

**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.**

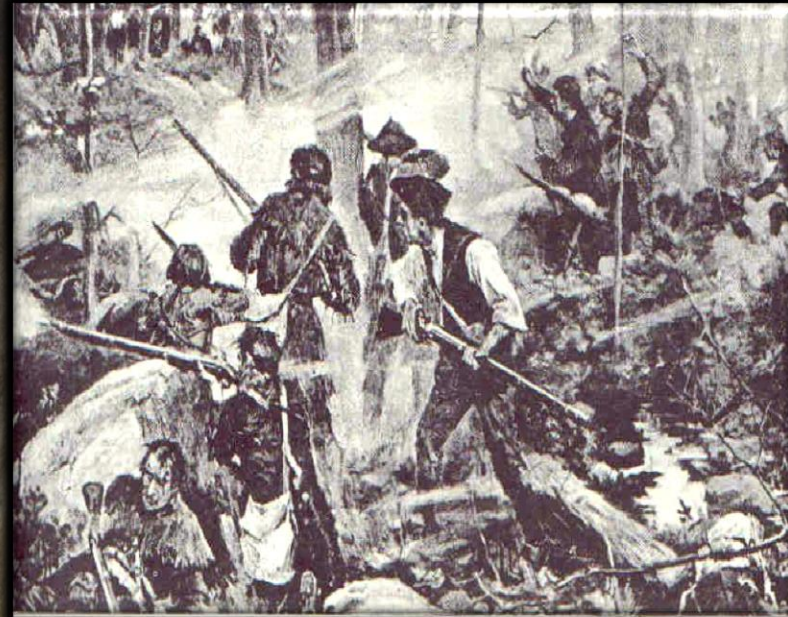




**Weakness: England cut off supplies, which increased poverty levels and starvation for soldiers and their families.**

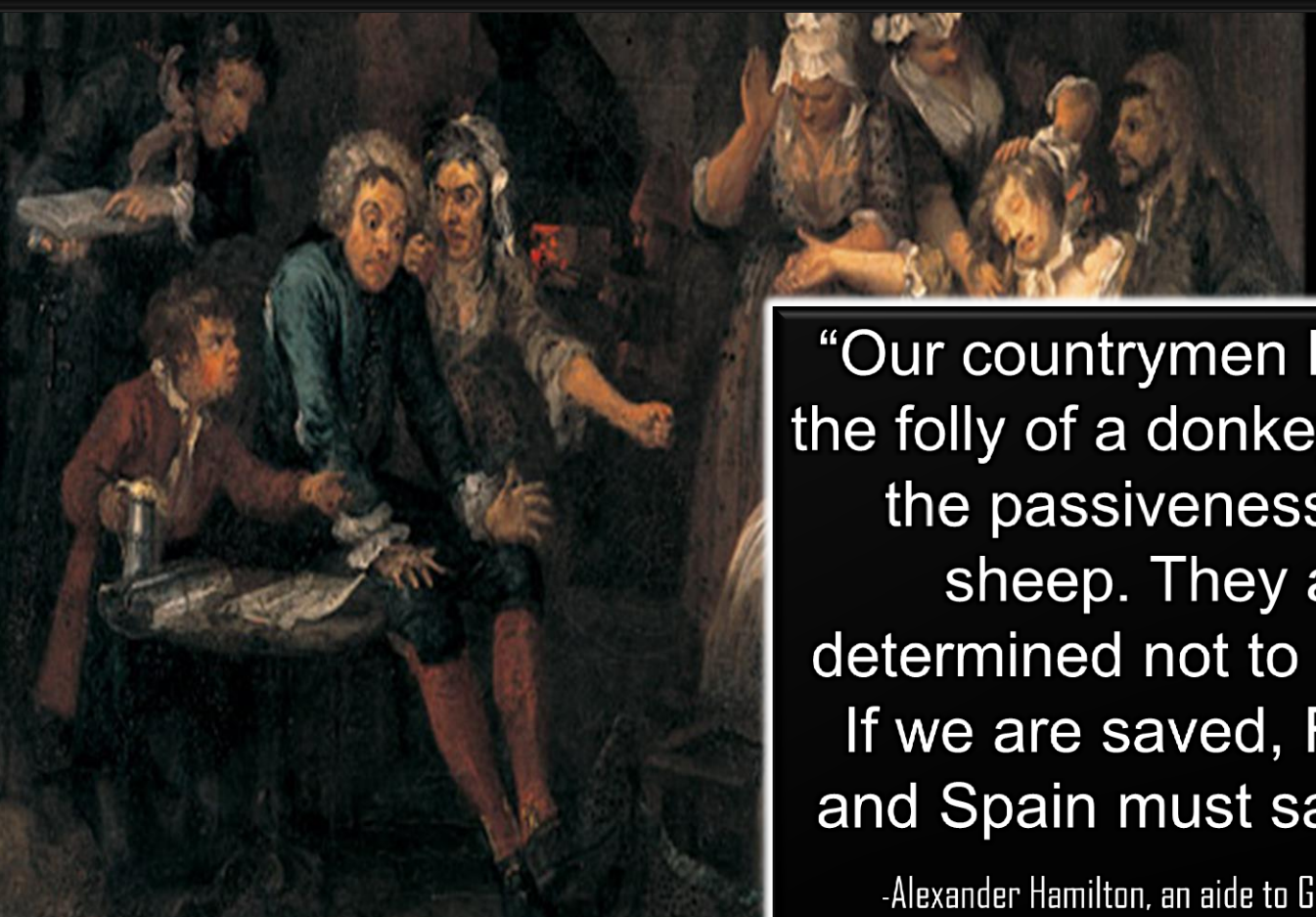


**Weakness: The American army desperately needed clothing, wool, wagons to carry food, and other supplies**



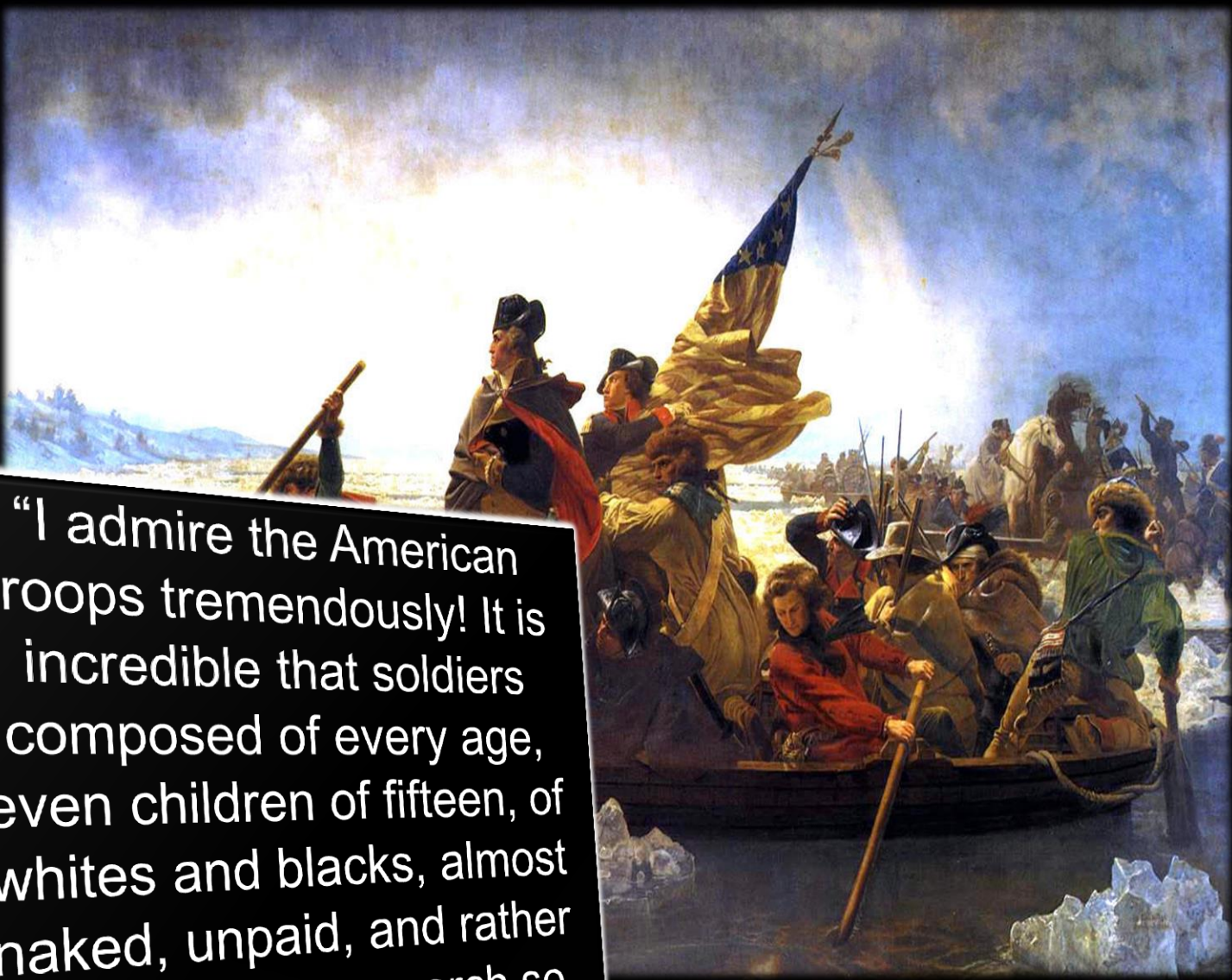
**Weakness: Many soldiers had only received minimal fight/war training. They could shoot, but not fight a war.**

**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.”

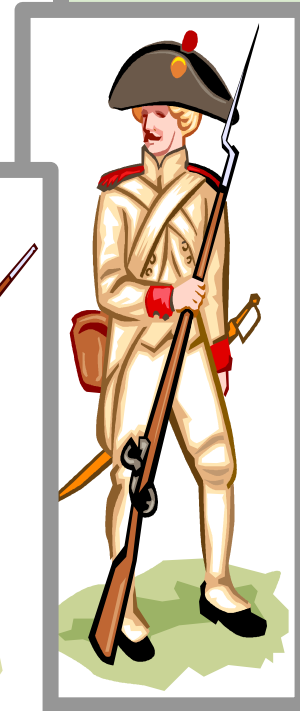
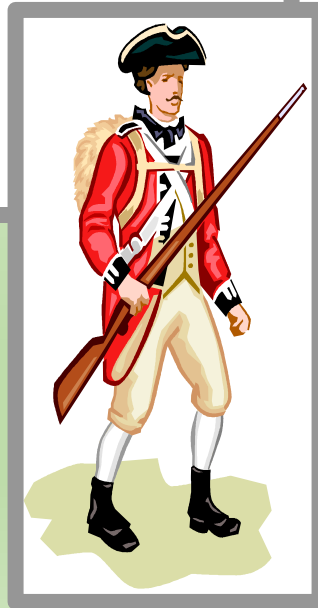
-Alexander Hamilton, an aide to George Washington



“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

# Overview of Some Key Battles in the Revolutionary War





# Battle of Lexington & Concord

- April 18, 1775
- **This was the first battle of the Revolutionary War**
- Paul Revere warned the colonists that the British were coming to Concord.
- Minutemen were waiting in Lexington for the soldiers.
- **Minutemen were American militia with special training.**
- No one knows whether the British or the colonists fired the first shot.
- **Eight colonists died and nine were wounded. Only one British soldier was hurt.**
- The British continued marching to Concord.
- Militia and British started shooting at each other.
- As the British marched back to Boston, thousands of minutemen shot at them. The British were then trapped in Boston.

# Battle of Bunker Hill

- Occurred outside of Boston, Massachusetts
- Militia leaders decided to build a fort on Bunker Hill because they could fire cannons from the hill at the British soldiers. The hill made it difficult for British soldiers to attack them.
- Instead of Bunker Hill though, they actually decided to build the fort on **Breed's Hill**, because it was closer to Boston.
- Each time the British attacked the Patriots, the British were forced back and more than half of their soldiers were killed or wounded.
- The Patriots ran out of gunpowder and the British captured the fort and won the battle.
- This battle however proved that the militia could fight well, and that the British would not win easily.

# Battle of Trenton

- The militia name was changed to the Continental Army.
- Washington was asked to be the leader of the Continental Army.
- His army was getting smaller, and he was worried that his soldiers would give up.
- George Washington planned a surprise attack on an enemy camp in Trenton, New Jersey.
- The soldiers in Trenton were German mercenaries (soldiers who are paid to fight for a foreign country).
- Washington took his soldiers across the Delaware River to New Jersey and attacked Trenton the day after Christmas.
- Washington's army took almost 1,000 prisoners.
- The Battle of Trenton was a victory for the Continental Army.