

DBQ: Question – To what extent did the American War for Independence bring about a “revolution” in the United States during the period 1776-1800?

In an essay of 2-3 pages (times new roman, double spaced, typed, 1 inch margins, size 12 font) answer the above questions based on the documents that follow and your knowledge of the time period 1763-1800. Be sure to include outside information in your response. DUE DATE – THURSDAY OCTOBER 15

Document 1. Declaration of Independence, July 4, 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 to 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.

Document 2: Letter from George Washington to John Jay, August 15, 1786

Dear Sir [John Jay]:

I have to thank you very sincerely for your interesting letter of the 27th of June, as well as for the other communications you had the goodness to make at the same time. . . .

Your sentiments, that our affairs are drawing rapidly to a crisis, accord with my own. What the event will be is also beyond the reach of my foresight. We have errors to correct. We have probably had too good an opinion of human nature in forming our confederation. Experience has taught us, that men will not adopt & carry into execution, measures the best calculated for their own good without the intervention of a coercive power. I do not conceive we can exist long as a nation, without having lodged somewhere a power which will pervade the whole Union in as energetic a manner, as the authority of the different state governments extends over the several States. . . . Many are of opinion that Congress have too frequently made use of the suppliant humble tone of requisition, in applications to the States, when they had a right to assume their imperial dignity and command obedience. Be that as it may, requisitions are a perfect nihility, where thirteen sovereign, independent, disunited States are in the habit of discussing & refusing compliance with them at their option. Requisitions are actually little better than a jest and a bye word throughout the Land. If you tell the Legislatures they have violated the treaty of peace and invaded the prerogatives of the confederacy they will laugh in your face. What then is to be done? Things cannot go on in the same train forever. It is much to be feared, as you observe, that the better kind of people being disgusted with the circumstances will have their minds prepared for any revolution whatever. We are apt to run from one extreme into another.

What astonishing changes a few years are capable of producing! I am told that even respectable characters speak of a monarchical form of government without horror. From thinking proceeds speaking, thence to acting is often but a single step. But how irrevocable & tremendous! What a triumph for the advocates of despotism to find that we are incapable of governing ourselves, and that systems founded on the basis of equal liberty are merely ideal & falacious! Would to God that wise measures may be taken in time to avert the consequences we have but too much reason to apprehend.

Document 3 – Alexander Hamilton, Records of the Federal Convention, 1787

All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born, the other the mass of the people. . . the people are turbulent and changing . . . Give therefore to the first class a distinct permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second, and as they cannot receive any advantage by a change, they will ever maintain good government.

Document 4 - Amos Singletree, a member of the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention commenting on the Constitution, 1788

We contended with Great Britain – some said for a three-penny duty on tea; but it was not that – it was because they claimed a right to tax us and bind us in all cases whatever. And does not this constitution do the same? Does it not take away all we have – all our property? Does it not lay all taxes, duties, imposts and excises? And what more have we to give? . . . These lawyers and men of learning, and monied men, that talk so finely and gloss over matters so smoothly, to make us poor illiterate people swallow down the pill, expect to get into Congress themselves; they expect to be the managers of this constitution, and get all the power and all the money into their own hands, and then they will swallow up all us little folks, like the real Leviathan, Mr. President; yes, just as the whale swallowed up Jonah.

Document 5 – Excerpts from the Bill of Rights, Adopted 1789, Ratified 1791

Amendment I Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment IV The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment X The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

Document 6. – Print, Pennsylvania, c. 1794



FAMOUS WHISKEY INSURRECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Document 7 - Summary of Documents preceding the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Ohio, August 20, 1794, and the Treaty of Grenville

"Reply of the Commissioners of the United States to the Indians." July 13, 1793.

Summary - The US commissioners declare that the Ohio River boundary line for US settlement proposed by the Indian Confederacy is unacceptable because of provisions of the Treaties of Ghent and Fort Stanwix that established a Great Lakes boundary line. They are willing to renegotiate this line, but they demand that the Indians make concessions.

"Council Held at the Foot of the Miamis Rapids." July 27, 1793.

Summary - The Indian Confederacy demands that all US troops and settlers be removed past the Ohio River and wants that river to be the permanent Western and Northern boundary of white settlement.

"Reply of the Indians to the Commissioners of the United States." August 13, 1793.

Summary - The confederacy argues that they had no part in the Treaty of Paris and did not give the British the right to give away Indian lands. They also argue that the US made treaties with Indians who had no right to give up land. Finally, they again demand the Ohio River as a permanent boundary for US expansion.

"Commissioners of the United States to the Chiefs of the Indian Nations." August 16, 1793.

Summary - The US makes its final refusal of the confederacy's demands that the Ohio River be the boundary between the US and Indian lands, and they believe that international law will support them.

Alexander McKee to J. G. Simcoe. August 22, 1793.

Summary - McKee is upset that the Confederacy demanded the Ohio River as a boundary. He suspects that they did it out of anger at the Iroquois. Includes copy of Shawnee speech to Simcoe defending their behavior, including several totems (pictographs) that served as signatures.

Document 8 – Letter from Benjamin Banneker, a Free Black, to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, 1792

SIR,

Sir, suffer me to recall to your mind that time, in which the arms and tyranny of the British crown were exerted, with every powerful effort, in order to reduce you to a state of servitude . . .

This, Sir, was a time when you clearly saw into the injustice of a state of slavery, and in which you had just apprehensions of the horrors of its condition. It was now that your abhorrence thereof was so excited, that you publicly held forth this true and invaluable doctrine, which is worthy to be recorded and remembered in all succeeding ages : ``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, and that among these are, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Here was a time, in which your tender feelings for yourselves had engaged you thus to declare, you were then impressed with proper ideas of the great violation of liberty, and the free possession of those blessings, to which you were entitled by nature; but, Sir, how pitiable is it to reflect, that although you were so fully convinced of the benevolence of the Father of Mankind, and of his equal and impartial distribution of these rights and privileges, which he hath conferred upon them, that you should at the same time counteract his mercies, in detaining by fraud and violence so numerous a part of my brethren, under groaning captivity and cruel oppression, that you should at the same time be found guilty of that most criminal act, which you professedly detested in others, with respect to yourselves.

I suppose that your knowledge of the situation of my brethren, is too extensive to need a recital here; neither shall I presume to prescribe methods by which they may be relieved, otherwise than by recommending to you and all others, to wean yourselves from those narrow prejudices which you have imbibed with respect to them. . . .

And now, Sir, I shall conclude, and subscribe myself, with the most profound respect, Your most obedient humble servant,

BENJAMIN BANNEKER.

Document 9 - Voting Requirements in the original thirteen States in the year 1800

State	Payment of a Tax	Property ownership
New Hampshire	no	no
Massachusetts	yes	yes
Rhode Island	yes	yes
Connecticut	yes	yes
New York	yes	yes
New Jersey	no	yes
Pennsylvania	yes	no
Delaware	yes	no
Maryland	no	yes
Virginia	no	yes
North Carolina	yes	yes
South Carolina	yes	no
Georgia	yes	no

YOU MAY WISH TO USE THIS IN ORGANIZING YOUR ESSAY. Use at least 6 documents in your response.

DBQ – To what extent did the War for Independence bring about a “revolution” in the United States during the time period 1776-1800?

Document	Context, POV, Audience, or Purpose	How does it answer the question? A revolution? Explain.

Document	Explain the document and its relevance to the question	How does it answer the question? Explain.

Write a thesis with a concession that is responsive to the question:

Write FIVE facts or details you would include in your essay as outside information.