

CHAPTER – I

AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

AGE OF REVOLUTIONS:

A Revolution is not only a fundamental, but a long-lasting change, which is brought about intentionally. The American War of Independence was such a revolution. The thirteen British colonies in North America revolted against Britain and succeeded in getting freedom.

DISCOVERY OF NEW LAND:

With the discovery of America, colonization began and England founded thirteen colonies on the eastern coast of North America during 1606-1732.

THE BRITISH COLONIES IN AMERICA:

There were several rebellions of the Red Indians and there were border disputes. Restrictions were imposed on the movements of the colonists. England was fighting a 'Seven Years' war with France. The Colonists were angry with the Treaty of Paris. New levies and many restrictions were imposed. To get rid of their financial problems England

passed the Sugar Act of 1764, the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Tea Act of 1773 in the hope of raising some revenue. These were severely criticized. The colonists started their slogan 'No Taxation without Representation'.

THE BOSTON TEA PARTY:

The "Dartmouth", first of the three ships carrying tea was anchored in Boston Harbour on 27th November, 1773. A group of American tribal men dressed as Mohawk Indians threw all the tea chests into the sea. This was known as the 'Boston Tea Party'.

THE GATHERING WAR CLOUDS:

Tensions between the colonies and England started becoming from bad to worse. The "Boston Massacre" 5th March, 1770 took place between the Colonists and British Soldiers, due to these clashes.

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESSES:

The colonists realized that war with England was imminent, and they were prepared and convinced for a unified action. The very famous First Continental Congress was convened on 5th September, 1774 at Philadelphia. The colonists proclaimed the 'Declaration of Independence'.

This happened on 4th July, 1776. Hence the “United States of America” came into existence.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR:

George Washington was sworn in as the first President of America, comprising of the 13 Colonies. A federal form of democratic government came into existence for the first time in the world. The American War of Independence is regarded as an epoch making event having far reaching effects on the World History. India was also influenced by the American War of Independence.

QUESTIONS

I. FILL IN THE BLANKS:

- 1) The European explorers Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci and _____ were mainly responsible for discovering the northern, eastern and central parts of the American continent in 15th century.

(Megellan, John Cabot, Vasco-da-Gama).

II) ANSWER IN 20-25 WORDS :

- 1) Which problems did the colonists face ?

III. GIVE REASONS IN 20-25 WORDS :

- 1) The British Parliament was forced to repeal the "Stamp Act".

IV) ANSWER IN 30-40 WORDS :

- 1) Give an account of the "Boston Tea Party".

V) ANSWER IN 80-100 WORDS :

- 1) Give an account of the American Declaration of Independence?

ANSWERS

I. FILL IN THE BLANKS:

- 1) The European explorers Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci and **John Cabot** were mainly responsible for discovering the northern, eastern and central parts of the American continent in 15th century.
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II ANSWER IN 20-25 WORDS :

- 1) **Which problems did the colonists face ?**

Ans.)

- a) The colonists faced several problems, which had to be resolved at a local level.
- b) The Red Indians who were the original inhabitants of America revolted against the system.
- c) There were mutual border disputes which the neighbouring colonies were facing with each other.
- d) The Administrative set-up was also not proper and needed changes.

III GIVE REASONS IN 20-25 WORDS :

1) The British Parliament was forced to repeal the “Stamp Act”.

Ans.)

The British Parliament was forced to repeal the Stamp Act because:

- a) Violent protestations took place almost every where.
- b) There were attacks on the nature and functioning of the British Constitution.
- c) The colonists boycotted British goods and started civil disobedience.

Hence the British Parliament was forced to repeal the Stamp Act.

IV ANSWER IN 30-40 WORDS :

1) Give an account of the “Boston Tea Party”.

Ans.)

Boston Tea Party:

- a) The “Dartmouth”, first of the three ships carrying boxes of tea was anchored at Boston Harbour on 27th November, 1773.
- b) The colonists were angry and agitated because of duty on tea.
- c) A disciplined group of men who were disguised as Mohawk Indians entered the ship and threw all the tea chests into the sea.
- d) This event is referred to as “Boston Tea Party” in the History of America.

V) ANSWER IN 80-100 WORDS :

1) Give an account of the American Declaration of Independence?

Ans.)

Thomas Jefferson is known as the architect of the “American Declaration of Independence”. This was adopted on 4th July, 1776.

The important features of the declaration were:

- a) All men are created equally by the Creator – God.
- b) All men are endowed by certain unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- c) The government is there to secure those rights of the people.

- d) The government owes its powers to the consent of the people.
- e) People have a right to change or overthrow a government which does not follow these basic principles.
- f) People have a right to form a new government in place of the earlier one.

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