



On July 4, 1776
Americans sent
King George III the
***Declaration of
Independence.***

REMEMBER: The
American
Revolution began
BEFORE the
Declaration of
Independence was
even sent to
England.

War Started: April
18, 1775

Declaration Sent:
July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence and Influences from the Enlightenment

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness; that, to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Jefferson begins the Declaration by attempting to legally and philosophically justify the revolution.

The Declaration of Independence used ideas from the Enlightenment (especially John Locke) to explain why Americans

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)

British Infantry So



3rd Foot Guards

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)





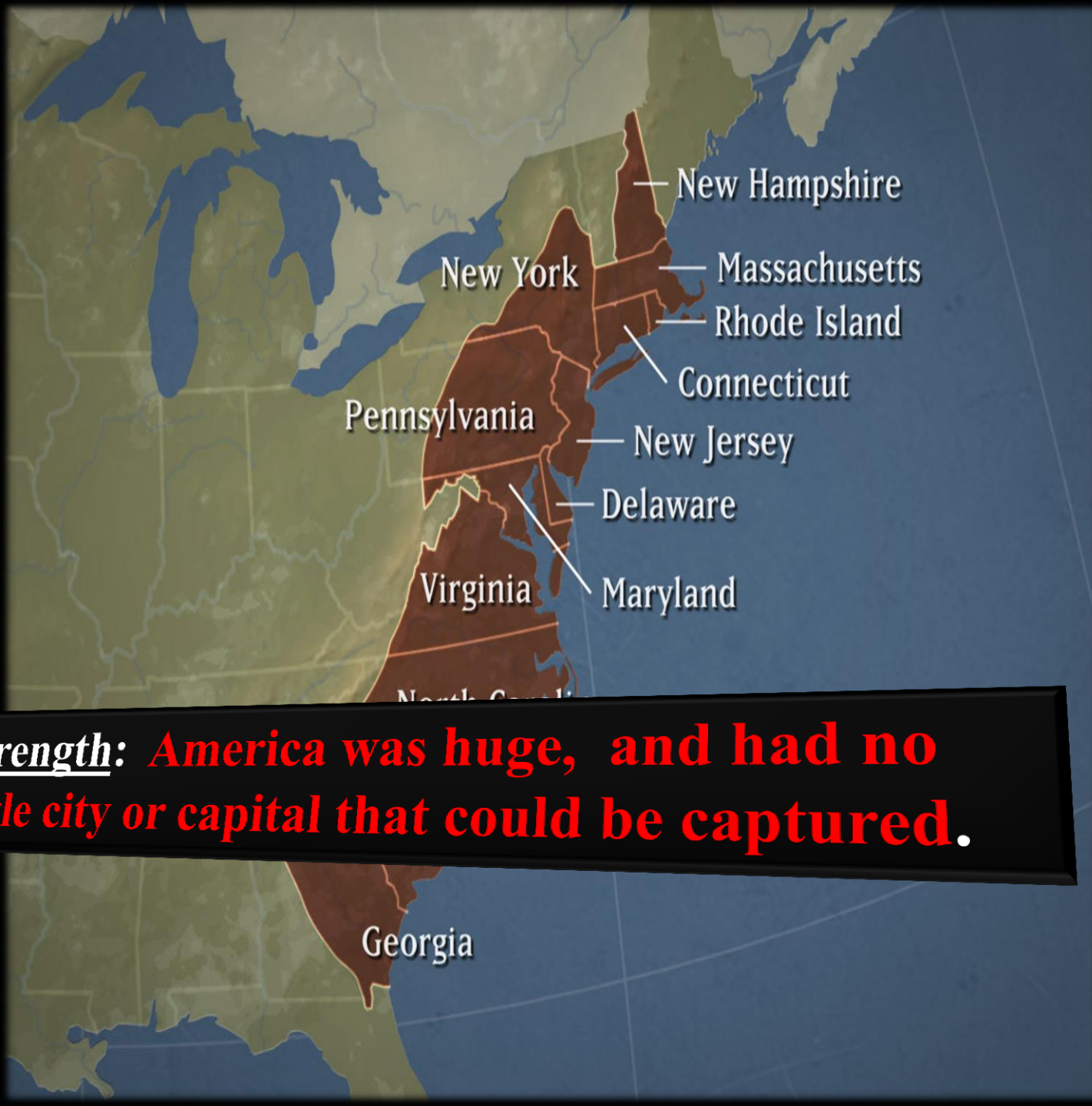
Weakness: Britain's generals were second-rate and treated their soldiers brutally. Low morale.



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**

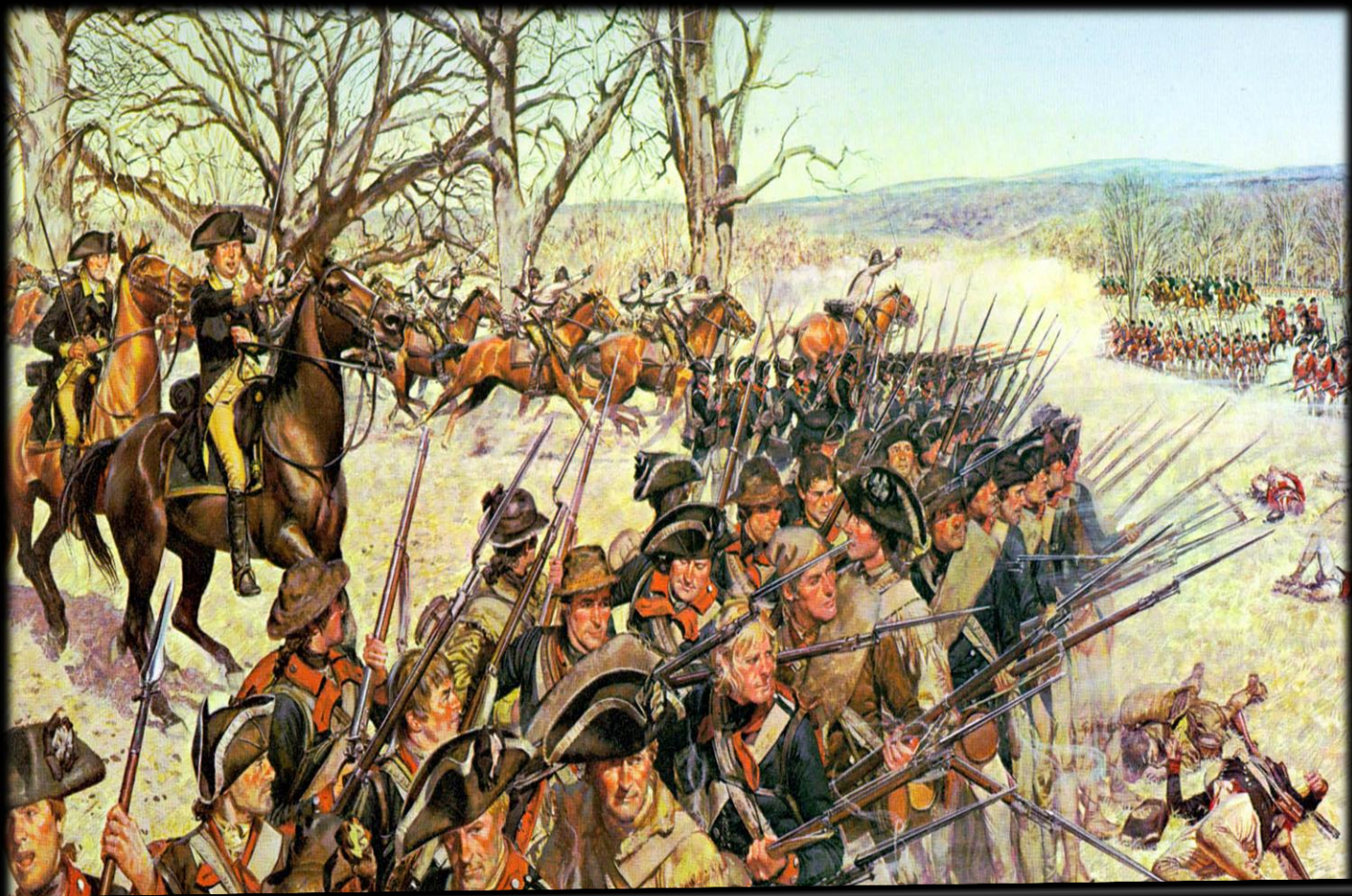


Strength: Colonists were fighting a defensive war, were self-sustaining, and **had greater familiarity with the land**



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!)