



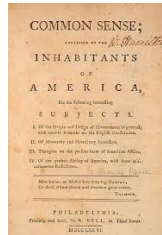
# Influential People

Revolutionary Era



# Son's of Liberty

**Son's of Liberty**- The Sons of Liberty were a secret, underground **organization** that was founded in Boston by Samuel Adams and John Hancock in July 1765. The Sons of Liberty were opposed to the Stamp Act and their membership spread to a number of colonial towns.



**Samuel Adams**- He was a journalist and politician who organized protests against the Sugar Act, and **founded** the Sons of Liberty. He argued that colonists should not be taxed without their **consent**.

**Patrick Henry**- “Give me liberty or give me death”

He was considered to be one the the finest **speakers** of his time. He was able to convince the House of Burgesses to support the Revolutionary War. He led the opposition to the Stamp Act.

**Thomas Paine**-He was a writer and an active participant in the American Revolution by writing a pamphlet called **Common Sense**. It became very popular among the colonists. The pamphlet called for independence from Britain. It was “common sense” to separate from England because “ there isn't a single advantage.”

# Important Women

The ideals of liberty and freedom inspired the American Revolution. These same ideals also caused some women to question their role in American society. While women were not seen as **equal** as men, many women played a role during this time by organizing the Daughters of Liberty, becoming spies, and **writing** about the events taking place.

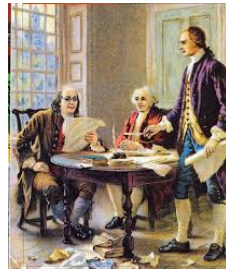


**Abigail Adams**-was the wife of John Adams. During this time, it wasn't socially acceptable for women to be outspoken and heavily involved in politics; however, Abigail was often times very vocal to her husband and others about the desire for women's **rights**.

**Mercy Otis Warren** was the wife of a Revolutionary soldier. She formed a committee that focused on documenting the events of the war. She wrote political **poems** and pamphlets. Through her writings she convinced many people to support the American Revolution.

# Continental Congress

The Continental Congress was the governing body by which the American colonial governments coordinated their **resistance** to British rule during the first two years of the American Revolution. The Congress balanced the interests of the different colonies and also established itself as the official colonial contact to Great Britain. As the war progressed, the Congress became the effective national government of the country



**John Adams** was a politician and lawyer who promoted republicanism. As a delegate from Massachusetts he played a leading role in persuading congress to declare **independence**. He eventually became the 2nd president of the United States.

**Benjamin Franklin** was a political **representative** from Pennsylvania. He was outspoken and very smart. He was a postmaster, writer, scientist, and inventor. He took part in the creation of the Declaration of Independence.

**Thomas Jefferson** was a delegate from Virginia. He played a significant role in the creation of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was the primary **writer** of the Declaration of Independence.

# War Heros

During the War for Independence, war heroes came in all ethnicities and backgrounds. Although slavery was practiced during this time, there were many African Americans who played an important role in the Revolutionary War. Also, many immigrants and foreigners to America assisted the colonists in their cause.

**John Paul Jones** became America's first **naval** hero. He commanded the *Bonhomme Richard* where he faced a larger British warship with more firepower. The British asked him to surrender, and he replied "I've not yet begun to fight!". He won that particular battle, and boosted the morale of the American colonists.

**James Armistead** was a **slave** who acted as a spy for General Lafayette. Armistead posed as a runaway slave and was able to travel freely between the British and Lafayette's army. He was able to successfully relay what he knew to the Americans

**Crispus Attucks** was an African American man born in Massachusetts as a slave. He escaped; however, he eventually became the **first** casualty of the Boston Massacre. He was considered the face of the anti-slavery movement during the Revolutionary Era.

**Wentworth Cheswell** was a church leader, historian, and judge who fought in the American Revolution. He is considered the first African American **elected** to public office in America.

**George Washington** was the **"Commander and Chief"** of the Continental Army. He was known for strong leadership, and eventually became the 1st president of the United States.

**Marquis de Lafayette** was a French commander who helped George Washington **train** the soldiers of the continental army. He purchased a ship and gathered a group of French officers to help in the struggle. His service was seen as a major triumph for the American cause

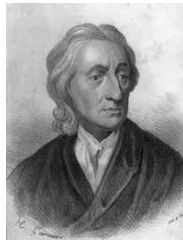
**Haym Solomon** was a successful Jewish merchant and banker who had emigrated from Poland. He helped finance Washington's campaign. He gave **loans** to the American government.

**Bernardo de Galvez**, from Spain, helped the Americas by **shipping** them supplies. He commanded Spanish troops against the British in Louisiana and protected New Orleans from the British

# Enlightenment Thinkers

By the middle of the 1700s, many educated colonists were also influenced by the Enlightenment. This movement spread the idea that **knowledge**, reason, and **science** could improve society. Many beliefs from the Enlightenment became the foundations of the American government.

- All people are created equal
- All people possess certain basic rights
- The purpose of government is to secure these rights
- The authority of governments comes from the people



**John Locke**-expressed ideas that people are born with certain natural rights to life, liberty, and property and have the right to **overthrow** their government if these rights are violated

**Baron de Montesquieu**-the powers of government should be separated and balanced against each other, so that one group doesn't become too **powerful**