

- I. How Could the Brits lose the war
 - a. Military- disparity even greater- Brit professional trained military and navy; Americans don't have either
 - b. 4 reasons:
 - i. Brits failed to agree upon and use a consistent strategy- waffled back and forth b/w *two diff strategy*:
 1. *Total war*- destroy American army; level cities; make citizens feel the pain (civilians)- make it so costly and they would never attempt war with them again
 2. *Carrot and Stick*- incentive and coercion; stick- fight a limited war to seize American cities but not destroy them; fight battles but avoid costly battles; fighting limited war and hold the "bait" at same time fighting use the "W.O.O."
 - ii. Logical = if Brits crush Americans, American would become so alienate and Brits would need to be in US all the time; so don't crush them all the time
 - iii. Either strategy may have worked but the waffling did not work
- II. Faulty assumptions
 - a. American soldiers will break and run when confronted with red coat, seasoned Brit soldiers
 - b. Brits- fight in formation (training and discipline) and every soldier does thing on command and in unison
 - c. Washington built a European style of government; example of officer Baron Von Steuben
 - d. Lexington and Concord- American militia fought with guerilla type of warfare
 - e. Faulty assumption on Brits- Americans were loyalist (15%); convinced at Lexington and Concord all would go their way and did not
 - f. Geographical problems- 4-6 week voyage one way(double round trip); lag in communications
 - i. Sheer size and overwhelming nature of the 13 colonies – 1500 miles and they are trying to conquer with 50,000 men and could not figure out a way to do it.
 - ii. Capture the American biggest cities- top 5 and Brits captured all of them- Philly, Newport, NYC, Charleston, Boston - but did not do them any good.
 - iii. Continental Congress fled and war continued
 - iv. Only way Brits could win was capture Washington's army and they never did
- III. Political Problems
 - a. Political generals- appointment to office; members of parliament
 - b. Internal opposition at home in England- immoral and unjust to fight a war against their own people; never had full support of the people and could not fight "all out"
 - c. Longer war drags on- greater opposition gets
 - d. British lost this war politically; not militarily
- IV. General George Washington's Role
 - a. Political general- Washington (he was a good general) ; lost more battles than he won; won the war weak army
 - b. Fabian's strategy- after Roman general – to drag out the war and only risk battles you can win, won the war in the end; distinction- between tactics and strategy; Washington was not good at tactics, but was a great strategic general (figured out how to use his army to win the war); as long as he had an army...he was winning; army together for 8 years and then the Brits quit; power is a bad thing during this time (standing army in peace time for example)
 - c. Careful use of power- resisted the power to use this army as his bodyguard; ruled by the people and maintained faithfulness to the democracy and the people; ends as a republic
 - d. Washington is responsible for the idea that the military is always aligned with civilian control of the military

- e. Newburgh, NY 1783- Const Gov had enough and were fed up; group approach him and asked them to overthrow the Congress and establish himself as dictator (coup); he refused and worked out a peaceful mediation
- f. Retirement to Mt Vernon once the job was complete and all was peaceful; retires as commander in chief; called back unanimously (4 times – Constitutional Convention, President twice) for their representatives to lead the people
- g. Tributes- great for what he did not do
 - i. “The Indispensable Man” –
 - ii. King George thought if the Americans won; he will establish himself as the dictator; but if he wins and goes home, he will become the greatest leader ever
 - iii. Napoleon- could not be a Washington
- h. Secular immortality – Washington wanted this; wanted to go down in history as the greatest of them all; live in hearts and minds of countrymen; resist the temptations of power and walk away; selfishness made him selfless to not abuse his power; was greatest man ever (one of);
 1. **Q:** “What makes you think that was his goal” **A:**” Obsessed with his image; protective of it always; obsessed with becoming commander in chief; difficult decision b/w becoming president as his fear was dying in presidency; reputation will be shot unless he walks away from power”
 2. **Q:** “2 term” **A:** 2 terms is a myth; Washington didn’t want 2nd term, they said we need you so we can complete what you started; unintentional precedent”
- i. Price of Fame- kept having to answer the call of his country; hold nation together until it could hold itself together; N and S will only hold together if they have Washington to hold it together
- j. Houdon Statue (back of outline given to participants) sealed his resume to do this statue; studied him and took his measurements; 14 years on this statue; original in marble and stands in VA; bars banded together at top and bottom; 13 bars (faces) on column; unbuckled sword; walking stick; plow in back; symbolism= retirement captured in statue; not a military victory

Other:

- Rotunda of US Capital Dec 1783 holds the art piece of Washington with Congress
- Vietnam War- interesting parallels with Rev War but U.S. plays role of the British
- Father of American mule- Washington
- Washington was a Cincinnatus; made him a realist; not idealist
- Washington never went to college; was well read for someone that did not go to school
- Washington started out in a well-to-do life but dad died at age 11; became a surveyor (need calculus and he self learned it)
- Southern