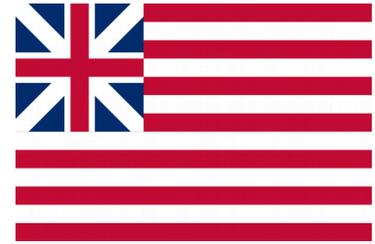


American Loyalists during the American Revolution



Some Facts About The Loyalists

- The American Revolution was not just a struggle between the British and the Americans.
- Roughly 1/3 of the 3.5 million Americans living in the 13 Colonies at the time were opposed to the revolution and supported the British side.
- These Americans were known as Loyalists or Tories, and many of them ended up having to fight against their fellow Americans, which means that the American Revolution was a civil war.
- Between 60,000-80,000 Loyalists left the 13 Colonies during the American Revolution. Most of them went to what is now Canada, but some went to Britain and the Caribbean.

Eye-Witness Evidence

"If we allow two thirds of the people to have been with us in the revolution, is not the allowance ample?" -*John Adams, American Revolutionary Leader and 2nd President of the U.S.A.*

"New York and Pennsylvania were so nearly divided, if their propensity was not against us, that if New England on one side and Virginia on the other had not kept them in awe, they would have joined the British." -*John Adams, American Revolutionary Leader and 2nd President of the U.S.A.*

"A large part of the Jerseys [New Jersey State] have given every proof of disaffection that a people can do." -*George Washington, American Revolutionary Leader and 1st President of the U.S.A.*

"I could not think an attempt to put down a civil war a crime." -*Major John Andre, Head of British Secret Service in America (in a last letter to a friend before being executed as a spy)*

Discussion Questions & Activities

- What if Joseph Galloway's plan, for an American Parliament united with Britain, had not lost by one vote at the First Continental Congress? Could this have worked? Could a war have been avoided?
- Are big changes in how a country is governed possible without violence?
- Divide the class for role playing: half are Patriots and half Loyalists. Have a debate: What's the best way to resolve the problems with the British government. (Remember that neither side was willing to let the British government walk all over them.)
- Which side would you likely have chosen if you had lived during the American Revolution (and you didn't know the future)? This can be done by show of hands, by students giving their own answers, or both.
- Would you support a revolution in America if it happened today? Imagine a situation in which this could happen today.