## Primary Source Collection

**MAKING THE REVOLUTION: America, 1763-1791**

[americaniclass.org/sources/makingrevolution/](http://americaniclass.org/sources/makingrevolution/)

A collection of primary resources—historical documents, literary texts, and works of art—thematically organized with notes and discussion questions

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II. REBELLION: 1774-1776

1 Loyalists I: Civil War
   - Loyalists at the outbreak of the Revolution: commentary from Loyalists, Patriots, and Britons, 1775-1776
   - Rev. Myles Cooper (Loyalist), The Patriots of North America: A Sketch, poem, 1775, selections

2 Loyalists II: Traitor!
   - Anti-Loyalist broadsides and blank forms of allegiance, 1774-1775
   - Anti-Loyalist violence, 1774-1775: incidents in Peter Oliver, Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion, 1781
   - Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," short story, 1830, depicting anti-British mob violence in pre-revolutionary Boston

3 Loyalists III: Join—or Else
   - Nicholas Cresswell, travel journal, selections on the treatment of Loyalists in Virginia, 1774-1777
   - Janet Schaw, travel letters, selections on the treatment of Loyalists in North Carolina, 1775

4 Loyalists IV: Backcountry
   - Reports to the South Carolina Council of Safety from William Henry Drayton and Rev. William Tennent, selections on the recruitment of backcountry settlers to the Patriot cause, 1775

5 The Pacifists
   - Pacifists' appeals for tolerance: selections from addresses, letters, and records, 1775-1779

6 The Enslaved
   - Calls for abolition based on slavery's inconsistency with ideals in the Declaration of Independence, 1773-1783
   - Slaves' petition to the Massachusetts assembly to end slavery, 1777
   - The anti-slavery clause of Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, 1776

7 Common Sense?
   - Thomas Paine, Common Sense, 1776, Pt. II-IV, selections
   - Praise for Common Sense in American newspapers, January-May 1776, selections
   - Rev. Charles Inglis (Loyalist), The Deceiver Unmasked, 1776, selections
   - Hannah Griffitts, "Upon Reading a Book Entitled Common Sense," poem, 1776
   - John Adams, autobiography, early 1800s, selection on Common Sense

8 Declaring Independence
   - The Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776 (annotated)
   - Delegates' letters on the Declaration of Independence, selection, July 1776, June 1826
   - Celebrating the Declaration: selections from newspaper accounts, July-October 1776
   - A Loyalist's rebuttal of the Declaration: Thomas Hutchinson, Strictures upon the Declaration... , 1776, selections

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III. WAR: 1775-1783

1 Anticipating War
   - Edmund Burke (M.P.), speech to Parliament on reconciliation with America, 22 March 1775, selections
   - Benjamin Franklin, letters on the prospects for reconciliation and the beginning of war, 1775-1776, selections

2 Committing to War
   - A Loyalist's appeal to the troops: Peter Oliver, Address to the Soldiers of Massachusetts Bay, Jan. 1776, selections
   - A Patriot's appeal to the troops: Thomas Paine, The American Crisis #1, Dec. 1776

3 Leading the War
   - Correspondence of George Washington as Commander in Chief, 1775-1778, selections
   - Portraits of George Washington as Commander in Chief, 1779, 1780, 1785
   - Military broadsides of the American Revolution, 1775-1778

4 Sustaining the War
   - Pacifying Indians on the frontier: three documents, 1776-1778, selections
   - Recruiting enslaved blacks into the Continental Army: six documents, 1776-1781, selections
   - Predicting Britain's response to the alliance with France: letters of the American negotiators including Benjamin Franklin, 1778, selections
   - Announcing Arnold's treason to the army: general orders of Gen. Washington to Gen. Greene, 1780
## Contents by Theme

#### IV. INDEPENDENCE: 1783-1791

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**1 Victory & Union**
- Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis* #13, April 1783
- George Washington, Circular Letter to the States, June 1783
- Newsboys' new year's greetings after independence, five poems, 1784-1790

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**2 Promise & Peril**
- Mercy Otis Warren, "A Survey of the Situation of America on the Conclusion of the War with Britain," Ch. 30 of *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*, completed by 1791, publ. 1805, selections

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**3 Progress & Identity**
- Founding documents of societies to promote progress, learning, and national identity, 1780-1791, selections
- Noah Webster, essays on fostering American identity, character, and education, 1783, 1787, selections

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**4 Patriots & Loyalists**
- "Phocion" (Alexander Hamilton) and "Mentor" (Isaac Ledyard), pamphlet war on the postwar treatment of Loyalists in New York, 1784, selections

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**5 A Golden Age**
- Joel Barlow, *The Vision of Columbus*, allegorical poem, 1787, selections

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**6 A New Man: The American**
- Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur (writing as J. Hector St. John), "What Is an American?" Letter III of *Letters from an American Farmer*, written ca. 1770-1778, publ. 1782, selections
- Royall Tyler, *The Contrast*, comedy of manners, 1787

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**7 A Model for Europe**

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**TOTAL 174 pages**
8 A Heads-Up for Europeans

   – Benjamin Franklin, *Advice to Those Who Would Emigrate to America*, 1782, selections
   – Benjamin Rush, *Information to Europeans Who Are Disposed to Migrate to the United States of America*, 1790, selections

   TOTAL 8 pages

V. CONSTITUTION: 1780-1791

1 Abandoning the Articles
   – Founders on the defects of the Articles of Correspondence, correspondence selections, 1780-1787
   – James Madison, “Vices of the Political System of the United States of America,” memorandum, 1787

   TOTAL 15 pages

2 Creating a New Constitution
   – On creating the U.S. Constitution: commentary by delegates and observers, 1787
   – The United States Constitution, 1787; ratified 1788

   TOTAL 17 pages

3 Promoting the Constitution

   TOTAL 15 pages

4 Opposing the Constitution
   – Anti-Federalist letters to newspapers on the proposed Constitution, 1787-1788, selections
   – Anti-Federalist essays of “Philadelphiensis” (Benjamin Workman), 1787-1788, selections
   – Appeals for calm during the ratification debates, 1787-1788, selections

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5 Adding a Bill of Rights
   – On adding a bill of rights to the Constitution: commentary from letters, addresses, and newspapers, 1787-1789
   – The Bill of Rights, 1789; ratified 1791
   – *Déclaration des Droits de l’Homme et du Citoyen* (Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen), France, 1789

   TOTAL 12 pages

6 Inaugurating a Government
   – On establishing the new federal government: commentary from letters and news accounts, 1788-1795

   TOTAL 17 pages

7 Portraying the Founders
   – Portraits (11) of the Founders in a transitional era, 1780-early 1790s
   – On the death of Benjamin Franklin (17 April 1790): articles and tributes, April-June 1790

   TOTAL 12 pages

COLLECTION TOTAL: 754 pages