

**FROM EMPIRE TO
INDEPENDENCE,
CHAPTER 6 NOTES,
PART 4**

Lexington and Concord

- April 18, 1775: Gage ordered 700 soldiers to capture American ammunition at Concord, Mass.
- Boston Committee of Safety sent Paul Revere and William Dawes to alert the militia
- Lexington, Mass was halfway from Boston to Concord

Lexington

- At Lexington, 70 minutemen were on the town green
- Minutemen were outnumbered and began to withdraw, but would not lay down their guns
- Some British troops fired, killing eight (8) and wounding ten (10)

Concord

- ◉ News of Lexington passed through the countryside
- ◉ Militia companies converged on the town of Concord
- ◉ Americans attacked a British company, and killed three (3) British soldiers
- ◉ British attacked by 4,000 militiamen all the way back to Boston
- ◉ Casualties:
 - British: 73
 - American: 95
- ◉ Engagement was a victory for the Americans

Aftermath of Lexington and Concord

- Militia converged on Boston
- British could only leave by sea
- The siege lasted almost one year

Second Continental Congress

- Began May 10, 1775
- Colonywide conventions chose delegates to the Congress
- Washington attended all sessions in uniform
- Chief goal: Defense!
- Troops?: Militia surrounding Boston
- Leader?: Needed someone from the south.....Washington chosen unanimously



UNITED STATES ARMY

1775

Spring of 1775.....Now What?

- No Declaration of Independence (remember, that is July of 1776)
- Olive Branch Petition: July 5, 1775— begged King George to stop future hostilities
- Declaration of the Causes and Necessities of Taking Up Arms: July 6, 1775—took a harsher tone

Early Fighting

- Ethan Allen (Vermont) surprised the British garrison at Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain and demanded, “in the name of Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress” that they surrender
- Congress had no knowledge of Allen’s campaign

Boston, June 1775

- Gen. Gage had 6,500 soldiers in Boston
- American forces numbered 10,000
- June 17, 1775: British ships fired on American positions
- Battle of Bunker Hill (actually happened on Breed's Hill) resulted in an American loss of position, but the British lost more men (226 v. 140)
- No hope of reconciliation after Bunker Hill

Late 1775

- September—Continental Congress convened again
- Started organizing an American Navy
- Authorized contacts with foreign powers
- British vessels declared open to capture

Early 1776

- *Common Sense*, a pamphlet by Thomas Paine sold more than 100,000 copies within a few months in 1776
- It changed popular thinking and helped people imagine independence

COMMON SENSE;

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS

O F

A M E R I C A,

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S U B J E C T S.

- I. Of the Origin and Design of Government in general, with concise Remarks on the English Constitution.
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Independence

- July 2: vote on independence
- July 4, 1776—text of the Declaration of Independence approved without dissent
- Delegates signed their death warrants in signing the Declaration—if the British captured them, they would likely be killed for treason