

Ch 4 Section 2 Ideas Help Start a Revolution

The Colonies Hover Between Peace and War

The Second Continental Congress

- **Second Continental Congress** meets May–June 1775 in Philadelphia:
 - debate independence
 - recognize militiamen as Continental Army
 - appoint George Washington commander
 - print paper money to pay troops

The Battle of Bunker Hill

- British troops attack militia north of Boston, June 1775
- Costly British win: 450 colonist and over 1,000 British casualties

The Olive Branch Petition

- July, Congress sends **Olive Branch Petition** to restore “harmony”
- George III rejects petition, orders naval blockade

The Patriots Declare Independence

Common Sense

- Thomas Paine’s pamphlet *Common Sense* attacks king
- Argues independence will allow free trade and foreign aid
- Independence can give equal social, economic opportunities to all
- Almost 500,000 copies of pamphlet sold; convinces many colonists

Declaring Independence

- Congress urges each colony to form own government
- Congress appoints committee to prepare formal declaration
- Virginia lawyer **Thomas Jefferson** chosen to write it
- **Declaration of Independence**—formal statement of separation

Declaring Independence

- Declaration, based on John Locke’s ideas, lists complaints, rights:
 - people have natural rights to life, liberty, property
 - people consent to obey a government that protects rights
 - people can resist or overthrow government
- “All men are created equal” means free citizens are political equals
- July 4, 1776 delegates adopt declaration

Americans Choose Sides

Loyalists and Patriots

- **Loyalists**—oppose independence, loyal to Crown for different reasons:
 - work in government, unaware of events, trust crown to protect rights
- **Patriots**, almost half of population, support independence:
 - think independence will mean economic opportunity

Taking Sides

- Groups divided: Quakers, African Americans on both sides
- Native Americans support British; colonists threaten their lands