain joined forces with the entry of Spain into the war in . An attempted invasion of Britain failed due to a variety of factors. French and Spanish forces besieged Gibraltar from to , but were unsuccessful in either storming the site, or preventing repeated British relief of its garrison. Allied with the French, the Mysoreans for a time threatened British positions on the east coast, but that war ended status quo ante bellum in . A French fleet commanded by the Bailli de Suffren fought a series of largely inconclusive battles with a British fleet under Sir Edward Hughes , and the only major military land action, the Siege of Cuddalore , was cut short by news that a preliminary peace had been signed. Because of decisive battles on American soil, the French were in a strong position during the peace negotiations in Paris. Peace and consequences Edit Starting with the Siege of Yorktown, Benjamin Franklin never informed France of the secret negotiations that took place directly between Britain and the United States. Britain acknowledged that the United States owned all the land south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi River, except for Florida which went to Spain. However, since France was not included in the American-British peace discussions, the alliance between France and the U. Thus the influence of France and Spain in future negotiations was limited. The British delegation refused to pose for the picture The war formally ended in September with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. France gained or regained territories in America, Africa, and India. Losses in the Treaty of Paris and in the Treaty of Utrecht were in part regained: Spain regained Florida and Minorca, but Gibraltar remained in the hands of the British. Because the French involvement in the war was distant and naval in nature, over a billion livres tournois were spent by the French government to support the war effort, raising its overall debt to about 3. The finances of the French state were in disastrous shape and were made worse by Jacques Necker , who, rather than raise taxes, used loans to pay off debts. State secretary in Finances Charles Alexandre de Calonne attempted to fix the deficit problem by asking for the taxation of the property of nobles and clergy but was dismissed and exiled for his ideas. The

French instability further weakened the reforms that were essential in the re-establishment of stable French finances. Trade also severely declined during the war, but was revived by The war was especially important for the prestige and pride of France, who was reinstated in the role of European arbiter. However, Britain, not France, became by far the leading trading partner of the U. The French took pride in their cultural influence on America through the enlightenment, as attested by Franklin and Jefferson, and as embodied in the Declaration of Independence in and the United States Constitution in In turn the Revolution influenced France. European conservative Royalists and nobility had become nervous, and began to take measures in order to secure their positions. Financial aspects Edit In all the French spent 1. France gained little except that it weakened its main strategic enemy and gained a new, fast-growing ally that could become a welcome trading partner. However, the trade never materialized, and in the U. Most historians argue that France primarily sought revenge against Britain for the loss of territory in America in the Treaty of Paris. However, Dull, in , argued that France intervened because of dispassionate calculation, not because of Anglophobia or a desire to avenge the loss of Canada.

5: France in the American Revolution - James Breck Perkins - Google Books

France made the American Revolution into a much more global conflict, having a professional army and navy that could effectively engage the British. There was action in the Caribbean, Europe, and the East Indies.

The most significant of these influences was the American Revolution. In , after a decade of political tension, the 13 British colonies in eastern North America rebelled and declared their independence from the mother country. After almost eight years of war, the American colonies emerged victorious. They formed a new republic called the United States of America. This new nation was founded on three documents: The American Revolution became a model for those seeking change in France. It provided reformers with a working example of a successful and moderately peaceful revolution. It also facilitated the spread of revolutionary ideas in France. French colonists prospered and by the mids they occupied large swathes of central North America, including its southern coastline, the Mississippi and Ohio river valleys, the Great Lakes and the eastern half of modern-day Canada. Collectively, these possessions were known as New France. The British, in contrast, held a much smaller sliver of territory, a string of 13 small colonies clustered along the eastern coastline. With British and French colonists living in close proximity, tensions in America were often high. Whenever Britain and France went to war in Europe, as they did several times in the 17th and 18th centuries, their colonists in America would follow suit. A map showing French colonial possessions in North America, c. As a consequence of this defeat and the treaty negotiations that followed, France surrendered most of its North American territory to Britain. The French government spent the next 15 years yearning for revenge and the recovery of its former colonies. The British government was not without its problems either. In London, British ministers sought to offset these new expenses by tightening foreign trade and collecting duties on imports and exports. They also levied a new tax, a stamp duty, on the British colonies in North America. They were policies the British government would live to regret. The Boston Tea Party was a pivotal event in the American Revolution The American colonists, having lived a century in comparative isolation from Britain, resented the imposition of British taxes and trade restrictions. To justify their opposition to British policy, the Americans turned to Enlightenment ideas. Taxation without political representation was illegal, they argued. Opposition to British policy began as debates and vocal criticism but soon hardened into non-compliance, defiance, confrontation and acts of violence. In December rebels in Boston, Massachusetts stormed British ships and tipped a fortune of privately owned tea into the sea. London responded to this wilful vandalism with punitive measures, including the closure of Boston Harbour and the imposition of military government. Outraged Americans began mobilising to defend themselves from British aggression and within 18 months, Britain and her former colonies were at war. On July 4th the American revolutionaries, through the pen of Thomas Jefferson, declared their independence with a stirring synthesis of Enlightenment ideas and values: We hold these truths to be self-evident: That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. The politically minded salons and clubs thrummed with news of events across the Atlantic. American revolutionaries like Benjamin Franklin already idolised in France for his scientific discoveries , Thomas Jefferson and George Washington became household names. Revolutionary tracts by American philosophes like Jefferson and Thomas Paine were eagerly sought and studied intently. Louis XVI and his ministers were delighted at the difficulties experienced by their British rivals. If British authority in North America collapsed, France may be presented with an opportunity to regain her former colonies. Short of money, munitions and naval power, the American revolutionaries lobbied Versailles for a military alliance. The king and his ministers resisted these calls at first. Instead, they quietly provided the American revolutionaries with financial aid and logistic support. Their motives for doing so varied. Some were inspired by the ideas of the American Revolution; some were young officers craving a taste of battle; others were more experienced soldiers yearning for revenge against the British. The most famous of these volunteers was Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette. The son of a colonel killed in battle, Lafayette followed his late father into the military and became a cavalry officer. In Lafayette ignored the orders of his superiors and set sail for America, where he had been promised a generalship, despite still being

in his teens. Lafayette acquitted himself well in battle and was given his own divisional command. He became close friends with Washington, who some historians suggest came to consider Lafayette as an adopted son. As early as his first visit to America, he became an enthusiastic supporter of equal rights and a champion of the civic spirit demonstrated by American citizens. An American triumph at the Battle of Saratoga October was a turning point in the war, however, and persuaded the French king to commit further. France signed a military alliance with the American states in February and declared war on Britain the following month. Large numbers of French troops eventually landed in America in French troops under Count Rochambeau played an important role in the Siege of Yorktown October , the last major battle of the American Revolutionary War. The treaty to end this war was signed in Paris in September Politically, France gained little from its involvement in the American Revolution. The king and his ministers hoped to regain colonial territory in America “ however, their interests were undermined by the Americans, who initiated secret negotiations with the British before the treaty negotiations had started. The cost of this involvement exceeded one billion livres and left the French treasury with an even greater interest burden. The new United States became a model for French reformers. But the birth of the United States showed that these ideas could serve as a blueprint for modern government. The American Revolution was initiated by British colonists in eastern North America, who sought freedom and independence from British imperial control. The colonists objected to this, citing Enlightenment ideas and the right to political representation. Many French nobles and elites were fascinated by these events. Though their motives were not always ideological, many French military officers volunteered to enlist and fight with the Americans. France provided financial support to the Americans and, in , also declared war on Britain. The success of the American Revolution provided French reformists with inspiration. It showed that revolution could succeed and that Enlightenment ideas and values could be used as the basis of a new political system. Content on this page may not be republished or distributed without permission. For more information please refer to our Terms of Use. This page was written by Jennifer Llewellyn and Steve Thompson. To reference this page, use the following citation:

6: France in the American Revolutionary War | Military Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

France, despite its financial difficulties, used the occasion of the American Revolutionary War () to seek revenge against Great Britain and the Treaty of Paris.

For more information, please see the full notice. The Revolution precipitated a series of European wars, forcing the United States to articulate a clear policy of neutrality in order to avoid being embroiled in these European conflicts. The French Revolution also influenced U. Americans hoped for democratic reforms that would solidify the existing Franco-American alliance and transform France into a republican ally against aristocratic and monarchical Britain. However, with revolutionary change also came political instability, violence, and calls for radical social change in France that frightened many Americans. American political debate over the nature of the French Revolution exacerbated pre-existing political divisions and resulted in the alignment of the political elite along pro-French and pro-British lines. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton led the Federalist Party, which viewed the Revolution with skepticism and sought to preserve existing commercial ties with Great Britain. With the two most powerful members of his cabinet locked in opposition, President George Washington tried to strike a balance between the two. From to , the French Revolution became increasingly radical. These two powers joined Austria and other European nations in the war against Revolutionary France that had already started in . The United States remained neutral, as both Federalists and Democratic-Republicans saw that war would lead to economic disaster and the possibility of invasion. This policy was made difficult by heavy-handed British and French actions. Under foreign invasion, the French Government declared a state of emergency, and many foreigners residing in France were arrested, including American revolutionary pamphleteer Thomas Paine, owing to his British birth. Once the Terror ended in late July of , the arrests ended, and Paine, who had been scheduled to be executed, was released. Although the French Revolution had ended its radical phase, Federalists in the United States remained wary of revolutionary ideology infiltrating the United States. Many French citizens, refugees from the French and Haitian revolutions, had settled in American cities and remained politically active, setting up newspapers and agitating for their political causes. A French spy, Victor Collot, traveled through the United States in , noting the weaknesses in its western border. When a breakdown in diplomatic negotiations resulted in the Quasi-War with France, the Federalist-controlled Congress passed a series of laws known as the Alien and Sedition Acts, intended to curb political dissent and limit the political participation of immigrants by easing deportation and lengthening the time required for citizenship. A number of political radicals were arrested for sedition, including Congressman Matthew Lyon and newspaper editors James Thompson Callendar and William Duane. Many refugees, sensing American hostility, chose to return to France and Haiti since the political situation had temporarily calmed in both places. The Alien and Sedition Acts, originally intended to prevent a growth in pro-French sentiment, actually backfired for the Federalists. Taken aback by such extreme measures, swing voters in the presidential election of instead backed the pro-French Thomas Jefferson and his Democratic-Republican Party, instead of the Federalist John Adams, who was running for re-election as President. Adams had also alienated the anti-Revolutionary wing of his party by seeking peace with France, whose revolution had already been brought to a close by General Napoleon Bonaparte. Despite Federalist warnings that electing Jefferson would bring revolution to the United States, Jefferson instead chose to distance himself from political radicals and win over political moderates.

7: The American and French Revolutions: Comparison and Contrast | Owlcation

Impact of the American Revolution in France Biggest immediate effect of American Revolution on France was financial Participation in American cause cost France more than 1 billion livres, or French pounds.

Visit Website Did you know? Now most famous as a traitor to the American cause, General Benedict Arnold began the Revolutionary War as one of its earliest heroes, helping lead rebel forces in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in May. This First Continental Congress did not go so far as to demand independence from Britain, but it denounced taxation without representation, as well as the maintenance of the British army in the colonies without their consent, and issued a declaration of the rights due every citizen, including life, liberty, property, assembly and trial by jury. The Continental Congress voted to meet again in May to consider further action, but by that time violence had already broken out. On April 19, local militiamen clashed with British soldiers in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, marking the first shots fired in the Revolutionary War.

Declaring Independence When the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, delegates—including new additions Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson—voted to form a Continental Army, with Washington as its commander in chief. The engagement known as the Battle of Bunker Hill ended in British victory, but lent encouragement to the revolutionary cause. The British evacuated the city in March, with Howe and his men retreating to Canada to prepare a major invasion of New York. By June, with the Revolutionary War in full swing, a growing majority of the colonists had come to favor independence from Britain. On July 4, the Continental Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence, drafted by a five-man committee including Franklin and John Adams but written mainly by Jefferson. That same month, determined to crush the rebellion, the British government sent a large fleet, along with more than 34,000 troops to New York.

Revolutionary War Turning Point British strategy involved two main prongs of attack, aimed at separating New England where the rebellion enjoyed the most popular support from the other colonies. Washington rebounded to strike Germantown in early October before withdrawing to winter quarters near Valley Forge. The American victory at Saratoga would prove to be a turning point of the American Revolution, as it prompted France which had been secretly aiding the rebels since to enter the war openly on the American side, though it would not formally declare war on Great Britain until June. The American Revolution, which had begun as a civil conflict between Britain and its colonies, had become a world war. The battle effectively ended in a draw, as the Americans held their ground, but Clinton was able to get his army and supplies safely to New York. A joint attack on the British at Newport, Rhode Island, in late July failed, and for the most part the war settled into a stalemate phase in the North. The Americans suffered a number of setbacks from 1777 to 1780, including the defection of General Benedict Arnold to the British and the first serious mutinies within the Continental Army. Supported by a French army commanded by General Jean Baptiste de Rochambeau, Washington moved against Yorktown with a total of around 14,000 soldiers, while a fleet of 36 French warships offshore prevented British reinforcement or evacuation. Trapped and overpowered, Cornwallis was forced to surrender his entire army on October 19. Though the movement for American independence effectively triumphed at Yorktown, contemporary observers did not see that as the decisive victory yet. British forces remained stationed around Charleston, and the powerful main army still resided in New York. Though neither side would take decisive action over the better part of the next two years, the British removal of their troops from Charleston and Savannah in late 1781 finally pointed to the end of the conflict. British and American negotiators in Paris signed preliminary peace terms in Paris late that November, and on September 3, 1783, Great Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States in the Treaty of Paris. At the same time, Britain signed separate peace treaties with France and Spain which had entered the conflict in 1763, bringing the American Revolution to a close after eight long years. Start your free trial today.

8: Revolutionary War - HISTORY

*France In The American Revolution [James Breck Perkins] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original. Due to its age, it may contain imperfections such as marks.*

Meanwhile, the American colonists and the British government began to fight over whether Parliament in London or the colonial assemblies had primary responsibility for taxation. As part of that conflict, the colonists organized the Boston Tea Party in response to a tax on tea. The ideological conflict escalated into open warfare in 1775, at which point the American patriots revolted against British rule. France, who had been rebuilding her Navy and other forces, saw this as an opportunity to seriously weaken her perennial enemy. It also wanted to strategically weaken Britain. Following the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution was well received by both the general population and the aristocracy in France. The Revolution was perceived as the incarnation of the Enlightenment Spirit against the "English tyranny. At first, French support was covert: French agents sent the Patriots military aid predominantly gunpowder through a company called Rodrigue Hortalez et Compagnie, beginning in the spring of 1776. He became an aide to George Washington and a combat general. More importantly, he solidified a favorable American view of France. Kramer argues that Lafayette provided a legitimacy for the war and confidence that there was serious European support for independence. Fifty years later, after a major career in French politics, he returned as a beloved hero of the war. Up against the British power, the young nation lacked arms and allies, and so it turned towards France. France was not directly interested in the conflict, but saw it as an opportunity to contest British power by supporting a new British opponent. Through negotiations conducted first by Silas Deane and then by Benjamin Franklin, France began covert support of the American cause. French ports accommodated American ships, including privateers and Continental Navy warships, that acted against British merchant ships. France provided significant economic aid, either as donations or loans, and also offered technical assistance, granting some of its military strategists "vacations" so they could assist American troops. Silas Deane, appointed by the Americans and helped by French animosity towards Britain, obtained unofficial aid, starting in early 1776. However, the goal was the total involvement of France in the war. A new delegation composed of Franklin, Deane, and Arthur Lee, was appointed to lobby for the involvement of European nations. Franklin, age 70 and already well known in French intellectual circles for his scientific discoveries, served as the chief diplomat with the title of "minister" the term "ambassador" was not used. He dressed in rough frontier clothes rather than formal court dress, and met with many leading diplomats, aristocrats, intellectuals, scientists and financiers. When the international climate at the end of 1776 had become tenser, Habsburg Austria requested the support of France in the War of the Bavarian Succession against the Prussia in line with the Franco-Austrian Alliance. France refused, causing the relationship with Austria to turn sour. Under these conditions, asking Austria to assist France in a war against the British was impossible. Attempts to rally Spain also failed: Spain did not immediately recognize potential gains, and the American revolutionary spirit was seen as threatening the legitimacy of the Spanish Crown in its own American colonies. Public opinion in France was in favor of open war, but King Louis and his advisors were reluctant due to the possible risks and heavy expenses involved. The French Navy was being rapidly rebuilt, but there were doubts as to how ready it was for serious conflict. The Americans argued that an alliance of the United States, France, and Spain would assure a rapid defeat of the British, but Vergennes, waiting until his navy was ready, hesitated. On July 23, 1778, Vergennes decided that it was time to decide either total assistance, with war, or abandonment of the new nation. The choice, ratified by the king, was war. The army of Burgoyne surrendered to American forces after Saratoga and France realized that the United States could be victorious. The king directed Vergennes to negotiate an alliance with the Americans. Hostilities soon followed after Britain declared war on France on March 17, 1793. The British naval force, then the largest fleet afloat, and French fleet confronted each other from the beginning. France did consider the landing of 40,000 men in the nearby British Isles but abandoned the idea because of logistical issues. On the continent, France was protected through its alliance with Austria

which, even if it did not take part in the American Revolutionary War, affirmed its diplomatic support of France. Other nations in Europe at first refused to openly join the war but both Spain and the Dutch Republic gave unofficial support to the American cause. Vergennes was able to convince the Spanish to formally enter the war in and, in , Britain declared war on the Dutch Republic over claims of Dutch violations of neutrality. North American operations[edit] Franco-American routes during the Yorktown campaign. French participation in North America was initially maritime in nature and marked by some indecision on the part of its military leaders. In , American and French planners organized an attempt to capture Newport, Rhode Island , then under British occupation. He then sailed to Boston after his fleet was damaged in a storm. About 3, French joined with 2, Americans in the Siege of Savannah , in which a naval bombardment was unsuccessful. An attempted assault of the entrenched British position was repulsed with heavy losses. Support became more notable when, in , 6, soldiers led by Rochambeau landed at Newport, itself abandoned in by the British, and then established a naval base there. These forces were largely inactive since the fleet was closely watched by the British fleet from its bases in New York and eastern Long Island. By early , with the war dragging on, French military planners were finally convinced that more significant operations would be required in North America to bring a decisive end to the war. De Grasse asked to be supplied with North American pilots and to be informed of possible operations in North America to which he might contribute. Rochambeau and Washington met in Wethersfield, Connecticut in May to discuss their options. Virginia was also seen as a potent threat that could be fought with naval assistance. These two options were dispatched to the Caribbean along with the requested pilots. Rochambeau, in a separate letter, urged de Grasse to come to the Chesapeake Bay for operations in Virginia. De Grasse received these letters in July at roughly the same time Cornwallis was preparing to occupy Yorktown, Virginia. De Grasse concurred with Rochambeau and subsequently sent a dispatch indicating that he would reach the Chesapeake at the end of August but that agreements with the Spanish meant he could only stay until mid-October. The arrival of his dispatches prompted the Franco-American army to begin a march for Virginia. The Siege of Yorktown and following surrender by Cornwallis on October 19 were decisive in ending major hostilities in North America. Other important battles between the French and the British were spaced out around the world, from the West Indies to India. Kitts , but losing St. Lucia at the beginning of the war. A planned Franco-Spanish invasion of Jamaica was aborted after the decisive Battle of the Saintes in At the end of the war. In European waters, France and Spain joined forces with the entry of Spain into the war in An attempted invasion of Britain failed due to a variety of factors. French and Spanish forces besieged Gibraltar from to , but were unsuccessful in either storming the site, or preventing repeated British relief of its garrison. Allied with the French, the Mysoreans for a time threatened British positions on the east coast, but that war ended status quo ante bellum in A French fleet commanded by the Bailli de Suffren fought a series of largely inconclusive battles with a British fleet under Sir Edward Hughes , and the only major military land action, the Siege of Cuddalore , was cut short by news that a preliminary peace had been signed. Because of decisive battles on American soil, the French were in a strong position during the peace negotiations in Paris. Peace and consequences[edit] Starting with the Siege of Yorktown, Benjamin Franklin never informed France of the secret negotiations that took place directly between Britain and the United States. Britain acknowledged that the United States owned all the land south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi River , except for Florida which went to Spain. However, since France was not included in the American-British peace discussions, the alliance between France and the U. Thus the influence of France and Spain in future negotiations was limited. The British delegation refused to pose for the picture The war formally ended in September with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. France gained or regained territories in the Americas , Africa , and India. Losses in the Treaty of Paris and in the Treaty of Utrecht were in part regained: Spain regained Florida and Minorca , but Gibraltar remained in the hands of the British. Because the French involvement in the war was distant and naval in nature, over a billion livres tournois were spent by the French government to support the war effort, raising its overall debt to about 3. The finances of the French state were in disastrous shape and were made worse by Jacques Necker , who, rather than increase taxes, used loans to pay off debts. State secretary of Finances Charles Alexandre de Calonne attempted to fix the deficit problem by asking for the taxation of the property of nobles and clergy but

was dismissed and exiled for his ideas. The French instability further weakened the reforms that were essential in the re-establishment of stable French finances. Trade also severely declined during the war, but was revived by The war was especially important for the prestige and pride of France, who was reinstated in the role of European arbiter. In turn, the Revolution influenced France. European conservative Royalists and nobility had become nervous, and began to take measures in order to secure their positions. Financial aspects[edit] In all the French spent 1. France gained little except that it weakened its main strategic enemy and gained a new, fast-growing ally that could become a welcome trading partner. However, the trade never materialized, and in the United States proclaimed its neutrality in the war between Great Britain and the French Republic. Dull states that France intervened because of dispassionate calculation, not because of Anglophobia or a desire to avenge the loss of Canada.

9: French Revolution | Causes, Facts, & Summary | www.enganchecubano.com

In the American Revolutionary War (), France fought alongside the United States, against Britain, from French money, munitions, soldiers and naval forces proved essential to America's victory over the Crown, but France gained little except large debts. French aid proved vital in the.

Since it numbered only about 42,000, heavy recruiting programs were introduced. Many of the enlisted men were farm boys, as were most of the Americans. Others were unemployed persons from the urban slums. Still others joined the army to escape fines or imprisonment. The great majority became efficient soldiers as a result of sound training and ferocious discipline. The officers were drawn largely from the gentry and the aristocracy and obtained their commissions and promotions by purchase. Though they received no formal training, they were not so dependent on a book knowledge of military tactics as were many of the Americans. British generals, however, tended toward a lack of imagination and initiative, while those who demonstrated such qualities often were rash. Because troops were few and conscription unknown, the British government, following a traditional policy, purchased about 30,000 troops from various German princes. The Landgrave of Hesse furnished approximately three-fifths of that total. Few acts by the crown roused so much antagonism in America as that use of foreign mercenaries. After the Boston Tea Party December 16, 1773, Parliament responded with the Intolerable Acts, a series of punitive measures that were intended to cow the restive population into obedience. Thomas Gage, the commander of all British troops in North America. William Legge, 2nd earl of Dartmouth, secretary of state for the colonies, advised Gage that American Revolution: Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. LC-USZC the violence committed by those, who have taken up arms in Massachusetts, have appeared to me as the acts of a rude rabble, without plan, without concert, without conduct. From London, Dartmouth concluded that a small force now, if put to the test, would be able to conquer them, with greater probability of success, than might be expected of a larger army, if the people should be suffered to form themselves upon a more regular plan. Gage, for his part, felt that no fewer than 20,000 troops would be adequate for such an endeavour, but he acted with the forces he had at hand. Beginning in the late summer of 1774, Gage attempted to suppress the warlike preparations throughout New England by seizing stores of weapons and powder. Although the colonials were initially taken by surprise, they soon mobilized. Groups such as the Sons of Liberty uncovered advance details of British actions, and Committees of Correspondence aided in the organization of countermeasures. The following day, several hundred men assembled and stormed the fort, capturing the six-man garrison, seizing a significant quantity of powder, and striking the British colours; a subsequent party removed the remaining cannons and small arms. The trio were apprehended outside Lexington by a British patrol, but Prescott escaped custody and was able to continue on to Concord. Revere, Paul Revere riding on the night of April 18, 1775, to warn Boston-area residents that the British were coming. Some British troops spent the evening of April 18, 1775, forming ranks on Boston Common, with orders to seize the colonial armoury at Concord. The lengthy public display ensured that Gage had lost any chance at secrecy, and by the time the force had been transported across the Charles River to Cambridge it was 2: The march to Lexington was an exercise in misery. It began in a swamp, and the British were forced to wade through brackish water that was, in places, waist deep. By the time the soaked infantrymen arrived in Lexington at approximately 5:00: Officers on both sides ordered their men to hold their positions but not to fire their weapons. The colonial force evaporated, and the British moved on to Concord, where they were met with determined resistance from hundreds of militiamen. Now outnumbered and running low on ammunition, the British column was forced to retire to Boston. On the return march, American snipers took a deadly toll on the British, and only the timely arrival of 1,000 reinforcements prevented the retreat from becoming a rout. Those killed and wounded at the Battles of Lexington and Concord numbered British and 95 Americans. A line of minutemen being fired upon by British troops during the Battle of Lexington in Massachusetts, April 19, 1775. Those four commanders would be identified with the conduct of the principal British operations. The Continental Congress in Philadelphia, acting for the 13 colonies, voted for general defensive measures, called out troops, and appointed George Washington of Virginia commander in chief. Before Washington could take

charge of the 15, colonial troops laying siege to the British garrison in Boston, Gage ordered Howe to drive the Americans from the heights in Charlestown. The site is built over today, but it was open country in 1775. The British advanced from Boston by boat. The Charles River was not largely filled then, as it is today, and British warships could lie between Boston and the site of the battle. The placement of American artillery on the heights would have made the British position in Boston untenable, so on June 17, 1775, Howe led a British frontal assault on the American fortifications. The British eventually cleared the hill but at the cost of more than 40 percent of the assault force, and the battle was a moral victory for the Americans. Not only did he have to contain the British in Boston, but he also had to recruit a Continental army. During the winter of 1776 recruitment lagged so badly that fresh drafts of militia were called up to help maintain the siege. The balance shifted in late winter, when Gen. John Burgoyne's British fort, which occupied a strategic point between Lake George and Lake Champlain, had been surprised and taken on May 10, 1777, by the Green Mountain Boys, a Vermont militia group under the command of Col. Ethan Allen. The cannons from Ticonderoga were mounted on Dorchester Heights, above Boston. The guns forced Howe, who had replaced Gage in command in October 1776, to evacuate the city on March 17, 1777. Howe then repaired to Halifax to prepare for an invasion of New York, and Washington moved units southward for its defense. General George Washington riding white horse and his staff welcoming a provision train of supplies for the Continental Army. In the fall of 1776 the Americans invaded Canada. One force under Gen. Richard Montgomery captured Montreal on November 30. Another under Benedict Arnold made a remarkable march through the Maine wilderness to Quebec. Unable to take the city, Arnold was joined by Montgomery, many of whose troops had gone home because their enlistments had expired. An attack on the city on the last day of the year failed, Montgomery was killed, and many troops were captured. The Americans maintained a siege of the city but withdrew with the arrival of British reinforcements in the spring. Pursued by the British and decimated by smallpox, the Americans fell back to Ticonderoga. Forced to build one of his own, Carleton destroyed most of the American fleet in October but considered the season too advanced to bring Ticonderoga under siege. Charleston, South Carolina, was successfully defended against a British assault by sea in June. It also gave the Howes a commission to treat with the Americans. The Continental Congress, which had proclaimed the independence of the colonies, at first thought that the Howes were empowered to negotiate peace terms but discovered that they were authorized only to accept submission and assure pardons. New York's New Jersey campaign of 1776. Their peace efforts getting nowhere, the Howes turned to force. Washington, who had anticipated British designs, had already marched from Boston to New York and fortified the city, but his position was far from ideal. His left flank was thrown across the East River, beyond the village of Brooklyn, while the remainder of his lines fronted the Hudson River, making them open to a combined naval and ground attack. The position was untenable since the British absolutely dominated the waters about Manhattan. Howe drove Washington out of New York and forced the abandonment of the whole of Manhattan Island by employing three well-directed movements upon the American left. He then scored a smashing victory on August 27, driving the Americans into their Brooklyn works and inflicting a loss of about 1,000 men. Washington skillfully evacuated his army from Brooklyn to Manhattan that night under cover of a fog. Armytage after a painting by M. Howe slipped between the American army and Fort Mifflin and stormed the fort on November 16, seizing guns, supplies, and nearly 3,000 prisoners. Though Washington escaped to the west bank of the Delaware River, his army nearly disappeared. Howe then put his army into winter quarters, with outposts at towns such as Bordentown and Trenton. Crossing the ice-strewn Delaware with 2,000 men, he fell upon the Hessian garrison at Trenton at dawn and took nearly 1,000 prisoners. Though almost trapped by Cornwallis, who recovered Trenton on January 2, 1777, Washington made a skillful escape during the night, won a battle against British reinforcements at Princeton the next day, and went into winter quarters in the defensible area around Morristown. The Trenton-Princeton campaign roused the country and saved the struggle for independence from collapse. An army under Gen. John Burgoyne was to march south from Canada and join forces with Howe on the Hudson. But Howe seems to have concluded that Burgoyne was strong enough to operate on his own and left New York in the summer, taking his army by sea to the head of Chesapeake Bay. Once ashore, he defeated Washington badly but not decisively at Brandywine Creek on September 26. Then, feinting westward, he entered Philadelphia, the

American capital, on September 17, 1776. The Continental Congress fled to York. Washington struck back at Germantown on October 4 but, compelled to withdraw, went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. In the North the story was different. Burgoyne was to move south to Albany with a force of about 9,000 British, Germans, Indians, and American loyalists; a smaller force under Lieut. Leger was to converge on Albany through the Mohawk valley. Burgoyne took Ticonderoga handily on July 5 and then, instead of using Lake George, chose a southward route by land. Slowed by the rugged terrain, strewn with trees cut down by American axmen under Gen. Philip Schuyler, and needing horses, Burgoyne sent a force of Germans to collect them at Bennington, Vermont. John Stark and Col. Leger besieged Fort Schuyler present-day Rome, New York, ambushed a relief column of American militia at Oriskany on August 6, but retreated as his Indians gave up the siege and an American force under Arnold approached. Burgoyne himself reached the Hudson, but the Americans, now under Gen. Ten days later, unable to get help from New York, Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga. Northern campaign of The French had secretly furnished financial and material aid since Now they prepared fleets and armies, although they did not formally declare war until June Order and discipline among the troops were improved by the arrival of the Freiherr von baron of Steuben, a Prussian officer in the service of France.

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