American Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

- A war between the Kingdom of Great Britain and thirteen British colonies on the North American continent.
- The war was the culmination of the political American Revolution, whereby the colonists overthrew British rule.
- In 1776 the colonies formally declared their independence as a new nation, the United States of America.
- From 1778 onward, other European powers would fight on the American side in the war. Meanwhile, Native Americans and African Americans served on both sides.
- In early 1778, France entered the war against Britain; Spain and the Netherlands joined as allies of France over the next two years.
- The Treaty of Paris in 1783 ended the war and recognized the sovereignty of the United States over the territory bounded by what is now Canada to the north, Florida to the south, and the Mississippi River to the west.

- The war of American independence could be summed up as a civil war fought on foreign soil, as opposing forces comprised both nations' residents.
- A war that America could not have survived without French assistance. In addition, Britain had significant military disadvantages. Distance was a major problem: most troops and supplies had to be shipped across the Atlantic Ocean.

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