The War of Independence

History 138B
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The War Begins

- April 1775: first shots fired at Lexington and Concord
- May 1775: second Continental Congress meets; appoints Washington the head of the new Continental army
- British besieged in Boston Spring 1775 by army and militia
- Bunker Hill June 1775
- August 1775: George III declares the colonies in rebellion
- Americans fail to take Quebec (Fall 1775-spring 1776)
- March 1776: British leave Boston; take New York in summer of 1776; chase Washington out of New York
- British and American strengths and weaknesses
- British strength ~50,000 troops (plus Hessians and Indians and Loyalists)
- Continental army ~30,000 (but 200,000 colonists fought, about 40% of the male population; 25,000 killed)
- British re-take New York in the summer of ‘76 and chase Washington across the Delaware but fail to defeat him
The Battles

- British abandon the south in 1776 (failed assault on Charlestown)
- The War in the North: 1775-1778
- Saratoga (October 1777) – crucial American victory; Treaty with the French (1778)
- The War in the South: 1778-1781
- British change strategy
- British take Savannah (1778); and Charlestown (1780)
- War in the south as a civil war (Battle of Kings Mountain 1781)
- British defeated in Yorktown (October 1781)
- The debate in Britain (Edward Gibbon: ‘It is better to be humbled than ruined’); North ministry falls in March 1782
- Guy Carleton, liberator
- The terms of the Treaty of Paris
War and Society

• The war and nationalism
• The war and women – political activism, camp followers; ‘our farm’
• The war and slavery (Africans flee to British lines)
• The war and Native Americans: most side with the British; South Carolina destroys Cherokee crops in 1776
• The war and African Americans – British offer emancipation; 20,000 Africans flee to the British; Washington resists enlisting slaves; northern states have black regiments; John Laurens’ failed emancipation plan in South Carolina
• Violence and social and political change (Kulikoff)?
DIAGRAM OF THE BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN.

- H. Q. Ferguson's Headquarters
- Where Ferguson was killed
- O. M., Old Monument
- M. New Monument
- G. Ferguson's Grave