

The DBQ—The Revolution

* **Evaluate the extent of change in ideas about American independence from 1763-1783.**

Sample Thesis Paragraph and Sentence Ideas--

After the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1763, the tremendous debts that Great Britain accumulated during the war created tensions in the American colonies that would eventually lead to war. From 1766 until the beginning of the Revolutionary War in 1775, the colonists despite their protests against the British acts of taxation were still willing to reconcile with Great Britain and remain a part of its mighty empire. However, once the conflict began two distinct groups emerged: Loyalists who wished to remain a part of the British Empire and Patriots who sought independence from it. Those who wished to reconcile the relationship between the British Empire and the colonists despite the tensions over taxation included British merchants, colonial politicians, and even Quaker ministers. Once the conflict began, a colonial minister and a traveler to the colonies from Scotland showcased that there were people who either lived in the colonies or who visited them that wanted to see them remain loyal to Great Britain. But, radicals such as Samuel Adams even before the war began and Thomas Paine during the most difficult year of the conflict believed that nothing but complete separation from Great Britain—independence—should be the destiny of the American colonies. By 1783, the Patriots—those who fought for independence have defeated Great Britain in the Revolutionary War and will begin the process of creating a new nation that as a republic would become a beacon for the development of democratic values throughout the western world.

Sample Body Paragraph:

In your body paragraph, you write the following:

- a. Contextualization of your theme to support your thesis.
- b. Explain the significance of your theme to support your thesis.
- c. Contextualize your document in support of your theme.
- d. Document Analysis: Describe, Support and Explain how your document develops a significant component of your thesis.
- e. Transition to the next document fluidly.
- f. Connect your theme to the other components of the thesis or to your conclusion.

From 1763-1775, tensions would arise that would lead to conflict between Great Britain and its colonies in North America. However, throughout this twelve year period, there were a number of colonists who still wished to see the British government and the colonists reconcile their differences. When the French and Indian War came to a conclusion in 1763, the British government found itself in tremendous debt. In order to recover from that debt, the British parliament began to levy a direct tax on the American colonies for the first time through the use of the Stamp Act of 1765. The Stamp Act was incredibly unpopular in the colonies and led to protests, boycotts and riots throughout the colonies. It also led to the rise of such organizations as the Sons of Liberty led by radicals such as Samuel Adams in Boston, where tax collectors were often tarred and feathered. Due to the successful resistance efforts of the colonists, the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766. The British had also suffered under the burdens of the heavy tax and too, from the unwillingness of the colonists in North America to pay it. So unpopular was the Stamp Act and the tensions it enflamed, that even a British merchant firm—the Cockpit Hill Factory in Derby, England, produced a popular teapot for the colonial market that took advantage of the happiness and relief on both sides that the hated Stamp Act was repealed—The No Stamp Act- Teapot— (Document 1). As tea was a popular drink for all of the colonists, a teapot would have been produced from the point-of-view of a creator who also sought to reconcile his relationship with his customers across the Atlantic in the colonies. However, the British government continued to try to gain revenue from its colonies to pay for the debts that were accumulated during the French and Indian War, despite the failure of the Stamp Act and in late 1767 issued the Townshend Acts. The Townshend Acts were a package of indirect taxes on the colonists on such products as tea, paint, glass and lead items. The

Townshend Acts would also produce boycotts, mass protests, and riots, but, it also led to the colonists smuggling items into their port cities to avoid paying the duties. The British would react to the colonial smuggling and uprisings by sending more troops into the port cities of the colonies which led to more tension. In 1769, the Virginia House of Burgesses would pass a series of resolves—The Virginia Resolves of 1769—that would seek to have the King of England, George III intercede on behalf of the colonists to quieten the tensions between them and the British government. From their point of view, the colonists in Virginia wished to reconcile with the British government, even though it is clear that they do wish for the crown to allow them to be able to legislate for themselves (Document 2). By 1775, tensions between the colonists and the British government had blown into the open as the two sides would clash with one another in the first two battles of the War of Independence (American Revolution) at Lexington and Concord, both of which were fought in the Massachusetts colony. Despite the fact that the fighting had begun between the British and their American colonies, some colonists still wanted the two sides to reconcile their differences. In the colony of Pennsylvania, a group of Quaker ministers made their way to Philadelphia to plead with the colonial assembly there to state their point-of-view that a conflict against Great Britain should be avoided and that the colonists should reconcile their differences with the British government (Document 4). Even though most of the colonists wished to reconcile their differences with the British government, the widening of the conflict in 1776 after the burning of two colonial port towns, Falmouth, Massachusetts (later, Maine) and Norfolk, Virginia, would force the colonists to choose from two differing points-of-view: whether to become a Loyalist and stay loyal to the British crown, or to choose to fight for independence as a member of the Patriot cause.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion must answer the following question—

a. What happens next after 1783 because of the American Revolution?

Sample Paragraph:

After the Treaty of Paris of 1783, the American Revolution came to an end on the battlefield. However, for the victorious Patriots it was just the beginning of the process of creating a new nation based on republican values. Due to the tremendous debts that the young nation would have coming out of the American Revolution, the failures of the new government under the Articles of Confederation and tensions between those living in the backcountry and those living in the port cities, the new nation would write the Constitution. The Constitution would be the blueprint for a new republican government that would be a model for democratic governments throughout the western world and provide stability for the young nation. But, even though the American Revolution and its Constitution would influence revolutions throughout Europe, the Caribbean, and Latin America, it would also leave other problems for the new nation, itself, to address. Despite the Revolution, American women, slaves and Native Americans would not see their status changed in the new republic. And problems that would arise as the nation expanded westward would also lead to increasing tensions between the growing and expanding agrarian South with its cash-crop plantation-based economic system of agriculture and the North with its increasingly developing market-based economy. The tensions between the two sections of the young republic would eventually develop into another civil war in the next century that would have profound implications for its future.