Revolution, American Style

The Onset of the Revolutionary War
Brief Review

• Committee of Correspondence – Sam Adams

• 1st Continental Congress
  – Philly, 1774
  – No GA
  – Next step?
  – **Declaration of Resolves** – We can stay together, but I’m keeping my old apartment
  – Trade boycott
  – GIII demands Gage put down rebellion…
British Preparation?!

- **North** – Tries to pacify colonists by letting them tax themselves and give an undetermined portion to GB

- **Gage** asks for 20K troops in preparation for rebellion, **GIII** gives him 3500
Paul Revere’s Ride

• **4/19/1775** – Gage wants to secretly seize munitions
• Revere hangs TWO lanterns on the Old North Church, indicating a British attack by SEA. →
• Revere, Dawes, and Dr. Prescott warn **minutemen**
Shot Heard Round the World

- **Lexington** – British order colonists to leave, but someone fired the infamous “shot” →
  - 8 Colonists killed, 10 wounded

- **Concord** – Brits burn courthouse → as they retreat to Boston, colonists use guerilla tactics to kill 73, wound 174 (only 5 total KIA)
Second Continental Congress

- May 10, 1775
- Militia → Continental Congress
- Named **Gen. Washington** as commander-in-chief
- Issued paper money to support troops
- Committee to negotiate w/ foreign countries
- Chose resistance but did not want to separate from ENG
- Par. Responds by sending 25,000 more troops → totaling 40K in Col.
Bunker Hill (6/17/1775)

- Gen. Howe attacks Col. entrenched on hill (2200 Brits vs. 1200 Col.)
- Howe charged twice and was repulsed; then Col. low in ammo, succumb to Brits (Pyrrhic victory)
- → British Naval blockade of Col. harbors
- → 140 Am dead (450 cas), 226 Brits (1K+ cas)
...And the Rest is History

- **Olive Branch Petition** (July, 1775) – Nope. Traitors
- **Thomas Paine** – “Common Sense” (Jan, 1776) – Declare independence NOW!
- Cols. first win in South @ Moore’s Creek Bridge
- Wash. beats Howe @ Dorchester Hts → Howe flees Boston to Nova Scotia
July 4th, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the States of America.

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 Happiness. 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 to abolish it, and to institute 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 recent instance of theirarest submission; where the restraints of government were felt as intolerable, it is their indubitable Right to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid Public. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has opposed a declaration of the War powers of Congress. 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. He has dissolved the legislative bodies of the States, killed their members, sent out commissions of・・・・・