

Period 3: 1754-1800

AP US History ■ Period 3

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What we will cover

- 1 The Seven Years' War and Its Consequences
- 2 Taxation Without Representation
- 3 The Ideas Behind the Revolution
- 4 The War and Its Wider Effects
- 5 From Confederation to Constitution
- 6 The New Republic

The Seven Years' War and Its Consequences

Period 3 runs from 1754 to 1800 – from the outbreak of the Seven Years' War to the end of John Adams's presidency. It contains the Revolution, but the exam treats the Revolution as an *effect*, so start with its cause.

- A **major expansion of territory** 领土大扩张 – France was removed from mainland North America.
- An **enormous war debt** 巨额战争债务, which Britain decided the colonies should help repay.
- **Restrictions on westward movement**, notably the **Proclamation of 1763** 1763 年公告线, intended to prevent costly conflict with American Indians but resented by colonists who wanted the land they had just helped win.

The Seven Years' War and Its Consequences, continued

Colonial rivalry between Britain and France intensified in the mid-eighteenth century as a growing colonial population pressed westward. The **Seven Years' War** 七年战争, known in North America as the **French and Indian War** 法印战争, settled that rivalry.

That is the chain the exam wants: victory produced debt and new territory, and managing both required tighter control of the colonies.

Taxation Without Representation

New British efforts to **collect taxes** 征税 without the consent of colonial assemblies, and to assert imperial authority, provoked organised resistance.

Colonial leaders based their arguments on **the rights of British subjects** 英国臣民的权利, on the **ideals of the Enlightenment** 启蒙思想, and on their own long experience of self-government – the assemblies built up during Period 2.

The Ideas Behind the Revolution

Two ideas do most of the work in essays:

- **Republicanism** 共和主义 – government rests on the consent of the governed, and citizens must show virtue by placing the public good above private interest.
- **Natural rights** – rights that exist before government, which government is created to protect, and whose violation justifies resistance.

The War and Its Wider Effects

The war for independence succeeded through a combination of colonial resolve, difficult terrain, and crucially **foreign assistance** 外国援助, above all from France.

- They inspired **movements to abolish slavery** 废奴运动, especially in the North, and gradual emancipation laws.
- They raised questions about the **status of women** 妇女地位, expressed in the idea of **republican motherhood** 共和母亲身份 – that women shaped the republic by raising virtuous citizens.
- They influenced later revolutions elsewhere in the Atlantic world.

The War and Its Wider Effects, continued

At the same time the **expansion of slavery** into the deep South and adjacent western lands continued, alongside rising **antislavery** 反奴隶制 sentiment – a contradiction the course returns to repeatedly.

From Confederation to Constitution

	Articles of Confederation		The Constitution		Why it mattered
Taxation	no power to tax; could only request funds	→	Congress may lay and collect taxes		war debts went unpaid
Commerce	no power to regulate trade between states	→	Congress regulates interstate and foreign trade		states taxed each other
Executive	no president	→	a single executive with defined powers		no one could enforce law
Judiciary	no national courts	→	a federal judiciary		no way to settle disputes
Amendment	unanimous consent of all states	→	three-quarters of states		reform was impossible

the distinction this unit turns on

From Confederation to Constitution

After declaring independence, leaders wrote new **constitutions and declarations of rights** 宪法与权利宣言 that reflected republican ideals, generally limiting executive power.

It succeeded in organizing western settlement through the **Northwest Ordinance** 西北法令, but could not manage debt, trade disputes, or unrest.

The New Republic

Under **George Washington** 华盛顿 and **John Adams** 亚当斯, political leaders disagreed sharply over the **relationship between the national and state governments** 联邦与各州的关系, economic policy, and foreign policy. Those disagreements hardened into the **first party system** 第一政党体系.

Washington's Farewell Address 华盛顿告别演说 urged national unity and warned against political factions and permanent foreign alliances.

Movement and Conflict in the Early Republic

American Indian groups repeatedly **evaluated and adjusted their alliances** 重新评估并调整结盟 with European powers and the new United States as circumstances changed.

In the Southwest, the Spanish expanded their **mission system** 传教团体系, supported by the bonded labour of local American Indians.

Continuity and Change in Period 3

The period's reasoning skill is **continuity and change** 延续与变化.

The strongest answers hold both: political institutions changed radically, while slavery, westward expansion, and conflict with American Indians continued and intensified.

Exam tips

- Learn the causal chain: war → debt and new territory → taxes and the Proclamation of 1763 → colonial resistance → independence.
- Republicanism and natural rights are the two ideas to name; do not just write "Enlightenment ideas".
- For the Constitution, argue from the specific weakness it fixed – no power to tax, no power to regulate commerce, no executive.
- Keep Federalist and Anti-Federalist positions straight, and remember the Bill of Rights was the price of ratification.
- The Revolution's effects on slavery and women are examinable, and both are partial: ideals spread further than rights did.
- On continuity-and-change prompts, give one of each. An answer that only lists changes has answered half the question.