

1: General George Washington Resigning His Commission | Architect of the Capitol

George Washington is best remembered as the first President of the United States, but there might not ever have been a United States, had Washington not so ably performed in the role for which he seemed to have been born: Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

To Page 1 Before departing Washington wrote to his wife Martha: You may believe me, my dear Patsy , when I assure you, in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity, and that I should enjoy more happiness in one month with you at home than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad. The continental army at his command was growing on a daily basis. Thousands of farmers, fishermen, sailors, merchants, and artisans of New England, with very little discipline and much confusion, volunteered to serve the revolutionary cause. In taking over the command on July 3, , the Commander in Chief addressed the disparate army under his command, in his general orders of July 4, The Continental Congress having now taken all the Troops of the several Colonies, which have been raised, or which may be hereafter raised, for the support and defence of the Liberties of America; into their Pay and Service: They are now the Troops of the United Provinces of North America; and it is hoped that all Distinctions of Colonies will be laid aside; so that one and the same spirit may animate the whole, and the only contest be, who shall render, on this great and trying occasion, the most essential Service to the great and common cause in which we are all engaged. The Americans faced the well-equipped and trained British army, led by an experienced cadre of officers and generals. His own troops were mostly volunteers, only very loosely organized into separate militia groups from the various colonies. He was tasked with forging these farmboys and fishermen into a fighting force to meet what was arguably the most powerful army in the world. Compounding their lack of experience, the Americans were poorly equipped, lacking arms, ammunition, adequate clothing, and artillery. The Americans had scored an early victory in May with the surprise attack and capture of Fort Ticonderoga, and with it much needed munitions and supplies. Washington sent Colonel Henry Knox to bring 59 cannon from Ticonderoga. It was late in Winter was already upon them. The resourceful Knox managed to transport the massive artillery pieces using ox-drawn sleds. Washington used the captured artillery to fortify Dorchester heights, compelling General Howe to evacuate Boston, embarking his force for Halifax. The fleeing British left behind more cannons, small arms, powder and other supplies, an enormously welcome windfall to the ill-equipped Americans. Sir Henry Clinton also arrived with troops from the south, and fully 30, veteran soldiers stood ready to annihilate the American Army, numbering no more than 18, men. The English planned to seize New York and then the rest of the country, quickly subdue the Colonials, and bring the war to a speedy end. As they landed and established themselves in and around New York, General Washington kept close watch upon their movements. He had 9, men in a fortified camp at Brooklyn, and on August 22, when he learned that the enemy had landed 10, men and 40 cannon at the lower end of Long Island. In his General Orders of August 23, , he issued the following statement: Remember, officers and soldiers, that you are freemen fighting for the blessings of liberty – that slavery will be your portion and that of your posterity if you do not acquit yourselves like men. The Battle of Long Island was the first major battle to occur after the colonies declared their independence. More troops were involved than in any other battle of the entire war. Although a defeat for the Americans, the successful evacuation prevented what would otherwise have doomed the entire revolution to failure. General Howe had dispatched his subordinate, General Cornwallis, to pursue the fleeing Americans across New Jersey, but On December 8, , Washington and the army crossed the Delaware into Pennsylvania, once again narrowly escaping a crushing defeat by the British. Washington Crossing the Delaware Emanuel Leutze, Howe and Washington were playing a game of cat and mouse, and the Americans were the mouse, continually fleeing from almost certain doom. Winter had come and American morale was waning. Washington conceived a plan for a bold attack that might boost American spirits: He brought his troops across to New Jersey once again a few days later, setting up a defensive position on the Assunpink Creek, a few

miles from Trenton. On January 2, , the Americans repulsed a British assault, inflicting heavy casualties as the British repeatedly tried and failed to cross a bridge spanning the creek under heavy American fire. American familiarity with the terrain and their adoption of tactics appropriate to the dense woods surrounding the creek were decisive factors in the American victory. The victory at Assunpink Creek was followed by another victory at Princeton the following day January 3, , capturing the city and many prisoners. This third defeat was enough for the British, who withdrew most of their forces from southern New Jersey. Washington and the Continental army spent the rest of the winter at an encampment in Morristown, NJ. When spring arrived, the Americans and British resumed their skirmishing all along the Delaware and surrounding region, including the important battles of Brandywine and Germantown , culminating with the capture of Philadelphia , then the American capital.

2: George Washington assigned to lead the Continental Army - HISTORY

George Washington, a leader of the revolutionary movement in Virginia, a former commander of Virginia's frontier forces, and a British colonial army officer, was commissioned "commander-in-chief of the army of the United Colonies of all the forces raised and to be raised by them" on June 19, , by the Continental Congress.

General George Washington at Trenton John Trumbull, George Washington is best remembered as the first President of the United States, but there might not ever have been a United States, had Washington not so ably performed in the role for which he seemed to have been born: Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. His experiences in the French and Indian War were invaluable in teaching him the subtleties of warfare on the American continent. Serving the British crown in their war against the French in the s would prepare him for the conflict that emerged two decades later: Fighting for Independence from the crown he once served, in alliance with the French he once fought against. Asked to name the greatest man in the Congress, Patrick Henry replied: Rutledge of South Carolina is by far the greatest orator; but if you speak of solid information and sound judgement, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on the floor. Speaking before a meeting of that body soon after the Boston Tea Party , after the British closed the port of Boston Washington asserted: The American Revolution was underway. Milita groups from throughout the colonies made their way to Boston. John Adams, of Massachusetts, nominated Washington, then a colonel in the Virginia militia, to serve as commander-in-chief of the army, recording in his diary: I had no hesitation to declare that I had but one gentleman in my mind for that important command and that was a gentleman from Virginia, who was among us and very well known to all of us; a gentleman, whose skill and experience as an officer, whose independent fortune, great talents and excellent universal character would command the approbation of all America, and unite the cordial exertions of all the colonies better than any other person in the Union. Adams was persuasive, and Congress concurred with his recommendation. Washington accepted the appointment, but it was the standard practice to make a great show of humility when thus honored. Washington did so in his acceptance speech: I beg they will accept my cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation. But lest some unlucky event should happen, unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with. As to pay, Sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses. Those I doubt not they will discharge, and that is all I desire. Eight brigadier generals were also commissioned.

3: George Washington's Personal Position Flag (U.S.)

In , Washington joined the Continental Congress as a delegate from Virginia. The next year, the Congress offered Washington the role of commander in chief of the Continental Army.

He symbolized qualities of discipline, aristocratic duty, military orthodoxy and persistence in adversity that his contemporaries valued as marked of mature political leadership. KD Klos, Upper St. Although Washington had little or no formal schooling, his early notebooks indicate that he read in geography, military history, agriculture, deportment and composition. He showed an aptitude for surveying and simple mathematics. It is too valuable to be lost, and too true to be doubted: Of which, like most little boys, he was immoderately fond, and was constantly going about chopping everything that came in his way. The next morning the old gentleman, finding out what had befallen his tree, which, by the by, was a great favourite, came into the house; and with much warmth asked for the mischievous author, declaring at the same time, that he would not have taken five guineas for his tree. Nobody could tell him anything about it. Presently George and his hatchet made their appearance. I did cut it with my hatchet. Such an act of heroism in my son is more worth than a thousand trees, though blossomed with silver, and their fruits of purest gold. Lawrence Washington inherited another family property from his father, a plantation on the Potomac River which he named Mount Vernon, in honor of his commanding officer, Admiral Edward Vernon. Talk of securing an appointment in the Royal Navy for George at 15 was dropped when his widowed mother objected. He was chosen by Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia to deliver an ultimatum calling on French forces to cease their encroachment in the Ohio River valley. Although only 22 years of age and lacking experience, he was ordered to lead a militia force for the protection of workers who were building a fort at the Forks of the Ohio River. They traveled through woods so dark the men sometimes spent nearly half an hour just trying to find the trail. As the French commander had not posted sentries, Washington and his men easily surrounded the unsuspecting French. A shot was fired, no one really knows by whom, and soon the peaceful glen was filled with the crash of musketry and the sulphurous smell of powder. The skirmish lasted about 15 minutes. When it was over, 10 Frenchmen were dead and 21 captured. One escaped and made his way back to Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio. Washington now knew he was discovered. He sent his prisoners to Williamsburg while he returned to the Great Meadows. There he started construction of a small fortification to protect from probable attack. About five weeks later the attack came. A successful French assault obliged him to accept articles of surrender and he departed with the remnants of his company. Discouraged by defeat, Washington resigned his commission in Braddock was mortally wounded and Washington narrowly escaped death. At age of 23, he was promoted to colonel and appointed commander in chief of the Virginia militia. His responsibility was to defend the frontier. He returned to Mount Vernon, to restore his neglected estate. At first he hoped for reconciliation with Britain. In July, he presided over a meeting in Alexandria that adopted the Fairfax Resolves, calling for the establishment and enforcement of a stringent boycott on British imports prior to similar action by the First Continental Congress. On June 14, debate opened in Congress on the appointment of Commander-in-Chief of Continental forces. John Hancock made it known to all the delegates that he wanted the high office and as President he expected to be nominated. He was astounded when his fellow Massachusetts delegate, John Adams , moved to appoint George Washington: I concluded with a Motion in form that Congress would Adopt the Army at Cambridge and appoint a General, that though this was not the proper time to nominate a General, yet as I had reason to believe this was a point of the greatest difficulty, I had no hesitation to declare that I had but one Gentleman in my Mind for that important command, and that was a Gentleman from Virginia who was among Us and very well known to all of Us, a Gentleman whose Skill and Experience as an Officer, whose independent fortune, great Talents and excellent universal Character, would command the Approbation of all America, and unite the cordial Exertions of all the Colonies better than any other Person in the Union. Washington, who happened to sit near the Door, as soon as he heard me allude to him, from his Usual Modesty darted into the Library Room. Hancock, who was our President, which gave me an Opportunity to observe his Countenance, while I was speaking. Resolved unanimously

upon the question, Whereas, the delegates of all the colonies, from Nova-Scotia to Georgia, in Congress assembled, have unanimously chosen George Washington, Esq. John Adams wrote his wife this concerning the appointment: I can now inform you that the Congress have made Choice of the modest and virtuous, the amiable, generous and brave George Washington Esqr. Colonel George Washington was chosen because he was, a delegate of the wealthiest and most populous colony had extensive combat experience during the French and Indian War. His health and age, 43, were ideal to conduct long campaigns, which Congress knew would be part of the protracted conflict. Washington, who attended Congress in impeccable military dress, was determined to defend colonial rights and had a burning desire to obtain the Commander-in-Chief commission. We, reposing special trust and confidence in your patriotism, valor, conduct, and fidelity, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be General and Commander in chief, of the army of the United Colonies, and of all the forces now raised, or to be raised, by them, and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their service, and join the said Army for the Defense of American liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof: And you are hereby vested with full power and authority to act as you shall think for the good and welfare of the service. And we do hereby strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers, under your command, to be obedient to your orders, and diligent in the exercise of their several duties. And we do also enjoin and require you, to be careful in executing the great trust reposed in you, by causing strict discipline and order to be observed in the army, and that the soldiers be duly exercised, and provided with all convenient necessaries. And you are to regulate your conduct in every respect by the rules and discipline of war, as herewith given you, and punctually to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as you shall receive from this, or a future Congress of these United Colonies, or committee of Congress. This commission to continue in force, until revoked by this, or a future Congress. By order of the Congress John Hancock , President Washington took command of the troops surrounding British-occupied Boston on July 3, devoting the next few months to training the undisciplined 14, man army and trying to secure urgently needed powder and other supplies. Early in March , he took command of the makeshift force and moved his army to New York. Defeated there by the combined land and sea forces of General William Howe, he withdrew from Manhattan to establish a new defensive line north of New York City. The American Congress to George Washington, commander-in-chief of the armies, the assertor of liberty. Undraped bust of General Washington, facing the right, Duvivier, Paris. The enemy put to flight for the first time. To the left, General Washington on horseback, surrounded by his staff, points toward the British fleet, which is leaving Boston. The American army, in battle array in front of its intrenchments, makes ready to occupy the city. Boston retaken, March 17, On a cannon, Duvivier. This medal was the first one voted by the Continental Congress but it was not struck until after that of the Chevalier de Fleury, which was voted three years later. The legend of the reverse of the General Washington medal, as originally proposed, was *hostibus or anglis primum fugatis*. Several of the medals are treated of at length in the Introduction, to which, to avoid repetition, the reader is referred. Pierre Simon Duvivier was born in Paris, November 5, Pierre Simon Duvivier was engraver-general of the Paris Mint prior to , and executed medals of many eminent persons. He was a member of the Academy of Fine Arts, and died June 10, He lost his father when but ten years of age, and in , in consequence of the death of his elder brother, came into possession of the estate of Mount Vernon, on the Potomac River, and other property. The same year he received a commission as major of militia, and in became colonel and aid-de-camp to General Braddock. On the death of that officer in the disastrous march against Fort Duquesne, Washington conducted the retreat, and was shortly afterward appointed commander of the Virginia troops. In he was elected member of the first Continental Congress, held in Philadelphia, and in the following year was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, taking command of the forces at Cambridge, July 3, On March 17, , he compelled the British forces to evacuate Boston, for which Congress gave him a vote of thanks and a gold medal. He was commander-in-chief throughout the War of Independence, and resigned his commission as such, December 23, , when he retired to Mount Vernon. He was delegate from Virginia to the National Convention which met in Philadelphia in May, , to frame the Constitution of the United States, and was chosen its president. He was afterward unanimously elected first President of the United States, and was inaugurated in New York city, April 30, He was re-elected, and

inaugurated a second time, March 4, ; refused a third term of office, and issued a farewell address, September 17, When a war with France was expected, in , he was re-appointed commander-in-chief. General Washington died at Mount Vernon, December 14, Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress, in their own name, and in the name of the thirteen United Colonies, whom they represent, be presented to His Excellency General Washington, and the officers and soldiers under his command, for their wise and spirited conduct in the siege and acquisition of Boston; and that a medal of gold be struck in commemoration of this great event, and presented to His Excellency; and that a committee of there be appointed to prepare a letter of thanks and a proper device for the medal. Headquarters, Cambridge, March 19, I beg leave to congratulate you, Sir, and the honourable Congress, on this happy event, and particularly as it was effected without endangering the lives and property of the remaining unhappy inhabitants. The town, although it has suffered greatly, is not in so bad a state as I expected to find it; and I have a particular pleasure in being able to inform you, Sir, that your house has received no damage worth mentioning. Your furniture is in tolerable order, and the family pictures are all left entire and untouched. Captain Cazeneau takes charge of the whole until he shall receive further orders from you. As soon as the ministerial troops had quitted the town, I ordered a thousand men who had had the small-pox , under command of General Putnam, to take possession of the heights, which I shall endeavour to fortify in such a manner as to prevent their return, should they attempt it. But as they are still in the harbour, I thought it not prudent to march off with the main body of the army until I should be fully satisfied they had quitted the coast. I have, therefore, only detached five regiments, besides the rifle battalion, to New York, and shall keep the remainder here till all suspicion of their return ceases. The situation in which I found their works evidently discovered that their retreat was made with the greatest precipitation. They have also left a number of fine pieces of cannon which they first spiked up, also a very large iron mortar, and, as I am informed, they have thrown another over the end of your wharf. I have employed proper persons to drill the cannon, and doubt not I shall save the most of them. I am not yet able to procure an exact list of all the stores they have left. As soon as it can be done, I shall take care to transmit it to you. From an estimate of what the quartermaster-general has already discovered, the amount will be twenty-five or thirty thousand pounds. Part of the powder mentioned in yours of the sixth instant has already arrived. The remainder I have ordered to be stopped on the road, as we shall have no occasion for it here. The letter to General Thomas I immediately sent to him. He desired leave for three or four days to settle some of his private affairs, after which he will set out for his command in Canada. Philadelphia, April 2, It gives me the most sensible pleasure to convey to you, by order of Congress, the only tribute which a free people will ever consent to pay—the tribute of thanks and gratitude to their friends and benefactors.

4: Continental Army - Wikipedia

On August 14, 1775, Dinwiddie appointed Washington colonel and commander in chief of all of Virginia's colonial military forces, to protect Virginia's frontier from Indian attacks. Washington was 23, in charge of defending miles with only men.

Although he considered the appointment a great honor, he also considered himself unworthy of the task before him. His job was to take a bunch of colonial farmers and turn them into a fighting force capable of defeating the most powerful empire on the planet. It was not only a daunting task, but a nearly impossible one. At the same time, Washington took on the command at great personal risk. Not only could he be killed in battle, but if the revolution failed, which was likely, he would lose his estate at Mount Vernon, his wealth, and his powerful position in the colony. Boston A few days after becoming Commander-in-Chief, Washington left Philadelphia to travel to Boston which was the center of the fighting at the time. By the time Washington arrived on July 2, the two sides were at a stalemate. The British had defeated the patriots at the Battle of Bunker Hill, but had suffered major losses. The Americans had surrounded the city and the British forces, but could not force the British out. This stalemate would become known as the Siege of Boston. He established a chain of command and appointed senior officers to command the troops. He also implemented strict rules of discipline and behavior. He would not have his army injuring civilians or stealing from the people they were supposed to be protecting. Siege of Boston The Siege of Boston lasted for almost a year. During that time both sides dealt with dwindling food and supplies. Little fighting occurred except for the small skirmish here and there. Finally, in March of 1776, Washington moved some cannon captured from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights overlooking the city of Boston. The British evacuated the city and went to Nova Scotia in Canada. After the siege lifted, Washington knew that General Howe would not stay quiet for long. Washington feared that Howe was sailing his army directly to New York City, the most strategic port in the Americas. He immediately ordered his army to march to New York, but soon discovered that Howe had gone to Canada. Washington continued to New York at a slower pace. Once he arrived he began to fortify New York against attack. Howe wanted to avoid a large battle and sent a letter addressed to "Mr. Washington" hoping to open negotiations. Washington refused the letter and sent it back because he considered it an insult that Howe did not address the letter to "General" Washington. In the end, Washington refused to negotiate. When Howe offered him a pardon, Washington replied that he had done nothing that needed to be pardoned. Howe began offloading troops onto Staten Island and began preparing for battle. They landed on Long Island on August 22 and the battle began a few days later. By the night of August 29th, Washington found his army nearly surrounded by the British. He had lost the battle and may lose the war. That night Washington made a brilliant maneuver. Gathering all the local boats he could, his entire army quietly snuck across the East River and into Manhattan. When the British went to attack the Americans the next morning, they were gone. Retreat Washington and the Continental Army continued their retreat over the next several months fighting battles along the way including the Battle of Harlem Heights and the Battle of White Plains. New York City was lost to the British. It would remain in British hands until the end of the war. It was also the first major battle that occurred after the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4,

5: President George Washington

George Washington: The Commander In Chief Page 2 To Page 1. Before departing Washington wrote to his wife Martha: You may believe me, my dear Patsy, when I assure you, in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from a consciousness of its being a.

Vernon Slave Quarters Enslaved labor kept Mount Vernon going through the long war and the many difficulties that followed, and while Washington fed and housed his slaves poorly, his writings do not contain references to black people as being inferior to, or even different from, whites. He looked for ways to "liberate" his slaves, but encountered opposition from the Custis family. Washington died on December 14, , from an acute throat infection that occluded his windpipe, causing a slow death. His final day was agonizing: One he ordered burned; the will he chose to execute contained a long, detailed clause that freed all his slaves. He was laid to rest in a temporary tomb and then moved to an imposing above-ground mausoleum at Mount Vernon, where his wife and other family members would also lie. Martha Washington refused requests to have him buried in the national capital. Born in Virginia, he transcended sectional divides and interests, acquiring a national perspective that made him the agent and the symbol of the American union, the "indispensable man," as one biographer called him, in the formation of the United States. While in Barbados, Washington survives a case of smallpox, granting him a lifelong immunity to the disease. November 6, - Virginia lieutenant governor Robert Dinwiddie appoints George Washington a district adjutant of the Virginia militia, with the rank of major. October 31, - Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie dispatches George Washington, with only six frontiersmen at his side, to demand the departure of a French military force in the Ohio country, a region claimed by Britain. May 28, - Virginia militia, numbering about men under the command of George Washington and allied with a number of Indians, skirmish with French forces in the Ohio country. Several French soldiers are killed, including their commander, Joseph Jumonville. May 10, - George Washington is appointed to serve as an aide to British general Edward Braddock. Custis is the widow of Daniel Parke Custis and brings to the marriage his large estate and her two children. April 5, - Parliament passes the Sugar Act, which imposes new taxes on mainland imports, and increases the authority of vice admiralty courts to hand down decisions regarding customs violations without a jury. March 22, - Parliament passes the "Duties in American Colonies Act ," better known as the Stamp Act, a piece of legislation introduced by George Grenville, the British prime minister. It requires all printed materials in the American colonies to be produced on specially stamped paper manufactured in London, England. March 18, - Parliament passes the Declaratory Act, asserting its authority to make binding law for the American colonies. June 29, - Parliament passes the Townshend Revenue Act, which taxes goods imported to the American colonies, such as paper, paint, lead, glass, and tea. October - A British military force lands in Boston, Massachusetts, to compel compliance with the Townshend Acts, a series of taxes on goods imported into the American colonies. Fifty-six representatives of twelve of the thirteen English colonies in North America debate the means by which to protest British taxation. The army numbers 14, men instead of the 20, Washington expects. March 17, - British forces evacuate Boston, Massachusetts, after George Washington places artillery in a commanding position atop Dorchester Heights. A small flotilla evacuates the Americans from Brooklyn to Manhattan. Nearly 3, Americans are taken prisoner. Washington retreats southward through New Jersey. December 19, - Thomas Paine issues *The Crisis*, the first in a series of pamphlets written to inspire American patriots. September 22â€”26, - British forces under William Howe, fifth viscount Howe, begin their occupation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. January - After a mutiny of Pennsylvania and then New Jersey troops, George Washington orders the execution of several Continental army soldiers. October 19, - Combined American and French forces compel the surrender of a British army under Charles Cornwallis, first marquess Cornwallis at Yorktown, ending the major fighting in the Revolutionary War. March 15, - George Washington issues the Newburgh Address, a short speech to officers of the Continental army advising them to have patience with Congress, which had not paid them the pensions they were due. In the document, Britain formally recognizes

American independence and cedes to America all lands south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi River except for the Florida colonies. December 23, - George Washington presents his resignation as commander in chief of the Continental army to Congress in Annapolis, Maryland. Patrick Henry is elected to the convention but declines to attend, later explaining, "I smelt a rat. June 21, - New Hampshire votes to ratify the U. Constitution, meeting the requirement that at least nine states ratify it. September 13, - The Continental Congress passes a resolution putting the newly ratified U. February 4, - George Washington is unanimously elected the first U. April 30, - George Washington is inaugurated the first U. Robert Livingston, the chancellor, or highest judicial officer, of New York, administers the oath of office. December 5, - George Washington is, for the second time, unanimously elected U. March 4, - George Washington is inaugurated for a second term as U. William Cushing, associate justice of the U. Supreme Court, administers the oath of office. December 14, - George Washington dies at Mount Vernon after a short illness.

6: George Washington - HISTORY

- *George Washington* George Washington was commander in chief of the Continental army during the American Revolution and first president of the United States. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on February 22,

The Continental Congress appointed Washington commander-in-chief of the American revolutionary forces in 1775. The following year, he forced the British out of Boston, lost New York City, and crossed the Delaware River in New Jersey, defeating the surprised enemy units later that year. As a result of his strategy, Revolutionary forces captured the two main British combat armies at Saratoga and Yorktown. Negotiating with Congress, the colonial states, and French allies, he held together a tenuous army and a fragile nation amid the threats of disintegration and failure. Following the end of the war in 1783, Washington retired to his plantation on Mount Vernon, prompting an incredulous King George III to state, "If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world. He sought to create a great nation capable of surviving in a world torn asunder by war between Britain and France. His unilateral Proclamation of Neutrality of 1793 provided a basis for avoiding any involvement in foreign conflicts. He supported plans to build a strong central government by funding the national debt, implementing an effective tax system, and creating a national bank. Washington avoided the temptation of war and began a decade of peace with Britain via the Jay Treaty in 1795; he used his prestige to get it ratified over intense opposition from the Jeffersonians. Although never officially joining the Federalist Party, he supported its programs and was its inspirational leader. Washington is seen as a symbol of the United States and republicanism in practice. His devotion to civic virtue made him an exemplary figure among early American politicians. Washington died in 1799, and in his funeral oration, Henry Lee said that of all Americans, he was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. He was educated in the home by his father and older brother. In his youth, Washington worked as a surveyor, and acquired what would become invaluable knowledge of the terrain around his native Colony of Virginia. In 1763, he was appointed to his first public office, surveyor of newly created Culpeper County, and through his half-brother, Lawrence Washington, he became interested in the Ohio Company, which aimed to exploit Western lands. This was the only time George Washington travelled outside what is now the United States. Washington was appointed a district adjutant general in the Virginia militia in 1774, which made him Major Washington at the age of 27. He was charged with training the militia in the quarter assigned him. At age 21, in Fredericksburg, Washington became a Master Mason in the organization of Freemasons, a fraternal organization that was a lifelong influence. Washington assessed French military strength and intentions, and delivered the message to the French at Fort Le Boeuf in present day Waterford, Pennsylvania. The message, which went unheeded, called for the French to abandon their development of the Ohio country, setting in motion two colonial powers toward worldwide conflict. George was 6 when the family moved to the farm in 1743. George inherited the farm and lived in the house until his early 20s, though he also stayed with his half-brother Lawrence at Mount Vernon. As goal, they were set to restore the house. French and Indian War In 1754, Dinwiddie commissioned Washington a lieutenant colonel and ordered him to lead an expedition to Fort Duquesne to drive out the French. With his American Indian allies led by Tanacharison, Washington and his troops ambushed a French scouting party of some 30 men, led by Joseph Coulon de Jumonville. Washington and his troops were overwhelmed at Fort Necessity by a larger and better positioned French and Indian force. The terms of surrender included a statement that Washington had assassinated Jumonville after the ambush. Washington could not read French, and, unaware of what it said, signed his name. Released by the French, Washington returned to Virginia, where he was cleared of blame for the defeat, but resigned because he did not like the new arrangement of the Virginia Militia. This was a major effort to retake the Ohio Country. While Braddock was killed and the expedition ended in disaster, Washington distinguished himself as the Hero of the Monongahela. Subsequent to this action, Washington was given a difficult frontier command in the Virginia mountains, and was rewarded by being promoted to colonel and named commander of all Virginia forces. In 1758, Washington participated as a brigadier general in the Forbes expedition that prompted French evacuation of Fort Duquesne, and British establishment of Pittsburgh. Later that year, Washington resigned from active military service and spent the next sixteen years as a

Virginia planter and politician. George only visited her home twice before proposing marriage to her 3 weeks after they met. George and Martha were each 27 years old when they married on January 6, at her home, known as The White House, which shares its name with the future presidential mansion. The newlywed couple moved to Mount Vernon, where he took up the tuckahoe life of a genteel planter and political figure. They had a good marriage, and together they raised her two children by her previous marriage to Daniel Parke Custis, John Parke Custis and Martha Parke Custis, affectionately called "Jackie" and "Patsy. Later the Washingtons raised two of Mrs. He frequently purchased additional land in his own name, and was granted land in what is now West Virginia as a bounty for his service in the French and Indian War. As a respected military hero and large landowner, he held local office and was elected to the Virginia provincial legislature, the House of Burgesses, beginning in , and he served as a justice of Fairfax, and held court in Alexandria, Virginia between and Washington first took a leading role in the growing colonial resistance in , when he introduced a proposal drafted by his friend George Mason which called for Virginia to boycott imported English goods until the Townshend Acts were repealed. Parliament repealed the Acts in Washington also took an active interest in helping his fellow citizens. Washington regarded the passage of the Intolerable Acts in as "an Invasion of our Rights and Privileges. The American Revolution After fighting broke out in April , Washington appeared at the Second Continental Congress in military uniform, signaling that he was prepared for war. Washington had the prestige, the military experience, the charisma and military bearing, the reputation of being a strong patriot, and he was supported by the South, especially Virginia. Although he did not explicitly seek the office of commander and even claimed that he was not equal to it, there was no serious competition. Congress created the Continental Army on June 14, ; the next day, on the nomination of John Adams of Massachusetts, Washington was appointed Major General and elected by Congress to be Commander-in-chief. Washington assumed command of the Continental Army in the field at Cambridge, Massachusetts in July , during the ongoing siege of Boston. British arsenals were raided including some in the Caribbean and some manufacturing was attempted; a barely adequate supply about 2. Washington reorganized the army during the long standoff, and forced the British to withdraw by putting artillery on Dorchester Heights overlooking the city. Bust of Washington by Jean-Antoine Houdon based on a life mask cast in In August , British General William Howe launched a massive naval and land campaign designed to seize New York and offer a negotiated settlement. The Continental Army under Washington engaged the enemy for the first time as an army of the newly-declared independent United States at the Battle of Long Island, the largest battle of the entire war. This and several other British victories sent Washington scrambling out of New York and across New Jersey, leaving the future of the Continental Army in doubt. On the night of December 25, , Washington staged a counterattack, leading the American forces across the Delaware River to capture nearly 1, Hessians in Trenton, New Jersey. Washington followed up his victory at Trenton, with another one at Princeton in early January. Howe outmaneuvered Washington and marched into Philadelphia unopposed on September Meanwhile, Burgoyne, out of reach from help from Howe, was trapped and forced to surrender his entire army at Saratoga, New York. Over the winter, 2, men of the 10, strong force died from disease and exposure. The next spring, however, the army emerged from Valley Forge in good order, thanks in part to a full-scale training program supervised by Baron von Steuben, a veteran of the Prussian general staff. The British evacuated Philadelphia to New York in but Washington attacked them at Monmouth and drove them from the battlefield. Afterwards, the British continued to head towards New York. He delivered the final blow in , after a French naval victory allowed American and French forces to trap a British army in Virginia. The surrender at Yorktown on October 17, marked the end of most fighting. Though known for his successes in the war and of his life that followed, Washington suffered many defeats before achieving victory. Depiction by John Trumbull of Washington resigning his commission as commander-in-chief. In March , Washington used his influence to disperse a group of Army officers who had threatened to confront Congress regarding their back pay. Washington disbanded his army and, on November 2, gave an eloquent farewell address to his soldiers. At Fraunces Tavern on December 4, Washington formally bade his officers farewell and on December 23, , he resigned his commission as commander-in-chief, emulating the Roman general Cincinnatus, an exemplar of the republican ideal of citizen leadership who rejected power. During this period,

the United States was governed under the Articles of Confederation without a President, the forerunner to the Constitution. He made an exploratory trip to the western frontier in , was persuaded to attend the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in the summer of , and was unanimously elected president of the Convention. He participated little in the debates involved though he did vote for or against the various articles , but his high prestige maintained collegiality and kept the delegates at their labors. The delegates designed the presidency with Washington in mind, and allowed him to define the office once elected. After the Convention, his support convinced many, including the Virginia legislature, to vote for ratification; the new Constitution was ratified by all 13 states. John Adams was elected vice president. Washington took the oath of office as the first President under the Constitution for the United States of America on April 30, at Federal Hall in New York City although, at first, he had not wanted the position. Washington, already wealthy, declined the salary, since he valued his image as a selfless public servant. At the urging of Congress, however, he ultimately accepted the payment, to avoid setting a precedent whereby the presidency would be perceived as limited only to independently wealthy individuals who could serve without any salary. Washington attended carefully to the pomp and ceremony of office, making sure that the titles and trappings were suitably republican and never emulated European royal courts. To that end, he preferred the title "Mr. President" to the more majestic names suggested. Washington proved an able administrator. An excellent delegator and judge of talent and character, he held regular cabinet meetings to debate issues before making a final decision. In handling routine tasks, he was "systematic, orderly, energetic, solicitous of the opinion of others but decisive, intent upon general goals and the consistency of particular actions with them. He refused to run for a third, establishing the customary policy of a maximum of two terms for a president which later became law by the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution. Washington was not a member of any political party, and hoped that they would not be formed out of fear of the conflict and stagnation they could cause governance. His closest advisors, however, formed two factions, setting the framework for the future First Party System. Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton had bold plans to establish the national credit and build a financially powerful nation, and formed the basis of the Federalist Party. In , Congress imposed an excise on distilled spirits, which led to protests in frontier districts, especially Pennsylvania. By , after Washington ordered the protesters to appear in U. The federal army was too small to be used, so Washington invoked the Militia Act of to summon the militias of Pennsylvania, Virginia and several other states. The governors sent the troops and Washington took command, marching into the rebellious districts. It also was one of only two times that a sitting President would personally command the military in the field. These events marked the first time under the new constitution that the federal government used strong military force to exert authority over the states and citizens. He attempted to turn popular sentiment towards American involvement in the French war against Britain by creating a network of Democratic-Republican Societies in major cities.

7: George Washington Commander Chief, Jul 21 | Video | www.enganchecubano.com

George Washington, Commander in Chief, by Thimbles and Acorns. George Washington attended the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from September 5 to October 26, The purpose of this first congress was to determine how the colonies should respond to the British parliament's harsh reaction to Massachusetts for the.

United States of America Description of the flag This is an almost square blue flag with 13 white six-pointed stars arranged 3: The ends of the lines are slightly tapered. The original of this flag is in the collection of the Valley Forge Historical Society. It is made of faded blue silk with the stars appliqued white silk. Thus the stars appear smaller on the reverse than on the observe. Grimes-Wyatt, 21 February History of the flag It is said to be the headquarters standard of General George Washington, but is questioned by some historians. It appears in two early postwar paintings, supervised by eyewitnesses, the Battle of Princeton by William Mercer and the surrender of Yorktown by the French artist Van Blarenberghe. It was donated to the Society by Miss Frances B. The field blue, the stars white. It symbolized the 13 colonies united in what then seemed a hopeless struggle for independence. The original flag is still preserved at Valley Forge. No insignia or flag were authorized. His flags as C-I-C were all blue of varying shades with 13 six-pointed stars arranged either , , or in a circle. The other arrangements are from period paintings. The original flag is silk and measures about Of course, as the proponents point out, there was a lot of variation in sizes at the time. Still, one would think Washington of all people would pay more attention to such things. The stars are also silk and appliqued on to one side with the back cut away and stitched in such a way as making the stars smaller on the other side. One would think Washington would have a flag that was painted or embroidered in a much richer fashion, but that is not necessarily so say the proponents. A linen header is sewn to the hoist. Military flags do not usually have a header of a material different from the body of the field. The flag is hemmed along the top only. The fly and bottom edges are torn. What does that suggest to you? Lovell donated it to the Valley Forge Historical Society. She did not present any evidence of this. Numerous paintings show various arrangements of stars on a blue or red or white field depicting various events during the American Revolutionary War, many of which but not all feature Washington in them. Paintings are not photographs. Washington himself never mentions any such flag in the writings of his that we have; he does mention that he preferred the design with the "Union and emblems in the center" as a standard for the army but we do not have any idea what this looked like. At any rate, even if you assume the Union is a blue field with 13 white stars, there are no "emblems" on this flag so it is certainly not that. Among the papers of Major General "Mad" Anthony Wayne is a drawing for a seal for the Board of War and Ordinance which features a flag outline with 13 dark 6-pointed stars on it in rows of more or less flying from a Liberty Pole with a Liberty Hat on the top with rays coming of of it. It is surrounded by a cannon and cannonballs and two crossed muskets, the name of the Board, the date the year the Board was founded , and the motto "This We Will Defend" on a ribbon. Handwriting analysis seems to indicate the artist may have been Francis Hopkinson, the designer of the Stars and Stripes. One is tempted to interpret the flag on this seal as the Standard of the Army, but the Board had even more duties in supplying Navy Ships with cannonballs and powder, so maybe it is the Navy Jack. Hopkinson referred to his US Flag design as the "Naval Flag" so that seems at least equally as likely in my book. Finally, one must remember that Washington was Commander of the American Army at two different points in time: His Commission Certificate shows several flags including one of solid color bearing an oval of 15 white 6-pointed stars. No one has considered the possibility that if this is indeed his "HQ" flag that maybe it dates from this later period. It was disbanded in and reactivated in The flag is dark blue with an oval of 13 white 6-pointed stars and a gold fringe. An officer of the unit is depicted receiving the flag from the Goddess of Liberty. He is wearing a uniform typical of the late s, a style decidedly different than that of the s. The Town probably stretched this into 3: The original shade of blue is very pale, probably faded from some unknown darker shade, but definitely NOT the dark blue we now associate with Old Glory. When Grace Cooper was studying this flag and I went along on one trip with her she asked to open the frame so she could peek at the remaining hem where some evidence of original color might be, but she was told no. The stars on the original do not all point

GEORGE WASHINGTON, COMMANDER IN CHIEF. pdf

in the same direction, as is often depicted think of one ray axis to be the key, oriented either along the horizon H or the vertical V or half way in between X , they are oriented something like this in each row: Replicas of the flag are commercially available; the Flag Guys in Newburgh NY sells it with a UN Blue field, which corresponds closely with the existing flag. Dave Martucci, 11 August

8: Washington, George (1732–1799)

George Washington (1732–1799) was commander in chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783) and served two terms as the first U.S. president, from 1789 to 1797.

Origins[edit] The Continental Army consisted of soldiers from all 13 colonies and, after 1783, from all 13 states. When the American Revolutionary War began at the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, the colonial revolutionaries did not have an army. Previously, each colony had relied upon the militia, made up of part-time citizen-soldiers, for local defense, or the raising of temporary "provincial regiments" during specific crises such as the French and Indian War of 1754–1766. As tensions with Great Britain increased in the years leading to the war, colonists began to reform their militias in preparation for the perceived potential conflict. Training of militiamen increased after the passage of the Intolerable Acts in 1773. Colonists such as Richard Henry Lee proposed forming a national militia force, but the First Continental Congress rejected the idea. New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut soon raised similar but smaller forces. On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress decided to proceed with the establishment of a Continental Army for purposes of common defense, adopting the forces already in place outside Boston 22,000 troops and New York 5,000. On June 15, 1775, the Congress elected by unanimous vote George Washington as Commander-in-Chief, who accepted and served throughout the war without any compensation except for reimbursement of expenses. As the Continental Congress increasingly adopted the responsibilities and posture of a legislature for a sovereign state, the role of the Continental Army became the subject of considerable debate. Some Americans had a general aversion to maintaining a standing army; but on the other hand the requirements of the war against the British required the discipline and organization of a modern military. As a result, the army went through several distinct phases, characterized by official dissolution and reorganization of units. Soldiers in the Continental Army were citizens who had volunteered to serve in the army but were paid, and at various times during the war, standard enlistment periods lasted from one to three years. Early in the war the enlistment periods were short, as the Continental Congress feared the possibility of the Continental Army evolving into a permanent army. The army never numbered more than 17,000 men. Turnover proved a constant problem, particularly in the winter of 1777, and longer enlistments were approved. Broadly speaking, Continental forces consisted of several successive armies, or establishments: The Continental Army of 1775, comprising the initial New England Army, organized by Washington into three divisions, six brigades, and 38 regiments. The Continental Army of 1776, reorganized after the initial enlistment period of the soldiers in the army had expired. Washington had submitted recommendations to the Continental Congress almost immediately after he had accepted the position of Commander-in-Chief, but the Congress took time to consider and implement these. Despite attempts to broaden the recruiting base beyond New England, the army remained skewed toward the Northeast both in terms of its composition and of its geographical focus. This army consisted of 36 regiments, most standardized to a single battalion of 600 men strong and formed into eight companies, with a rank-and-file strength of 4,800. The Continental Army of 1780 evolved out of several critical reforms and political decisions that came about when it became apparent that the British were sending massive forces to put an end to the American Revolution. The Continental Congress passed the "Eighty-eight Battalion Resolve", ordering each state to contribute one-battalion regiments in proportion to their population, and Washington subsequently received authority to raise an additional 16 battalions. Enlistment terms extended to three years or to "the length of the war" to avoid the year-end crises that depleted forces including the notable near-collapse of the army at the end of 1777, which could have ended the war in a Continental, or American, loss by forfeit. The Continental Army of 1782 saw the greatest crisis on the American side in the war. Congress was bankrupt, making it very difficult to replenish the soldiers whose three-year terms had expired. Popular support for the war reached an all-time low, and Washington had to put down mutinies both in the Pennsylvania Line and in the New Jersey Line. Congress voted to cut funding for the Army, but Washington managed nevertheless to secure important strategic victories. The Continental Army of 1784 was succeeded by the United States Army, which persists to this day. As peace was restored with the British, most of the regiments were disbanded in

an orderly fashion, though several had already been diminished. Sometimes the militia units operated independently of the Continental Army, but often local militias were called out to support and augment the Continental Army regulars during campaigns. The militia troops developed a reputation for being prone to premature retreats, a fact that Brigadier-General Daniel Morgan integrated into his strategy at the Battle of Cowpens in 1781. The financial responsibility for providing pay, food, shelter, clothing, arms, and other equipment to specific units was assigned to states as part of the establishment of these units. States differed in how well they lived up to these obligations. There were constant funding issues and morale problems as the war continued. This led to the army offering low pay, often rotten food, hard work, cold, heat, poor clothing and shelter, harsh discipline, and a high chance of becoming a casualty. Operations[edit] Infantry of the Continental Army. At the time of the Siege of Boston , the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts , in June , is estimated to have numbered from 14,000 to 16,000 men from New England though the actual number may have been as low as 11,000 because of desertions. It was during this siege that Washington allegedly uttered his famous words, "It is cold out here. It served as a piece of satire as it was a remark about cold conditions, while the men experienced some of the hottest temperatures of that year. The British force in Boston was increasing by fresh arrivals. It numbered then about 10,000 men. Major Generals Howe , Clinton , and Burgoyne , had arrived late in May and joined General Gage in forming and executing plans for dispersing the rebels. Feeling strong with these veteran officers and soldiers around him and the presence of several Men-of-War under Admiral Graves the governor issued a proclamation, declaring martial law , branding the entire Continental Army and supporters as "rebels" and "parricides of the Constitution. This proclamation only served to strengthen the resolve of the Congress and Army. After the British evacuation of Boston prompted by the placement of Continental artillery overlooking the city in March , the Continental Army relocated to New York. For the next five years, the main bodies of the Continental and British armies campaigned against one another in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. These campaigns included the notable battles of Trenton , Princeton , Brandywine , Germantown , and Morristown, among many others. The Continental Army was racially integrated, a condition the United States Army would not see again until Truman ordered the desegregation of the military in 1948. African American slaves were promised freedom in exchange for military service in New England, and made up one fifth of the Northern Continental Army. In the beginning, soldiers enlisted for a year, largely motivated by patriotism; but as the war dragged on, bounties and other incentives became more commonplace. Two major mutinies late in the war drastically diminished the reliability of two of the main units, and there were constant discipline problems. The army increased its effectiveness and success rate through a series of trials and errors, often at great human cost. General Washington and other distinguished officers were instrumental leaders in preserving unity, learning and adapting, and ensuring discipline throughout the eight years of war. In the winter of 1777, with the addition of Baron von Steuben , of Prussian origin, the training and discipline of the Continental Army began to vastly improve. This was the infamous winter at Valley Forge. Washington always viewed the Army as a temporary measure and strove to maintain civilian control of the military , as did the Continental Congress , though there were minor disagreements about how this was carried out. Near the end of the war, the Continental Army was augmented by a French expeditionary force under General Rochambeau and a squadron of the French navy under the Comte de Barras , and in the late summer of 1781 the main body of the army travelled south to Virginia to rendezvous with the French West Indies fleet under Admiral Comte de Grasse. This resulted in the Siege of Yorktown , the decisive Battle of the Chesapeake , and the surrender of the British southern army. This essentially marked the end of the land war in America, although the Continental Army returned to blockade the British northern army in New York until the peace treaty went into effect two years later, and battles took place elsewhere between British forces and those of France and its allies. Newburgh Conspiracy A small residual force remained at West Point and some frontier outposts until Congress created the United States Army by their resolution of June 3, 1784. Planning for the transition to a peacetime force had begun in April at the request of a congressional committee chaired by Alexander Hamilton. Significantly, there was a broad consensus of the basic framework among the officers. He wanted four infantry regiments, each assigned to a specific sector of the frontier, plus an artillery regiment. His proposed regimental organizations followed

Continental Army patterns but had a provision for increased strength in the event of war. Washington expected the militia primarily to provide security for the country at the start of a war until the regular army could expand—the same role it had carried out in and Steuben and Duportail submitted their own proposals to Congress for consideration. Although Congress declined on May 12 to make a decision on the peace establishment, it did address the need for some troops to remain on duty until the British evacuated New York City and several frontier posts. The delegates told Washington to use men enlisted for fixed terms as temporary garrisons. On November 2, Washington then released his Farewell Order to the Philadelphia newspapers for nationwide distribution to the furloughed men. In the message he thanked the officers and men for their assistance and reminded them that "the singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the Armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle. On December 23 he appeared in Congress, then sitting at Annapolis, and returned his commission as commander-in-chief: When moderate delegates then offered an alternative in April which scaled the projected army down to men in one artillery and three infantry battalions, Congress rejected it as well, in part because New York feared that men retained from Massachusetts might take sides in a land dispute between the two states. Another proposal to retain men and raise new recruits also failed. On June 2 Congress ordered the discharge of all remaining men except twenty-five caretakers at Fort Pitt and fifty-five at West Point. The next day it created a peace establishment acceptable to all interests. Congress instructed the Secretary at War to form the troops into eight infantry and two artillery companies. Pennsylvania, with a quota of men, had the power to nominate a lieutenant colonel, who would be the senior officer. New York and Connecticut each were to raise men and nominate a major; the remaining men came from New Jersey. Under Josiah Harmar, the First American Regiment slowly organized and achieved permanent status as an infantry regiment of the new Regular Army. However the United States military realized it needed a well-trained standing army following St. The plans, which were supported by U. The command would be based on the 18th-century military works of Henry Bouquet, a professional Swiss soldier who served as a colonel in the British army, and French Marshal Maurice de Saxe. In Anthony Wayne, a renowned hero of the American Revolutionary War, was encouraged to leave retirement and return to active service as Commander-in-Chief of the Legion with the rank of Major General. The legion was recruited and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was formed into four sub-legions. These were created from elements of the 1st and 2nd Regiments from the Continental Army. These units then became the First and Second Sub-Legions. The Third and Fourth Sub-Legions were raised from further recruits. Throughout the winter of 1793, existing troops along with new recruits were drilled in military skills, tactics and discipline at Legionville on the banks of the Ohio River near present-day Baden, Pennsylvania. The overwhelmingly successful campaign was concluded with the decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794, Maj. The training the troops received at Legionville was also seen as an instrumental to this overwhelming victory. In 1794, the United States Army was raised following the discontinuation with the legion of the United States. Rank insignia[edit] Ribands as rank insignia: During the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Army initially wore ribbons, cockades and epaulettes of various colors as an ad hoc form of rank insignia, as General George Washington wrote in Rank insignia of the Continental Army [13] Ribands across the breast Epaulettes or stripes on the right shoulder General.

9: George Washington Biography - Commander in Chief

The Continental Army was supplemented by local militias and volunteer troops that remained under control of the individual states or were otherwise independent. General George Washington was the commander-in-chief of the army throughout the war. Most of the Continental Army was disbanded in after the Treaty of Paris ended the war.

He had, ineffectively, assumed control of artillery before Washington fell. Library of Congress As commander in chief, Andrew Jackson directed or threatened military force against eastern Indians and South Carolina. Library of Congress During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln appointed and fired generals and visited battlefields to help direct the course of war. George Washington and the Evolution of the American Commander in Chief by Christopher Geist The commander in chief, the president, dispatched special forces across the globe to eliminate a threat to our national security. Because it was a defensive response to attacks on United States interests, he said there was no need to inform Congress until after the mission ended. That is what he did. The details of implementation are left to posterity to puzzle out and develop as conditions warrant. The idea that a civilian should control the military was critical in the debates that created the Union. Even so, there were concerns. With so much power in the hands of an individual, was it not possible that a despotically inclined leader might misuse it? In the words of Patrick Henry, "How easy is it for him to render himself absolute! Can he not, at the head of his army, beat down every opposition? South Carolinian Eldridge Gerry asked whether an unscrupulous chief executive would use his military to suppress dissent. The commander in chief clause was prominent in the Federalist Papers, especially Number 69, written by Alexander Hamilton, aide-de-camp to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. The President of the United States would be an officer elected by the people for four years. The King of Great Britain is a perpetual and hereditary prince. What answer shall we give to those who would persuade us that things so unlike resemble each other? The same that ought to be given to those who tell us, that a government, the whole power of which would be in the hands of the elective and periodical servants of the people, is an aristocracy, a monarchy, and a despotism. During the Constitutional Convention in the summer of and throughout the ratification process, there was little doubt about the identity of the first president and commander in chief. As the delegates considered the commander in chief clause, the silent but dominant figure in the room was George Washington. After his brief acceptance speech acknowledging his selection as presiding officer, he did not participate in the debates, but served as convention president. By the time General Washington reached Williamsburg in the autumn of to plan the Yorktown campaign, no other person in the world knew what it was to be a commander in chief and subordinate to a civilian authority. Since his June appointment to the post by Congress, Washington had more or less invented the rank of commander in chief. According to British historian Marcus Cunliffe: The limits of his authority could not be exactly defined, in a situation without precedent. Even if a precise definition could have been formulated, much else would have remained hazy. He had a large but vague jurisdiction. Washington was clearly senior in rank to all the other generals. But what control was he to exercise, theoretically or actually, over armies that might be several hundred miles away from his own headquarters? To what extent could he give orders to the French military and naval leaders when their expeditions began to arrive in ? Who was to formulate strategy? More critical was the question of where Washington stood in relationship to "the governors of the states, other commanders, the President of Congress, and the Board of War. Washington addressed each of these issues as the war progressed. He helped to direct military operations throughout the American theater, sometimes moving troops of his own to assist distant armies under other commanders. In some instances, those commanders wished to replace Washington as commander in chief. In concert with his subordinates and French allies, he asserted steady leadership in the closing acts of the war. As Cunliffe wrote, "At a vital moment he seized the initiative, like an ideal coalition leader, in ensuring that he and the French for once acted in entire harmony. Repeatedly, he pleaded for support for his forces, and almost as often his requests were met with indifference. He wrote to Congress on behalf of "Our sick naked, our well naked, our unfortunate men in captivity naked. Gunpowder, medicine, tents, barracks, and, most frequently, funds to pay the troops were also lacking. Instead, when hostilities concluded

and the treaty was signed, he bade farewell to his troops and slipped off to Mount Vernon. Three times from through , he ordered troops to campaign against hostile native forces north of the Ohio River. He offered general plans about how the armies should proceed, selected a site near present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a primary garrison, and appointed the commanding officers. All of this was accomplished without declarations of war from the Congress. The commander in chief had many things on his mind in Using his constitutional authority to call out the militia, President Washington assembled a force of more than 12, to march on the Whiskey Rebellion insurrectionists. He donned his old uniform and went into the field. According to historian Joseph Ellis, this would be the "first and only time a sitting American president led troops in the field. Succeeding chief executives would continue that tradition even as they strengthened the powers and reach of the commander in chief. James Madison briefly took control of artillery units in defense of Washington, DC, during the War of By all accounts he did poorly, but the incident is another instance of a president being on the battlefield during an engagement. Andrew Jackson invoked his role as commander in chief to rationalize the removal of the eastern Indians, and he threatened armed force against South Carolina during the tariff crisis in Abraham Lincoln used massive military force to defeat the Confederacy. He also directly appointed and relieved more military commanders than perhaps any other president. And Lincoln, although never in uniform, frequently visited the field to confer with and offer strategic advice to his generals. Perhaps most notably, his office as commander in chief provided his rationale for his wartime suspension of habeas corpus and the Emancipation Proclamation. Of all the military actions mentioned above, one, the War of , was under a declaration of war from Congress. Five times has the Congress declared the United States to be in a state of war. That does not mean that United States armed forces have so infrequently seen battle. American history is littered with conflicts known by almost any designation but "war. They have been deployed against a Panamanian dictator, Somali pirates, and in Mogadishu, Somalia, and in Yugoslavia. In no case was war declared. Although Congress has the power under the Constitution to declare war, raise troops, and control military funding, presidents long ago began to assert their presumed right to commit troops to "defend and protect" the nation and its interests. Citing their constitutional role as commander in chief, presidents have used the armed forces more than two hundred times outside the United States. The resolution requires the president to notify Congress within forty-eight hours of deployment of military forces and requires that they begin to be withdrawn in ninety days unless Congress declares war or offers some other form of specific authorization. Presidents have routinely ignored the act, and Congress has just as routinely protested and attempted to assert its authority. One wonders where Washington would have stood on this constitutional struggle. It seems certain, however, that he would agree the commander in chief clause of the Constitution has made the president of the United States the most powerful civilian in the world. Suggestions for further reading: Peter Irons, War Powers.

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