

American Revolution





Green Mountain Boys

- Ethan Allen took Ft. Ticonderoga (May 1775)
- Why valuable?
 - Cannons, gunpowder
 - British supply route from Canada





The Second Continental Congress (1775)

Olive Branch Petition

- Sent to King George
- declared loyalty
- asked for repeal of Intolerable Acts

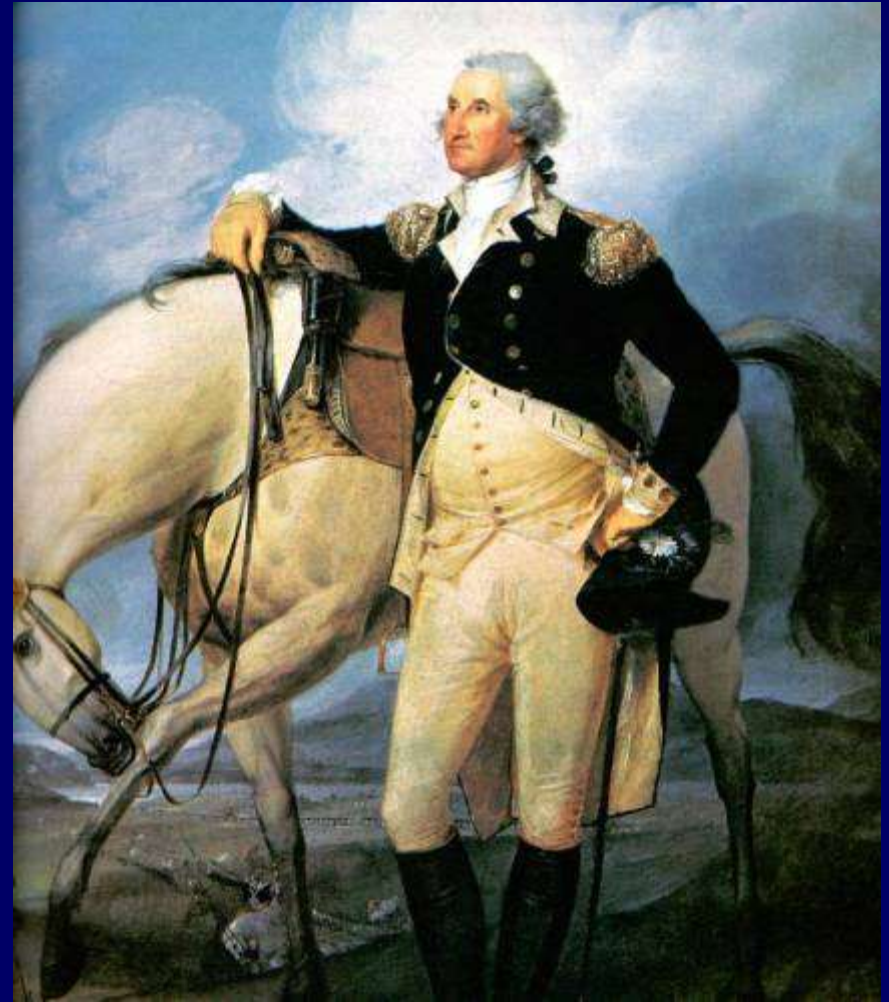
**At the same time...formed the Continental Army with George Washington as commander





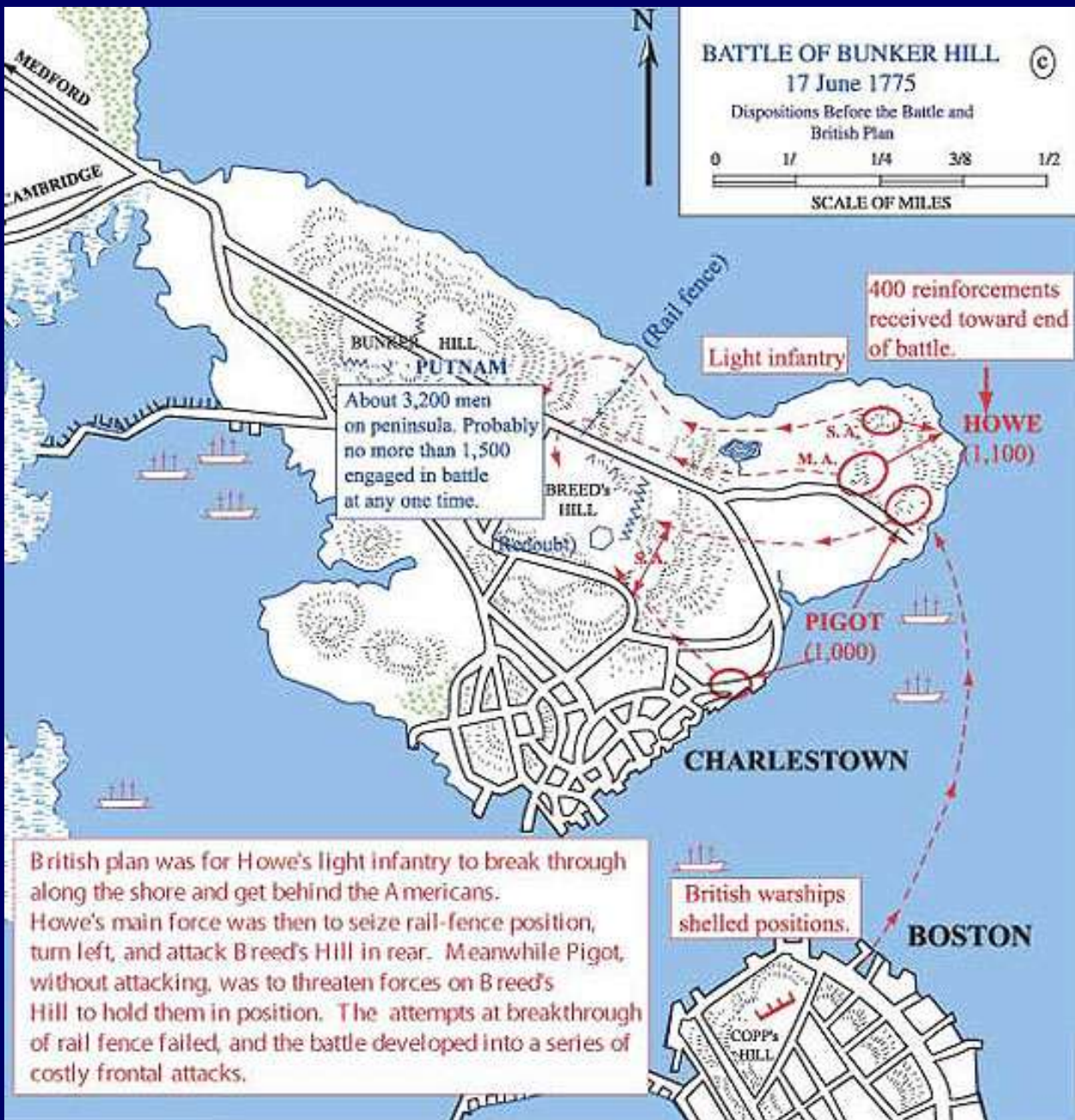
Washington's Headaches

- Only 1/3 of the colonists were in favor of a war for independence
- State/colony loyalties
- Congress couldn't tax to raise money for the Continental Army
- Poor training





Bunker Hill (June, 1775)



- British struck at militia on Breed's Hill
- British troops moved in tight formation and were sitting ducks
- The British suffered over 40% casualties (1000 dead)
- Deadliest battle of war

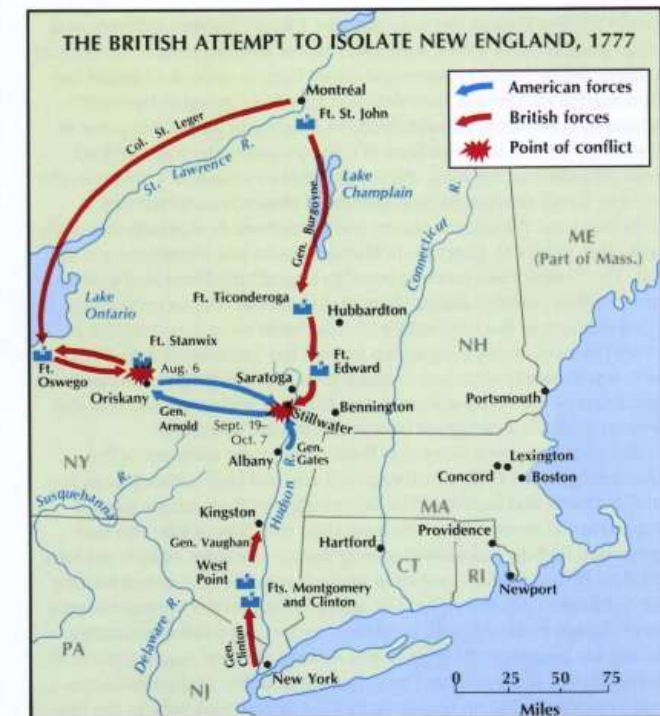




In 1774 the General Court, meeting in Salem, called for a Continental Congress, which was convened that fall in Philadelphia. Its most significant action was a call to end commerce with England. In Massachusetts, support for the Congress was part of a more general movement, led by the Sons of Liberty, toward extralegal authority in the Bay Colony. Courts were closed, royal officials were forced to flee to the safety of Boston, and a list of grievances against the king, known as the Suffolk Resolves, was drafted. A committee of safety, which was in effect a government for the colony independent of royal authority, was set up and a separate treasury was established for the defense of the colony.

The war for independence began in Massachusetts on April 19, 1775, when a collection of some 70 minutemen engaged British troops on Lexington Green and fired the "shot heard 'round the world." The British, victorious at Lexington, pressed on to Concord, where at the "rude bridge that arched the flood" they were beaten back by the colonists and forced into retreat, being harassed as they fled and suffering heavy casualties. The American Revolution, as a military action, had begun.

Two months after Lexington and Concord, on June 17, 1775, in the battle of Bunker Hill, the British overran colonial defenses and captured this high ground close to Boston, but again they paid heavily in lives. George Washington, on orders from the Continental Congress, then took command of colonial forces and, in 1776, set siege to Boston that led the British to evacuate on March 17. Less than four months later, the Congress declared independence. The American Revolution, begun in Massachusetts, was fought to a successful conclusion in the southern colonies.



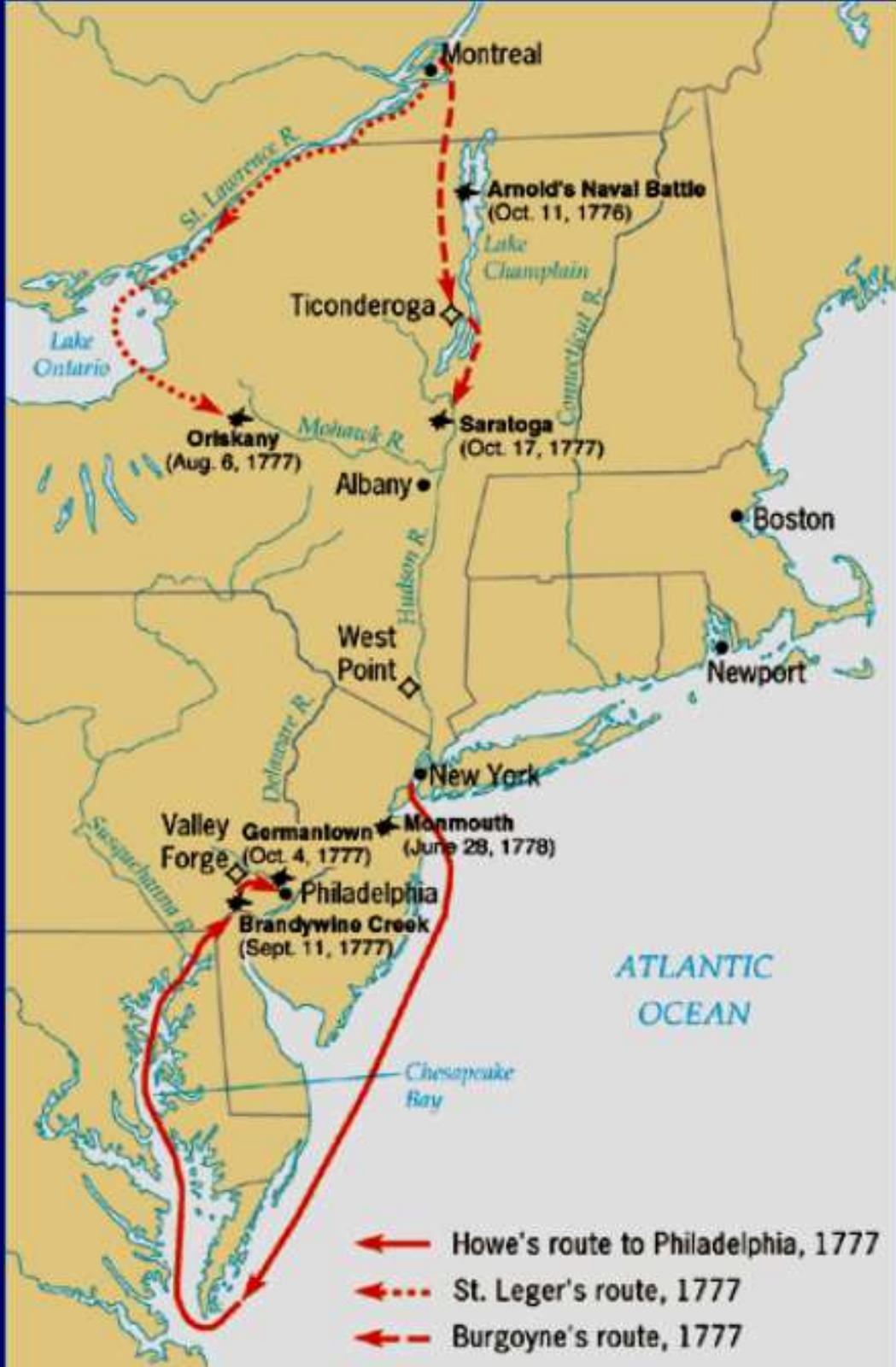


Historical and Intellectual Influences on the Revolution

- Historical and Intellectual Influences PowerPoint



NY and PA Campaign [1777-1778]





New York City in Flames (1776)

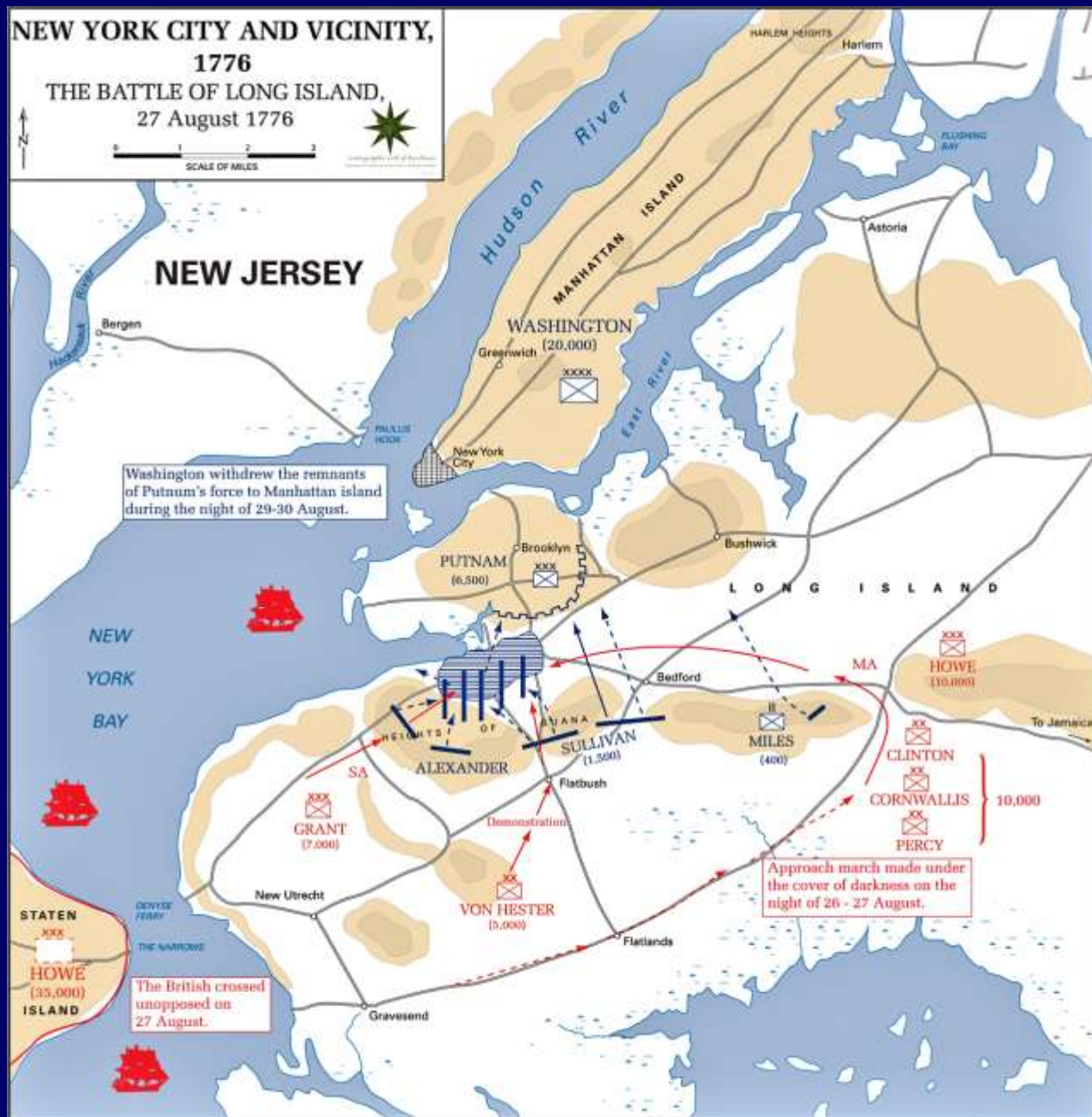




Battle of Long Island



- Huge Brit troop advantage
- 1400 dead and wounded Americans
- Washington forced to retreat north





Washington Crossing the Delaware



Painted by Emanuel Leutze, 1851



Battle of Trenton

- Christmas night 1776 Washington crosses icy Delaware to surprise Hessians
- Drunk from Christmas partying
- Americans captured 1400+ men





Saratoga: “Turning Point” of the War?

Why?

- Ended Brit threat in New England
- Boosted morale
- Brought French aid (troops, supplies, training)





Valley Forge

- 1777-1778...Americans suffered severe hardships:
 - Slept on frozen ground
 - Little clothing
 - No shoes
 - Little food
 - Frostbite
 - Disease





Help From Abroad

- Marquis de Lafayette
 - French
 - Brought trained soldiers
 - Became trusted friend of Washington



- Friedrich von Steuben
 - Prussian
 - helped trained US soldiers





Valley Forge Video





African-Americans in the War

- At first none could serve...Brits offered freedom
- Washington changed policy
- 5000+ fought...hoped it might end slavery





Britain's "Southern Strategy"

- Britain thought that there were more Loyalists in the South.
- Southern resources were more valuable/worth preserving.
- The British win a number of small victories, but cannot pacify the countryside
- Good US Generals: Nathaniel Greene, Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion





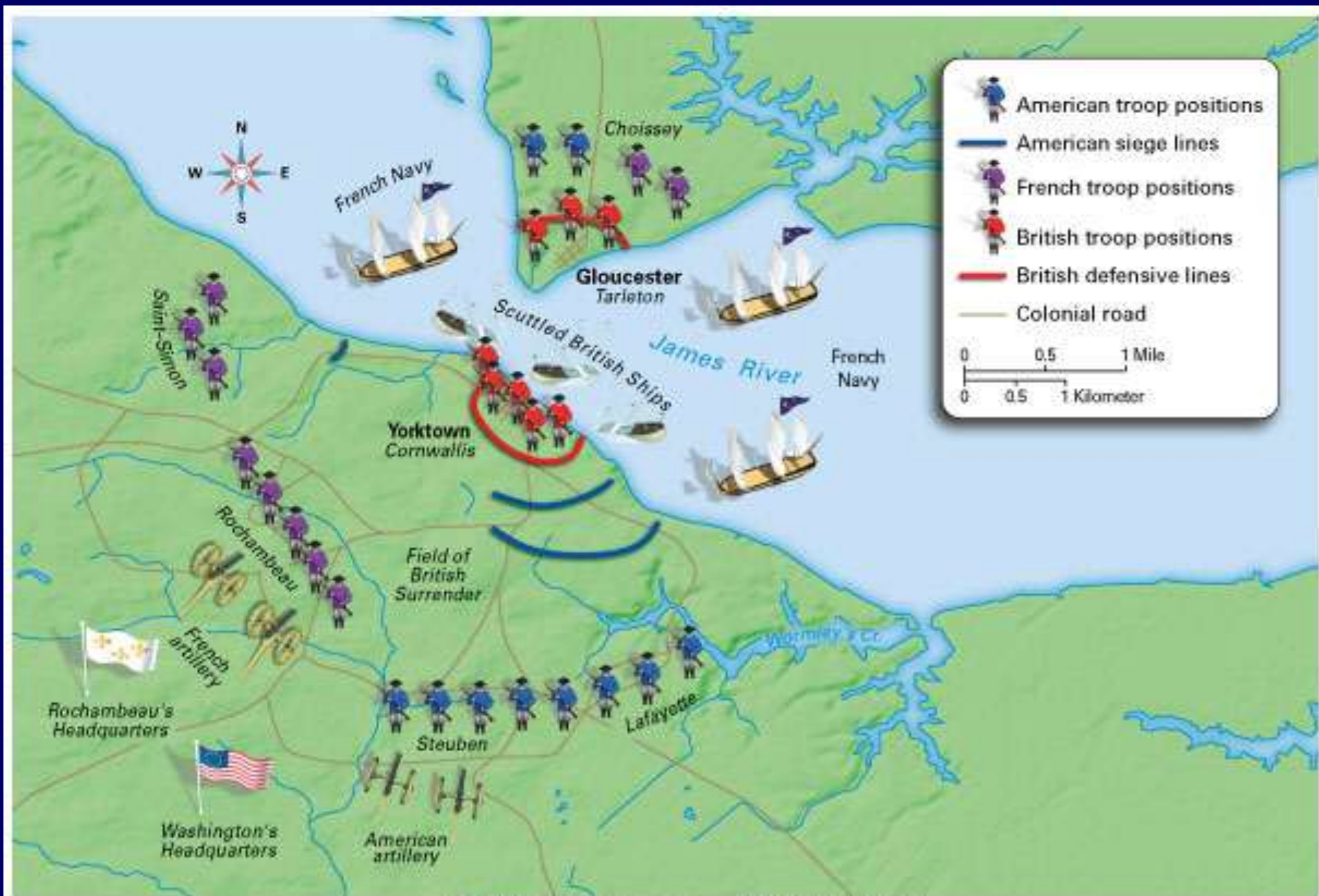
The Battle of Yorktown (1781)

- Cornwallis foolishly decided to camp on a peninsula at Yorktown
- French naval force blockaded the Chesapeake Bay preventing a British rescue by sea
- 17,000 French and American troops surrounded the British and bombarded them for 3 weeks
- Cornwallis surrendered on October 17, 1781





Surrender at Yorktown





The Patriot: Battle of Yorktown

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvGAE1JcGV4&feature=related>



The Treaty of Paris, 1783

THE WAR ENDS WITH THESE CONDITIONS:

1. “free, sovereign and independent states”
2. British must remove all troops from forts
3. Boundary for United States is the Mississippi
4. Loyalist would have rights and property protected
5. captured slaves must be returned to owners



North America After the Treaty of Paris, 1783

