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Afr	ican Americans: Did the American Revolution improve
	conditions for African Americans?
	in the Northern states where gradual emancipation
	laws were passed and freedmen owned property and established their own social, cultural, and
	religious institutions. (Andrew Shankman)2
	No. The vast majority of blacks remained in servitude after the Revolution, and white racism intensified
	following the war. (Andrew K. Frank)
Arr	nold: Was Benedict Arnold a scoundrel?
	Yes. Benedict Arnold was an avaricious and egocentric traitor who acted out of injured pride after he was censured for
	malfeasance and passed over for promotion. (Everett W. Kindig)
	No. Benedict Arnold was an honorable man who increasingly
	felt that the Revolution was being led by false Patriots; he
	switched his loyalty to the British in order to preserve his
	reputation as a gentleman. (Sandy Moats)
Art	icles of Confederation: Did the Articles of Confederation provide an effective national constitution?
	Yes. The Articles of Confederation provided an effective
	framework of government by resolving the postwar financial
	crisis, establishing the basic policies for westward
	expansion, and creating a permanent federal bureaucracy
	to carry on the affairs of state when Congress was
	not in session. (Steven R. Boyd)
	government that was too weak to confront and resolve the
	postwar financial, commercial, and diplomatic emergencies
	facing the young nation. (Phillip Hamilton)22
Bri	tain's Vietnam: Is there validity to the argument
	of historians who compare the American Revolution to
	the Vietnam War?
	Yes. Parallels between the Revolutionary War and Vietnam War include overconfidence among military leaders, guerilla
	warfare, increasing opposition at home, enormous logistical
	problems, and critical foreign aid to the opposition.
	(Vivian Linford Talbot)
	No. More differences than similarities exist between the two conflicts, and Britain had greater justification in trying to

subdue the American colonies than the United States had in intervening in Vietnam's civil war. (David C. Twining)
British Victory: Could the British have won the Revolutionary War?
Yes. Great Britain could have suppressed the American rebellion if it had utilized a consistent military strategy and utilized better generals. (George Sochan)
No. To defeat the Rebels, the British would have had to win the support of the populace, something it could never do given American determination not to submit. (Anthony J. Scotti Jr.)
Carleton: Why did Sir Guy Carleton choose not to attack Patriots retreating from Canada and upper New York in late 1776 and early 1777?
Carleton failed to be as aggressive as he should have been because he overestimated Loyalist support in the colonies and was committed to a policy of conciliation toward the enemy that had little possibility of success. (Michael P. Gabriel)44
Carleton chose not to attack the retreating Patriots because of unfavorable weather, the poor state of reinforcements, limited intelligence, and logistical problems. (Anthony J. Scotti Jr.)
Cause: Did the British doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty allow viable alternatives to avoid conflict with rebellious colonists? 50
Yes. Crown officials had viable alternatives before 1776 that could have preserved the essential claims of the contending parties and averted armed conflict. (Stephen Middleton)51
No. The firm position of the British government that Parliament should reign supreme throughout the realm prevented the Crown from considering the American position that the empire might be preserved without totally subordinating the colonies. (Howard L. Lubert)
Christian Nation: Was the United States founded as a
Christian nation?
No. The Founding Fathers created a secular federal charter intended to protect the religious pluralism of American citizens by maintaining a separation of church and state. (Steven R. Boyd)
Constitution: Was the Constitution an economic document intended as a countermeasure to the ideals expressed in the
Declaration of Independence?
No. The Founding Fathers, who represented a cross section of geographical areas and political interest groups, created a democratic framework of government. (Steven R. Boyd)
Continental Navy: Did the Continental Navy play a significant role in the U.S. victory over Great Britain?
Yes. The Continental Navy played a crucial role by attacking enemy vessels, supplying the American Army with sorely needed munitions, transporting diplomats to Europe, and increasing the diplomatic tension between Britain and France. (Alan V. Briceland)

	No. The Confinental Navy was too small and undermanned
	to have a significant impact on the American war effort.
	(Amy Mitchell-Cook)
Con	tinental Soldier: Was the Continental Army a reflection of
	American Patriot society?85
	Yes. The American Revolution was a people's war, and the
	Continental Army represented a cross section of society
	where social rank did not determine military service. The
	typical Continental served for a long period of time and
	fought for republican ideals. (Walter L. Sargent)
	No. Continental recruits were the dregs of society, who joined
	the army for economic self-interest. Recruits were frequently
	insubordinate and deserted in large numbers. (Kendra Debany
	and Keith Krawczynski)
Con	way Cabal: Was there a secret plot to remove George
	Washington as commander in chief in the
	winter of 1777–1778?
	Yes. Washington's critics sought to replace him with General
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Horatio Gates in an attempt to restore leadership and
	salvage some measure of victory in the American
	Revolution. (J. Kent McGaughy)93
	No. There is no evidence of a cabal against George
	Washington. Criticism of Washington's military abilities
	reflected the discontent common in an open society during
	wartime, not part of a plot to overthrow him as commanding
	general. (Gregory D. Massey)96
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Daa	Idlan Factors Did the American victors at Countries convince
Dec	iding Factor: Did the American victory at Saratoga convince
	France to enter into an alliance with the United States? 100
	Yes. With the victory at Saratoga, the French were convinced
	that the Americans could win the war and thus deserved
	official diplomatic recognition and full military aid.
	(Dorothy Potter and Anthony J. Scotti Jr.)
	No. The major factors encouraging the entry of France into
	the war in 1778 were a desire to restore the balance of
	power, the completion of French rearmament, and
	deteriorating relations with Great Britain. (<i>Keith Pacholl</i>)104
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Dec	laration of Independence: Is the Declaration of Independence
	a constitutional document? 108
	Yes. America was established as a nation by the recognition
	of the universal human rights of life, liberty, and equality
	expressed in the Declaration of Independence.
	(Samuel H. Rankin Jr.)
	No. The Declaration of Independence has no standing in
	American constitutional law because its authors did not give
	it any constitutional authority and because it was never
	ratified by the people. (K. R. Constantine Gutzman)
Fou	inding Fathers: Were the Founding Fathers guided by modern
	liberalism in their efforts to establish a framework
	of government?
	Yes. The Founding Fathers were most influenced by the
	writings of British liberals such as John Locke, Adam Smith,
	and Thomas Hobbes, all of whom stressed the values of
	individualism, capitalism, private interest, and the market
	economy. (Kristi L. Nichols)
	No. The Founding Fathers were guided by the classical
	republicanism of Aristotle, Cicero, Niccolò Machiavelli,
	James Harrington, and Viscount Bolingbroke, all of whom
	advanced the values of public virtue and civic humanism.
	(Andrew Shankman)122

French Revolution: Was there a causal relationship between
the American and French Revolutions? 12
Yes. The American Revolution facilitated the French
Revolution by contributing to financial chaos and widespread dissatisfaction in France and by providing the
French people with a model for political reform.
(James C. Foley and Keith Krawczynski)12
No. The basic causes of the French Revolution were
government debt, poor harvests, class differences, and
publicized opposition to the King. The French did not need
an American example to incite them to revolution.
(Courtney Spikes)
George III: Did George III instigate the American Revolution? 136
Yes. George III played an important role in bringing about
the American Revolution by helping, with his ministers, to
craft the basic principles behind colonial policies. (Charles W. Cross)
No. The British monarch had no definite views on colonial
administration and lacked the power to dictate colonial
policy decisions. (Andrew J. O'Shaughnessy)
Great Awakening: Did the Great Awakening lay the groundwork
for the American Revolution?14
Yes. The colonial religious revivals of the eighteenth century
paved the way for the American Revolution by encouraging
religious revitalization, intercolonial unity, democracy, and
anti-authoritarianism. (John Howard Smith)
No. The religious revivals did not produce the dramatic religious and political changes ascribed to them. There was
virtually no link between the Great Awakening and the
American Revolution. (Charles L. Cohen)
,,
Howe Brothers: Were the British co-commanders General William
Howe and Admiral Richard Howe capable leaders?
Yes. The Howes were competent professionals who took on
Yes. The Howes were competent professionals who took on the impossible task of functioning simultaneously as military
Yes. The Howes were competent professionals who took on the impossible task of functioning simultaneously as military commanders and peacemakers. (Anthony J. Scotti Jr.)150
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Yes. An early, concerted, and protracted utilization of Loyalists in the South and the divided states of New York	
and New Jersey could have made a difference in the outcome	_
of the war. (Gregory D. Massey)	2
British officials believed. (Anthony J. Scotti Jr.)	5
Loyalist Treatment: Were the Loyalists persecuted by the Patriots during the Revolutionary War?	8
Yes. Patriot leaders used violence, intimidation, confiscation	
of property, banishment, and political, economic, and social ostracism to persecute Loyalists. (Alexander Campbell)	a
No. Although Patriots inflicted some violence against	•
Loyalists, it was isolated and brief. Indeed, following the	
war, many Loyalists returned home where they recovered lost property, collected debts, and moved in Patriot circles.	
(Stephanie Kermes)	2
Mercantilism: Was British mercantile policy a causal factor in the	
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Yes. British mercantilism, as exemplified in the various	
Navigation Acts, enriched the English merchant class while deliberately choking off crucial areas of American	
economic growth. (George Sochan)197	7
No. Far from causing economic harm, the Navigation Acts	
brought enormous benefits to Americans, who did not object to mercantilist policies. (J. Kent McGaughy)	^
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Nationalism: Did nascent nationalism help stimulate the American independence movement?204	4
Yes. Americans by the mid 1700s had developed a sense	
of nationalism resulting from increased political, economic, and cultural autonomy. (Catherine Kaplan)205	5
No. Americans in 1776 were still too divided by differences	
in economy, demography, government, and settlement patterns to have developed a sense of nationalism; rather,	
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Nature of the Revolution: Was the American Revolution	_
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religious, and social equality. (Larry Gragg)214	4
No. The American Revolution was an independence movement directed by the elite, who determined the goals of	
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Newburgh Conspiracy: Was the Newburgh conspiracy	
in early 1783 a serious threat to Congressional authority? 22	1
Yes. Nationalist leaders in Congress and a clique of military officers sought to use Army discontent over back pay and	
pensions to replace the existing central government with a	
stronger one. (Steven E. Siry)	2
No. The situation at Newburgh, although potentially	
dangerous, did not become a serious threat to the government because the nationalists and Army dissidents had no	
unified plan of action. (Paul Douglas Newman)22	5
Parliamentary Policies: Did Parliamentary policies toward the Thirteen Colonies after 1760 justify the American call	
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imperial administration of the Thirteen Colonies and insisting that the Americans recognize its supremacy. (John D. Fair)	234
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Yes. Parliamentary supremacy was firmly established by statutory precedents. (Anthony M. Joseph)	
No. There was no historical justification for Parliament's claim of supremacy over the colonies; the colonial possessions were the King's dominion. (Jonathan Mercantini)	245
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No. Britain was severely polarized over the ministry's coercive American policy, and persistent opposition forced the Crown to wage a limited war, which contributed to the American victory. (Peter Dunkley)	251
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Sia	/ery: Could the American Revolution have led to the
	end of slavery?
	Yes. Antislavery proponents offered reasonable and viable
	plans to deal with the potential economic and social
	problems arising from emancipation. (Keith Krawczynski)294
	No. The nascent nation, already burdened with a heavy war
	debt, could neither afford to compensate slave owners for
	the loss of their property nor jeopardize the precarious
	union with an emancipation plan that was strongly opposed
	by the lower South. (James C. Foley)297
Was	shington: Was George Washington a great military
···	strategist?
	Yes. Washington was an innovative yet prudent commander
	who tailored his tactics to meet the changing circumstances
	of war. His keen understanding of leadership and power
	enabled him to inspire his troops and aided him in dealing
	with Congress. (Everett W. Kindig)302
	No. Washington was an inflexible, conventional commander
	who made frequent blunders and endangered the
	Continental Army. (Susannah Ural Bruce)
\	st Indies: Why did the British West Indies fail to support
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	the American revolt?
	The British West Indies were far too dependent on the
	mother country economically, socially, and militarily to join the
	American War of Independence. (Mark S. Quintanilla) 311
	The white inhabitants of the British Caribbean had more
	conservative views of the English constitution and Empire
	than those held by Americans. (Andrew J. O'Shaughnessy) 314
147 ~.	
AAO	men: Did the American Revolution change the role of women
	in American society?
	Yes. The Revolution broke down traditional barriers and
	changed perceptions of the proper female role in society
	as women increasingly declared their interest in public affairs.
	(Mary L. Kelley)
	No. The Revolution produced no significant benefits for women
	because their limited prewar experiences did not prepare
	them to take advantage of opportunities to elevate their
	position in society. (Judith Ridner)
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