

Connecting History

Dissent and Rebellion

The oldest English settlements were in New England and Virginia. They both had a tradition of dissent and rebellion. See Chapter 3, p. 72, Chapter 4, p. 104.

ONLINE PRIMARY SOURCE

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Americans Choose Sides The conflict divided Americans along social, religious, and ethnic lines. New England and Virginia had many Patriots. Loyalists were numerous in cities, New York State, and the South. Judges, councilors, and governors tended to be Loyalists. Many Loyalists were clergy or members of the Church of England. Some Quakers were active Loyalists, although many were **pacifists**—people opposed to all war. The Patriots drew support from Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Baptists.

Most Southern states did not allow African Americans to enlist. They feared that armed African Americans might lead slave revolts. In contrast, the British offered enslaved persons their freedom if they joined British forces. Many slaves ran away to fight for the British. In the North, however, about 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army.

The American Revolution was the largest Indian war in American history. All Native American nations east of the Mississippi were caught up in the fighting. Some Native Americans, like the Mohawks, joined the British because they feared Americans would take Native American land. Others, who lived within areas settled by the colonists, sided with the Americans.

▲ **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain how the Revolution caused divisions among the population.

COMPARING Perspectives

Patriots and Loyalists (or “Tories”) viewed the political situation from radically different perspectives. These were some of the arguments heard as debate gave way to bloodshed.

🔊 Patriots Speak

“ [Shall] a body of men in Great Britain, who . . . know nothing of us . . . invest themselves with a power to command our lives and properties . . . ?

—a lady from Philadelphia

If our Trade be taxed, why not our Lands, or Produce . . . in short, everything we possess? They tax us without having legal representation. ”

—Samuel Adams

🔊 Loyalists Speak

“ They call me a brainless Tory; but tell me, which is better—to be ruled by one tyrant three thousand miles away, or by three thousand tyrants not one mile away?

—Mather Byles

Whenever a . . . people . . . prevent the execution of laws, or destroy the property of individuals . . . there is an end of all order and government. . . ”

—Massachusetts Gazette, and Boston News-Letter

CRITICAL THINKING

- Analyze Primary Sources** What were the Loyalists' greatest fears? What angered the Patriots most?
- Analyze Point of View** What would you have said to oppose each argument listed above?

