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**WORLD
HISTORY**

for **Civil Services Examination**

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1.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Foundation of American Colonies

- The first English attempt to colonize North America was made in 1578 when, Queen Elizabeth granted the colonist Gilbert, permission to establish a colony there. That was a failure, as the ships were lost in voyage. However his half-brother, Walter Raleigh made another attempt to found a colony. In 1584 he sent two ships to explore the coast. They found what they thought was a suitable place for a colony.
- In January 1585 Queen Elizabeth the 'Virgin Queen' allowed him to call the place Virginia, after her. In 1586 the colonists abandoned Virginia and returned to England. In 1587 another attempt to found a colony was made. However, they returned to England to seek more support for the colony, because of a war between England and Spain over USA.

Jamestown and Virginia

- In 1612 colonists began growing tobacco. In 1614 the first Virginian tobacco was sold in England. Exports of tobacco soon became the mainstay of the Virginian economy. Gradually the colony expanded. In 1618 the Company offered 50 acres of land to anyone who could pay for the cost of their voyage across the Atlantic. If they could not pay they could become indentured servants. When they arrived they were not free. They had to work for the company for several years to pay back the cost of their passage.
- Also in 1619 the first representative government in North America was created when the House of Burgesses met. In 1624 the Virginia Company was dissolved and the British Crown took over the colony. By 1660 the population of Virginia was 27,000. By 1710 it had risen to 78,000.

The Pilgrim Fathers and new England

- Another English colony was founded 1620 by a group of people fleeing religious persecution. They disagreed with the teachings of the Church of England and wished to separate themselves from it not to reform it. However, they did not actually call themselves 'pilgrims'. Half of the colonists did not survive the first year in North America. The Natives who taught them how to grow crops saved the survivors. Another colony was founded at Salem in 1628.
- The Massachusetts Bay Company was formed in 1629. From 1630 large numbers of settlers were transported to New England and its population swelled. Furthermore English colonists spread over the coast of North America. In 1634 people from Massachusetts founded the town of Wethers field in Connecticut. In 1636 a group of people left the Massachusetts Bay colony and settled on Rhode Island. The first settlement was at Providence.

- Unlike the southern states, which were overwhelmingly agricultural New England developed a partly mercantile economy. Fishing was an important industry. Exports of timber and barrels were also important. There was also a ship building industry in New England.

The Independence of United States of America

As the North American colonies grew tension with Britain was inevitable. The British felt that the colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country and this attitude was bound to cause resentment. As early as 1651 the British Parliament passed a navigation act. It stated that any goods grown or made outside Europe must be transported to England in English ships. Other Navigation Acts followed it. The 1660 Navigation Act stated that certain goods (cotton, indigo, sugar and tobacco) could only be exported from the colonies to England or to other colonies. It was followed by acts in 1670 and 1673. However, the British made little attempt to enforce these acts and they were widely ignored by the colonists. (After 1763 the British tried to enforce them more rigorously, causing great resentment among the colonists).

The Great Proclamation

However relations between the colonists and the mother country turned sour after 1763. The British had just finished fighting the Seven Years War against France. They had won Canada but the war was very expensive. The British were keen to prevent any wars with the Native Americans, which might prove expensive. In 1763 a royal proclamation known as the Great Proclamation sought to ban any further westward expansion. It forbade people to settle in 'any lands beyond the heads or sources of any of the rivers which fall into the Atlantic Ocean from the West or Northwest'. This proclamation was ignored by the colonists but it also caused great resentment. The colonists objected to being told by the British government that they could not expand westwards.

No Taxation without Representation

- Furthermore in 1763 Americans paid few taxes, certainly less than the British. The British felt that the Americans should pay a greater contribution towards the cost of their defense. In 1764 the British Prime Minister, George Grenville, passed the Sugar Act. (So called because it affected imports of molasses from the West Indies). Its proper name was the American Revenue Act.) The act actually reduced duty on molasses, but steps were taken to make sure it was collected! (Smuggling was widespread). The Sugar Act infuriated the Americans and they were alienated further by the Currency Act of 1764. The colonies were printing their own money, because of a shortage of currency, but the act banned the issue of paper money in the American colonies (and so hindered trade).
- However, most offence was caused by the Stamp Act of 1765, which imposed duty on legal documents, newspapers and playing cards. It was not just that the Americans hated paying the tax, but that they felt a constitutional issue was involved. They believed that since they were not represented in the British parliament it had no right to impose taxes on them. In the immortal phrase 'no taxation without representation'. The Stamp Act soon proved to be unenforceable. Colonial assemblies denounced it and in October 1765 a number of colonies sent delegates to a 'Stamp act Congress' to organize resistance. Imports of British goods were boycotted and debts to British merchants were suspended. Rioters attacked tax collectors and their property. Eventually in March 1766, the British were forced to repeal the Stamp Act. However, at the same time they passed the Declaratory Act, which said that parliament was sovereign over all American colonies. This stupid act simply annoyed the colonists.
- Moreover the British had learned nothing. In 1767 the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Charles Townshend, imposed duties on lead, glass, paint, oil and tea. Once again the colonists boycotted imports of British goods and once again the British government was forced to back down. By March 1770 all duties except those on tea were removed.

The Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party

- However, American public opinion was galvanized by the 'Boston massacre' of March 1770. A group of people in Boston threw snowballs at British soldiers. The soldiers opened fire, killing 5 people and wounding 6 of them. Worse all 6 of the 8 soldiers put on trial for the deaths were acquitted. Two were found guilty of manslaughter and branded on the thumbs. The British failure to execute anybody for the massacre outraged American opinion.
- Then in 1773, the British East India Company sent tea to the American colonies to sell. Three ships were sent to Boston with 298 chests of tea. However, Boston was a centre of resistance to the British. On 16 December 1773 men dressed as Indians boarded the ships and threw the tea into the sea.
- The British Prime Minister, Lord North, behaved very unwisely. In 1774 a series of laws were passed called the Coercive or Intolerable Acts. The port of Boston was closed and the seat of government was moved to Salem. The charter of Massachusetts was changed to give the royal governor more power.
- The Americans were also annoyed by the Quebec Act of 1774. This was an attempt by the British parliament to make the French Catholics loyal to the British Crown. The Act extended the boundaries of Quebec southward and westward. The Americans feared the king intended to settle loyal French speaking Catholics in the West to increase his own power in the region.

The Continental Congress

- Finally in September 1774, a Continental Congress met to decide policy. They demanded the repeal of the Coercive Acts and of the Quebec Act. The Congress also denounced British interference in American affairs and asserted the right of colonial assemblies to pass laws and raise taxes as they saw fit.
- In September 1774, the colonists put forward a compromise plan. The king would be allowed to appoint president-general and the colonial assemblies would elect a grand council. However, the Congress rejected his plan.
- Furthermore, the British refused to compromise with the Americans.
- However, the American colonies had militias made up of civilians and they resisted the British. Fighting began on 19 April 1775, when British soldiers attempted to seize a colonial arms dump near Concord. The militia were warned that the British were coming. At Lexington, the British were met by the militia. The British opened fire killing 8 Americans. Meanwhile, the Americans had removed the weapons. The British advanced to Concord and fired upon the militia, but then withdrew. They retreated back to Boston with the Americans firing at them along the way. During the march the British lost 73 dead and 200 wounded or missing. The American Revolution had begun.
- From April 1775 to March 1776 the British army was besieged in Boston. They could be supplied by sea by the British navy. Nevertheless they soon ran short of supplies. On May 25 the British were reinforced, but they were unable to break out. Eventually they were evacuated by sea to Canada.
- The Continental Congress met again in May 1775 and agreed to raise an army. George Washington was made its commander in chief. Congress hoped they could force the British to negotiate, but George III refused to compromise. Instead in August 1775 he declared that all the American colonies were in a state of rebellion.
- Meanwhile rule by royal governor broke down and the people demanded government without royal interference. In May 1776 Congress decided that royal government should cease and government should be 'under the authority of the people'. Subsequently the colonies drew up state constitutions to replace their charters.
- On 7 June 1776, Richard Henry Lee of the Virginia Assembly presented Congress with resolutions declaring the independence of the colonies, calling for a confederation and expressed the need to find foreign allies for a war against Britain. On 11 June Congress appointed a committee to write a declaration of independence. It was signed on 4 July 1776.
- The Declaration of Independence was not accepted by all Americans. About two-thirds of the population was in favor of it, while one-third (the Loyalists) was against it. For the revolutionaries, the time had come. Thousands of Americans gathered and destroyed the signs and symbols that represented the British Crown. Rioters destroyed a statue of King George III in New York. Each colony declared itself an independent state and replaced the king's governor. Citizens, including women and slaves, plunged into the War under the command of General Washington.

The American Revolutionary War

- At first sight the British had many advantages. They greatly outnumbered the Americans and had much greater resources. However they were handicapped by long lines of communication. The British won the battle of Long Island in 1776 and in r 1776 they captured New York. The Americans were defeated at Brandywine in 1777 but they won a decisive victory at Saratoga.
- Saratoga convinced the French that the Americans might win the war. As a result they declared war on Britain, their traditional enemy in 1778. French naval activity in the Atlantic made it even harder for the British to supply their forces in America. Spain declared war on Britain in 1779 and the Dutch declared war in 1780. The Spanish and Dutch tied down British forces in Europe.
- Cornwallis, the British Commander, unwisely concentrated his forces on the coast at Yorktown, Virginia. However, the French navy blockaded him while the Americans besieged him from the land. The British were forced to surrender. Yorktown was a catastrophic defeat for the British and ended any hope of them ending the war. Nevertheless it continued for 2 more years before the Treaty of Paris ended it in 1783.

What was the impact of American Revolution?

- The American Revolution had a tremendous effect on Europe. It not only served as an inspiration for France, but also demonstrated that the liberal political ideas of the Enlightenment were more than mere utterances of intellectuals. The Revolution has been described by historian Eugene Weber:
- “Revolution is rather like a snowball on a slope. It is hard to get revolution going but once on its way it is hard to stop it from rolling and growing until it becomes an avalanche.”
- **Three major events of the American Revolution had great influence on Europe:**
 - ▶ Signing the Declaration of Independence
 - ▶ Implementing the ideas of Enlightenment
 - ▶ Forming the U.S constitution
- By declaring independence, America demonstrated that it was possible to overthrow “old regimes”. This was the first time a colony had rebelled and successfully asserted its rights to self-government and nationhood. This inspired many European nations and colonies to revolt.
- The United States had created a new social contract in the form of its Constitution, in which they realized the ideas of Enlightenment. The natural rights of man, and the ideas of liberty, equality, and freedom of religion, were no longer unrealistic Utopian ideals. The framers of US Constitution rejected the Greek model of civic republicanism. They distinguished between the notion of “democracy” and their own proposed system of representative democracy. This made the bourgeoisie of Europe reconsider their own government and monarchic systems.

Political Effects of the Revolution

- The 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War, and the world would never be the same. The contagion of liberty spread, inspiring people to revolt against their leadership in France, Haiti, Ireland, Poland, the Netherlands, and throughout the Spanish empire. New colonies and nations emerged, and many of them formed democratic governments. But the greatest effects were felt within the 13 former colonies of the new United States of America. ‘Humanity has won its battle. Liberty now has a country.’
- For two decades, Americans had been focused on their rights, Enlightenment ideals and the proper role of government. Now that the war was over, they had to create this perfect government in which talent and hard work were supposed to be more important than hereditary privilege.
- One of the most dramatic effects of the Revolution was to include more men in the formal political process. Farmers and urban artisans made up a majority of elected officials in northern states and significant minorities elsewhere.

How did the American Revolution influence the French Revolution?

- The culmination of all these factors was seen in the French Revolution, where the revolutionaries formed their own slogan, “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”. Europeans obtained information about the American Revolution from soldiers returning from America. French soldiers returned to France with ideas of individual liberty, popular sovereignty and the notion of republicanism.
- The French then revolted against their ineffectual monarchy, which they saw as tyrannical.

The Louisiana Purchase

Also in 1803 American territory was greatly increased by the Louisiana purchase. France claimed a vast amount of land in central North America around the Missouri River and the Arkansas River. In 1803 Napoleon agreed to sell the lot for \$15 million. Buying the French land meant there was now no bar to the USA spreading across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. Louisiana became the 18th state of the union in 1812.

The USA in the Mid-19th Century

The rapidly growing nation was torn apart by the issue of slavery. When the constitution was written in 1787 many people hoped that slavery would die out of its own accord. However Eli Whitney’s invention of the cotton gin in 1793 gave slavery a new importance in the southern states. In the northern states slavery was gradually abolished and the USA became divided into ‘free states’ and ‘slave states’.

The Civil War

The civil war was not caused just by the question of slavery. North and south were also divided over tariffs. The northern states began to industrialize in the early 19th century. By the middle of the century the north was becoming an industrial, urban society. Northerners wanted tariffs to protect their industries. However the south remained an agricultural society. Its economy was based on plantations worked by slaves. Southerners objected to tariffs because they bought goods from the north or from Europe and tariffs made them more expensive. North and south were quite different economically and culturally.

The Outbreak of Civil War

- He firmly opposed the expansion of slavery into territories of the USA, which were likely to become states in future. His policy meant that in future Free states would outnumber slave ones. As a result of his election South Carolina seceded from the union on 20 December 1860. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas followed it early in 1861. Together they formed **the Confederate States of America** on 4 February 1861. Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) became the President.
- The incoming Lincoln administration and most of the Northern people refused to recognize the legitimacy of secession. They feared that it would discredit democracy and create a fatal precedent that would eventually fragment the no-longer United States into several small, squabbling countries.
- The event that triggered war came at Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay on April 12, 1861. Claiming this United States fort as their own, the Confederate army on that day opened fire on the federal garrison and forced it to lower the American flag in surrender. Lincoln called out the militia to suppress this “insurrection.” Four more slave states seceded and joined the Confederacy. By the end of 1861 nearly a million armed men confronted each other along a line stretching 1200 miles from Virginia to Missouri.
- By of 1865 all the principal Confederate armies surrendered, and when Union cavalry captured the fleeing Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Georgia on May 10, 1865, resistance collapsed and the war ended. The long, painful process of rebuilding a united nation free of slavery began.
- However Lincoln did not live to see the end of the war, he was brutally assassinated on 15 April 1865.

Consequences of war

- Northern victory in the war preserved the United States as one nation and ended the institution of slavery that had divided the country from its beginning. But these achievements came at the cost of 625,000 lives. The American Civil War was the largest and most destructive conflict in the Western world between the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the onset of World War I in 1914.
- **Impact of Civil War on USA:**
 - ▶ The nation was reunited and the southern states were not allowed to secede.
 - ▶ The South was placed under military rule and divided into military districts. Southern states then had to apply for readmission to the Union.
 - ▶ The Federal government proved itself supreme over the states. Essentially this was a war over states' rights and federalism and the victor was the power of the national government.
 - ▶ Slavery was effectively ended. While slavery was not officially outlawed until the passage of the 13th amendment, the slaves were set free upon the end of the war.
 - ▶ Reconstruction, the plan to rebuild America after the war, began.
 - ▶ Industrialism began as a result of the increase in wartime production and the development of new technologies.
- **Global Impact of US Civil War:**
 - ▶ European conservatives welcomed the dismemberment of the "once United States" and the bursting of the "republican bubble" that, beginning with the French Revolution, had inspired revolution and unrest in Europe.

Impact on India

- The American civil war, affected greatly the supply of industrial raw material, particularly Cotton and Steel to Britain. Therefore the British for the first time tried to create an industrial base in their major colonies, including India, so as to ensure supplies in case of unforeseen circumstances.
- During the 1860's British first time offered protection to domestic industry on the basis of infant industry argument.
- Cotton textile industry benefitted most. In 1865, India only produced 12 thousand metric tons of cotton. By 1889, the number had risen to 533, a growth of almost 45 times.
- Similarly, first steel plant was opened by British in 1870, known as Bengal Iron Works.
- Other industries, like sugar, jute, textile also gained favour of British policies during this period.
