

Study Guide



Chapter 4, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 147–152

THE WAR CHANGES AMERICAN SOCIETY

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

republic a form of government in which power resides with a body of citizens who could vote (page 147)

Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom a law that declared that Virginia no longer had an official church (page 149)

Molly Pitcher woman who took part in battle during the Revolutionary War (page 150)

emancipation freedom from enslavement (page 150)

manumission the voluntary freeing of enslaved persons (page 151)

John Trumbull American painter best known for his paintings of battles and important events in the Revolution (page 152)

Charles Willson Peale American painter best known for his portraits of Washington and other Patriot leaders (page 152)

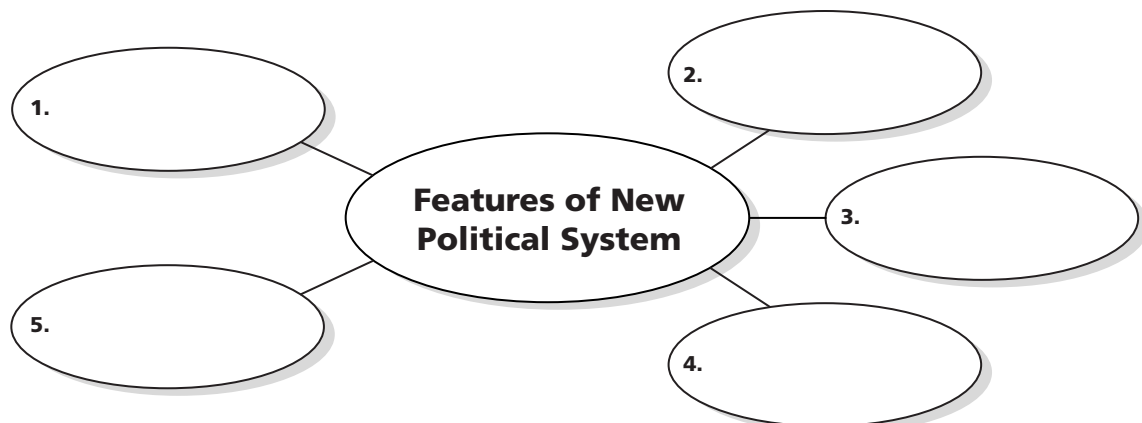
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

How do you think the Revolutionary War affected Americans who were not involved in the actual fighting? Do you think the war changed the daily lives of the American colonists? Why or why not?

The last section discussed the War for Independence and the treaty that ended it. This section describes how the war affected American society.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. After the Revolutionary War, American leaders created a new political system. Describe these features in the diagram.



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READ TO LEARN

- **New Political Ideas** (page 147)

After the war, American leaders created a **republic**. This is a form of government in which power resides with a body of citizens who vote. The citizens elect representatives who are responsible to them. Americans believed that a republican society could be better than other societies. Such ideas were in conflict with traditional beliefs.

American leaders believed that the best form of government was a constitutional republic. They wanted each state's constitution to be written down. They wanted constitutions to limit the government's power. They believed that government needed a system of checks and balances to prevent any one group from getting too strong. American leaders, including John Adams, argued that the best government was made up of three separate branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. Adams also argued that the legislature should be made up of two houses. These ideas influenced many state constitutions.

In addition to writing new constitutions, many new states added a list of rights to them. Virginia's Declaration of Rights guaranteed Virginians freedom of speech and religion. They also had the right to bear arms and to a trial by jury.

The Revolution led to an expansion of voting rights. It lessened the idea of feelings of respect toward people in the upper classes. The war showed many farmers and artisans that they were equal to the rich planters and merchants they fought with during the war. It led the lower classes to demand a greater role in choosing their leaders. In most states, the new constitutions made it easier to gain voting rights. However, people still had to own a certain amount of property to hold elective office.

The war led to changes in the relationship between church and the state. Many American leaders opposed the power of a church to make people worship in a certain way. In 1786 the Virginia legislature passed the **Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom**. It said that Virginia no longer had an official church. It also said that the state could not collect taxes for churches.

6. What freedoms did Virginia guarantee its citizens?

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• The War and American Society (page 149)

The ideas of greater freedom applied mainly to white men. These freedoms did not apply to most women and African Americans. Women played an important role in the Revolutionary War. Some served on the battlefield. One such woman was **Molly Pitcher**, who carried water to Patriot gunners during the Battle of Monmouth. Another was Mary Corbin, who accompanied her husband to battle and after his death took his place at his cannon until the battle ended. Other women ran businesses and farms at home while their husbands and sons went to fight.

Women made some advances after the Revolutionary War. They could more easily obtain a divorce and get an education. After the war, more schools for girls were started, and more women were able to read.

Many enslaved African Americans gained their freedom during the Revolution, and more gained their freedom after the Revolution. After the war began, **emancipation**, or freedom from enslavement, became a major issue. Many Northern states took steps to end slavery. As a result, slavery ended slowly in the North over the course of several years. Once they obtained their freedom, African Americans generally moved to cities to find jobs.

African Americans created their own culture, and religion was an important part of that culture. In 1816 they formed the first independent African American church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The South relied heavily on enslaved labor. As a result, Southerners had no interest in abolishing slavery. Virginia was the only state to attempt to do so. In 1782 the state passed a law encouraging **manumission**, or the voluntary freeing of enslaved persons, particularly those who had fought in the war. Although about 10,000 enslaved people obtained their freedom this way, most remained enslaved.

The end of the war changed the life of Loyalists. They were often shunned by former friends, and their property was often taken by state governments. About 100,000 fled the United States. Some went to England or the British West Indies, but many went to what is now Canada.

7. What gains did women make after the Revolutionary War?

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- **An American Culture Emerges** (page 151)

The Revolutionary War led to nationalist feelings in Americans. The war brought Americans from all walks of life together against a common enemy. The war also led to patriotic symbols and stories of heroes.

American painters such as **John Trumbull** and **Charles Willson Peale** showed the heroic deeds and leaders of the Revolution in their paintings. Trumbull is best known for his paintings of battles and important events in the Revolution. Peale is best known for his portraits of Washington and other Patriot leaders.

American leaders knew that an educated public was necessary for a republic to succeed. As a result, several state governments provided for state-funded universities. The University of North Carolina became the first state university in the nation. American elementary schools tossed out British textbooks and began teaching republican ideas.

8. What did American artists portray after the American Revolution?
