

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

1

The Seven Years' War and Its Consequences

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.

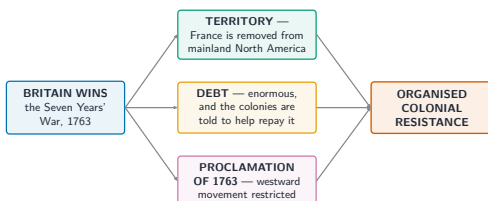
- A **major expansion of territory** 领土大扩张 – France was removed from mainland North America.
- An **enormous war debt** 巨额战争债务, which Britain decided the colonies should help repay.
- **Restrictions on westward movement**, notably the **Proclamation of 1763** 1763 年公告线, intended to prevent costly conflict 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.

One victory, three consequences, one response



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2

Taxation Without Representation

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↳ Taxation Without Representation

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.

3

The Ideas Behind the Revolution

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.

Republicanism and natural rights are not synonyms

	REPUBLICANISM	NATURAL RIGHTS
WHERE POWER COMES FROM	the consent of the governed	rights exist before any government does
WHAT IT ASKS OF A CITIZEN	virtue — the public good above private interest	nothing; the duty falls on the government
WHAT IT DOES IN AN ESSAY	explains the kind of government they built justifies the decision to resist	

They are not synonyms. **Natural rights** licenses the break; **republicanism** explains what was built afterwards

4 The War and Its Wider Effects

The War and Its Wider Effects

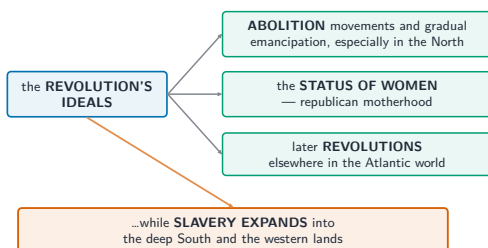
The war for independence succeeded through a combination of colonial resolve, difficult terrain, and crucially **foreign assistance** 外国援助, above all from France.

- 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.

The ideals spread, and slavery expanded



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From Confederation to Constitution

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From Confederation to Constitution

The powers that moved, and the ones that did not

	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

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.

The **Articles of Confederation** 邦联条例 created a deliberately weak central government: no power to tax, no power to regulate commerce, no executive, and no national judiciary.

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From Confederation to Constitution

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.

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The New Republic

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The New Republic

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.

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Movement and Conflict in the Early Republic

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.

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Continuity and Change in Period 3

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.

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Recap

Period 3 – key takeaways

1

Chain

war → debt → taxes &
Proclamation → independence

2

Ideas

name republicanism and natural
rights

3

Constitution

fix a named weakness: tax,
commerce, executive

4

C&C

ideals spread further than rights
(slavery, women)

Check yourself

- 1 What did the Seven Years' War leave Britain with?
- 2 Name the two ideas, not just "Enlightenment".
- 3 Why was the Bill of Rights added?
- 4 On a C&C prompt, what must you give?

Answers: debt and new territory ▪ republicanism and natural rights ▪ the price of ratification
▪ one continuity and one change