

Chapter 5 Section 4

- I. Colonial Leaders Emerge
 - A. The Second Continental Congress met for the first time on May 10, 1775. In addition to the delegates from the first Continental Congress, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, and Thomas Jefferson were new delegates.
 - B. The Congress governed the colonies. It
 - 1. Authorized the printing of money
 - 2. Set up a post office
 - 3. Established a Continental Army with George Washington as the commander
 - 4. Sent a formal request to King George III asking for peace and for the king to protect the colonists' rights. King George III refused this Olive Branch Petition and prepared for war.
 - C. Washington trained the army, and on March 17, 1776, led his troops into Boston after surrounding the city and forcing the redcoats to withdraw. The British sailed to Halifax, Nova Scotia.
 - D. After an attack on New York by the British in Canada, the American troops at

Fort Ticonderoga struck and captured Montreal in November. American troops failed to capture Quebec but stayed outside the city through the winter and returned to Fort Ticonderoga in 1776.

II. The Colonies Declare Independence

- A. The Second Continental Congress debated a resolution to support independence. Some delegates thought the colonies were not ready to separate, and others felt that a large part of the population wanted to separate from Britain.
- B. The Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence. Members included Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman of Conn., and Robert Livingston of New York.
- C. On July 2, 1776, twelve colonies voted for the resolution for independence. On July 4, they approved the Declaration with some changes. John Hancock was the first to sign it. His signature was large so that the king would have no trouble reading it.

D. The Declaration of Independence has four main sections:

1. The preamble, or introduction
2. A list of the rights of the colonists
3. A list of the grievances against the Britain
4. A proclamation claiming the emergence of a new nation