

# Why Do You Think Independence For A Country is Important?

INVESTIGATE



# 2.2

**How Did The United States Become Independent?**



## **As a Young Political Scientist, I will be able to...**

- **Analyze British Colonial Practices**
- **Examine British Laws & Theorize Why Colonists Were Upset**
- **Compare & Contrast the Continental Congresses**

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, muted tones.

# **British Colonial Policies**

**The colonies had to follow British rule, even with London being a 2-month journey away.**

**Colonists would often hold back voting for a governor's wages until he agreed with them.**

**Government became federal. London was in charge of defense & foreign affairs but colonies had self-rule**

**Eventually, Colonists grow upset with taxes from England. "No taxation without representation!"**

# Colonial Unity

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First form of unity was New England's **Confederation**- "League of Friendship" mostly for defense against Native American Tribes

Ben Franklin proposed...

**Delegates**- representatives for each of the colonies. Regulate military...

Work with the Native Americans, regulate trade & Collect **duties**- Taxes on imports



# The Stamp Act Congress

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**Stamp Act of 1765-** law that required the use of tax stamps on all legal documents

**Nine colonies protest with the Declaration of Rights & Grievances against British Policies**

**Parliament repeals the act but enacts new laws that anger colonists. Leads to the Boston Massacre**

**Samuel Adams leads committees of Correspondence to protests, eventually leading to the Boston Tea Party**

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**All colonies but Georgia met in Philadelphia, including *Roger Sherman, John Jay, George Washington, & John Adams***

**\* Met for two months to debate plans of action against England, hoping for compromise**

**They believed they were “natural-born subjects” & urged colonies to refuse trade with England & formation of committees to enforce boycott**



# **The Second Continental Congress**

**England refuses to compromise with stricter & more repressive laws**

**The second group meets in 1775, during the Revolution & after the “shot heard round the world.”**

**This becomes our first national government after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence for 5 years during the war.**

**Delt with foreign affairs & created a unicameral Congress with both legislative & executive powers**

# More on the Declaration of Independence...

While many ideas went into it, **Thomas Jefferson** wrote the document out with many of his personal ideas

He was influenced by **John Locke**- The idea of natural rights & the social contract theory

Believed that if a government fails to act in the best interests of the people, people should revolt & replace

# **Revolutionary Ideas!**

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**The 13 colonies become the United States with the idea of human rights & limited government**

**Ideas that people should rule instead of being ruled**

**That the nation needed a national identity to set themselves apart from the world**

**The creation of a federal identity to give protection of rights to the National Government & State Government**

# First State Constitutions

**Congress urged the colonies to create laws for their own “states”**

**By 1777 most of the states had their own written constitutions**

**States had common features of **Popular Sovereignty...****

**Idea that people were the only source of governmental authority! People conduct their own laws.**



# Wait!! There's more!

**Limited Government-** State governments could only exercise powers granted to them by the people

**Civil Rights & Liberties-** People had rights that the government **MUST** respect at all times

**Separation of Powers/ Checks & Balances –**  
Powers of government are checked between the executive, judicial, & legislative