

Chapter 6 Section 2

I. Gaining Allies

- A. European nations helped the American cause. France and Spain were at war with the British in Europe and hated the British. They realized that the Americans had a chance to win their war, so they offered assistance.
- B. France at first secretly gave money to help the American war effort and then publicly announced its support. In February 1778, the French and the Americans worked out a trade agreement and an alliance. France declared war on Britain and gave the Americans money, equipment, and troops to fight the British.

- C. Spain and the Netherlands were at war with Britain. Spain did not recognize America's independence until after the Revolution, but the Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez, helped the war effort.
- D. Washington's troops spent a hard winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The army lacked enough food, clothing, and shelter. Some men deserted; others resigned. Yet the Continental Army survived. In April the news of France's alliance cheered them.
- E. A French nobleman, Marquis de Lafayette, spent the winter at Valley Forge. He offered his services and became one of Washington's trusted aides.

F. Other Europeans also volunteered to help.

1. Casimier Pulaski from Poland died fighting for the Continental Army in 1780.
2. Friedrich von Steuben from Germany taught military discipline to Washington's troops.
3. Juan de Miralles from Spain lent money, became friends with Patriot leaders, and convinced Cuba, Spain, and Mexico to send financial aid to the colonies.

G. Getting money to finance the war was difficult. To pay for the war, Congress and the states printed hundreds of millions of dollars of paper money. Soldiers had to be paid and supplies bought. The

paper quickly lost its value and in turn led to inflation. Congress stopped issuing paper money because no one would use it.

II. Life on the Home Front

- A. Women often took over the duties of men while the men were in the military. Some women questioned their place in society, and some fought for women's interests.
- B. The Loyalists in the colonies faced hard times. Those who actively helped the British by spying and informing on the Patriots could be arrested and tried as traitors. Some were victims of mob violence or ignored by their neighbors. Many fled to Britain, to Spanish-owned Florida, or to the frontier.
- C. The issue of slavery was questioned, especially in light of

the ideals of freedom for which people went to war. African Americans fought as soldiers in the Revolutionary War. They hoped that they would soon see the day when slavery would be abolished.