

0. THE TABLES TURN - Story Preface
1. TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION
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18. SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN
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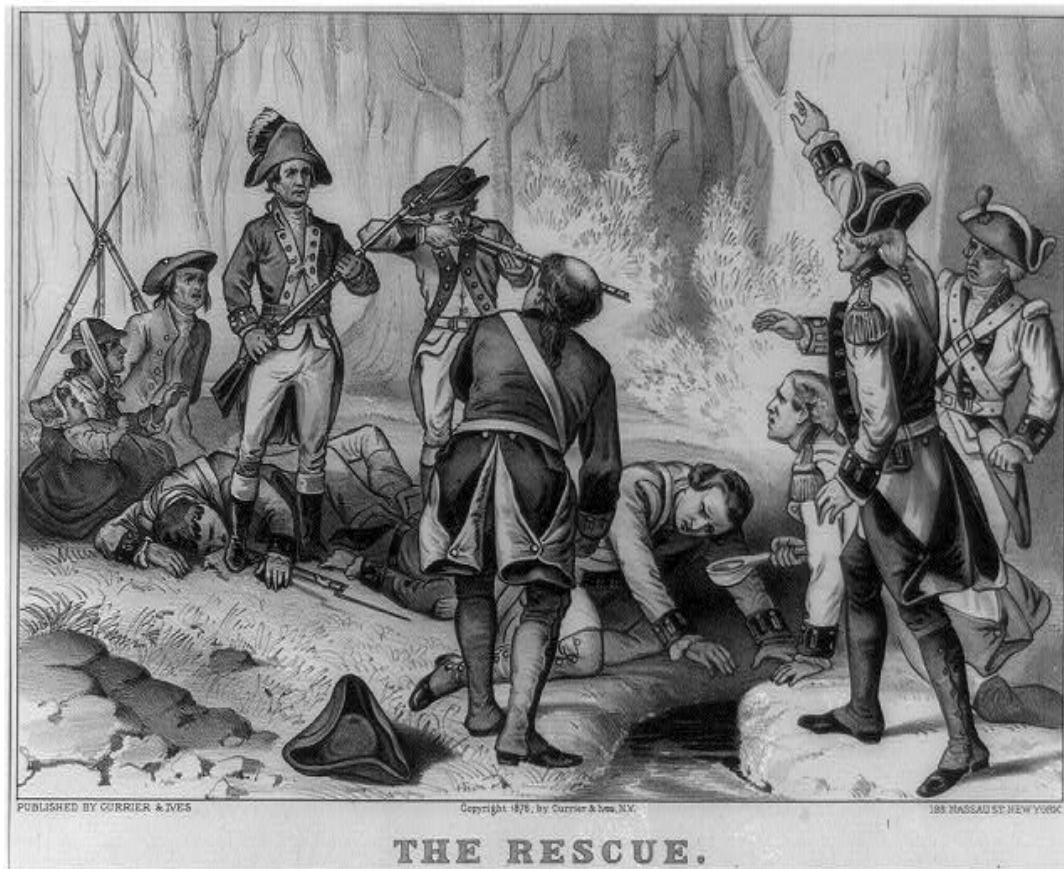
This 1962 painting, by v. Zveg, depicts the French fleet (on the left) engaging the British fleet (on the right) near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. Naval History & Heritage Command describes the event: "In this tactically inconclusive but strategically decisive battle line action, the French successfully prevented the British fleet from entering Chesapeake Bay and relieving Major General Lord Cornwallis' army at Yorktown, Virginia." Click on the image for a great view.

In 1780, as the United Colonies struggled to become free of British control, Americans may have remembered the words of [Thomas Paine](#) (originally published, in "[The American Crisis](#)," during December of 1776):

*Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.*

After the patriots' victory at [Cowpens](#) (January 17, 1781), however, the momentum of war turned against the British. Generals [Nathanael Greene](#) and [Daniel Morgan](#) employed unusual but brilliant strategy to stop the Redcoats as they retreated north.

Men like [Andrew Pickens](#) and Francis Marion continued to frustrate the British. This [Currier & Ives lithograph](#), for example, depicts "Sergeants Newton and Jasper of Marion's Brigade, rescuing American prisoners from the British."



Redcoat victories were few and casualties high. The battle of Guilford Courthouse, a technical British victory, left Lord Charles Cornwallis in a weakened position.

Things had drastically changed for Cornwallis since the early days of his campaign in the colonies. Many battles had been fought and won by the British, but Cornwallis would soon be known in London as "the man who lost America."

By the time Cornwallis and his men reached Yorktown, America was taking full advantage of France's offer to help. French assistance on land, and sea, was key to the ultimate American victory.

Ironically, Louis XVI's decision decision to aid America ultimately cost him his head since a declining French economy - caused, in part, by the American war - led to the French Revolution and, for Louis, the guillotine.

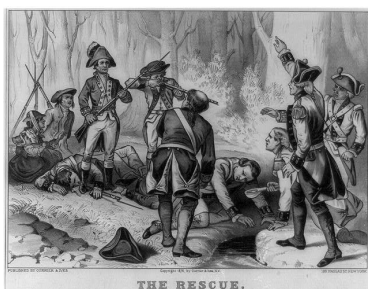
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-TABLES-TURN-American-Revolution-Highlights>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-TABLES-TURN-American-Revolution-Highlights>

## Media Stream



### Swamp Fox Rescue

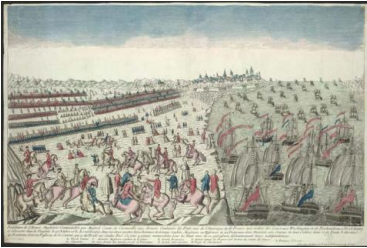
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### Louis XVI

Image, Library of Congress.

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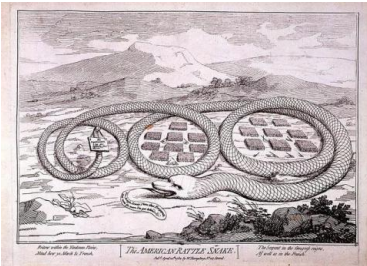
### Surrender at Yorktown -With French Assistance

*Reddition de l'Armée Angloise Commandée par Mylord Comte de Cornwallis aux Armées Combinées des États unis de l'Amérique et de France. . . Paris: Mondhare, 1781.*

Image, quote and information from the Library of Congress: *John Bull and Uncle Sam, Four Centuries of British-American Relations.*

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Surrender-at-Yorktown-With-French-Assistance>

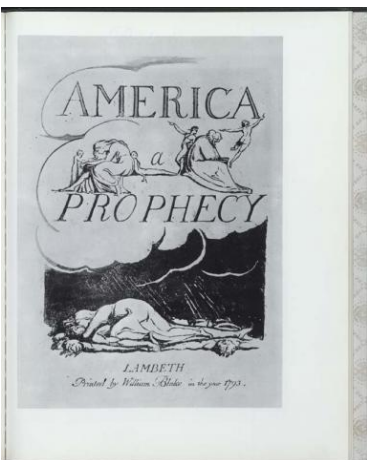


### The American Rattlesnake

James Gillray. *The American Rattle Snake*. London: W. Humphrey, April 1782.

Image, quote and information from the Library of Congress, *John Bull and Uncle Sam, Four Centuries of British-American Relations.*

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-American-Rattlesnake>



### The Loss of America

*America: A Prophecy*. London: William Blake, 1793, frontispiece. Drawing, with watercolor and ink.

Image, quote and information from the Library of Congress, *John Bull and Uncle Sam, Four Centuries of British-American Relations.*

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### Victory at Sea - John Paul Jones, Serapis

Image, quote and information from the Library of Congress, *John Bull and Uncle Sam, Four Centuries of British-American Relations.*

View this asset at:

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### THE TABLES TURN

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### Thomas Paine

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