

# Legacy of the War

## Expert Information:

### Why the Americans Won

The Americans were able to defeat the British even though they were not as well trained or well supplied because of four major advantages. The Americans had better leadership. British generals were over confident and made poor decisions, while George Washington learned from his mistakes. Foreign aid, especially from France, helped the Americans greatly. The Americans knowledge of the land helped give them an edge against the British. The Americans had the home field advantage, so to speak. The final advantage that the Americans had over the British was motivation. They were fighting for their lives, property, and their freedom.

### The Treaty of Paris 1783

The Treaty of Paris 1783, which ended the Revolutionary war, included six conditions. Great Britain recognized the United States as independent, the boundaries would be the Mississippi River to the west, Canada to the north, and Spanish Florida to the south, the United States would still be allowed fishing rights off Canada's Atlantic coast, each side would repay debts owed, the British would return all captured slaves, and Congress would recommend that states return any Loyalist property seized during the war.

### Costs of the War

An estimated 25,700 Americans died in the war, 1,400 missing, and 8,200 wounded. The British suffered about 10,000 deaths. Both Congress and the states borrowed large amounts of money to finance the conflict. The war left the United States with a debt of about \$27 million dollars, which would be about \$600 million today. Between 60,000 and 100,000 Loyalists left the United States during or after the war.

### Issues after the War

The American Revolution changed the type of government that colonists would live under. Instead of a monarchy they would have a republican form of government. Republicanism is the belief that government should be based on the consent of the people, and that people exercise their power by voting for political representatives. The American Revolution also caused a change in the type of economic system that colonists live under. Instead of a mercantilists system they would have a free enterprise system. In a free enterprise system business is conducted freely on the choices of individuals. The government does not control the system, only protects and regulates it. There are five major features of a free enterprise system. Competition encourages quality and keeps prices down, property ownership by individuals, profit motivates the businesspeople, individuals decide what to buy and what to manufacture and sell, government regulates and protects private property. Religious freedom and slavery also became issues after the war, because they conflicted with the ideal of liberty.