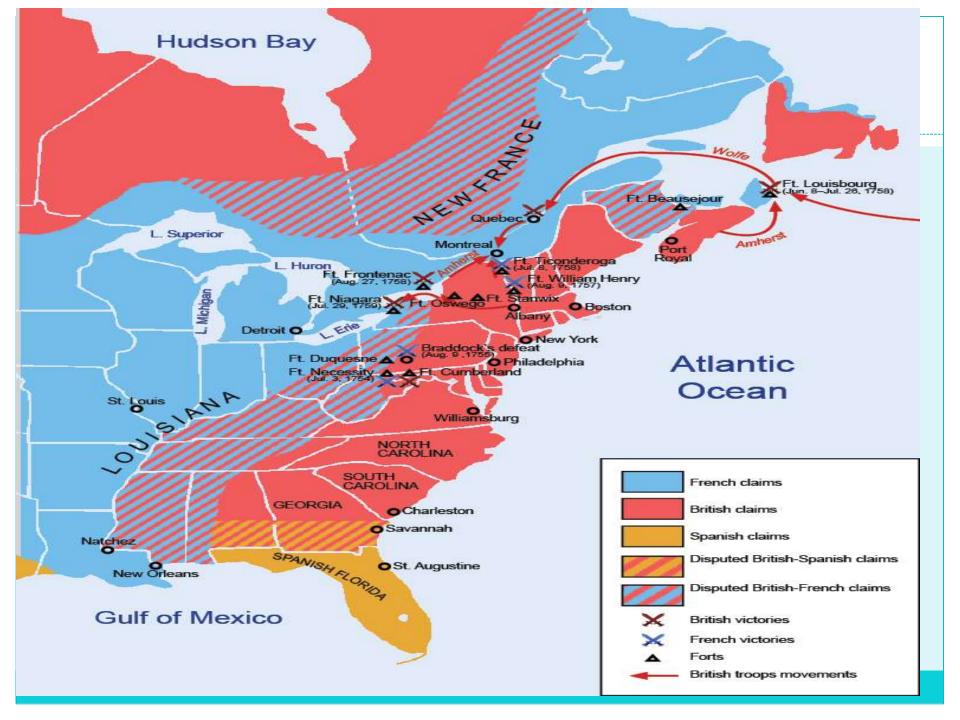
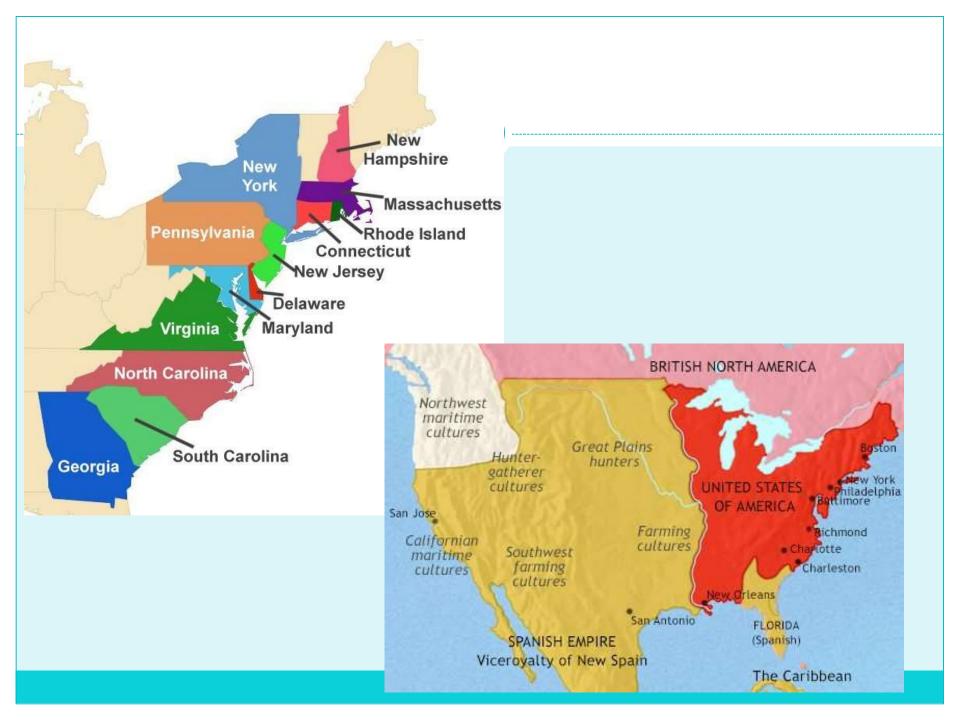
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:II MODULE I-AGE OF TRANSITIONS THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IV SEMESTER BA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER DR.SR.VALSA MA ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LITTLE FLOWER COLLEGE, GURUVAYOOR

- Also called United States War of Independence or American Revolutionary War (1775-83)
- Uprising by 13 colonies of British North America against their mother country.
- They won political independence and went on to form the United States of America.
- It was caused by british attempt to assert greater control over colonial affairs after having long adhered policy of salutary neglect.
- Most successful bourgeois revolution in the modern world





• The American revolution was a long drawn process having three main phases.

1. First phase (1765-1775)- 10 years long resistance by 13 English colonies against the economic measures of mother country.

2. Second Phase (1775-1781) colonies led Revolutionary war against Britain and achieved their independence

3. Third Phase(1781-1789) internal revolution which led to creation of republican federal system.

Background

- Basically a product of the British policy of colonial exploitation.
- Aimportant result of Seven Years war (1756-63) fought in Europe, India and New world between England and France for colonies was the emergence of England as a great power.
- Treaty of Paris allowed England to retain her conquests in India and America.
- English colonies in America were flourishing during this time.
- By 1763 a great many English speaking Americans regarded themselves as freemen.

- American colonists loved liberty more than anything.
- They had representative institutions- had more liberty and democracy than the English people.
- Each colony had an assembly of their own which enacted laws concerning local matters .
- The Seven Years war caused for great debt to Britain and the govt sought different sources for collecting revenue.
- As a result of that strict laws were enforced upon the colonies.

- The grumbles against colonial oppression grew.
- They first turned into resistance and then to revolt.
- Thus it was the colonial exploitation that planted the seeds of revolution in the minds of Americans.
- It was during the ten years period since 1763 that " The dormant potential" for American independence matured and came to a head.

- To recover from the public debt , Britain first began to strictly enforce the *Navigation Acts* with the help of the increased number of British officials and troops.
- The Navigation Acts were a long series of English laws that regulated English ships, shipping, trade and commerce between other countries and with its own colonies.
- The law also regulated and restricted foreigners participation in its colonial trade.
- It prohibited use of foreign ships and required the employment of English and colonial mariners for three quarters of the crews.
- It also prohibited the colonies from exporting specific, enumerated products to countries and colonies other than those British.

- They were forbidden to manufacture certain goods which would compete with those produced in England and forced to import them from England.
- After Seven years War Britain tried to impose these acts strictly.
- The navigations acts caused resentment in the colonies and contributed to the American revolution.

- Sugar Act of 1764
- The first act introduced was Revenue Act of 1764- generally known as Sugar Act.
- It increased the import duty on refined sugar and taxed imported items like wine, coffee, silk and linen.
- Though this law prevailed in England from 1733, the govt now implemented the Act strictly and so the colonist protested strongly.

• Stamp Act 1765

- The colonial protest against Sugar Acts did not prevent the British government from passing another revenue raising act in 1765.
- This was the notorious Stamp Act, the first British Act imposing direct tax on American colonists.
- It required that all printed materials in the

- The colonial opposition to Stamp Act took several forms.
- The lawyers and editors came out with powerful writings questioning the very right of British Parliament to tax the colonists.
- In view of the non representation of the colonists in the Parliament, they raised the cry " Taxation Without Representation is Tyranny".
- The radicals and legislative men like James Otis in Massachusetts and Patrik Henry in Virginia led this type of protest at intellectual level.

- The Act gave rise to the emergence of secret bands known as **Sons of Liberty** in Colonial towns.
- They were organised by radical men like Samuel Adams who is often called the "father of American War of Independence".
- The American opposition to the British colonial exploitation took its first organised form in the Stamp Act Congress which met in New York in October 1765.
- The Congress, attended by delegates from 9 colonies, drew up a petition to the British king in which it reiterated the slogan "No Taxation without

- The anti stamp act movt had tremendous impact on Britain.
- The British manufacturers and merchants who suffered from the colonial non importation agreements pressurised the Parliament to withdraw the Stamp Act.
- Thus faced with opposition at home and in the colonies the British government repealed the objectionable Act in March 1766.
- But a Declaratory Act of same year asserted the right of Parliament to tax the colonies.