







large segments of the population were actively involved in a political cause. Even if the British had succeeded in defeating an American army, they likely would never have been able to conquer the American people.

CONNECT to the Essential Question

How was it possible that American Patriots gained their independence from the powerful British Empire?

AMERICAN STRENGTHS	BRITISH WEAKNESSES
<p>Patriots fought for their lives, their property, and their political ideals.</p>	<p>Motivation</p>  <p>The British and their Hessian mercenaries fought merely for pay.</p>
<p>Many civilians actively supported the Revolution. Patriots used many techniques to rally popular support. Rebellion broke out across the continent.</p>	<p>Popular support</p>  <p>The British were unprepared for a popular uprising. There was no widespread support for the war in Britain.</p>
<p>American generals learned from their mistakes. Washington inspired loyalty and patriotism in his troops.</p>	<p>Leadership</p>  <p>British generals were overconfident and disunited, their efforts often uncoordinated.</p>
<p>France supplied money and troops. France and Spain weakened British forces by expanding the war. The Dutch helped carry French military supplies to the Americans.</p>	<p>Foreign allies</p>  <p>No allies. As more European countries turned against Britain, the British were forced to fight many enemies.</p>
<p>Americans fought close to home; the militia made sure that the British could not live off the land.</p>	<p>Communication and supplies</p>  <p>Orders from London might take months to reach America. The British were also forced to transport food and supplies over 3,000 miles of ocean.</p>
<p>Although Americans had fewer troops, local militia helped swell American forces. Altogether, 250,000 may have fought for the Patriot cause.</p>	<p>Troop strength</p>  <p>By 1781 the British army had around 54,000 troops fighting rebel forces.</p>

CRITICAL THINKING Compare and Contrast Which strength do you think was most important to the American victory?