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American war of independence occupies an important place among the remarkable events of world history

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Abstract

The American War of Independence unleashed powerful political, social, and economic forces that would transform the new nation's politics and society. It was including increased participation in politics and governance, the legal institutionalization of religious toleration, and the growth and diffusion of the population, particularly westward. The Revolution affected Native Americans by opening up western settlement and creating governments hostile to their territorial claims. Even more broadly, the Revolution ended the mercantilist economy, opening new opportunities in trade and manufacturing. In general, revolution involves widespread violence and societal unrest. The American Revolution or the U.S. War of Independence was comparatively light in comparison to these standards. In spite of all this, the American Revolution actually had huge long-term positive effects on people everywhere, not just those living in the newly established United States. The Seven Years' War was a sort of world war fought between 1756 and 1763. It included major political and strategically powerful countries of that time. It affected Europe, North America, Central America, West African coast, India, and Philippines. In the context of Indian history, it is called the Third Carnatic War (1757-63). In other regions of the world, it was known as The French and Indian War (North America, 1754-63); the Mamorian War (Sweden and Prussia, 1757-62); Third Silesian War (Prussia and Austria, 1756-63), etc. It is known as the War of the Conquest in Canada. While the American War of Independence (1775-83) is often regarded as a separate event, it can be seen as a direct consequence of the Seven Years' War. In this research article, we will explore how the Seven Years' War influenced and set the stage for the U.S. War of Independence.

Keywords: Colonialism, continent, declaration of independence, industrial revolution, native American, navigation act, Paris peace treaty, stamp act (1765), sugar act (1764) sons of liberty etc.

1. Introduction

The American Revolution, culminating in the American war of Independence, was a momentous happening in the world history as it marked the first successful struggle for freedom and liberty in modern history. The ideas and ideals born out of the War of Independence influenced not only the French Revolution of 1789 and the English Liberal Radical Movement of the 19th century, but almost all the subsequent struggles for freedom and liberty (Raj, 2020) ^[19]. The real important of the war of American Independence lies in the successful completion of American Revolution.

Columbus discovered a new world in 1442 AD. Along with this, the contemporary world powers started efforts to establish their supremacy over America. Dutch, Spanish, and British started efforts to establish their power on this continent. Initially, Spain was the forerunner of this competition, but with the passage of time, England emerged as the sole power of the continent. The British established their thirteen colonies on this continent, as- New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. In the last years of the eighteenth century, American residents reacted tremendously against British tyranny and colonial exploitation and threw off the yoke of British power.

The Seven Years' War ^[1], which occurred over 160 years before World War I and was referred to as the Great War before the start of World War II, was possibly the first global conflict and had a significant impact on numerous subsequent major events. The fight was referred to as the 'first world war' by Winston Churchill. The war altered not only the political structure of Europe but also the course of history as a whole, laying the groundwork for later British global dominance in the nineteenth century, the rise of Prussia in Germany (which eventually replaced Austria as the dominant German state), the escalation of tensions in British North America, and the beginning of the French Revolution.

The impact of the American Revolution went much beyond North America. A political intelligentsia over the whole of Europe was interested in it. As a result of its success, the idea of natural rights was strengthened throughout the Western world, and the Enlightenment rationalist critique of an established church and hereditary monarchy-based old order was advanced. It was in many ways a forerunner of the French Revolution, but it lacked the bloodshed and disorder of that uprising since it took place in a society that was already essentially liberal.

The major goal of the Declaration of Independence ^[2] was to demonstrate that the people have the power to overthrow a government that denies them their basic liberties. Additionally, it was declared that going forward; Americans would be allowed to independently make authoritative judgements in all issues of war, peace, truce, and business, as is their prerogative as an independent state. An important turning point in the conflict was the participation of France and Spain with their maritime forces. On October 19, 1781, in Yorktown, British Commander-in-Chief Lord Cornwallis was forced to surrender due to the overwhelming might of the American and French armies.

Finally, the American Revolutionary War came to a conclusion in 1783 with the signing of the Paris Peace Treaty ^[3]. The successful conclusion of the American Revolution is where the actual significance of the American Independence War rests. The American Revolution holds a prominent position among notable historical occurrences. This revolution led to the creation of a new nation as well as the initiation of a new age for humanity. Following the Revolution, American society came to appreciate the value of education.

Along with its social and political ramifications, the American Revolution also had significant economic effects. The Revolution eliminated all barriers to the capitalist

economy and promoted its expansion. More than agriculture, industries were impacted by the Revolution.

2. Significance of this Study

The American Revolution stands as one of the significant landmarks in the history of the modern world as it served as laboratories for new political ideas and institutions. The main significance of this revolution lies in the fact that it was the world's first anti-colonial struggle which set the pattern for the future liberation of the states of Africa, Asia and Latin America. It led to the birth of a new nation which has to become, over the course of time, the greatest workshop of democracy. The American people influenced the French society to rise against the Ancien regime. American Independence was also a great blow to the invincible image of Great Britain. Richard Hofstadter (1969) ^[11] has argued that the American Revolution was conservative in character. From one perspective the American Revolution was a conservative movement based on the defence of American rights against the encroachment of the British government intent on exploiting the colonies for economic gain. The American Revolution (1775-83) is also known as the American Revolutionary War and the U.S. War of Independence. The conflict arose from growing tensions between residents of Great Britain's 13 North American colonies and the colonial government, which represented the British crown. The first English settlement in America was Jamestown in 1607. Gradually the American colonies grew in size and a number of settlements were established. Thirteen colonies eventually became the United States. They were under the control of the British crown and the parliament, though in internal matters they enjoyed considerable autonomy.

3. Objectives of the Study

The paper focuses on the background of the American War of Independence (1775-83). While making a comparison in the condition of thirteen colonies in America and relations with England, this study also interprets the course and reasons behind the upheaval in the North American continent in the latter half of the eighteenth century.

4. Approach of the Study

- To highlight the significance of the American Revolution.
- To give a background of what American Revolution was all about.
- To examine the causes of conflicts of American war of Independent.
- To analyze whether it was a revolution or just an independence movement.

5. Methodology

An elaborative research methodology was used to investigate and interpret the political sphere in the North American continent in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The researcher has relied both on primary sources as well as secondary sources for the collection of data. Primary data has been gathered from archival records; whereas secondary data is based on analysis and discussions. The following qualitative data from secondary sources has been used in the research of this paper: Books,

¹ The final stage of France and Great Britain's century-long conflict over control of North America and global power is known as the Seven Years' War. The reason for the name is that the war began formally in 1756, and the peace treaty that ended it was signed in 1763. In actuality, North America has been in a state of war since 1754. The war was significant because the two major powers engaged in land and sea battles in almost every region of the globe and expended a tremendous amount of resources including money, manpower, and material.

² It was adopted on July 4, 1776, by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia and marked the formal declaration of the American colonies independence from Great Britain. The document was primarily drafted by Thomas Jefferson, although it underwent revisions and edits by other members of the committee and Congress.

³ The treaty recognized the United States as a sovereign and independent nation, effectively ending British colonial rule in America. It also established the boundaries of the United States, outlining its territory from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Mississippi River in the west, and from Canada in the north to Spanish Florida in the south.

Articles, Secondary Reports and Accounts of the various foreign writers and Historians.

6. Causes of the conflict

The American War of Independence started in 1776 but its background was being prepared since a long past. Composition of the American colonies, lack of transport and communication, system of colonial government and above all, the economic colonialism constitute the fundamental causes for the Revolution. On the other hand, the seven years' war, the series of discriminatory Acts passed by the British Parliament, the incidence of Boston Tea Party and the pamphleteer of America aggravated the differences in attitude between the colonists and the mother-country (Raj, 2020) ^[19]. There were many causes of the conflict of American War of Independent. Some causes of the conflicts are:-

6.1 The Seven Years' War

Major European powers and their colonies fought in the Seven Years' War, a global conflict that lasted from 1756 to 1763. It was a complicated conflict with many interconnected root causes. Long-standing disputes between Britain and France over colonial territories were one of the war's main reasons. Both countries had large colonial holdings in India, Africa, the Caribbean, and North America. Tensions between the two powers were exacerbated by competition over territory, resources, and trading routes. Both powers sought to expand their colonial holdings and tried to secure valuable resources in the North American continent. ^[4] In the 1750s, the border between British and French colonies in North America remained mostly unclear. The entirety of the Mississippi River basin was long claimed by France. Britain objected to this. The French started building a network of forts in the Ohio River Valley in the early 1750s to stake out their claim and protect the Native American population against expanding British influence. These territorial disputes, and the subsequent British victories, significantly impacted the relationship between the American colonies and the British Empire. The French wanted to keep their influence and thwart the British invasion, while the British wanted to advance westward and take control of the Ohio River Valley. Armed engagements resulting from these competing territorial aspirations, such as the Battle of Jumonville Glen and the Battle of Fort Necessity, increased tensions and finally precipitated the war.

The geopolitical setting of Europe was very important in the beginning of the war. In order to increase its influence and balance out British naval supremacy, France forged agreements with other European superpowers. France allied with long-time rivals like Austria and Russia during the Diplomatic Revolution of 1756, while Britain teamed up with Prussia. The foundation for a larger battle that went beyond colonial disputes was laid by these shifting alliances and the need to preserve a balance of power in Europe.

The war was further driven by expansionist objectives and the rise of nationalism throughout Europe. Both within

⁴ The boundaries of the settlements of Great Britain and France in America were not fixed. Both countries were engaged in increasing their respective power. At the same time, from 1756 to 1763, a war broke out in the countries of Europe for the expansion of power. During this war, there were colonial wars between the British and the French in America. In these wars, the British ended the power of France from America by occupying the French colonies.

Europe and in their colonies abroad, European nations strove to increase their spheres of influence and dominance. Leaders were motivated to exert their supremacy and enlarge their empires by ideas of national pride and grandeur. The urge to protect valuable resources and territory coupled with this expansionist mindset heightened tensions and finally resulted in armed conflict.

The causes of the war also included economic factors. In their colonial possessions, both Britain and France aimed to dominate profitable trade routes and gain access to precious resources. The colonies supplied markets for manufactured commodities as well as raw materials like timber, fur, and tobacco. For the prosperity and power of the European states, it was thought necessary to control these economic resources and trade networks. Tensions between Britain and France grew worse due to disagreements over trade laws and market access. At the same time, the Seven Years' War was an expensive undertaking for Britain. To finance the war effort, the British government accumulated a substantial amount of debt. Seeking to recover these costs, the British Parliament passed various acts and measures to increase taxation in the American colonies. The Sugar Act of 1764 ^[5] and the Stamp Act of 1765 ^[6] were particularly controversial, as they imposed direct taxes on the colonists. These acts angered the colonists and highlighted the growing tension between the American colonies and the British Empire. The conflict was exacerbated by dynastic and succession difficulties throughout European monarchs. Power in Europe was reorganized as a result of the death of the Austrian Emperor Charles VI in 1740 and the ensuing War of the Austrian Succession. These succession-related tensions persisted and added to the general climate of antagonism and conflict that finally exploded into the Seven Years' War.

Finally, the hostilities increased after the French seized the British colonial outpost of Fort Necessity in 1754 and skirmishes that followed in North America. Relations between Britain and France were already tight before the British ambassador Count de Saint-Pierre, a supporter of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa, was killed in 1755. These occurrences propelled the European powers towards open battle and numerous lesser conflicts.

6.2 Mercantilism

Throughout the last 50 years of the 17th and the first 50 years of the 18th centuries, English policies in the American colonies had been based on certain economic assumptions which led to an economic conflict. This conflict rested upon a general economic theory known as mercantilism. Mercantile policy was essentially concerned with the welfare of the mother country. The colonies were supposed to produce commodities not obtainable at home, chiefly raw materials and to use manufactured goods produced in the mother country. Colonies were to offer opportunities for the

⁵ The Sugar Act of 1764 was a law enacted by the British Parliament with the aim of increasing revenue from the American colonies and cracking down on smuggling. It was the first in a series of measures implemented by the British government to raise taxes in the colonies and exercise greater control over colonial trade.

⁶ Under the Stamp Act, colonists were required to purchase and use specially stamped paper for various legal documents, licenses, newspapers, pamphlets, and even playing cards. This Act is remembered as a pivotal moment in American history because it helped to galvanize colonial opposition to British rule and laid the groundwork for the larger movement for independence.

development of a large merchant marine, wealth to importers and exporters and opportunities for the investment of capital. The first major mercantile legislation was the Navigation Act, 1651 which sought to curb colonial shipping. Apart from shipping, the British mercantilist restrictions operated in import trade, export trade, manufacture, customs, currency and land or westward expansion (Hofstadter, 1969) ^[11]. Until 1763, the British mercantilist network was not very rigidly applied and American capitalism grew within the framework of mercantilist control.

6.3 Ideological and political struggle

Bernard Bailyn argues that the American Revolution was above all an ideological and political struggle. Assertion of political doctrines and the philosophies of John Locke and Montesquieu, by the American political theorists (like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Wilson etc.) which justified resistance to the mother country by the colonies blew air to the American resentment against the English rule (Hofstadter, 1969) ^[11]. The enlightenment was crucial in determining almost every aspect of colonial America, most notably in terms of politics, government, and religion without the central ideas and figures of the enlightenment, the United States would have been drastically different since these concepts shaped the country in its formative years. Both during and after the American Revolution many of the core ideas of the enlightenment were the basis for monumental tracts such as the declaration of independence and the constitution concepts such as freedom from oppression, natural rights, and new ways of thinking about governmental structure came straight from enlightenment philosophers.

6.4 Proclamation of 1763

As a truce with the American Indians, who had started an armed rebellion at the end of the Seven year War, the British Parliament issued a "Proclamation of 1763" which banned the expansion by the US settlers to the west of Appalachian Mountains, as this area was now reserved for the native American Indians. Another reason for issue of such a proclamation was the lobbying by the Aristocrats in Britain, who did not want the westward expansion. They had bought land in the American colonies and made profits from the rents they extracted from the white settlers. The American settlers, who had fought in the Seven year War along the British with the purpose of westward expansion, felt cheated and thus ignored this proclamation. Their local militia forces continued to bring the area in the west under their control.

6.5 The Series of Acts

The Grenville measures, named after the British Prime Minister who came to office in 1763 consisted of various policies to pay off the national debt, Grenville introduced a spate of legislation for the American colonies. The Proclamation of 1763, the Revenue or Sugar Act of 1764, the Currency Act of 1764, the Mutiny Act of 1765, and the Billenting Act of 1765 are few acts introduced to tax American people (Hofstadter, 1969) ^[11].

6.6 The Stamp Act

The most momentous of the revenue measures however, was the Stamp Act which was passed by the Parliament in March 1765. It provided that revenue stamps to be affixed

to all newspapers, licences, leases or other legal documents. The colonists reacted sharply to this Act; trade with mother country fell in the summer of 1765 (Hofstadter, 1969) ^[11].

6.7 No taxation without representation

Prominent men organized themselves into a group called the Sons of Liberty. The political scene flared into rebellion. This resulted in the Stamp Act Congress, first congress of the American colonies, consisting of delegates from 9 of the 13 colonies met in New York City in October 1765. The opportunity to mobilize colonial opinion against parliamentary interference in American affairs was seized by 27 men from 9 colonies (Hofstadter, 1969) ^[11]. From the point of view of the Americans, it was impossible to consider themselves represented in Parliament unless they had elected members in the House of Commons. Thus, the Americans raised the slogan 'No taxation without representation'. Moreover in 1773, the British Parliament passed a new law relating to the sale of tea by the East India Company. The measures permitted direct importation of tea into the American colonies. Although the law actually lowered the price of tea, it retained the tax without the consent of the colonials.

6.8 Boston Tea Party

Boston Tea Party of 1773 was a protest against this Tea tax. A ship carrying tea was anchored in the Boston port. Initially Americans did not allow the ship to unload & this resulted in a standoff for many days. Finally, when the pro-Britain Boston Governor ordered unloading, white settlers dressed as American Indians destroyed all the tea by offloading all the containers into the sea on the night of 16 December 1773. This event is known in history as the 'Boston Tea Party'. The infuriated British responded by closing the Boston Port to all trade and by passing the Intolerable Acts of 1774.

7. Discussion and Analysis

Political and social life changed drastically after independence. Political participation grew as more people gained the right to vote, leading to greater importance being placed on representation within government (Gordon S. Wood, 1969) ^[9]. In addition, more common citizens (or "new men") played increasingly important roles in local and state governance. Hierarchy within the states underwent significant changes. Society became less deferential and more egalitarian, less aristocratic and more meritocratic. The Revolution's most important long-term economic consequence was the end of mercantilism. The British Empire had imposed various restrictions on the colonial economies including limiting trade, settlement, and manufacturing.

The Revolution opened new markets and new trade relationships. The Americans' victory also opened the western territories for invasion and settlement, which created new domestic markets. Americans began to create their own manufactures, no longer content to rely on those in Britain. Economists Sebastian Galiani and Gustavo Torrens think they understand why that never happened. They analyze the American Revolution through the lens of game theory, the mathematical study of strategy and conflict. The economists argue there was an underlying logic to why both sides deadlocked. They believe their theory, which stresses political machinations rather than

patriotic fervor as the engine of schism, might help us better understand how democracies evolve and how voting rights spread.

There is a fertile tradition of economists opining on political institutions, beginning with Adam Smith, who himself wrote about the problems of the American colonies in "The Wealth of Nations." In the 1750s and 1760s, the British spent millions of pounds raising armies to defend the North American colonies against the French in the Seven Years' War. Parliament subsequently demanded that the lightly-taxed Americans should contribute more to the costs of their own defense. Still, Smith was an advocate for harmony and economic efficiency. If the Americans would not pay taxes without political representation, he argued that the most practical solution was to acquiesce. He recommended that Britain should grant the colonies some number of seats in Parliament, depending on how much they contributed in taxes.

The British politician Thomas Pownall dreamed of a merged Parliament, a "Grand Marine Dominion, consisting of our possessions in the Atlantic, and in America, united into a one Empire." In 1754, Benjamin Franklin wrote that "such a union would be very acceptable to the colonies, provided they had a reasonable number of representatives allowed them." Torrens said in an interview. "Part of the problem is that this would have consequences for the internal politics of the British Empire."

According to Galiani and Torrens, the ruling class in Britain believed it was better to risk a war and the loss of some colonies than to risk losing control of the entire empire to a political coalition of the lowborn and landless. Several top historians, when asked about the theory, called it intriguing - but they also pointed out that it misses some nuances, particularly on the American side of the story. First of all, if the British landowners were wary of letting Americans into Parliament, the Americans became equally, if not more skeptical of such an idea. Ultimately, historians say, this was the sticking point that led to the Revolutionary War. When the British passed the Stamp Act in 1765, the first direct tax on the American colonies, they opened a Pandora's Box of questions. "It raised the constitutional problem of who's in control-where's the ultimate location of sovereignty" (Brendan Mc Conville). By the late 1760s, he said, the opportunity for compromise had more or less faded, as the debate turned to these deeper issues of governance and liberty.

The Seven Years' War had a unifying effect on the American colonies. During the conflict, colonial militias fought alongside British troops against the French and their Native American allies. This shared experience of warfare and a common enemy fostered a sense of unity among the colonists. Additionally, colonial leaders such as George Washington gained valuable military experience during the war, which would prove crucial during the subsequent American War of Independence.

The Seven Years' War prompted significant military reforms within the British Empire. The British recognized the need for a more professional and disciplined army, which led to the enforcement of new regulations and increased military presence in the colonies. The Quartering Act of 1765, for example, required colonial authorities to provide housing and provisions for British troops stationed in America. These measures further strained the relationship between the colonists and the British government and contributed to the

growing grievances that would eventually lead to the American War of Independence.

The Seven Years' War provided a platform for emerging colonial leaders to showcase their abilities. Figures like George Washington, who played a prominent role during the conflict, gained both experience and recognition. The war allowed these leaders to establish themselves as capable military commanders and politicians, laying the foundation for their future roles in the American War of Independence. In the aftermath of the Seven Years' War, the British government issued the Proclamation of 1763, which aimed to stabilize relations between Native American tribes and the colonists. The proclamation drew a line along the Appalachian Mountains, restricting further colonial expansion beyond that point. The colonists viewed this as an infringement on their rights and desires for westward expansion. This limitation, imposed by the British Empire, further exacerbated tensions between the American colonies and the mother country.

Seeds of Dissent and Resistance

The Seven Years' War planted the seeds of dissent and resistance within the American colonies. The colonists had grown accustomed to a degree of self-governance and were deeply resentful of the increased British control and taxation.

The American Revolution also brought many changes in the world. In England, the power of both Emperor George III and Prime Minister Lord North began to weaken. The American Revolution strongly attacked the monarchical system based on the divine right of the king. In the House of Commons, a resolution was passed to limit the rights of the king and Lord North had to resign from the post of Prime Minister. This marked the end of the personal rule of George III. The independence of the American colonies dealt a blow to England's colonial empire. The British government realized that in order to keep the remaining colonies under its control, it would have to abandon the policy of colonial exploitation and respect the rights of the people of the colonies.

American Revolution had an impact on India as well. The entry of France into the American War of Independence led to a situation of Anglo-French war in India as well. By taking advantage of the weak power of the French, the British strengthened the policy of expansion of their Indian state. One of the reasons for the American Revolution was that Britain did not interfere in the internal governance of the American colonies. As a result, the consciousness of self-government developed in the American colonists. Britain learned from this situation and adopted a policy of continuing active intervention in the internal affairs of its Indian colonies from an early stage.

8. Concluding Remarks

As a result of this revolution, there emerged not only a new nation in the new world but also a new era began for the human race. July 4th is celebrated as the Independence Day of the United States of America. America's War of Independence is considered an important milestone in human progress. Consequently, this revolution, not only a new strong country was born in the new world, but a new age was started in the history. The effect of this revolution was also felt in other countries of the whole world. The Seven Years' War, also known as the French and Indian War

in North America, played a significant role in shaping the American War of Independence. This conflict, which lasted from 1756 to 1763, involved major European powers and their colonies, with Britain and France as the primary adversaries.

The most important contribution of the U.S. War of Independence or American Revolution was its contribution to ideas of Liberty, Equality, Fundamental Rights, Nationalism and anti-colonialism. The American society, after the Revolution, realized the great importance of education. It was soon realized that educated voters were must for democracy. The economic outcome of the American War of Independence was also important like its social and political consequences. The American War of Independence removed all obstacles that came in the way of capitalist economy and encouraged its growth. The War of Independence influenced industries more than agriculture.

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