

Chronology

- 1732—Birth of George Washington
- 1735—Birth of John Adams
- 1743—Birth of Thomas Jefferson
- 1751—Birth of James Madison
- 1754—1763—Seven Years' War, called by Americans the French and Indian War
- 1755—Washington witnesses Braddock's Defeat
- Adams graduates from Harvard
- 1762—Jefferson, considered graduated from William & Mary, begins to study law under George Wythe
- 1765—Stamp Act passed by Parliament to assert British authority over the colonies and to raise revenue to pay for the French and Indian War
- 1768—British troops are stationed in Boston for the first time
- 1770—Boston Massacre
- 1771—Madison graduates from College of New Jersey (Princeton)
- 1772—Boston town meeting creates a "Committee of Correspondence" to communicate about the political situation with other towns and colonies
- 1773—Boston Tea Party
- 1774—Massachusetts government suspended; colony is placed under British military rule
- First Continental Congress convenes
- 1775—FEBRUARY—Parliament declares Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion
- APRIL—Battles of Lexington and Concord

JUNE——Battle of Bunker Hill

JUNE——Washington appointed to command the Continental Army

AUGUST——Parliament declares most of the American colonies to be in a state of rebellion

OCTOBER——British shell and burn Falmouth, Massachusetts (now Portland, Maine)

1776——JANUARY——British fleet bombards Norfolk, Virginia, for three hours, destroying most of the city

JULY——Second Continental Congress issues Declaration of Independence

1777——SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER——American forces win two battles at Saratoga, comprising the most important victory in the war. Washington fights two battles near Philadelphia, at Brandywine and Germantown, then withdraws to encamp for the winter at Valley Forge

1778——FEBRUARY——France formally allies with the American rebels

——JUNE——The British withdraw from Philadelphia, the rebel capital

1779—1780——The American effort almost collapses

1781——Articles of Confederation take effect

——Battle of Yorktown signals the end of the war

1783——Peace treaty formally ends the war

1786—87——Shays' Rebellion challenges the postwar distribution of power in Massachusetts

1787——Constitutional Convention devises new plan of government for the United States

1789——Washington becomes first president under the new government created by the Constitution

——French Revolution begins

1793—94——Reign of Terror in France; Louis XVI and his queen executed

1794—The Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania poses another major challenge to the postwar distribution of American power and wealth

1796—Adams elected president

1798—Alien and Sedition Acts crack down on newspaper editors and other critics of Adams administration

1799—Washington dies

1801—Jefferson becomes president after the outcome is decided by the House of Representatives

1804—Aaron Burr, Jefferson's alienated vice president, shoots and kills Alexander Hamilton

1808—Madison elected president

1820—Missouri Compromise formalizes geographic division of country along the lines of slavery

1826—Jefferson and Adams die on the same day, fifty years to the day after July 4, 1776

1836—Madison dies

1861—American Civil War begins

The United States at the end of the Revolution

