

**1: The American Republic to , Reading Essentials and Study Guide, Student Edition**

*the study of past societies through an analysis of what people left behind. Archaeologists dig up and study the tools, pottery, paintings, weapons, buildings, and household items that people used.*

With the British government involved in matters at home, the American colonists managed more of their own affairs. They enjoyed having this control. However, by the mids, the British government began tightening its control over the colonies. Around that time, the British began supporting a policy called mercantilism. This was the theory that a country should sell more goods to other countries than it buys. For the theory to be successful, Great Britain needed the colonies to produce cheap, raw materials. Parliament wanted the American colonies to sell raw materials to Great Britain at low prices. Parliament also wanted the colonists to buy British goods at high prices. Colonial businesses suffered under mercantilism. The victory gave them the French territory in North America. As a result of the war, Britain was heavily in debt. To pay these debts, it placed high taxes on the American colonies. For example, in Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which made colonists attach tax stamps on such things as newspapers and legal documents. The colonists disliked these taxes. They had no representation in Parliament, as people living in Great Britain did. Therefore, they believed that Parliament had no right to tax them. The boycott worked, and Great Britain repealed, or canceled, the Stamp Act and other taxes. However, Parliament soon passed new tax laws. One of these became known as the Townshend Acts. Passed in , these laws placed taxes on items that the colonies imported such as tea, paper, and lead. These laws angered the colonists, and they brought back the boycott that they had used before. Relations between the colonists and Great Britain worsened. In Parliament passed the Tea Act. The law gave the British East India Company the right to ship tea to the colonies without paying the taxes that were usually placed on tea. The company was allowed to bypass colonial merchants and sell the tea directly to shopkeepers at low prices. This made the East India Company tea cheaper than any other tea in the colonies. It gave the company an advantage over colonial merchants. Name Date Class Chapter 2, Section 2 continued Colonists fought back by blocking all East India Company ships from entering colonial ports, except those arriving in Boston. In a group of colonists dressed as Native Americans dumped more than chests of British tea into Boston Harbor. This protest became known as the Boston Tea Party. How did the colonists respond to the Tea Act? In September , 12 of the colonies sent delegates, or representatives, to Philadelphia to talk about their concerns. This meeting was known as the First Continental Congress. The delegates also decided to continue the boycott of British goods. In addition, they promised to hold another meeting if Britain did not meet their demands. King George responded with force. In April , the British and colonial soldiers fought two battles in Massachusetts, at Lexington and Concord. These battles were the first battles of the Revolutionary War. Before these battles, most colonists thought of themselves as British citizens. However, with British soldiers fighting the colonial soldiers, many colonists began talking about independence, or freedom from outside control. Some delegates favored independence. Other colonists feared that the colonists could never win a war against Britain. Others were still loyal to Britain. While the delegates were debating 19 Date Class Chapter 2, Section 2 continued what to do, support for independence grew among the colonists. In it Paine called for complete independence from Britain. More than half of the delegates at the Second Continental Congress agreed with Paine. Whose ideas influenced Thomas Jefferson in writing the Declaration of Independence? Thomas Jefferson wrote most of the Declaration of Independence. The document explained why the United States wanted independence. It said that the British government was not interested in the colonies. Government is based on the consent of the people. John Locke, an English philosopher, influenced the ideas that Thomas Jefferson stated in the Declaration of Independence. However, freedom for the colonies would not come until the Revolutionary War ended and Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation. Imagine that Congress did not have the power to tax. How do you think that would affect the nation? The last section described the events that led to the Declaration of Independence. This section describes the kinds of governments the new nation of the United States set up. In the chart, list the powers that Congress had and did not have under the Articles. Articles of Confederation Powers Congress Had.

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