

0. LONDON'S REACTION - Story Preface
1. TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION
2. THE BOSTON MASSACRE
3. COLONISTS REBEL
4. LET IT BEGIN HERE
5. LEXINGTON AND CONCORD
6. THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL
7. WASHINGTON TAKES COMMAND
8. AMERICA ESTABLISHES A NAVY
9. DRAFTING THE DECLARATION
10. THE VOTE: 13-0
11. AMERICA'S FIRST DOLLARS
- 12. LONDON'S REACTION**
13. TREASON
14. TREASON MOST FOUL
15. EXECUTIONS
16. MARION'S BRIGADE
17. THE TABLES TURN
18. SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN
19. GENERAL WASHINGTON RESIGNS
20. UNANIMOUS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

This image depicts a headline from the *London Chronicle* which was published on August 13, 1776 (a Tuesday). It announces that Britain's colonies in America have declared their independence, effectively declaring war against the Mother Country. Click on the image for a better view.

Even though the thirteen colonies declared themselves free, London disagreed. [Political cartoons](#) of the time express [British views](#) of the revolt. Follow this link to a cartoon where one of the characters (a clergyman) tells the rest of the folks ([ragtag American soldiers](#)):

Tis Old Oliver's Cause No Monarchy No Laws

In other words, the American war was just like [Oliver Cromwell's](#) a century before: inspired by religious fanaticism.

The [Theatre of War in 1776](#) was carefully tracked in London as well as in America. Washington's [defeats of 1776](#) were also recorded in the British papers. By December 1, 1776 the Brits were happy with the progress of war in the colonies. Follow this link to a cartoon with a gloating caption:

News from America, or the Patriots in the Dumps.

The gloating soon ended when General Washington and his troops crossed (December 9-10) and recrossed (December 25-26, 1776) the Delaware River. (Follow this excellent link to view the U.S. Military Academy map depicting [where Washington crossed](#) the river. Look in the lower left-hand corner. The annotated map also describes the battles.)

[America delivered](#) (this is an animation) quite a [Christmas present](#) to the Redcoats: A surprise [attack at Trenton](#) and a [much-needed victory](#) (and boost in confidence) [for the patriots](#).

But confidence in war, like the rest of life, ebbs and flows depending on lows and highs. One of the lowest points, in war or life, happens when a trusted person turns traitor. The actions of the most famous hero-turned-traitor in the Revolutionary War were so bad his name means traitor in America: Benedict Arnold.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LONDON-S-REACTION-American-Revolution-Highlights>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LONDON-S-REACTION-American-Revolution-Highlights>

Media Stream



British Political Cartoon - Williamsburg Alternative

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives, image 148-GW-438.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/British-Political-Cartoon-Williamsburg-Alternative>



British Political Cartoon - The Bostonians in Distress

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives, image 148-GW-437.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/British-Political-Cartoon-The-Bostonians-in-Distress>



British Political Satire - A Minister in Arms

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress, *Religion and the Founding of the American Republic - Religion and the American Revolution* (web site).

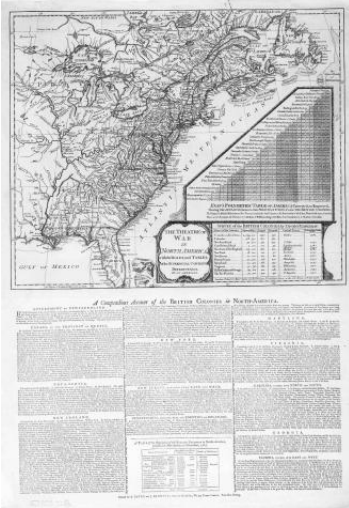
View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/British-Political-Satire-A-Minister-in-Arms>



Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector

Oliver Cromwell, c. 1654, portrait by Sir Peter Lely (1618-1680). National Museum of Wales.
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Oliver-Cromwell-Lord-Protector>



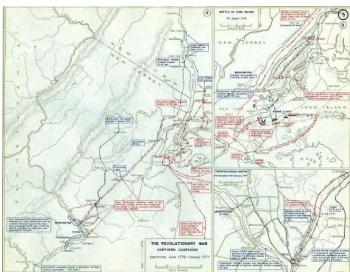
Theatre of War in 1776

Neg 5183 - Hargrett Library (University of Georgia) Rare Map Collection - Revolutionary War.
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Theatre-of-War-in-1776>



Patriots in the Dumps

Cartoon published December 1, 1776.
Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Patriots-in-the-Dumps>



Battle Map, Northern Campaigns (6/1776-1/1777)

Courtesy, U.S. Military Academy.
View this asset at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Battle-Map-Northern-Campaigns-6-1776-1-1777->



Washington Attacks Trenton

Image, U.S. Army Center for Military History.
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Washington-Attacks-Trenton>

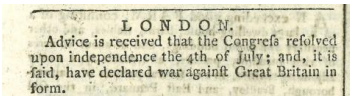


Washington at the Battle of Trenton

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives, image 148-GW-580.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Washington-at-the-Battle-of-Trenton>



LONDON'S REACTION

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