

**Houston Area
Model United Nations
Crisis Committee**

American Revolution



**Crisis Directors | Ninnette Jalfon and
Sahar Sahebi
Houston Area Model United Nations 50
February 6 & 7, 2025**

Note to Delegates

Greetings, Delegates!

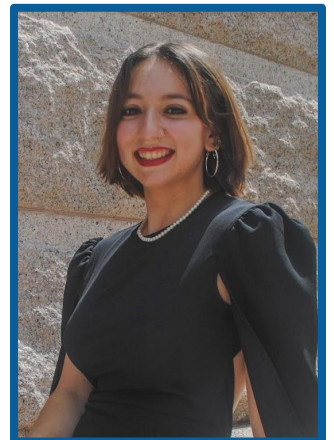
My name is Ninnette Jalfon, and I'm extremely excited to see all of you at the 50th annual Houston Area Model United Nations conference! We have some big plans for this year's joint American Revolution crisis committee, and I can't wait to hear the history-changing perspectives you all will bring!

I am currently a first-year with a double major in Economics and Government at The University of Texas at Austin. I am following a Pre-Law track to one day become an immigration lawyer and eventually move into domestic or international politics. I participated in 3 years of MUN in high school. Over the years, I was in CSW for two years and a crisis. MUN was one of my key determinants in becoming a lawyer and or politician, and I hope that this year you'll find where you fit on a real-world stage!

Delegates, as you enter the debate table and search for ways to make your presence known, I hope you will not be constrained by the path in which history has already taken. Each of you has the chance to foster new beginnings, factions, rebellions, even olive branches. You as colonies are ultimately tired and fed up with the misrepresentation and complete disregard by the British Parliament. You are sending your grievances in hopes that they will be dealt with. However, if not met, there will be dire consequences, and I hope that each and everyone of you are ready for war. Grab your weapons and assemble your militias! We will no longer be taxed without representation! We will no longer be squashed underneath the monstrous tyrant feet! I call on all our courageous men and all those still loyal to the crown to open their eyes and rally behind a cause that benefits us all! To liberty and freedom and the notion that all men are created equal.

I simply cannot wait to hear all of your military plans, diplomatic perspectives, and just how eager you all are to right our wrongs and rewrite history. Good luck in your endeavors, and welcome to the Revolutionary War!

Hook 'em,
Ninnette Jalfon
Crisis Director, American Revolution
njalfon@utexas.edu



Note to Delegates

Hi, Y'all!

US War for Independence: Britain! My name is Sahar Sahebi, and I will be directing this part of the joint American Revolution committee. I'm so excited to meet you all and hope to see some amazing debates for this committee. I am a second-year bio major and pre-dent. I am also a grandma at heart and lover of all things crochet.

As we enter the room for the conference, I want you all to be ready for war. We are fighting for our land, our honor, and our people. Do not let yourself be deterred or shackled down by the box that reality puts you in. You are here to win this war for your people and to fight back against the rampant disrespect of the colonial rebels.

As you research and prepare for the conference, I urge you to fully understand your own powers and how you fit into this incredibly pivotal conflict. Every character and every decision holds its own type of power. You have everything at your disposal to succeed, but you can only do so by truly understanding how to wield your power. While history may have given the win to the colonies which you financed and built from dust, the victorious side remains undecided within the committee room. I hope to see delegates shine by not only wielding their own power effectively but also raising up their fellow man. Bring forth your best diplomatic skills, and more than anything, remember that conference is functionally the fruits of your labor and at its core meant to be fun!

I am so excited to see the mosaic of your decisions on the day of conference and even more excited for how you will reshape history! Happy researching, and welcome to the Revolutionary War!

Hook 'em,
Sahar Sahebi
Crisis Director, American Revolution
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American Revolution

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Background

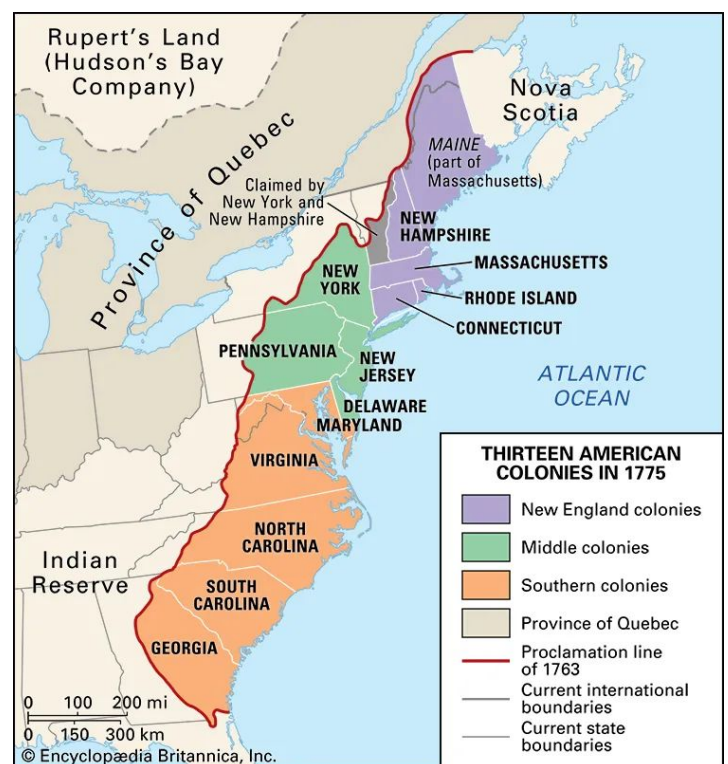
Colonization of Jamestown and New England

The first successful English settlement was in Jamestown, Virginia, founded in 1607 by the Virginia Company. The initial goal was to find gold and other resources, but it quickly became clear that the region's wealth lay in its fertile soil, particularly for tobacco cultivation. Tobacco, introduced by John Rolfe, became Virginia's economic lifeblood, driving the colony's expansion and attracting more settlers.

Meanwhile, in New England, colonization had more of a religious motivation. The Pilgrims, a group of religious Separatists, established Plymouth Colony in 1620 after fleeing persecution in England. Ten years later, the Puritans, founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony, seeking to reform the Church of England rather than separate from it entirely. These early New England colonies were characterized by their focus on religious community and strict social order.

Establishment of the 13 Colonies

As more settlers arrived, new colonies were formed. By the mid-17th century, the English had established a number of colonies along the Atlantic coast, each with distinct economies, cultures, and purposes. During the late 1600s and early 1700s, the 13 colonies developed into three distinct regions: New England, Middle, and Southern.



Interactions with Native Americans

Throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries, English settlers encountered Native American tribes. While some colonies, like Pennsylvania under William Penn, sought peaceful relations, most colonies experienced conflict over land and resources.

Tensions frequently led to violent confrontations, such as King Philip's War (1675–1676) in New England and the Powhatan Wars in Virginia. These conflicts resulted in significant loss of life and further expansion of English settlement as native populations were displaced.

Self-Governance in the Colonies

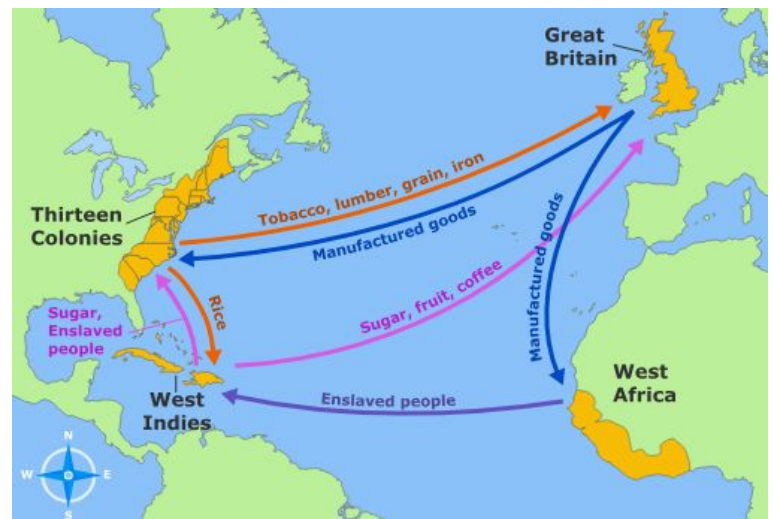
By the early 18th century, the 13 colonies had developed robust local governments, with elected assemblies that handled much of their own affairs. Although the British Crown appointed governors in many colonies, the local legislatures had significant influence, especially when it came to taxation and spending.

During this period, Britain largely practiced a policy known as salutary neglect, wherein the colonies were allowed to operate with a high degree of autonomy in exchange for economic loyalty to the Crown.

As long as the colonies contributed to the British economy through trade, particularly under the Navigation Acts (which regulated colonial trade), the Crown allowed them to govern themselves relatively freely. This led to the development of a strong sense of self-reliance and independence in the colonies, as they had experience in managing their own political and economic affairs.

Trade with the British Empire

The colonies were an integral part of the British Empire's mercantilist system, where the purpose of the colonies was to enrich the mother country. This was achieved through trade: the colonies provided raw materials like tobacco, sugar, lumber, and furs to Britain, and in return, they imported finished goods from British manufacturers. The Navigation Acts ensured that colonial goods were shipped on British ships and passed through British ports, benefiting the empire economically.





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Timeline

Seven Years' War

Lasting from 1756 to 1763, the Seven Years' War was a global conflict that pitted Great Britain against France and its respective allies. In North America, British forces alongside colonial militias clashed with the French and their Native American allies. Though Britain emerged victorious, gaining significant territory from France—including Canada and Florida—the war left Britain with an enormous national debt, nearly doubling the original amount owed.

To address this financial burden, the British government turned to its American colonies as a source of revenue, believing that the colonies should contribute to the costs of their defense and administration. The British passed a series of laws aimed at increasing revenue from the colonies, leading to increased taxation and post-war tension. This set the stage for a dramatic shift in British-colonial relations.

Post-War Legislation and Taxation

The Sugar Act (1764): This act reduced the duty on molasses but enforced stricter anti-smuggling regulations, particularly affecting merchants in New England. It was seen as an infringement on economic freedom and colonial autonomy.

The Stamp Act (1765): The first direct tax on the colonies, this law required that many paper goods, including legal documents, newspapers, and even playing cards, bear an official stamp indicating the payment of the tax. This sparked outrage across the colonies, leading to widespread protests under the rallying cry of "no taxation without representation." The Stamp Act Congress was convened in response, marking one of the first unified actions carried out by the colonies.

The Townshend Acts (1767): These laws imposed duties on goods such as glass, paper, and tea imported into the colonies. The revenue was used to pay the salaries of British officials in the colonies, reducing their dependence on colonial assemblies. The Acts intensified colonial opposition and led to boycotts of British goods.



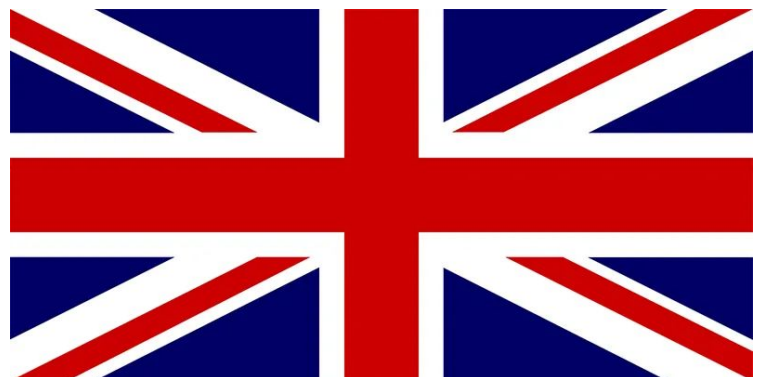
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Committee Brief

The year is 1763, and Great Britain has just gotten out of the Seven Years' War. To remedy their monstrous pile of debt, they have passed a series of taxes including but not limited to the Stamp Act, Sugar Act, Townshend Acts, and Intolerable Acts. These acts, combined with a general dissatisfaction with British rule in the colonies, have contributed to growing unrest among the colonists.

A shot heard around the world, a ragtag army of volunteers against the biggest naval and military superpower of the time... Who will take the victory and the glory, and who will be left to lick their wounds?

The American Revolution committee brings forth the opportunity to fight alongside your countrymen for what you believe and get a firsthand understanding of one of the most influential fights for independence the world has ever seen.



Your Goals

- Attempt to have your grievances met by the British parliament.
- If grievances are not met, fight for independence from Great Britain and attempt to establish your own republic.
- Restabilize the national economy using resources from the American colonies.
- Hold on to sovereignty in the colonies, using force if necessary.
- Garner and maintain support for the British cause, both in the colonies and back home.



Characters: British Empire



General William Howe

General William Howe was the commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America from 1775 to 1778. His strategic focus included capturing major American cities in an effort to crush rebellious forces through decisive victories. Howe's leadership led to British victories at the Battle of Bunker Hill and the capture of Philadelphia. Despite initial successes, his campaign eventually faltered due to his failure to effectively pursue and destroy the Continental Army, leading to his replacement by Sir Henry Clinton. Nonetheless, his time as general proved pivotal to the survival of British forces on colonial soil.



John Burgoyne

John Burgoyne, a British general and politician, is most noted for his role in the Saratoga campaign of 1777. His plan to invade from Canada and divide New England from the colonies ended in failure with his surrender at the Battle of Saratoga. This defeat was a pivotal moment in the war, leading to the French alliance with the American colonies and significantly altering the course of the conflict. While he failed at dividing New England from the rest of the colonies, his approach highlights an important aspect of the British war plan: separation of major colonies in order to weaken the continental army.

Characters: British Empire



Sir Henry Clinton

Sir Henry Clinton succeeded General Howe as commander-in-chief of the British forces in 1778. His strategy focused on shifting the war to the southern colonies. There, he hoped to leverage loyalist support to regain control and turn the tide of the war. Although he achieved several victories and captured Charleston, he failed to coordinate effectively with other British commanders. His strenuous relationship with Lord Cornwallis resulted in Cornwallis' eventual surrender at Yorktown, which marked the official end of the war. Nonetheless, capturing Charleston continues to be one of the British's most significant victories.



Sir Archibald Campbell

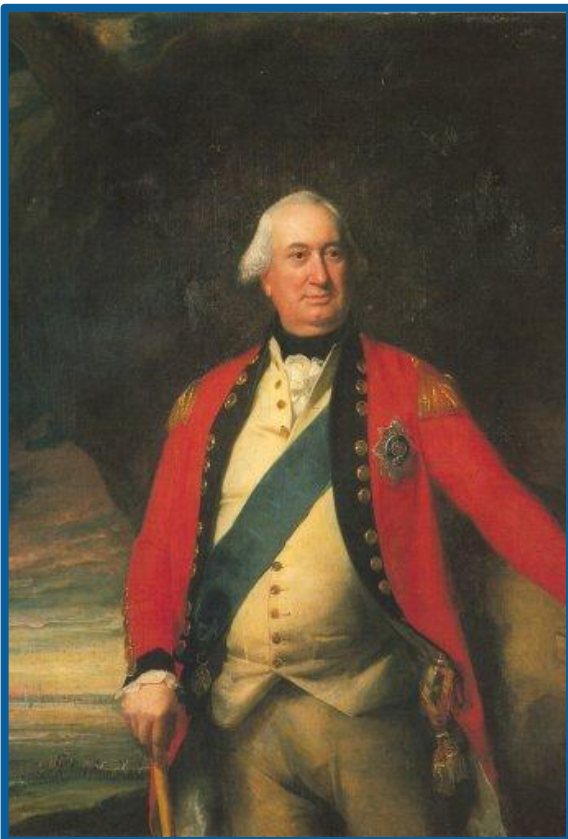
Archibald Campbell was a British Army officer and colonial administrator who played a key role in the southern campaign. He is best known for his successful capture of Savannah, Georgia, in 1778, which secured a crucial base for British operations in the South. Campbell's efforts helped establish British dominance in the southern colonies, helping Sir Henry Clinton's plans for victory in the war. Alas, other losses of key battles and the weakening of British forces in the south led to the ultimate defeat of the British.

Characters: British Empire



John Andre

John Andre was a British Army officer and intelligence chief to General Sir Henry Clinton. He is most known for his role in securing a secret deal with Benedict Arnold to surrender New York City for 20,000 pounds (4 million today). Andre, however, was discovered returning to the British camp with sensitive information provided by Arnold hidden in his boot. André's involvement in espionage, his capture, and later execution became a significant episode in the war, highlighting the dangers of military intelligence.



Charles Cornwallis

Charles Cornwallis was a prominent British Army officer and colonial administrator commanding military engagements mainly in the latter part of the American war for independence. His surrender at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781 effectively ended major fighting in the war and paved the way for American independence. Cornwallis and Henry Clinton worked closely, with Cornwallis as Clinton's second in command, but their amicable relations fell apart after Clinton heard of his relation to General William Howe, who Clinton had spoken ill of in Cornwallis' presence.

Characters: British Empire



Patrick Ferguson

Patrick Ferguson was a Scottish officer in the British Army known for his role in the Southern campaign. His innovative use of rifled muskets and his aggressive tactics earned him a reputation as a skilled and formidable leader. However, his defeat at the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780, where he was killed, was a critical blow to British efforts in the southern colonies.



Banastre Tarleton

Banastre Tarleton was a British general known for his aggressive tactics and controversial actions during the Southern campaign. His leadership in the Battle of Waxhaws, where his forces reportedly gave no quarter to surrendering American troops, earned him a reputation for brutality. Despite his initial successes, his defeat at the Battle of Cowpens and subsequent piled on to the troubles of the already struggling British forces in the south.

Characters: British Empire



Richard Prescott

Richard Prescott was a British officer who served in the American Revolutionary War and is best known for his capture by American forces in 1777. His capture was part of a series of setbacks for the British and highlighted the vulnerabilities of British forces and led to changes in British tactics moving forward. He was later exchanged for American General Charles Lee who'd been captured by British troops. Prescott returned to his role and was active in Rhode Island operations and defending against American and French forces.



Anne Richardson

Anne Richardson was a British spy and loyalist whose covert activities provided valuable intelligence to the British forces. Her efforts were part of the broader British intelligence network that sought to gain an advantage over the American forces by infiltrating and gathering critical information about enemy movements and plans. She utilized laundry to send codes pertaining to American troops' movements.

(not a real historical figure, fictional)

Characters: British Empire



King George III

King George III was the reigning monarch of Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War. His staunch opposition to American independence and his policies, including the imposition of taxes and trade restrictions, were major catalysts for the colonial revolt. His ignorance regarding the colonies' grievances left colonial leaders with no choice but to revolt. His leadership during the conflict shaped British strategy and contributed to the prolonged and contentious nature of the war. His pride in his nation and deep belief in British superiority drove his motivations and shaped his decrees.



Queen Charlotte

Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III, supported her husband's policies throughout the American Revolutionary War. Her presence and influence in the royal court were part of the broader political landscape that affected British policy and public opinion during the conflict. The queen's standing within the court contributed to her ability to push forward the crown's rhetoric regarding the war and gain support for its continuation on the home front.

Characters: British Empire



William Petty

William Petty, an English economist, was known for his contributions to economic thought and analysis. Although not directly involved in the American Revolutionary War, his economic theories and insights on trade and taxation influenced British economic policies and debates surrounding the conflict. He continuously voiced his preference for “conciliation over coercion” regarding the colonies. However, in his personal life he was often combative.



William Franklin

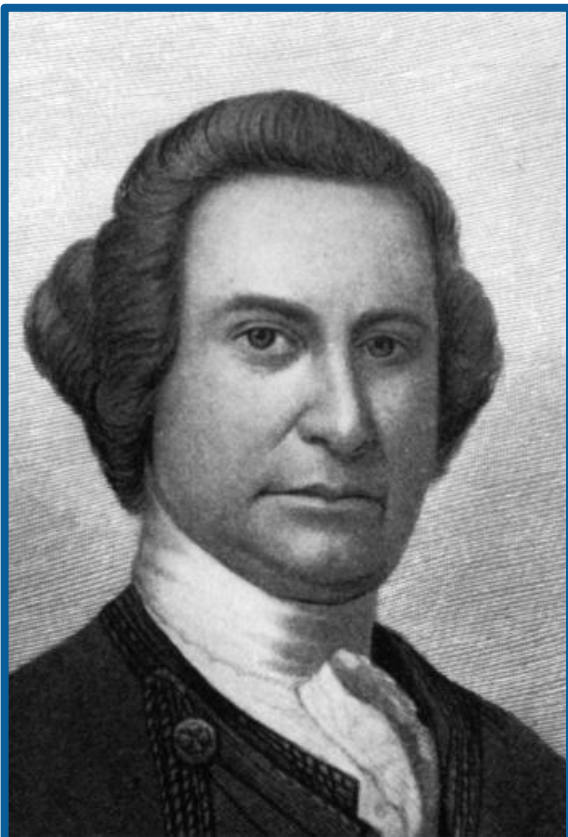
An attorney, soldier, politician, and colonial administrator, William Franklin was the last royal governor of New Jersey and a loyalist who supported the British cause during the American Revolution. As the son of Benjamin Franklin, his allegiance to the Crown and his role in defending loyalist interests made him a notable figure in the conflict and a symbol of the divided loyalties within American society. He reflects the complexities of the war for Continental forces and the continuous fighting amongst the colonies on matters relating to the revolutionary war.

Characters: British Empire



Lord North

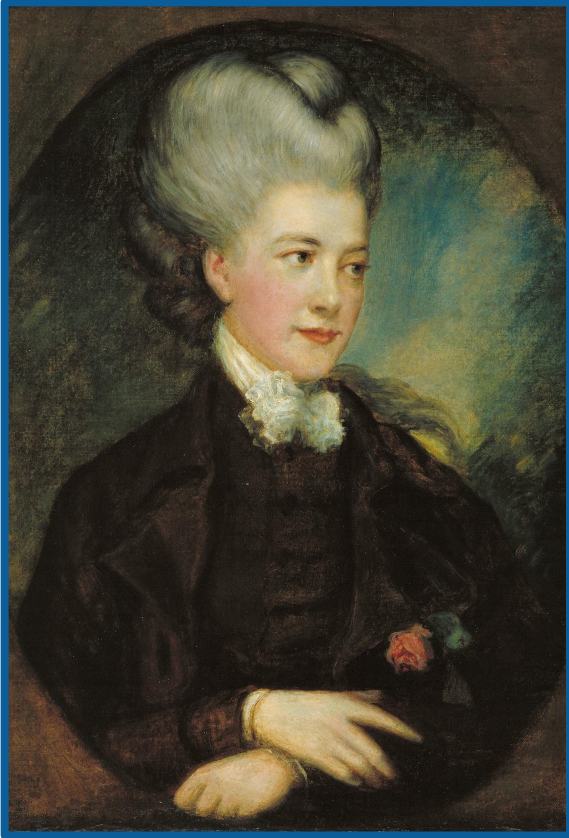
Lord North served as the Prime Minister of Great Britain during much of the American Revolutionary War. His administration's policies, including the unpopular tax measures and the response to colonial unrest, were central to the conflict. North had intended for certain policies, such as the Tea Act, to calm the American public as it lowered costs on consumers, however he did not anticipate the outrage following his decisions. These acts would go on to become the “Intolerable Acts”.



William Johnson

William Johnson was a British Army officer whose contributions to the American Revolutionary War included serving in various capacities. His efforts were part of the broader British military strategy, although his impact was less pronounced compared to other key figures in the conflict.

Characters: British Empire



Margaret Draper

Margaret Draper was a loyalist printer who published pro-British materials during the American Revolutionary War. Her work supported the British cause and provided a platform for loyalist viewpoints, contributing to the propaganda efforts on the loyalist side of the conflict. Her efforts highlight the British public's support for the cause and women's role within the war.



Anne Bates

Ann Bates was a loyalist spy who worked for the British intelligence network during the American Revolutionary War. Her espionage activities included gathering information on American troop movements and strategies, playing a crucial role in the British efforts to counteract the American forces. Her intelligence is incredibly important to predicting troop movements in the south, making her incredibly influential in the latter half of the war. Her network of loyalist women also fed information to British troops during the British attempt to gain power in the North.

Characters: British Empire



Anne Speke North

Anne Speke North, the wife of Prime Minister Lord North, had a more peripheral role in the American Revolutionary War. Her presence in British society and her support for her husband's political career indirectly influenced the broader political context of the conflict.



Hannah More

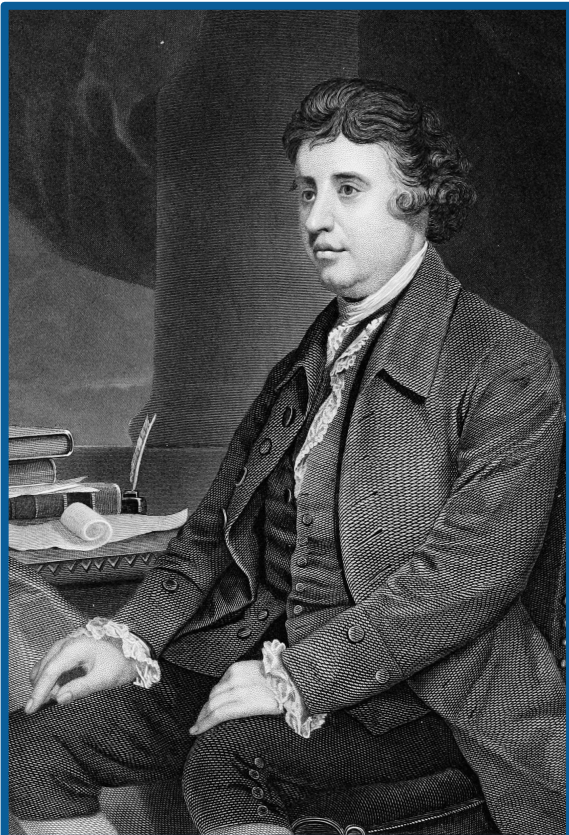
Hannah More was an English writer and philanthropist who contributed to the intellectual and political discourse of the time. Her writings often reflected conservative views, including critiques of the American rebellion. Her critique of colonial rebellion helped in garnering support for the British from the general public. Her works proved quite successful in gaining back support lost due to the high costs of war and the pressure it put upon British citizens.

Characters: British Empire



Catharine Macaulay

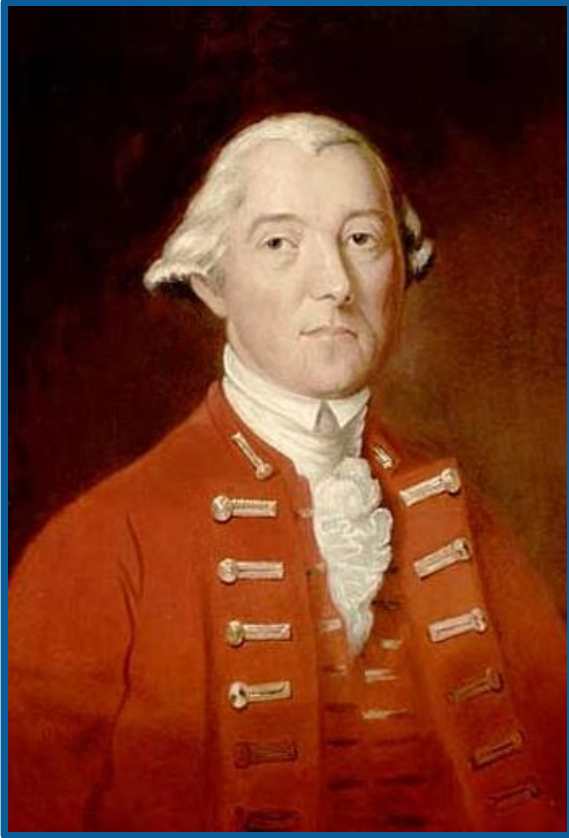
Catharine Macaulay was a Whig republican historian and writer who supported American independence. Her historical writings and political commentary were influential in advocating for the American cause and critiquing British policies. She proved influential amongst lower income citizens who felt the full impact of the war's economic turmoil on Britain.



Edmund Burke

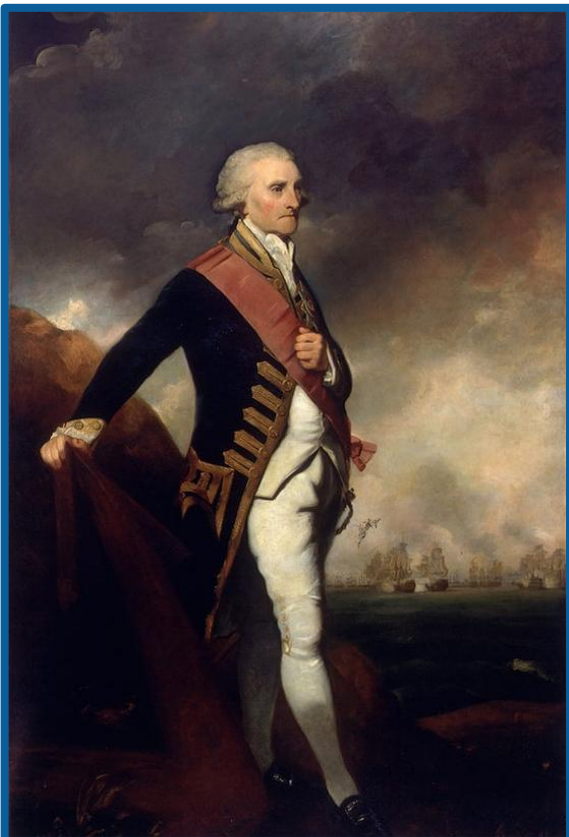
Edmund Burke was a prominent philosopher and politician who supported American independence and criticized British government policies. His speeches and writings on the conflict, particularly his advocacy for reconciliation and reform, had a significant impact on British political thought. He found his home in anti-war groups of the time and ran many meetings for such groups in secret as such actions against the crown were frowned upon.

Characters: British Empire



Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester)

Guy Carleton was a British Army officer and colonial administrator who served as Governor of Quebec and later Commander-in-Chief of British forces in North America. He played a critical role in defending Canada from American invasions and helped orchestrate the successful British evacuation from New York in 1783. His efforts ensured the British held onto Canada despite several American incursions.



Sir George Rodney

Admiral Sir George Rodney was a British naval commander who contributed to British efforts during the war by securing control of key naval routes. He led several successful naval campaigns, including the pivotal Battle of the Saintes in 1782, which disrupted French naval support for the American colonies. His victories at sea helped maintain British supremacy on the Atlantic and Caribbean waters.

Characters: British Empire



Charles James Fox

Charles James Fox was a British politician who supported American independence and opposed the war. His advocacy for the American cause and his criticisms of British policy were influential in shaping the political debate and public opinion in Britain.



Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea)

Joseph Brant was a Mohawk leader and ally of the British during the American Revolution. He led Iroquois warriors in campaigns against the American forces, particularly along the western frontier. His alliance with the British, motivated by a desire to protect Indigenous lands from American encroachment, made him a crucial figure in British efforts to secure loyalist support from Native American tribes.

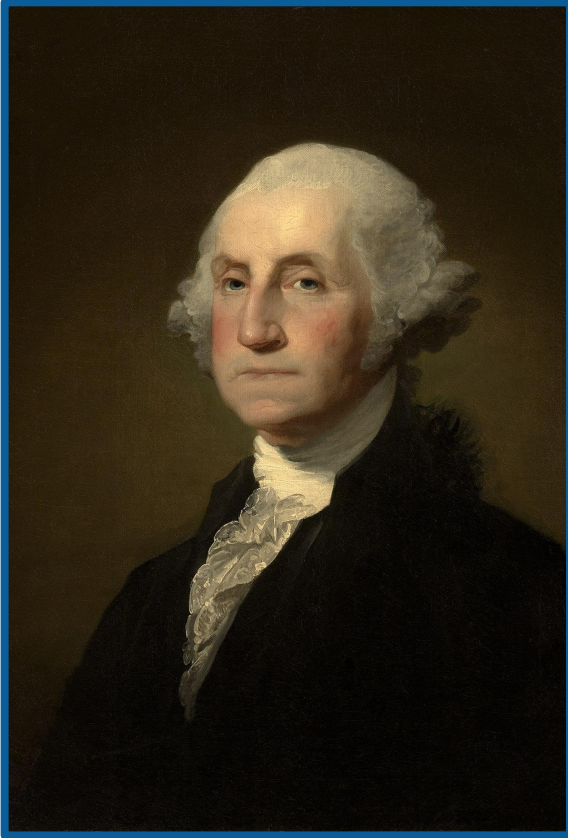
Characters: British Empire



Mary Deverell

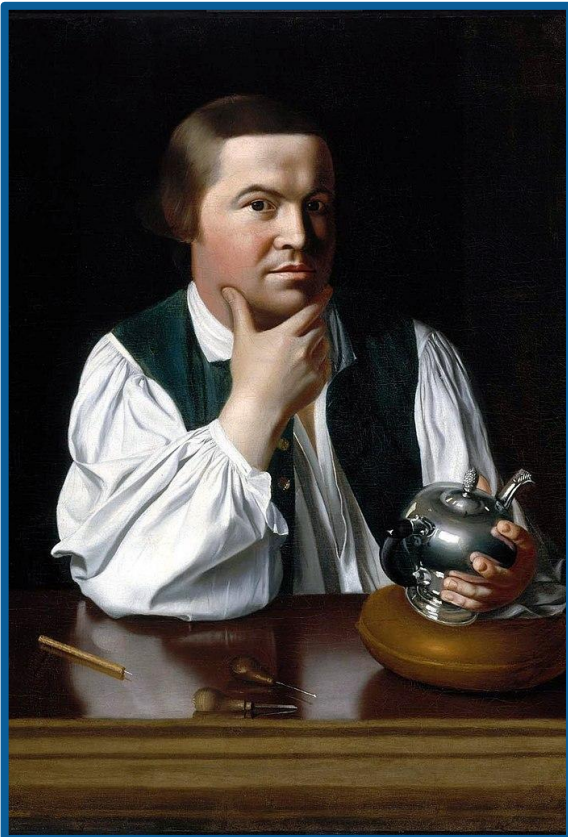
Mary Deverell was an essayist whose writings contributed to the intellectual climate of the period. Her essays often explored themes relevant to the political and social issues of the time. She helped mobilize the middle class in favor of the war.

Characters: 13 Colonies



George Washington

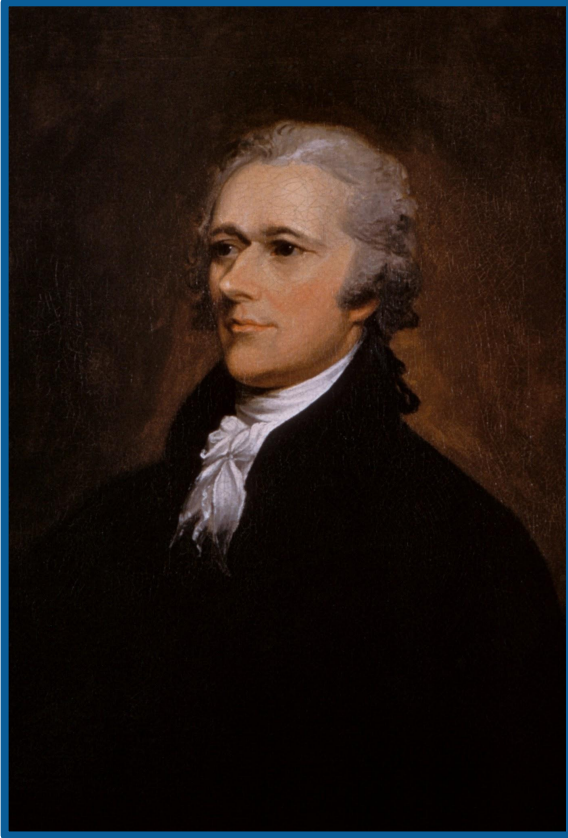
Before 1763, Washington was a young land surveyor and a soldier in the Virginia militia. He gained early military experience in the French and Indian War, which helped shape his future leadership roles. His survey work and land investments began to establish his prominence in Virginia.



Paul Revere

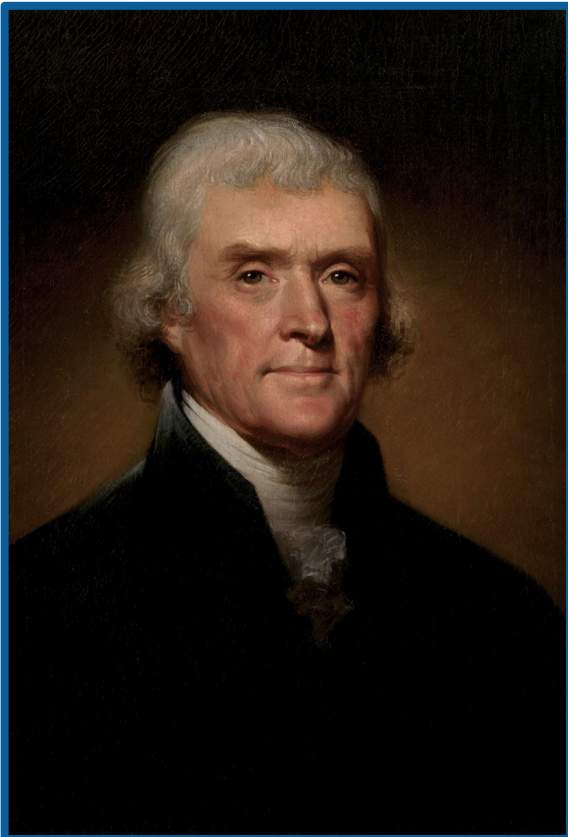
Revere was an accomplished silversmith and engraver in Boston. By 1763, he was well-established in his trade, having made a name for himself with his craftsmanship. His work in engraving and his role in the local community were significant, though his later revolutionary activities had not yet fully emerged.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Alexander Hamilton

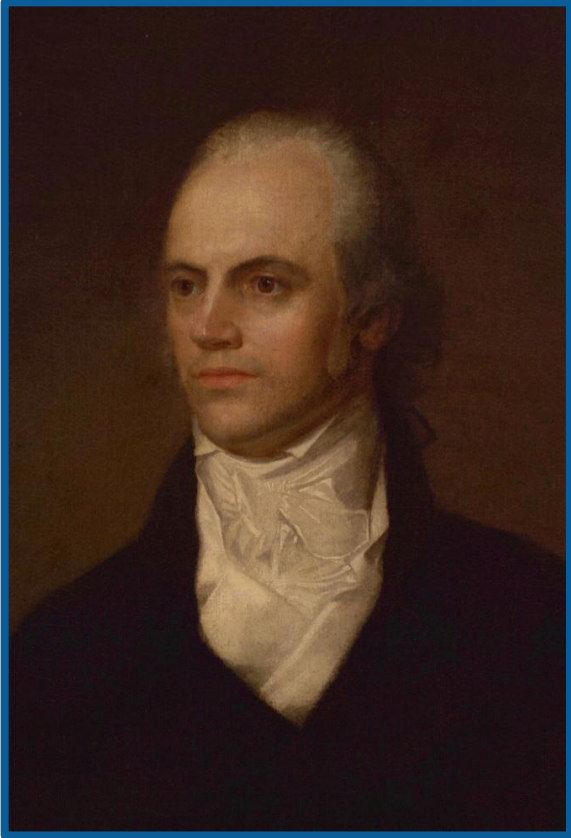
Prior to 1763, Hamilton was a young clerk in St. Croix and an ambitious student. Born in the Caribbean, he was already noted for his intelligence and writing ability. His early experiences included working in trade and finance, setting the stage for his later prominence in American politics.



Thomas Jefferson

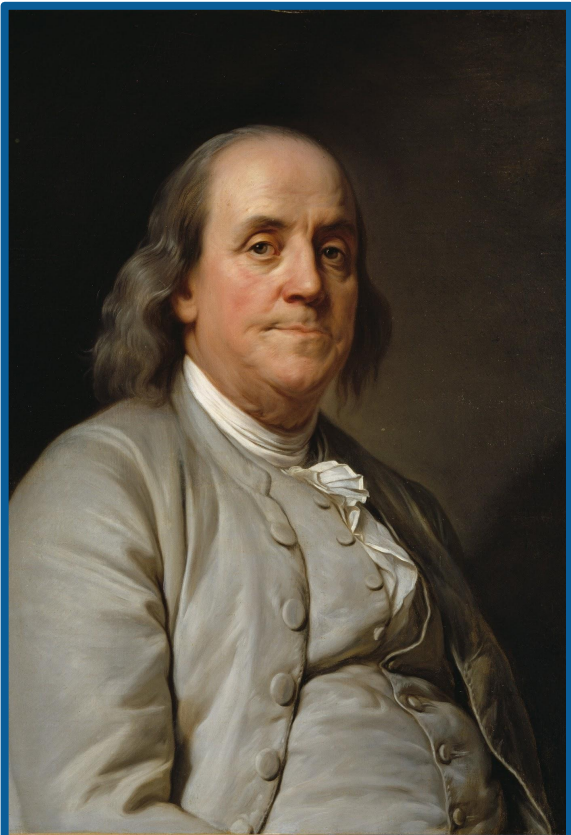
In 1763, Jefferson was a young planter and lawyer in Virginia, having recently begun his practice in legal and land matters. He was starting to make a name for himself in local politics and began laying the foundation for his future roles as a statesman and advocate for independence.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Aaron Burr

Burr, before 1763, was a young man of privilege and education. He was studying law and preparing for a career in politics and business. His early life involved the education and connections that would later support his political aspirations.



Benjamin Franklin

Before 1763, Franklin was a successful printer and publisher in Philadelphia. His work included his popular *Poor Richard's Almanack*, and he had begun to establish himself as a leading intellectual and inventor. His contributions to science and civic life were gaining recognition.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Marquis De Lafayette

Lafayette, born into French nobility, was a young aristocrat by 1763. Although he had not yet traveled to America, he was becoming known in France for his education and military training, which would later play a crucial role in his support for the American Revolution.



Betsy Ross

Before 1763, Betsy Ross was primarily known as a skilled upholsterer and seamstress in Philadelphia. Her early work included running a successful business and contributing to her community, though her legendary role in making the American flag was still years away.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Martha Washington

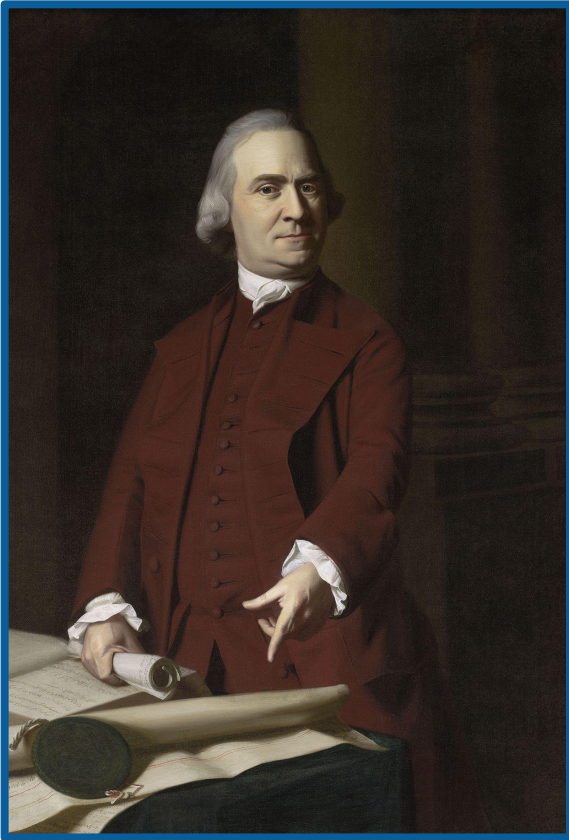
Martha Custis, before her marriage to George Washington in 1759, was a wealthy widow and a prominent figure in Virginia society. Her life before 1763 involved managing her estate and engaging in local social and political circles.



Abigail Adams

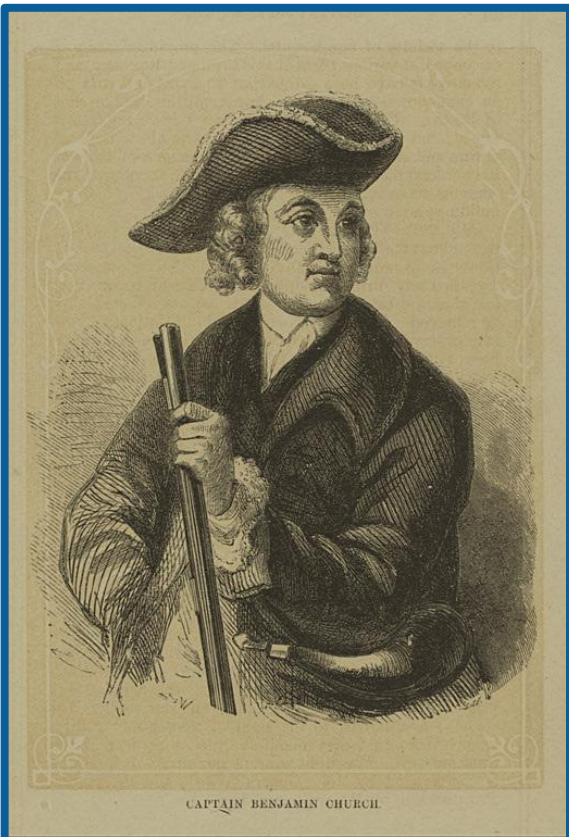
In 1763, Abigail Smith was a young woman living in Weymouth, Massachusetts. She was focused on managing her household and family life while being well-read and intellectually curious, qualities that would later define her influential role as John Adams' wife and advisor.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Samuel Adams

By 1763, Samuel Adams was a political activist and brewer in Boston. He was already active in local politics and began to engage in resistance against British policies, laying the groundwork for his later prominent role in the American Revolution.



Benjamin Church

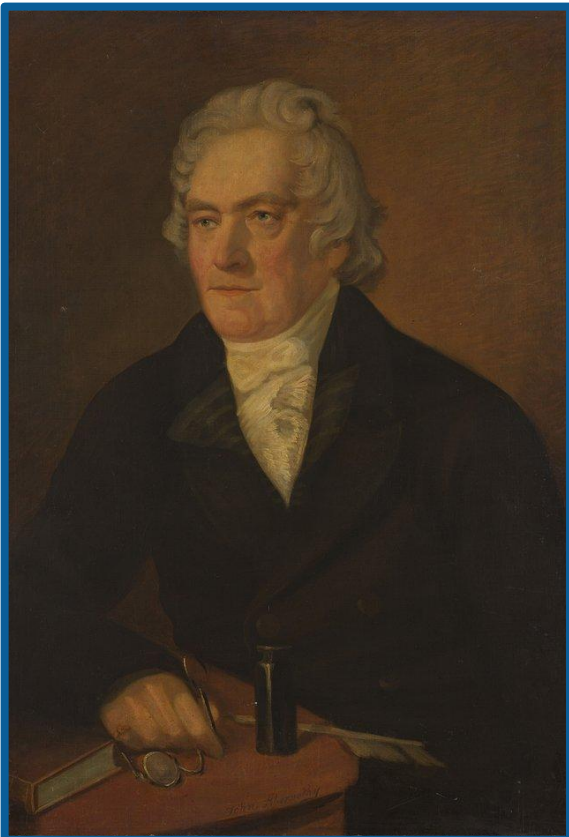
Before 1763, Benjamin Church was establishing himself as a respected physician in Boston. His early career included service as a surgeon in local conflicts, gaining the experience that would later lead to his role as Surgeon General in the Continental Army.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Benjamin Edes

Edes was an active printer and publisher in Boston, known for his work in producing political content and newspapers. His publications began to influence public opinion against British rule, although the revolutionary impact of his work would fully emerge later.



Benjamin Kent

Before 1763, Benjamin Kent was a young lawyer in Massachusetts, gaining early experience in legal matters and establishing his reputation in the legal community. His role in the legal and political landscape would develop further in the years to come.

Characters: 13 Colonies



John Hancock

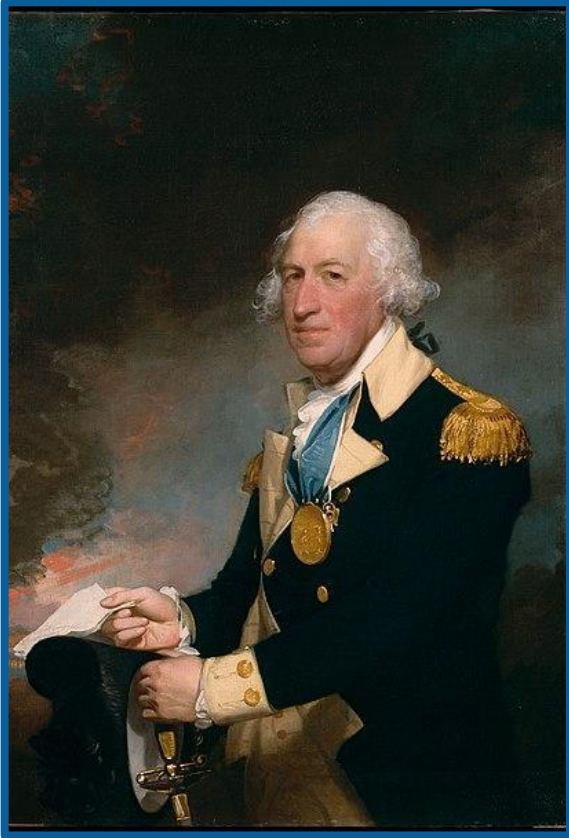
Hancock, before 1763, was a wealthy merchant in Boston, inheriting his fortune from his uncle. He was involved in trade and became known for his business acumen and social prominence, though his full revolutionary activities were yet to unfold.



Benedict Arnold

Prior to 1763, Arnold was a young and ambitious merchant and militia officer in Connecticut. His early career was marked by both commercial ventures and military service, though his most significant contributions and later controversies were still years away.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Horatio Gates

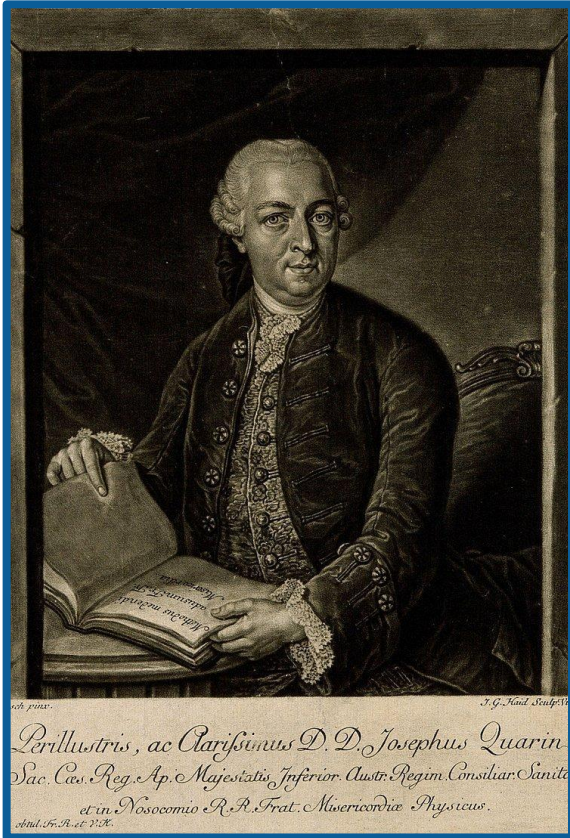
Gates, before 1763, was a career British Army officer who had served in various military capacities. His experiences included service in the French and Indian War, laying the groundwork for his later role as a general in the Continental Army.



Nathanael Greene

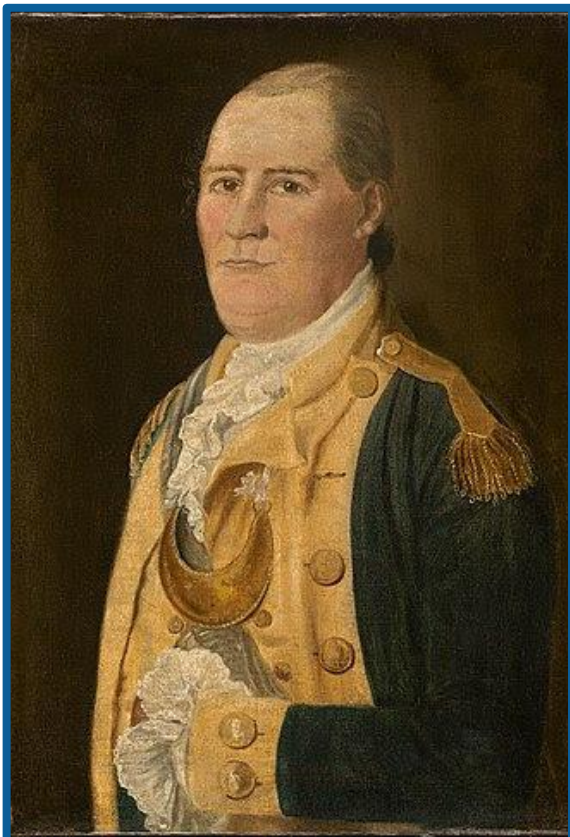
By 1763, Greene was a young and active militia officer in Rhode Island. He was involved in local politics and military training, setting the stage for his future role as a prominent general in the American Revolutionary War.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Joseph Frye

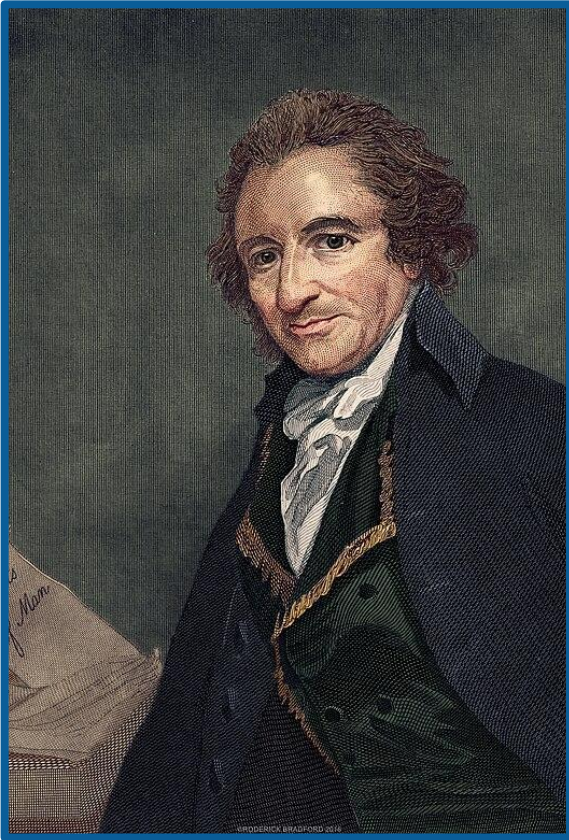
Frye was a relatively unknown military leader before 1763, engaged in local and regional military activities. His prominence would grow in the years following as he took on more significant roles in the Revolutionary War.



Daniel Morgan

Before 1763, Morgan was a frontiersman and farmer in Virginia. He gained experience through various skirmishes and conflicts on the frontier, which would later contribute to his leadership in the Revolutionary War.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Thomas Paine

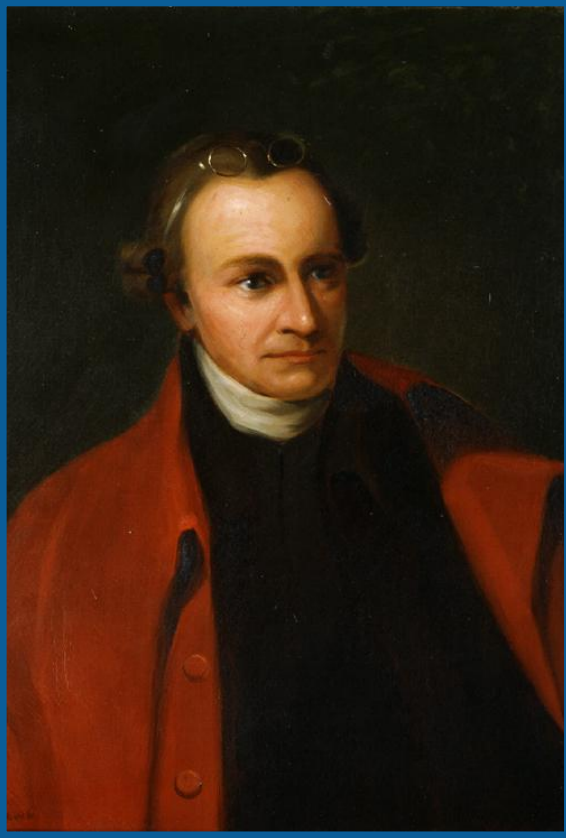
In 1763, Thomas Paine was an Englishman working in various jobs, including as a stay-maker. His early career involved struggling with financial difficulties, and he had yet to publish his influential works that would later drive revolutionary fervor.



Deborah Sampson

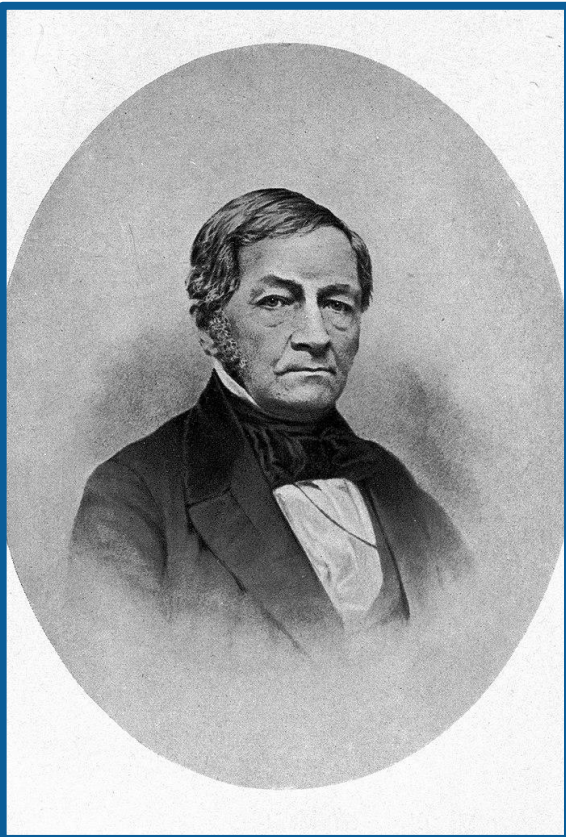
Before 1763, Sampson was living in Massachusetts and working in various domestic roles. Her later decision to disguise herself as a man and fight in the Revolutionary War was still years away, and she was focusing on her life as a young woman in colonial America.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Patrick Henry

By 1763, Henry was an emerging lawyer and orator in Virginia, known for his sharp wit and growing reputation in local legal and political circles. His passionate speeches and revolutionary ideas were beginning to take shape, though his most famous contributions were yet to come.



Nathan Hale

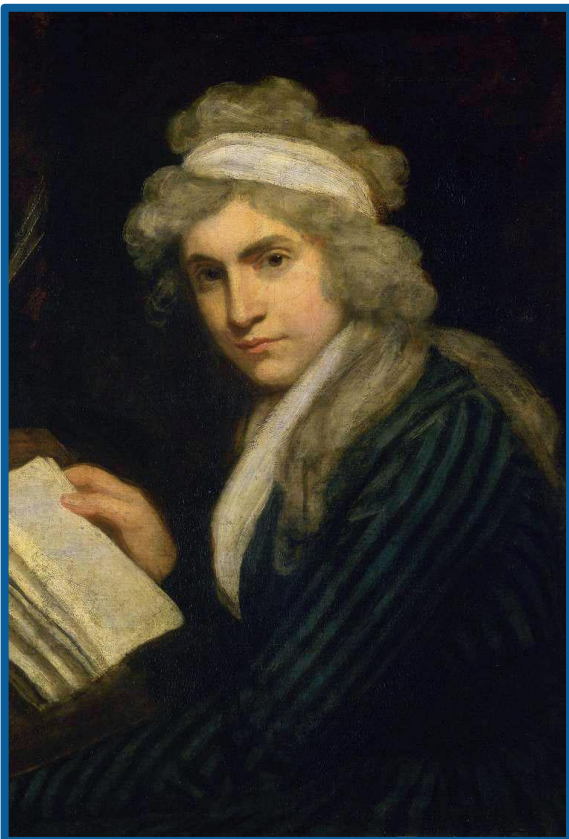
Before 1763, Hale was a young student and teacher in Connecticut. His early life was marked by academic and community involvement, setting the stage for his later role as a patriot and spy during the Revolutionary War.

Characters: 13 Colonies



Henry Knox

In 1763, Knox was a bookseller in Boston, working to establish his business and gain experience. His later role as a military officer would be preceded by his work in the book trade and his growing interest in military affairs.



Anna Seward

Anna Seward, known as the "Swan of Lichfield," was an English poet and writer whose literary work contributed to the cultural landscape of the era. Her writings engaged with contemporary political and social issues including the war. She supported the continental army and provided critique of British rule over the colonies. Her words rang true with the colonies. She empathized with their call for freedom while writing under a pseudonym and often was in correspondence with the continental army.

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