

# Declaration of Independence Activity

# The Impact of the Declaration

- Once the Declaration of Independence was signed, the decision was made:

- **WAR WITH ENGLAND**

- No matter what, there was no going back now.
- It was also unfortunate that King George III of England was also slowly going mad (insane):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63umF2zRBp0> (:00 – 2:53)

# Strengths and Weaknesses of England and America

Create a *“Double T”*-Chart in your notes!!!!

	British	American	
Strengths			Strengths
Weaknesses			Weaknesses

# British Infantry



# Continental Army Infantry Soldier





# British Strengths and Weaknesses







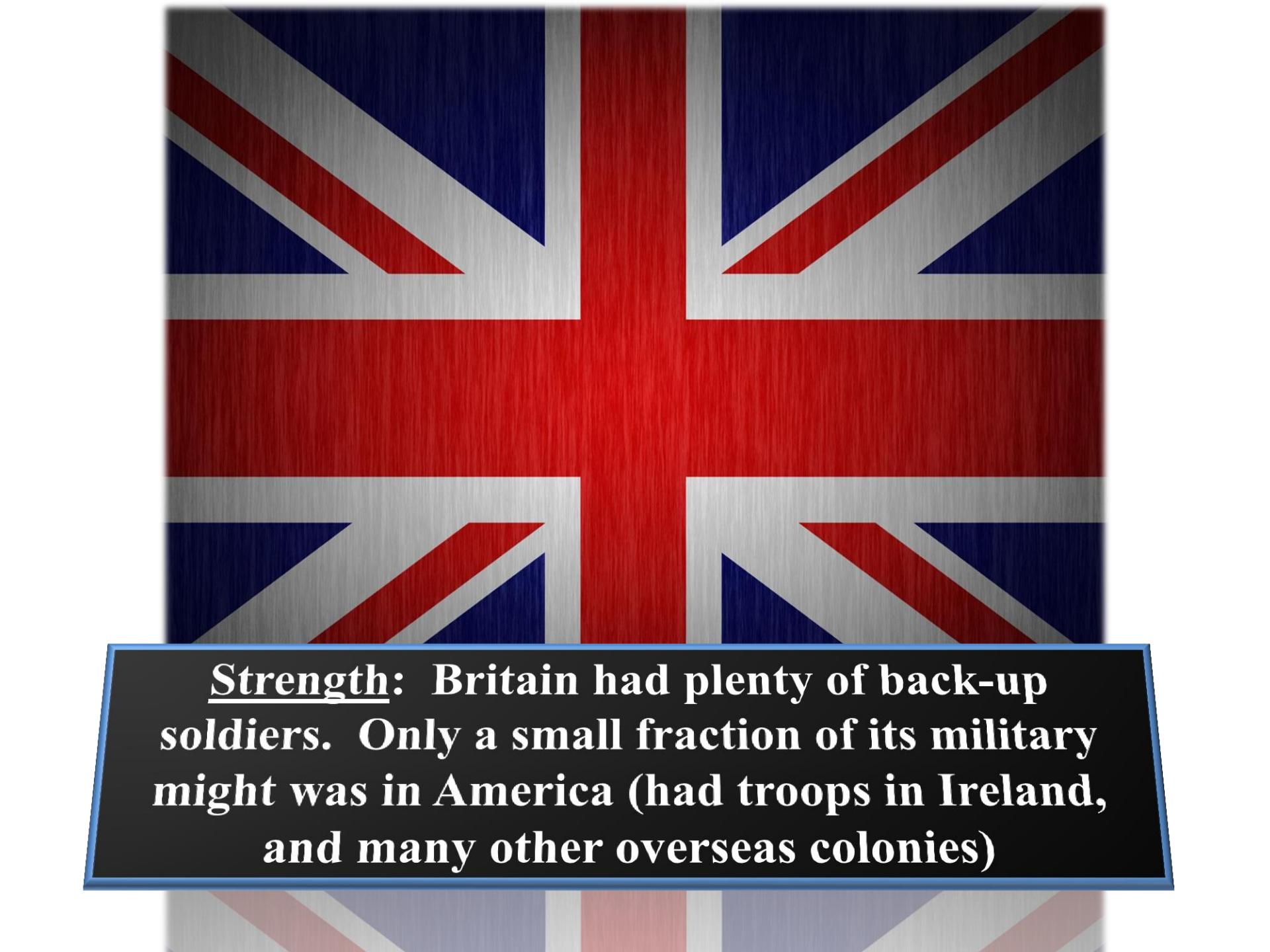
**Strength: Britain had huge military and financial advantages.**






**Strength: England had the military manpower. 30,000 Hessians (German mercenaries) were hired by George III in addition to 50,000 professional British soldiers, 50,000 American loyalist troops, and many Native Americans.**





**Strength: Britain had plenty of back-up soldiers. Only a small fraction of its military might was in America (had troops in Ireland, and many other overseas colonies)**





*“No shedding British blood  
by British hands!”*

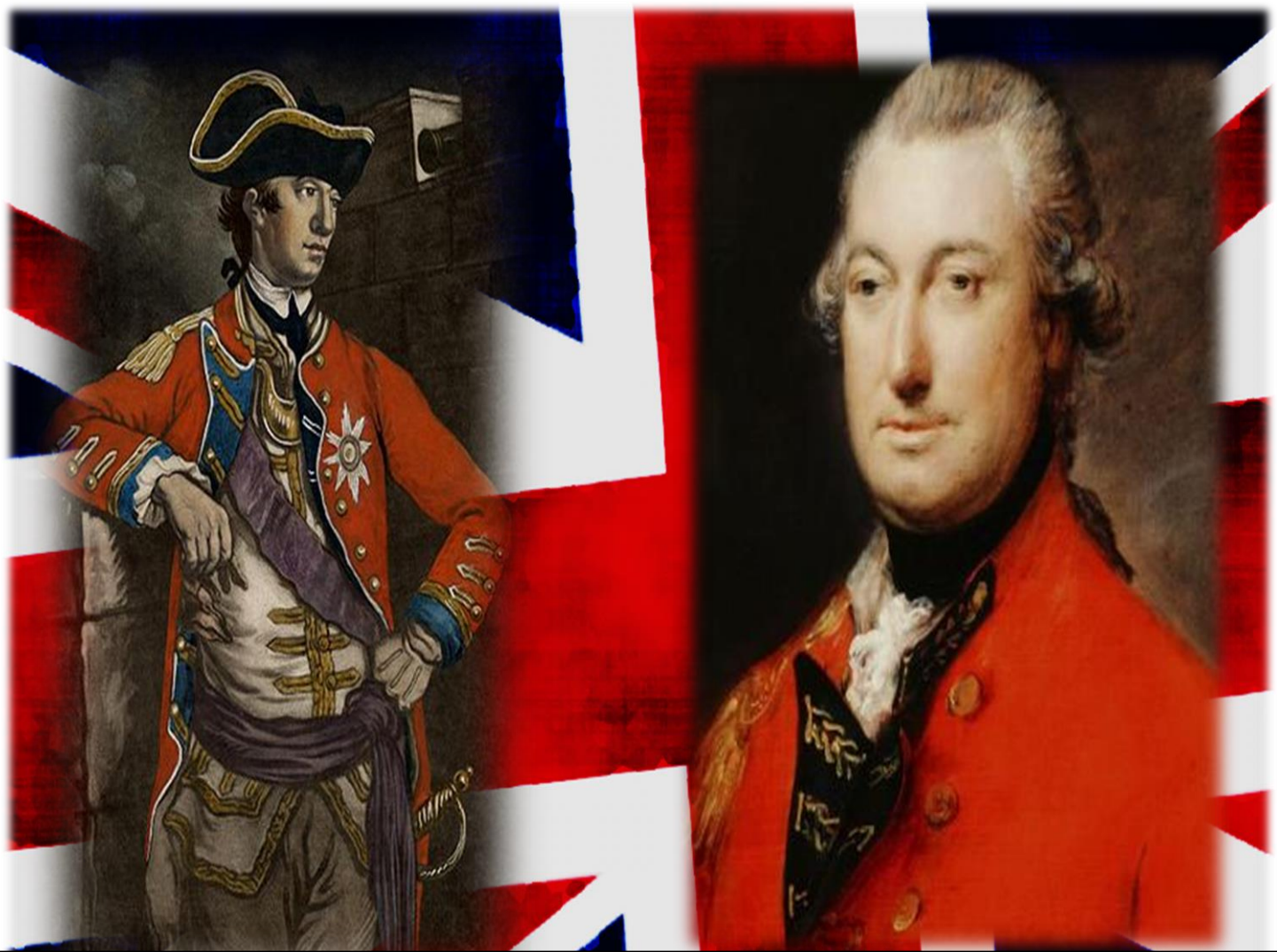
**Weakness: Many British had *no*  
*desire* to kill their American cousins.**



**Weakness: Britain's Parliament was divided over fighting with America (Whig Party initially supported America; the Tory Party, controlled by King George III, supported Britain)**







**Weakness: Britain's generals were second-rate and treated their soldiers brutally. Low morale.**



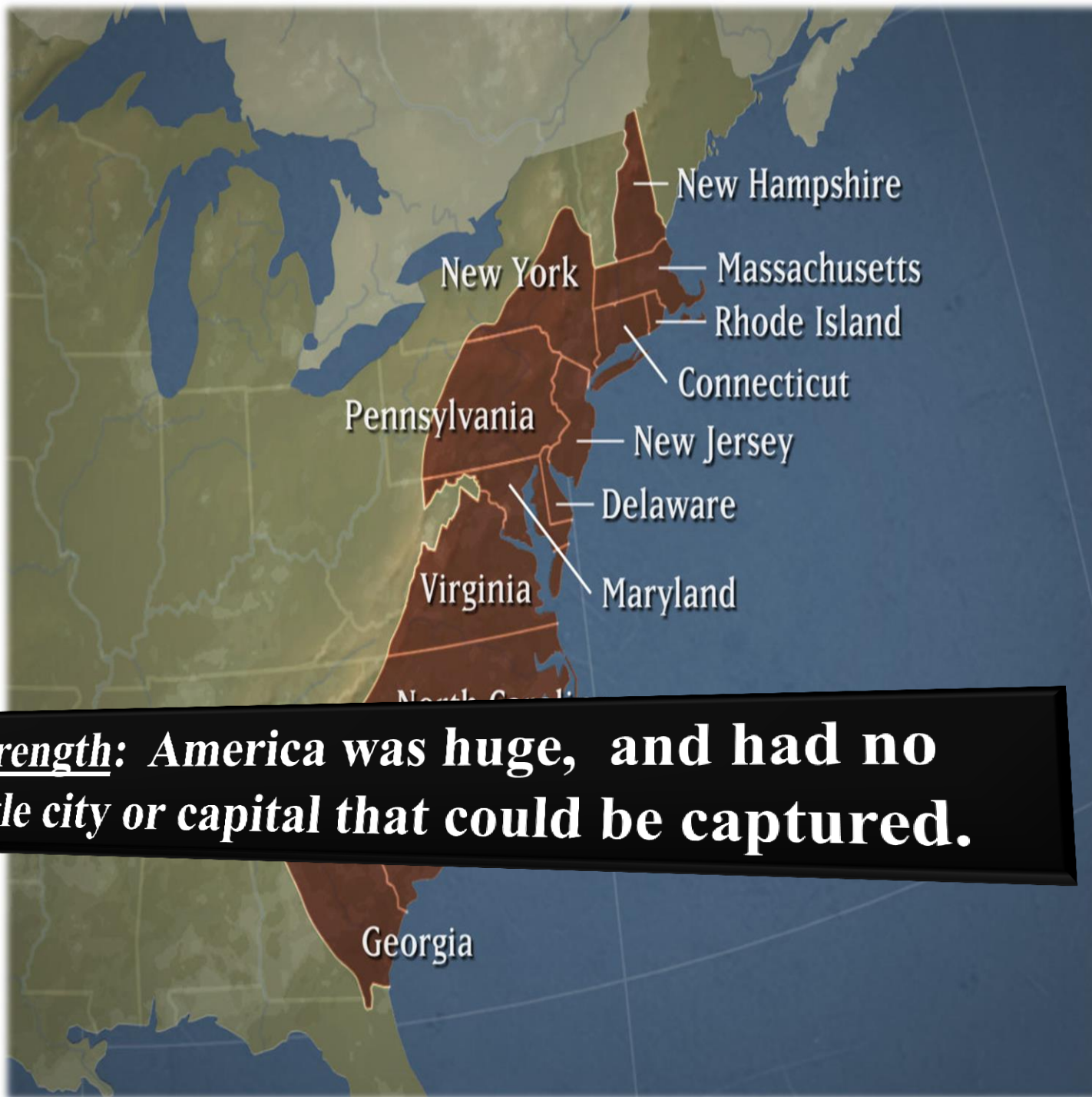
**Weakness: Provisions were scarce, and they were 3000 miles away from home. It took 3 months each way!**





*American* Strengths  
and Weaknesses






**Strength: America was huge, and had no single city or capital that could be captured.**



**Strength: America had strong leaders like George Washington (famous general) and Ben Franklin (smooth-talking diplomat)**



**Strength: They had immediate, indirect French aid (guns, supplies, gunpowder, etc.) and eventual direct military assistance.**





**At age 19,  
LaFayette  
was made  
a major  
general in  
the  
colonial**

**Marquis de  
LaFayette**



**Strength: Colonists were fighting a defensive war, were self-sustaining, and had greater familiarity with the land**

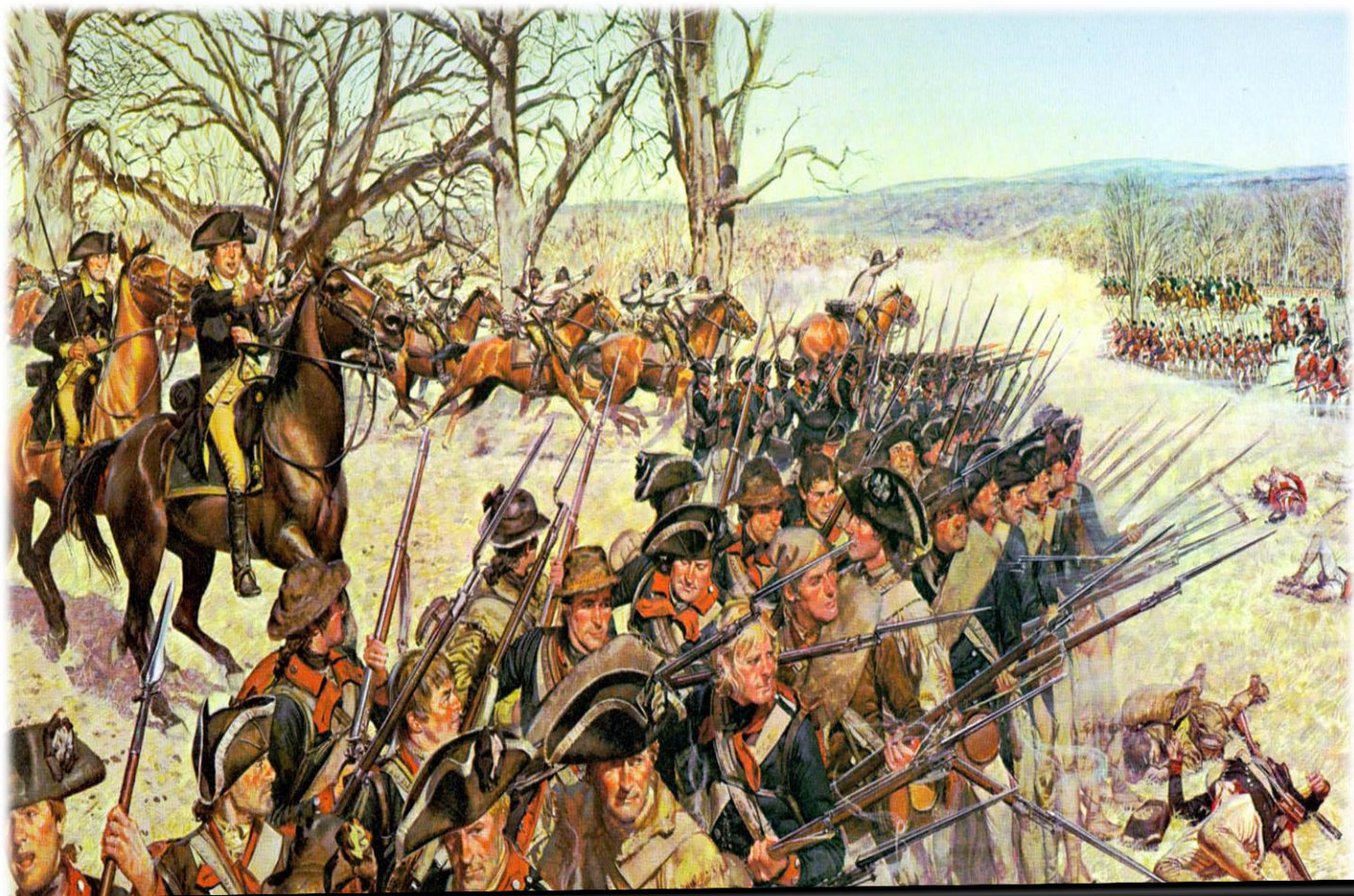




**Strength: Americans were better marksmen; could hit a man's head from 200 yards away!**



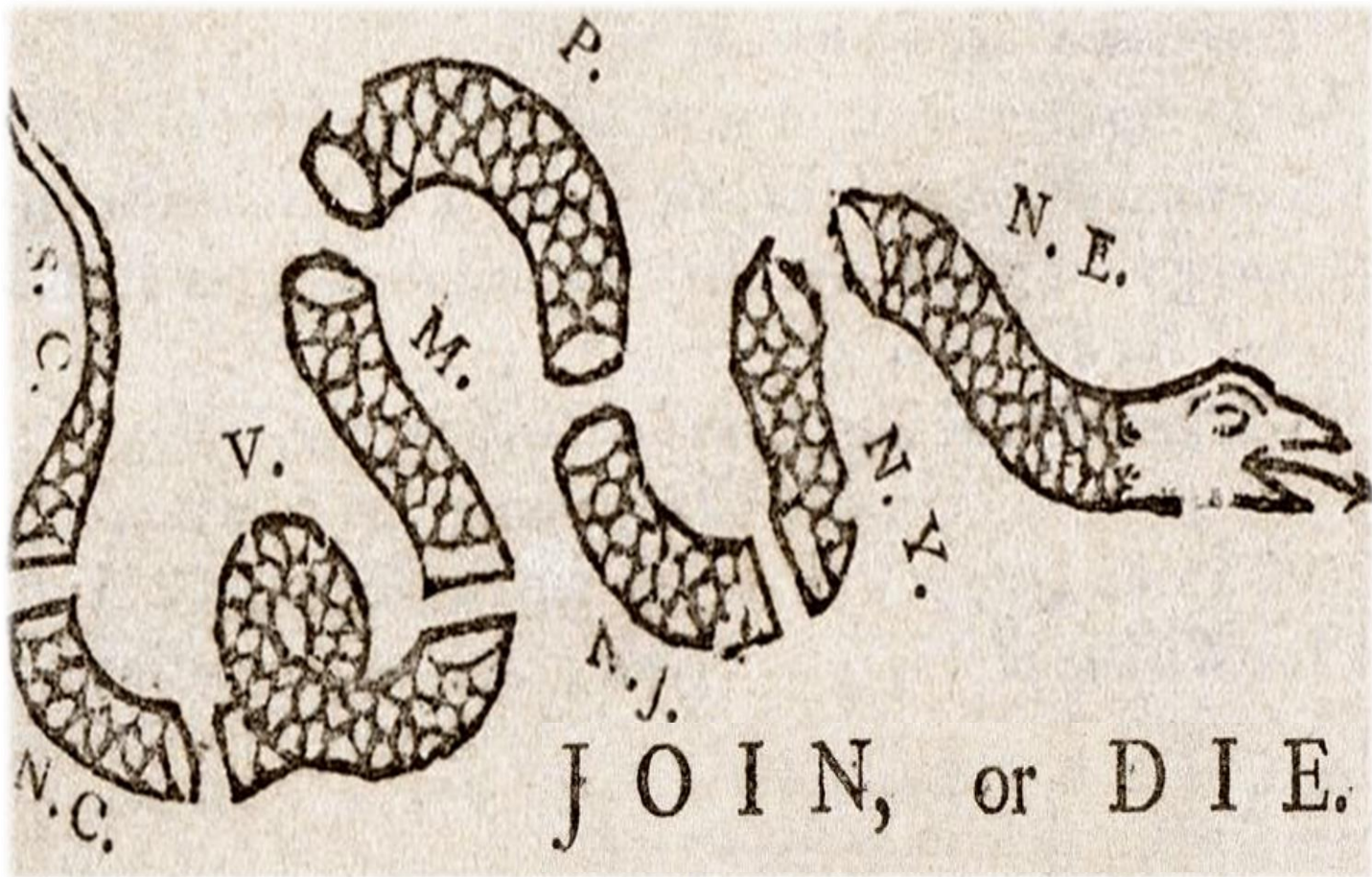




**Strength: Americans were fighting for a good cause – freedom from England**







**Weakness: Americans were terribly lacking in unity (rivalries between colonies were very common; many colonies didn't like each other!)**

**Weakness: Some colonies hated the Continental Congress' attempt to have power over them – some colonies didn't support or want to fight the war.**





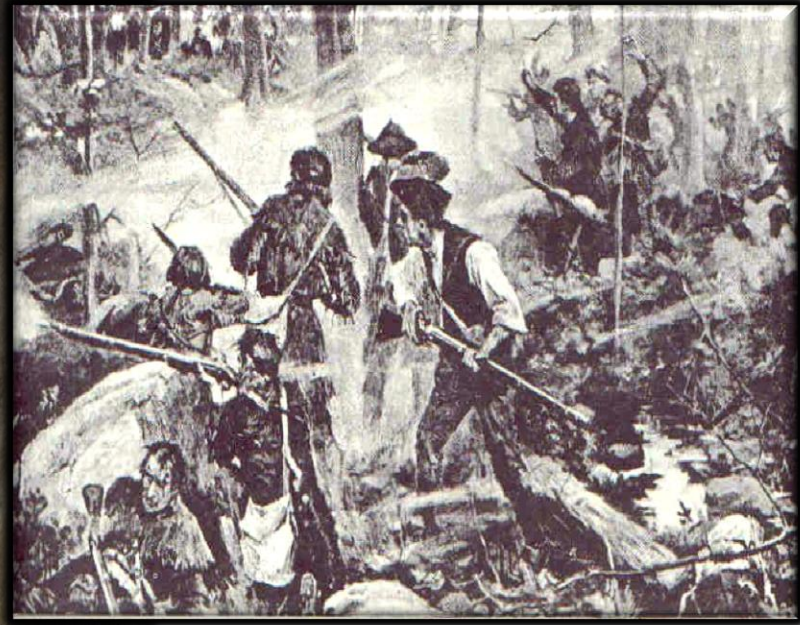


**Weakness: England cut off supplies, which increased poverty levels and starvation for soldiers and their families.**



**Weakness: The American army desperately needed clothing, wool, wagons to carry food, and other supplies**

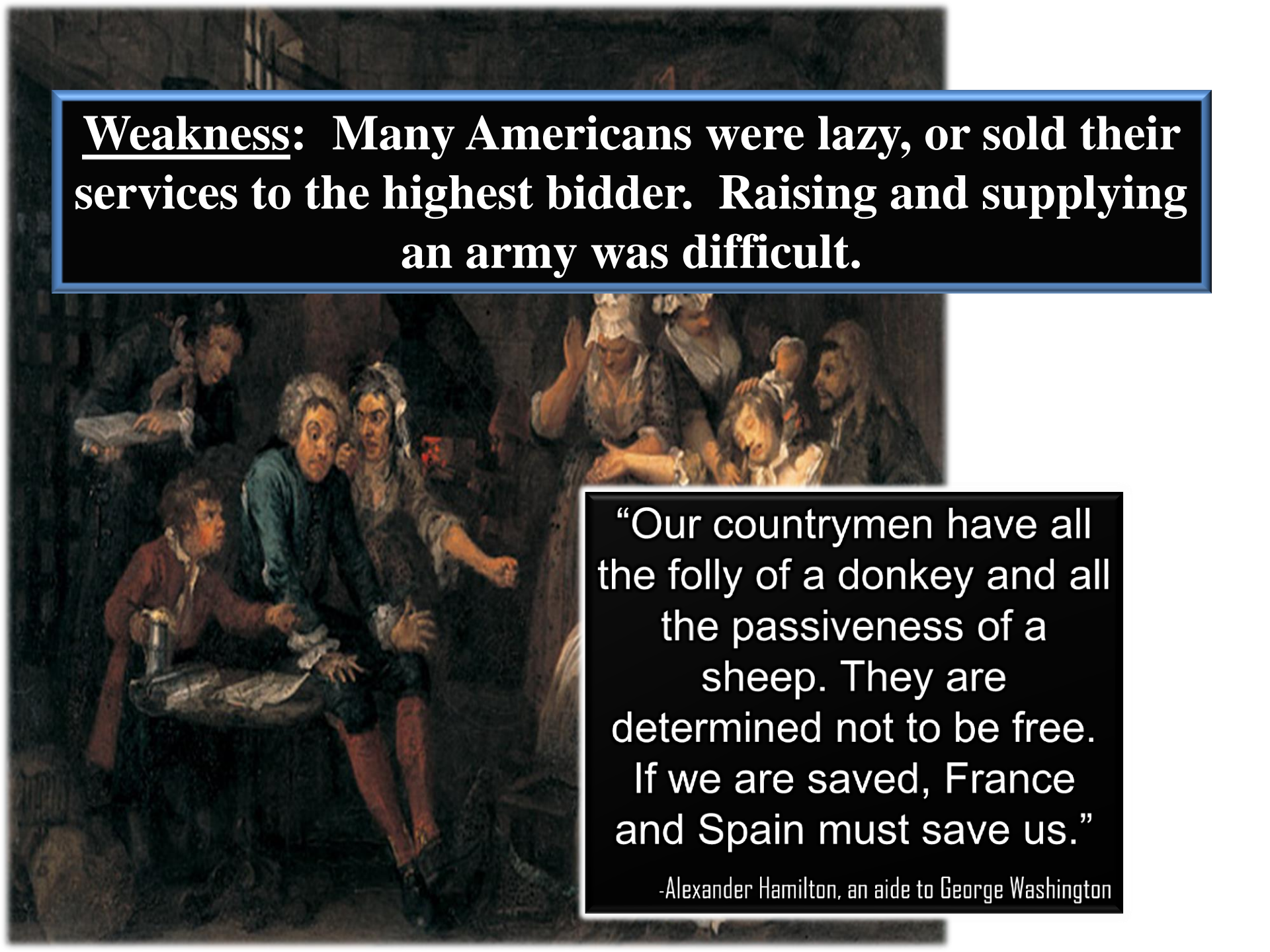




**Weakness: Many soldiers had only received minimal fight/war training. They could shoot, but not fight a war.**

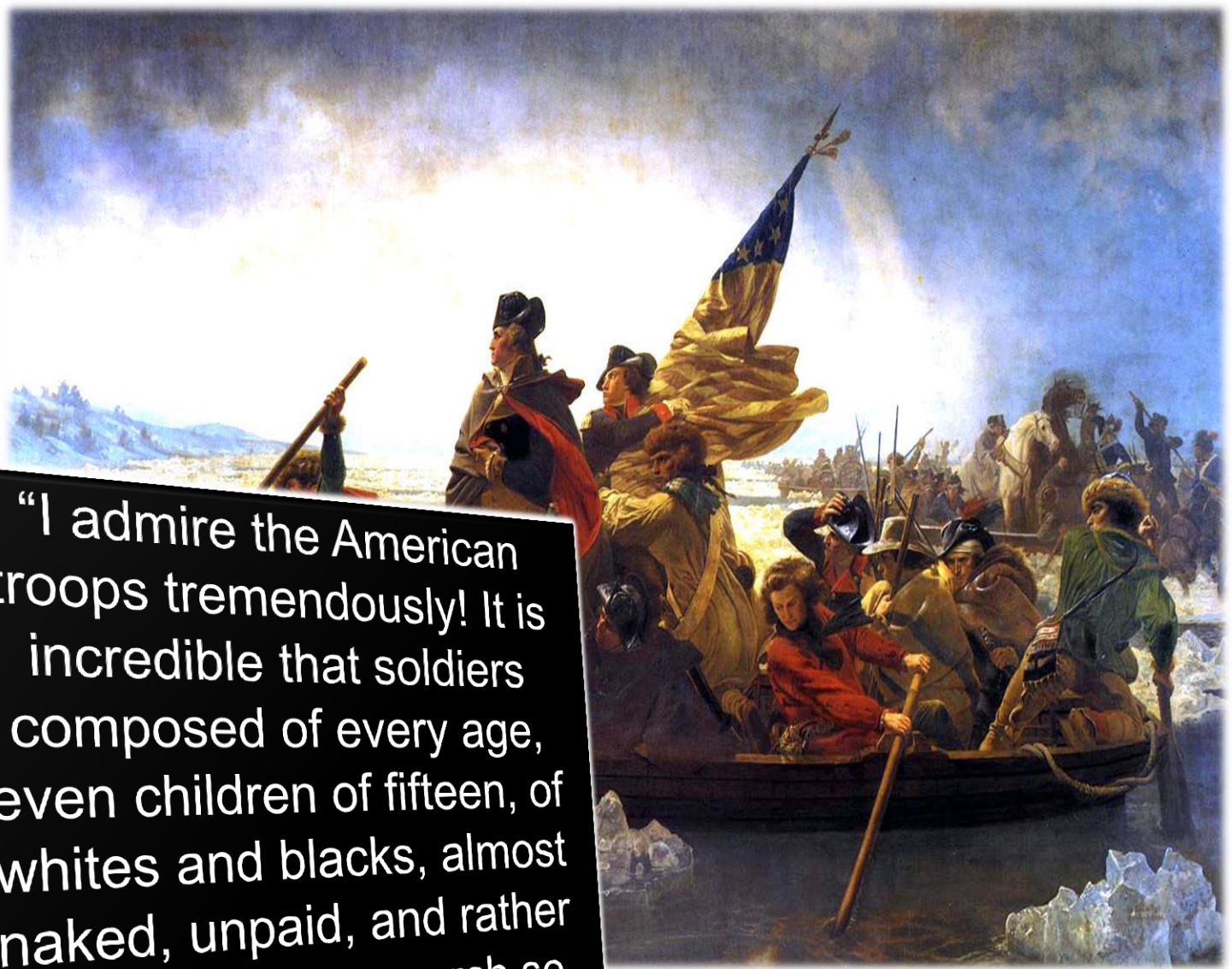


**Weakness: Many Americans were lazy, or sold their services to the highest bidder. Raising and supplying an army was difficult.**



“Our countrymen have all the folly of a donkey and all the passiveness of a sheep. They are determined not to be free. If we are saved, France and Spain must save us.”

-Alexander Hamilton, an aide to George Washington



“I admire the American troops tremendously! It is incredible that soldiers composed of every age, even children of fifteen, of whites and blacks, almost naked, unpaid, and rather poorly fed, can march so well and withstand fire so steadfastly.”

-French officer

# **Strengths and Weaknesses Partner Analysis**