



The Combined Causes of the American Revolution

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Abstract. Compared with other European countries, the United States has a relatively fledgling history. However, more than two hundred years of history has been enough to see a country become independent and develop into the number one country in the world. The American War of Independence lasted eight years from the beginning to the end of British colonization. On the face of it, slavery in the South clashed with free employment in the North. But it is important to analyze why Americans became independent. This article will explore the combined causes of the American Revolution from an economic, political, and cultural perspective.

Keywords: Colonial rule · War of Independence · American history

1 Introduction

The North American War of Independence, also known as the War of Independence, began from 1775 to 1783. The war summed up how the United States recovered from British colonial rule and gradually became the most powerful nation in the world. There are many motivations for the independence of North America, but this paper prefers to take a macro perspective and summarize the factors that Americans initiated the War of Independence mainly into three aspects: economy, politics and culture.

The economy of the North American colonies developed rapidly. The central region was rich in wheat, and the plantation economy in the south was thriving. With this growth in plantations, the United States had a sufficient economic base to prevent the British from colonizing the country.

The other aspect of the cause of the War of Independence was political. The American colonies were restless. Demands for reform, increased taxes by the British government, the closing of the western borders, restrictions on commerce, the rise of power, nationalist thinkers, and other ecclesiastical problems were exposed. The British colonial government, however, took a cold shoulder to these rising imperatives, a policy that accelerated America's determination to reform.

From a social point of view, the influence of the language-based culture in the Revolutionary War cannot be ignored. With the development of colonial economy and culture, English gradually became the unified language of different regions. The colonists awakened their sense of democracy and shared faith, and further formed the American nation.

At the end of the 18th century, people's minds were greatly liberated and influenced by some core ideas of political independence. Their desire to break away from British colonial rule became extremely strong.

2 Literature Review

Robert Parkinson [1] argues that during the war, using culture as a cornerstone, using people's national plots, and uniting people's power have an important impact on the outcome of war. Political and communications leaders, in an effort to unify the patriot side, linked British tyranny to colonial prejudice, stereotypes, fear of rebellion, slavery, and violent Indians. Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin and their demagogues manipulated newspaper networks to broadcast stories of British agents inciting African Americans and Indians to take up arms against the American rebellion. Using rhetoric like "domestic rebels," and "merciless savages," the founding Fathers rallied the people around a common enemy and made racial prejudice the cornerstone of the new Republic. Such reforms were necessary for a nation to advance society, technology, and the overall health of its people.

Greene and Garry's [2] arguments were highly consistent with the causes of the Revolutionary War because they believed that the colonists' rhetoric was essentially the result of economic differences between the North and the South. At the time the British colonized North America, the people were restless and the desire for reform was strong. The steady economic growth of the colonies contributed to and stimulated the outbreak of war.

The colonists' formal Declaration of Independence in 1776 defined the struggle ideologically and gave it a mythic quality. From the travails of the Americans at Bunker Hill to the ultimate humiliation of the British at Yorktown, the entire struggle is now a symbol of American national identity. Stephen Conway shows that the war was not just a local conflict on a geographic level, but a battle over Americans' sense of their identity [3].

According to various authors' arguments, the American Revolutionary War did occur because society had to transform itself from such impulses and conflicts. Without one side in the conflict with the other, old, outdated views would not advance society.

3 Economic Factors in the Outbreak of War

From an economic point of view, the main reason for the outbreak of the war is the independent and stable economic growth of the United States, which promoted them to get rid of the colonial rule of Britain. In addition, the capitalist economy stimulated the desire of the United States to break away from British control.

Britain and France fought a seven-year war for control of the North American colonies. Britain won the war and, as a result, gained the rights to the North American colonies. However, due to the colonial countries' perennial wars, Britain was faced with a large number of war debts and serious financial problems after it occupied the land. Therefore, Britain decided to impose higher taxes on the North American colonies,

and made all kinds of high-pressure policies. Britain wanted North America to be a permanent source of raw materials and commodity markets, which severely hindered the economic development of the colonies. Colonial capitalists and farmers did not want to be exploited, and their conflicts with the British mainland became increasingly acute. Eventually, this led to war.

In the early 17th century, Chinese tea became a “hot product” in Europe. In 1698, the British Parliament granted the British East India Company an “exclusive monopoly” on tea. North America only wanted to import tea through the East India Company. The East India Company did not sell it directly to North American plantations; instead, they sold it at auction to the British, who colonized North America. The East India Company taxed North America and 25% of British tea imports.

This action by the British government somehow angered the American colonists because the tax on imports was extra and cost them more. While the American colonies steadily grew with their thriving plantations, they also engaged in global trade to further develop the nation’s economy. They were taxed on tea. Therefore, this British policy stimulated the outbreak of war.

After the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1765, in order to continue to tighten the grip and squeeze on the North American colonies, the British Parliament passed four successive Acts, commonly known as the Townshend Acts, in the second half of 1767, on the proposal of Charles Townshend. This Act gave British customs officers the right to break into the homes, warehouses, and shops of the colonists to search for contraband and smuggled goods. The Revenue Act of 1767, passed on June 26, was the second act to put pressure on the colonies. The tax law taxed tea, paper, glass, lead, and other goods shipped from England to the colonies. The Townshend Act caused complaints from the North American colonists after it made the rate of tea imports to North America even more onerous.

The political order in the North American colonies was formed entirely by the colonists themselves. They did not participate in British political decisions or fall under the jurisdiction of the British government. As a colony, the obligation of the people of North America to the mother country was to monopolize trade [4]. The colonies could only trade with Britain, whether importing or exporting, so Britain could make huge trade profits. North Americans, meanwhile, paid no taxes to their home countries. The British Parliament passed a tax act that broke the old traditions and the old peace [5]. The North American colonies assumed the dual obligation of monopolizing trade and paying taxes. The tax act exacerbated the relationship between the American and British governments, because the colonies had gained financial independence from Britain because of agricultural development and international trade.

By controlling military and commercial control in North America, Britain controlled the ability and space for all colonial colonists to grow in North America. Britain’s squeezing behavior in North America further caused the resistance of the colonial colonists in North America. Finally, it caused resistance to the British suzerainty of the Thirteen Colonies of North America.

Britain’s continued victories over France in North America, and its increasing control over North America, gave great confidence in its ability to control North America. The British squeeze on the North American colonists eventually led to continued resistance,

which was the most critical “powder keg” of the war. In the view of most historians, the Boston Tea Party was nothing more than the trigger for the American Revolution [6].

On Dec. 16, 1773, Samuel Adams and 60 North American rebels known as the Sons of Liberty disguised as Native Americans infiltrated a British merchant ship and dumped 342 chests of tea worth 15,000 lb into the sea in what became known as the Boston Tea Party. The British government viewed the event as an act of defiance by North America against the British government [6]. As a result, the British government sent troops to suppress and arrest 60 affiliated people involved in the incident. However, this suppression caused discontent among the majority of colonists in the thirteen colonies, which eventually led to the beginning of the American Revolution.

These arguments in favor of the economic cause of the war already showed that the British government had been squeezing the American colonies from their very beginning. This kind of oppression became more intense after the American colonists became powerful and economically independent. But as the economic disparity grew, the American colonies were more willing to rebel.

4 The Political Factors of the Outbreak of the War

In the first Industrial Revolution, Britain vigorously developed the maritime industry, which also led to many overseas campaigns and became the country with the largest number of overseas colonies. With the advent of the maritime Age, Britain benefited greatly from the East India Company with the help of strong overseas forces, and its trade also began to develop rapidly. However, internal divisions and conflicts arose between the Protestant and Old churches. There was a movement in England not to recognize the church largely outside of religious control. Within England, where the church was strong, Puritan power waned and spread to the English colonies. Eventually, a group of Puritans fled to North America and became the first settlers in the United States. These men later became major leaders in spurring the American Revolution [7].

The United States originated from the first colony established by the English in Virginia in 1607. After the English Puritans fled to North America, they gradually formed their own power under the English settlement. By the 1730s, 13 colonies formed the prototype of the United States [7]. In addition, France formed its own power in eastern North America. Britain and France fought another war in North America, known as the Seven Years' War. As a result of Britain's eventual victory, the entire continent of North America, including the thirteen colonies and the vast western region bounded by the Mississippi River, would now belong to Britain. Britain and France began to divide the colonies in North America equally [8].

After defeating the French in the war, Britain's power in the United States grew stronger. At the same time, the ability of British colonial farmers began to have an impact. With the power of the British colonial farmers, they formed a large and essential political party. This political party resembles the beginnings of modern democracy. They began asking for more rights from Britain, chanting “No taxation without representation”. They wanted a seat in the British Parliament and to secure the rights of colonial farmers in North America [9].

As a result of Britain's failure to address North American interests, the Boston Massacre (known in Britain as the King Street Incident) occurred, and the local powers

in North America began to clash with the old powers in Britain. The European colonists in North America fiercely debated and condemned the British home Army. The North American colonists believed that the British local masters did not give the overseas colonists corresponding rights. Instead, they demanded that they pay their taxes on time. Inequality of power and responsibility arose. The colonists felt that the British local powers were exploiting them.

In order to maintain the rule of North America, Britain enacted four laws and sent more than 7,000 British soldiers to the Boston area, which further angered the colonists. Eventually, the two forces began to clash in the King Street area. During the conflict, the British fired on opposition forces in the thirteen colonies. This led to divisions and opposition between the Thirteen colonies and British local forces. After the “Boston Massacre”, conflict between the Thirteen Colonies and British mainland forces intensified, leading to the famous “Boston Tea Party”.

The North American colonies were governed according to the British system of government. Each colony had a governor and a parliament. The governor ruled the colonies on behalf of England. The government and Parliament have executive, economic, and military powers. Sometimes they even have the power to veto bills passed by parliament.

As for the British mainland, they could not give the colonies power in Parliament. Britain could expand further abroad by squeezing the resources of the colonies. Suppose the North American colonies were allowed to have their own rights in parliament. In that case, other colonies would quickly follow suit, and Britain’s ability to control the colonies would rapidly decline. Eventually, the colonies would grow in power, so the British government expanded its power and tried to avoid rebellion in the colonies.

This was the last thing the British local powers wanted. The English local forces could control North America only through repression. However, British local forces in North America were strong enough that the ability of the British to control North America was gradually declining. With the rise of the uprising, Britain eventually lost control of North America through defeat. The response policy formulated by the British forces was extremely inconsistent with the situation at that time, which was also an important factor leading to the inevitable war.

As a result of these events, the American colonists and the thirteen colonies began to consider strategies to counter British power. After each incident, the idea that they could govern their own territory dawned on them. The British parliament-led Boston Tea Party and the Boston Massacre were ineffective in communicating with the colonists. As a result, they would want to break away from colonial rule.

5 Cultural Factors in the Outbreak of War

The United States has been a leader in nationalist ideas since the War of Independence against Britain. Moreover, nationalist ideas have had a significant impact on American history. The revolution is thought to have been the result of nationalism, because people began to have ideas of their own and wanted to govern the territory for themselves [10].

In 1607, a group of English settlers landed on the east coast of North America and established a stronghold on the upper James River. They called it Jamestown and began to develop the colony. Since then, with the Indians’ help, they obtained the ability to

grow some local crops and economic ties between the previously isolated colonies have strengthened due to the growth of industry, agriculture, and trade. By the mid-18th century, the major cities of New England were connected by a network of roads and Bridges. There were roads from Boston to Charleston and from New York to Boston. A large number of rivers and passable waterways break down barriers between areas. Industrial products from the north were sold to the South, and agricultural products from the South were shipped north. Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and a few other places grew into cities of 20,000 to 30,000 people and became the political and cultural centers of North America. With the formation of a single market, cultural exchanges between the colonies became extremely frequent. The American colonies developed a common culture based on economic and population growth.

In the arduous struggle to open up a new world, the inhabitants of North America developed a unique and strong character -- the spirit of innovation, enterprise and individual struggle, so by the middle of the 18th century, the English colonies in North America had formed a new nation, the American Nation. Along with the formation of the American nations came a growing sense of nationhood.

In the North American colonies, English influence was everywhere. Many things in North America were merely reprints or imitations of England. The political system, laws, religion, customs, and even ethical and moral values of the colonies were copied from England [11]. The same is true of English literature. Moreover, by the 1750s, North Americans were emotionally and intellectually loyal to England. The main reasons can be broken down into three areas. First, the vast majority of North American residents are immigrants from the United Kingdom. They all have a native sense of England. Second, North America needed British protection. Before 1763, the North American colonies were threatened by France and Spain, and the inhabitants longed for protection from their mother country. Finally, plantation owners in the Southern colonies developed a close trade relationship with England: they sold tobacco in England while buying luxury goods from England.

Underlying this sense of attachment to the mother country, however, was a solid undercurrent of North American nationalism. The new world environment gave rise to new ways of living and shaped new cultural structures and innovative thinking. Most North Americans realized that the ideal natural environment of the New World, with its vast space and inexhaustible resources, promised a bright and wonderful future. Full of enterprise and optimism, they hoped to transform nature and create a new life with their own hands. They believe they will have a brighter future - a belief that makes them feel fresh and different from the old world.

Thomas Paine became an English-born radical thinker and activist influenced by the European Enlightenment. He saw the opinions of those at the bottom of the colony oscillate, without firm and definite convictions. In January 1776, Paine published *Common Sense*, a pamphlet of less than 50 pages. His pamphlet clearly explained why the 13 colonies should and must be independent. He did not use lofty ideology, nor did he use any terminology or detailed citations. Instead, he analyzed the sources of the structure of government, the features of the British Constitution, the hazards of hereditary monarchies, the state of the American colonies, the feasibility of independence. More than 120,000 copies of the pamphlet were issued within three months of its publication,

and half a million copies were sold by the end of the year. It is considered the most provocative piece of propaganda of the American Revolution and provided a foothold for the independence movement. It can also be seen from the widespread spread of the pamphlet that the idea of independence of the American colonies at that time from the beginning to the rapid spread.

In addition, a large number of repressive policies issued by the British regime at the beginning of the rise of American independence ideas further promoted the nationalist ideology and central idea to become very popular in the colonies, and the Americans were eventually able to get rid of the British control.

The united nation formed by a unified culture and the guiding role of ideological enlightenment conspired to bring about the outbreak of the American Revolution. Therefore, the reasons for the outbreak of the war did not depend solely on economic and political factors. The prevailing and central ideas about reform are another key aspect that researchers can explore.

6 Conclusion

The American Revolution destroyed the British colonial rule and made the people of North America independent and established the United States of America. It also had a great impact on the world. It set a precedent for the colonial people to rebel against the colonists and establish an independent country. To sum up, this paper believes that the development of capitalist economy in North America, the economic stability of Britain, the political demands of capitalists in North America, the formation of a unified country in the United States and the guidance of ideological enlightenment are the main reasons for the North American War of Independence. In particular, the colonies first obtained a stable economic position through trade and plantations. Later, with the progress of people's nationalist concept, the colonists began to have the idea of secession due to the control, oppression and brutality of the British. Finally, the Revolutionary War broke out because political pressure stimulated the people. As such, the entire series leading up to the war is multi-dimensional.

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