

Identifies Period 3: 1754-1800

AMSCO Chapter 5, [American Yawp](#) Chapters 5 and 6

1. First Continental Congress
2. Lexington and Concord: Minutemen
3. Battle of Bunker Hill
4. Second Continental Congress (1775): Olive Branch Petition
5. Thomas Paine, Common Sense
6. *Primary Source: Common Sense (excerpts)*
7. Declaration of Independence
8. *Primary Source: Letter to John Adams*
9. *Primary Source: Declaration of Independence (excerpt)*
10. Patriots
11. Loyalists (Tories)
12. Alliance with France: Battle of Saratoga
13. Treaty of Paris
14. Articles of Confederation: Structure of Government, Powers, Accomplishments: Land Ordinance of 1785, Northwest Ordinance of 1787
15. *Primary Source: Articles of Confederation (excerpt)*
16. Articles of Confederation: Problems with the Articles, Shays's Rebellion
17. Social Change: Abolition of Aristocratic Titles
18. Social Change: Separation of Church and State
19. Social Change: Women
20. Social Change: Slavery

Primary Sources

Excerpts from *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine, 1776

Small islands not capable of protecting themselves are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something very absurd in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. In no instance hath nature made the satellite larger than its primary planet; and as England and America, with respect to each other, reverse the common order of nature, it is evident that they belong to different systems. England to Europe: America to itself. . . .

Thomas Paine,
Common Sense (1776)

“Wherefore, security being the true design and end of government, it unanswerably follows that whatever form thereof appears most likely to ensure it to us, with the least expense and greatest benefit, is preferable to all others. . . . Here too is the design and end of government, Freedom and Security.”

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776

Letter to John Adams, Abigail Adams, March 31, 1776

Source: Abigail Adams, letter to John Adams (March 31, 1776)

I long to hear that you have declared an independancy—and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perticular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.

Declaration of Independence, 1776

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers From the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain, is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over the States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

Excerpt from the Articles of Confederation, 1777

ART. 2. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled.

ART. 3. The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defence, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare; binding themselves to assist each other against all force offered to or attacks made upon them on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretence whatever. . . .

ART. 9. . . . The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war nor grant letters of marque or reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defence and welfare of the United States, or any of them; nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander-in-chief of the army or navy, unless nine states assent to the same; nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day, be determined, unless by the votes of a majority of the United States in Congress assembled. . . .

ART. 13. Every state shall abide by the determinations of the United States in Congress assembled on all questions which by this Confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of this Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every state, and the Union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every state.