

An American Victory

Chapter 4 Section 4

An American Victory

Main Idea

A strengthened Continental Army, along with European allies, helped the colonists achieve a victory at Yorktown.

Reading Focus

- What Revolutionary War battles took place in the West and South?
- Why did France and other European nations assist the Americans?
- What led to the British surrender at Yorktown?
- How did the Revolution affect American culture?

Revolutionary Battles in the West and South

- In 1779 the Americans won some important victories in the area north and west of the Ohio River.



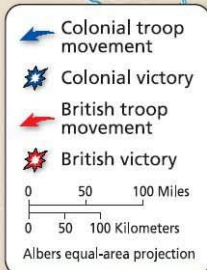
- In 1778 George Rogers Clark led a small force down the Ohio River and captured the British settlements at Fort Kaskaskia and Cahokia on the Mississippi River in present-day Illinois.
- In 1779 he and his men captured the fort and its commander at Vincennes in the Battle of Vincennes.



Revolutionary Battles in the West and South

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- 1779 he captured the fort at the Battle of Vincennes

BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, 1778–1781



**GEOGRAPHY
SKILLS**

INTERPRETING MAPS

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Interactive Map
Keyword: SD7 CH4

- 1. Human-Environment Interaction** How did Clark, a frontiersman, move his troops west?
 - 2. Place** What important battles did the colonists win in the west?
 - 3. Region** Where did the British concentrate their attacks?
- See **Skills Handbook**, p. H19

Revolutionary Battles in the West and South

1778 — British shifted their strategy

- Because the British believed that Loyalist sympathies were strongest in the South, they planned a campaign there.
- They discovered that Patriots were as strong and determined in Virginia as in New England.
- Though many Loyalists lived in the Carolinas and Georgia, they were often reluctant to help.
- The British also faced frequent surprise raids by small bands of Patriots.
- In March 1781 colonial troops met British commander **Charles Cornwallis** and his army in a battle at Guilford Court House, North Carolina. Cornwallis won, but British losses were so great that he stopped the campaign.

1778 — British shifted their strategy

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- planned a campaign there
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- March 1781 colonial troops met British commander **Charles Cornwallis** battle at Guilford Court House, North Carolina
- Cornwallis won w/ huge losses

America's European Allies

- Americans wanted recognition as a sovereign nation from Europe.
- European nations could also provide the Americans with money and supplies to fight the war.
- France became America's strongest ally, but help also came from Spain and the Netherlands.



- France liked seeing its old enemy losing part of its empire.
- It also hoped that a British defeat in America would help restore French power in Europe.
- Initially France sent gunpowder, artillery, and muskets to the Patriots.
- In 1776 Benjamin Franklin went to Paris to seek more help from France.



America's European Allies

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 - Money
 - Supplies
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- If British lost, French have power in Europe
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America's European Allies

- Because of Saratoga victory and Franklin's diplomacy, France signed two treaties.
- One formally recognized the United States as a nation.
- The other treaty promised military help.
 - In 1780 the French government sent a 6,000-soldier army to help the Americans. They were led by a French general, the Count de Rochambeau.



Help from Spain

- Spain joined the war in 1779 as an ally of France.
- Bernardo de Gálvez was the Spanish governor of Louisiana.
 - Attacked British forts on the Mississippi and along the Gulf Coast in West Florida, which had once belonged to Spain
 - Defeated the British in Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola



Saratoga Convinces France

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America's European Allies

- January 1781—Washington and Rochambeau received word that Benedict Arnold had become a traitor.
 - Arnold was leading British troops in raids on Patriot warehouses in Virginia.
 - Washington sent Lafayette to stop him.
- After giving up his Carolina campaign, General Cornwallis moved into Virginia.
- Lafayette's forces forced the British to the coast.
- July 1781—Cornwallis took his army to the Yorktown Peninsula in Chesapeake Bay, built a fort, and waited for British ships to take them to Charleston or New York.

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Victory at Yorktown

A siege at Yorktown

- Washington saw an opportunity to trap Cornwallis.
- French Admiral de Grasse established a blockade in Chesapeake Bay, preventing British ships from rescuing Cornwallis's men.
- Lafayette kept Cornwallis's army trapped on the peninsula.
- Washington and Rochambeau traveled south with a huge French and American army.
- Cornwallis, with 7,000 troops, faced a combined French and American army of more than 17,000.
- The **Battle of Yorktown** lasted about three weeks.
- Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781.
- The war for independence was over.

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- French & American 17,000 troops
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Victory at Yorktown

- The Americans negotiated a peace treaty with Britain; the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783.
- It declared the Mississippi River the western boundary of the United States.



- Britain formally recognized the United States as an independent nation.
- Britain agreed to leave its forts in the West.



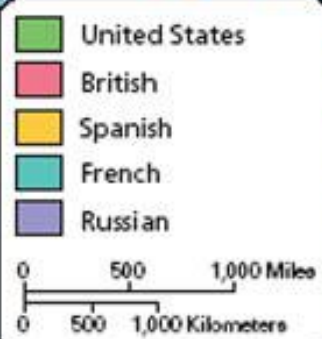
- Spain and France made peace with Britain.



- In return for its help during the war, Spain regained Florida.
- The United States promised to pay what Americans owed British merchants.
- Loyalists were allowed to claim property losses.



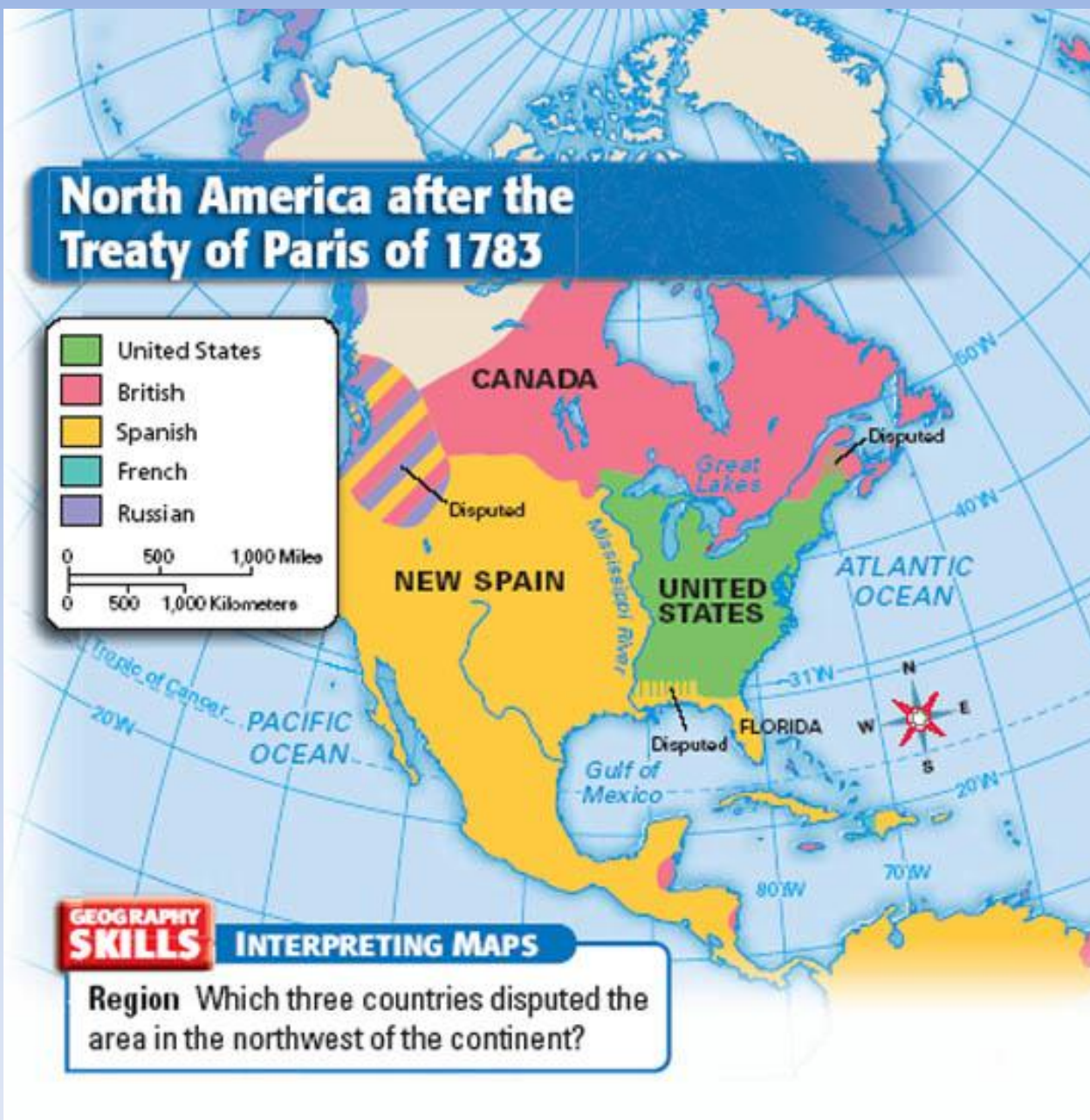
North America after the Treaty of Paris of 1783



GEOGRAPHY
SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Region Which three countries disputed the area in the northwest of the continent?



Revolution Changes America

Women's rights

- Equality did not include American women.
- The words in the Declaration of Independence applied only to white males.
- Married women still could not sign contracts or own property.
- The law stated that a married woman's property belonged to her husband.

African Americans

- Many African Americans who had fought for the Patriot cause believed they had earned their freedom.
- In 1780 Pennsylvania passed a law for the gradual abolition of slavery.
- During the 1780s the New England states also abolished slavery.
- After the war, both Virginia and Maryland made it easier to grant freedom to enslaved people. Several southern states also passed laws limiting the slave trade.



Revolution Changes America

Impact on Religion

- Before the war, many colonies had official churches that everyone paid taxes to support.
- New laws endorsed a separation of church and state.
- For the Roman Catholic Church, the Revolutionary War led to a certain amount of acceptance. Catholics had often faced prejudice, but the arrival of French Catholic soldiers helped change many people's attitudes.

A New Nation

- The war left the new nation with some problems.
- The Revolution had cost a lot of money, and Congress had borrowed from foreign sources and American citizens.
- Now the money needed to be repaid.
- Setting up a central government to deal with debt and other national issues was going to be complicated. The Continental Congress would meet again to discuss economic issues and a new system of government.



Visual Summary: The Revolutionary Era

The Road to Revolution

- Great Britain and the American colonies clash over "taxation without representation."
- The First Continental Congress meets.
- Battle of Lexington: "The Shot Heard 'round the World"

Declaring Independence

- The Second Continental Congress meets.
- Violence continues in Boston.
- Colonists draft and sign the Declaration of Independence.

The Revolutionary War Begins

- Major battles take place in the North.
- The war turns in the colonies' favor at the Battle of Saratoga.
- Washington's troops regroup during the winter at Valley Forge.

An American Victory

- Colonists win major victories in the West and South.
- France and Spain become allies of the American colonists.
- The Battle of Yorktown ensures American victory.

