

Chapter 1 : Signing of the United States Declaration of Independence - Wikipedia

Title In Congress, May 21, Resolved, that all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme executive power in each colony to which they are brought, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out by the Continent.

The Second Continental Congress met on May 10, to plan further responses if the British government had not repealed or modified the acts; however, the American Revolutionary War had already started by that time with the Battles of Lexington and Concord , and the Congress was called upon to take charge of the war effort. For the first few months of the war, the Patriots carried on their struggle in an ad-hoc and uncoordinated manner. They had seized arsenals, driven out royal officials, and besieged the British army in the city of Boston. On June 14, , the Congress voted to create the Continental Army out of the militia units around Boston and appointed George Washington of Virginia as commanding general. Silas Deane was sent to France as a minister ambassador of the Congress, and American ports were reopened in defiance of the British Navigation Acts. The Continental Congress had no explicit legal authority to govern, [8] but it assumed all the functions of a national government, such as appointing ambassadors, signing treaties, raising armies, appointing generals, obtaining loans from Europe, issuing paper money called " Continentals " , and disbursing funds. The Congress had no authority to levy taxes and was required to request money, supplies, and troops from the states to support the war effort. Individual states frequently ignored these requests. Advocates of independence moved to have reluctant colonial governments revise instructions to their delegations, or even replace those governments which would not authorize independence. On May 10, , Congress passed a resolution recommending that any colony with a government that was not inclined toward independence should form one that was. On May 15, they adopted a more radical preamble to this resolution, drafted by John Adams , which advised throwing off oaths of allegiance and suppressing the authority of the Crown in any colonial government that still derived its authority from the Crown. That same day, the Virginia Convention instructed its delegation in Philadelphia to propose a resolution that called for a declaration of independence, the formation of foreign alliances, and a confederation of the states. The resolution of independence was delayed for several weeks, as advocates of independence consolidated support in their home governments. He also urged Congress to resolve "to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances" and to prepare a plan of confederation for the newly independent states. American leaders had rejected the divine right of kings in the New World , but recognized the necessity of proving their credibility in the Old World. These three things together constituted an international agreement to set up central institutions for conducting vital domestic and foreign affairs. They next turned their attention to a formal explanation of this decision, the United States Declaration of Independence which was approved on July 4 and published soon thereafter. The Congress moved from Philadelphia to Baltimore in the winter of to avoid capture by British forces who were advancing on Philadelphia. Congress was again forced to flee Philadelphia at the end of September , as British troops occupied the city; they moved to York, Pennsylvania and continued their work. Congress passed the Articles of Confederation on November 15, , after more than a year of debate, and sent them to the states for ratification. One issue of debate was large states wanting a larger say, nullified by small states who feared tyranny. The small states won and each state had one vote.

Chapter 2 : in the United States | Revolv

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WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happinessâ€”That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. HE has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. HE has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. HE has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only. HE has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. HE has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within. HE has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. HE has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. HE has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: FOR imposing taxes on us without our Consent: FOR transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: FOR abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule in these Colonies: FOR taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: FOR suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever: HE has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. HE is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. HE has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. HE has excited domestic Insurrections among us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act

which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Chapter 3 : The Patriot Resource: Continental Congress Members

Download images about In Congress, May 21, Resolved, that all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme.

She was launched on May 21, Shortly thereafter, she joined Alfred and sailed for France. Three days out they captured a schooner carrying counterfeit Massachusetts money. Burning the schooner and her cargo, except for samples, the frigates continued their transatlantic passage. On September 2 they captured the British brig , Nancy, and from her they obtained the signals of the convoy which the brig had been escorting from the rear. Giving chase, the Americans closed with the convoy on September 4, Raleigh, making use of the captured signals, intercepted the convoy and engaged HMS Druid. In the ensuing battle she damaged Druid, but the approach of the remaining British escorts forced her to retire. Raleigh, unable to reach Alfred in time to assist her, continued north and returned to New England early in April Accused of cowardice and dereliction of duty for not aiding Alfred, Captain Thompson was suspended soon after reaching port. His reputation and character, however neutralized the ill-will of the Marine Committee, drew enlistments, and helped to obtain the stores. Six hours later two strange sails were sighted. After identification of the ships as British the merchant vessels were ordered back to port. Raleigh drew off the enemy. In late afternoon on the 27th, the leading British ship closed with her. A 7-hour running battle followed, much of the time in close action. About midnight, the enemy hauled off and Barry prepared to conceal his ship among the islands of Penobscot Bay. The enemy, however, again pressed the battle. As Raleigh opened fire, Barry ordered a course toward the land. Raleigh soon grounded on Wooden Ball Island , part of Matinicus. The British hauled off but continued the fight for a while, then anchored. Barry ordered the crew ashore to continue the fight and to burn Raleigh. A large party, including Barry, made it to shore. One boat was ordered back to Raleigh to take off the remainder of the crew, and destroy her, however the British again fired on the ship, striking the Continental colors. The battle was over. All three ships had been damaged, Unicorn particularly so. Of the Americans ashore, a few were captured on the island, but the remainder, including Barry, made it back to Boston, Massachusetts , arriving on October 7. They admired her design, and applied it in their new ships. She continued to fight during the War for Independence as a British vessel and took part in the capture of Charleston, SC. In May , she was decommissioned at Portsmouth, England , on June 10, and was sold in July Legacy[edit] Raleigh is depicted on the Seal of New Hampshire. Raleigh was the first U.

Chapter 4 : The History Place - American Revolution: Conflict and Revolution

Get this from a library! In Congress, May 21, Resolved, that all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme executive power in each colony to which they are brought, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out by the Continent.

Conflict and Revolution to April 14, - Massachusetts Governor Gage is secretly ordered by the British to enforce the Coercive Acts and suppress "open rebellion" among colonists by using all necessary force. Revere reaches Lexington about midnight and warns Sam Adams and John Hancock who are hiding out there. At dawn on April 19 about 70 armed Massachusetts militiamen stand face to face on Lexington Green with the British advance guard. A volley of British muskets followed by a charge with bayonets leaves eight Americans dead and ten wounded. At the North Bridge in Concord, a British platoon is attacked by militiamen, with 14 casualties. British forces then begin a long retreat from Lexington back to Boston and are harassed and shot at all along the way by farmers and rebels and suffer over casualties. News of the events at Lexington and Concord spreads like wildfire throughout the Colonies. April 23, - The Provincial Congress in Massachusetts orders 13,000 American soldiers to be mobilized. Colonial volunteers from all over New England assemble and head for Boston, then establish camps around the city and begin a year long siege of British-held Boston. The fort contains a much needed supply of military equipment including cannons which are then hauled to Boston by ox teams. On May 15, the Congress places the colonies in a state of defense. On June 15, the Congress unanimously votes to appoint George Washington general and commander-in-chief of the new Continental Army. The Americans are ordered not to fire until they can see "the whites of their eyes. The British then regroup and attack 30 minutes later with the same result. A third attack, however, succeeds as the Americans run out of ammunition and are left only with bayonets and stones to defend themselves. The British succeed in taking the hill, but at a loss of half their force, over a thousand casualties, with the Americans losing about 100, including important colonial leader, General Joseph Warren. George Washington Picture Gallery July 5, - The Continental Congress adopts the Olive Branch Petition which expresses hope for a reconciliation with Britain, appealing directly to the King for help in achieving this. In August, King George III refuses even to look at the petition and instead issues a proclamation declaring the Americans to be in a state of open rebellion. November 28, - The American Navy is established by Congress. The next day, Congress appoints a secret committee to seek help from European nations. December 23, - King George III issues a royal proclamation closing the American colonies to all commerce and trade, to take effect in March of 1775. Also in December, Congress is informed that France may offer support in the war against Britain. January 5, - The assembly of New Hampshire adopts the first American state constitution. The 50 page pamphlet is highly critical of King George III and attacks allegiance to Monarchy in principle while providing strong arguments for American independence. It becomes an instant best-seller in America. American shall make a stand, not for herself alone, but for the world," Paine states. March 17, - American forces capture Dorchester Heights which overlooks Boston harbor. Captured British artillery from Fort Ticonderoga is placed on the heights to enforce the siege against the British in Boston. The British evacuate Boston and set sail for Halifax. April 6, - The Continental Congress declares colonial shipping ports open to all traffic except the British. The Congress had already authorized privateer raids on British ships and also advised disarming all Americans loyal to England. April 12, - The North Carolina assembly is the first to empower its delegates in the Continental Congress to vote for independence from Britain. May 2, - The American revolutionaries get the much needed foreign support they had been hoping for. Spain then also promises support. May 10, - The Continental Congress authorizes each of the 13 colonies to form local provincial governments. June 28, - In South Carolina, American forces at Fort Moultrie successfully defend Charleston against a British naval attack and inflict heavy damage on the fleet. June-July, - A massive British war fleet arrives in New York Harbor consisting of 30 battleships with cannon, 30,000 soldiers, 10,000 sailors, and supply ships, under the command of General William Howe and his brother Admiral Lord Richard Howe. Congress decides to postpone its decision on this until July. On June 11, Congress appoints a committee to draft a declaration of independence.

Jefferson is chosen by the committee to prepare the first draft of the declaration, which he completes in one day. The actual signing of the document occurs on August 2, as most of the 55 members of Congress place their names on the parchment copy. Peace feelers are then extended to the Americans. At the request of the British, Gen. Washington politely declines, then leaves. August 26, - Gen. Washington, outnumbered two to one, suffers a severe defeat as his army is outflanked and scatters. The Americans retreat to Brooklyn Heights, facing possible capture by the British or even total surrender. Washington now changes tactics, avoiding large scale battles with the British by a series of retreats. The conference fails as Howe demands the colonists revoke the Declaration of Independence. Several days later, fire engulfs New York City and destroys over 100 buildings. September 22, - After he is caught spying on British troops on Long Island, Nathan Hale is executed without a trial, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country. Franklin and Deane then travel to France seeking financial and military aid. October 9, - San Francisco is established by Spanish missionaries on the California coast. October 11, - A big defeat for the inexperienced American Navy on Lake Champlain at the hands of a British fleet of 87 gunships. In the 7 hour Battle of Valcour Bay most of the American flotilla of 83 gunships is crippled with the remaining ships destroyed in a second engagement two days later. Washington then retreats westward. November 21, - More victories for the British as Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River and its precious stores of over 100 cannons, thousands of muskets and cartridges is captured by Gen. Mifflin. Washington abandons the New York area and moves his forces further westward toward the Delaware River. Cornwallis now pursues him. December 11, - Washington takes his troops across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The next day, over concerns of a possible British attack, the Continental Congress abandons Philadelphia for Lancaster and then York. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country: Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. The Hessians surrender after an hour with nearly 1000 taken prisoner by Washington who suffers only six wounded including future president Lt. The victory provides a much needed boost to the morale of all American Patriots.

Chapter 5 : Congress votes for independence - HISTORY

On June 11, , the Congress had named a five-member committee to draft a declaration. Its members were John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of

For more information, please see the full notice. Continental Congress, " The Continental Congress was the governing body by which the American colonial governments coordinated their resistance to British rule during the first two years of the American Revolution. The Congress balanced the interests of the different colonies and also established itself as the official colonial liaison to Great Britain. As the war progressed, the Congress became the effective national government of the country, and, as such, conducted diplomacy on behalf of the new United States. The Continental Congress In , the British Parliament passed a series of laws collectively known as the Intolerable Acts, with the intent to suppress unrest in colonial Boston by closing the port and placing it under martial law. In response, colonial protestors led by a group called the Sons of Liberty issued a call for a boycott. Spurred by local pressure groups, colonial legislatures empowered delegates to attend a Continental Congress which would set terms for a boycott. The colony of Connecticut was the first to respond. The Congress first met in Philadelphia on September 5, , with delegates from each of the 13 colonies except Georgia. On October 20, the Congress adopted the Articles of Association, which stated that if the Intolerable Acts were not repealed by December 1, , a boycott of British goods would begin in the colonies. The Articles also outlined plans for an embargo on exports if the Intolerable Acts were not repealed before September 10, On October 21, the delegates approved separate statements for the people of Great Britain and the North American colonies, explaining the colonial position, and on October 26 a similar address was approved for the people of Quebec. They did not draft such a letter to the British Parliament as the colonists viewed the Parliament as the aggressor behind the recent Intolerable Acts. Lastly, not fully expecting the standoff in Massachusetts to explode into full-scale war, the Congress agreed to reconvene in Philadelphia on May 10, By the time Congress met again, war was already underway, and thus the delegates to the Second Continental Congress formed the Continental Army and dispatched George Washington to Massachusetts as its commander. Meanwhile, Congress drafted the Olive Branch Petition, which attempted to suggest means of resolving disputes between the colonies and Great Britain. As British authority crumbled in the colonies, the Continental Congress effectively took over as the de facto national government, thereby exceeding the initial authority granted to it by the individual colonial governments. However, the local groups that had formed to enforce the colonial boycott continued to support the Congress. The Second Congress continued to meet until March 1, , when the Articles of Confederation that established a new national government for the United States took effect. As the de facto national government, the Continental Congress assumed the role of negotiating diplomatic agreements with foreign nations. The British Parliament banned trade with the colonies and authorized the seizure of colonial vessels on December These actions served to further erode the positions of anti-independence moderates in Congress and bolster those of pro-independence leaders. Reports from American agent Arthur Lee in London also served to support the revolutionary cause. With a peaceful resolution increasingly unlikely in , Congress began to explore other diplomatic channels and dispatched congressional delegate Silas Deane to France in April of Silas Deane Deane succeeded in securing informal French support by May. By then, Congress was increasingly conducting international diplomacy and had drafted the Model Treaty with which it hoped to seek alliances with Spain and France. In September, Congress adopted the Model Treaty, and then sent commissioners to France to negotiate a formal alliance. They entered into a formal alliance with France in Congress eventually sent diplomats to other European powers to encourage support for the American cause and to secure loans for the money-strapped war effort. Congress and the British government made further attempts to reconcile, but negotiations failed when Congress refused to revoke the Declaration of Independence, both in a meeting on September 11, , with British Admiral Richard Howe, and when a peace delegation from Parliament arrived in Philadelphia in Instead, Congress spelled out terms for peace on August 14, , which demanded British withdrawal, American independence, and navigation rights on the Mississippi River. The next month Congress appointed John Adams to negotiate such terms with

England, but British officials were evasive.

Chapter 6 : Milestones: " - Office of the Historian

The Second Continental Congress was a convention of delegates from the Thirteen Colonies that started meeting in the spring of in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It succeeded the First Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia between September 5, , and October 26,

Chapter 7 : USS Raleigh () - Wikipedia

May 7 Turkish state of Bukovina secedes from Austria May 10 Second Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and issues paper currency for 1st time Event of Interest.

Chapter 8 : Journals of the Continental Congress Links: U.S. Congressional Documents

May 10, - The Continental Congress authorizes each of the 13 colonies to form local (provincial) governments. June 28, - In South Carolina, American forces at Fort Moultrie successfully defend Charleston against a British naval attack and inflict heavy damage on the fleet.

Chapter 9 : Declaration of Independence ()

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