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1584-1732	October 1765	December 1773	April 1775	January 1776	November 1777	1781 - 1787	1788 - 1789
1754	1765	Sept/Oct. 1774	May 1775	July 1776	March 1781	May/Sept. 1787	

Date Details

1584-1732 Colonies come into existence:

The thirteen original colonies come into existence and write constitutions that establish various forms of democratic governments.

1754 Attempt at Unified Government:

Colonists meet to discuss how to protect themselves from Indian uprisings. Ben Franklin suggests forming a unified group, but neither the colonists nor Britain like the idea.

October 1765 The Stamp Congress:

Nine of thirteen colonies met in New York to send a letter to Great Britain protesting the Stamp Act. This meeting in New York became known as the Stamp Congress.

1765 The Sons of Liberty :

At about the same time as the Stamp Congress, the Sons of Liberty was forming in almost all of the colonies calling for independence from Great Britain.

December 1773 Boston Tea Party:

In retaliation to a tax on tea, a group of Bostonians, disguised as Indians, boarded a British vessel and emptied out the ship's cargo of tea into the Boston Harbor.

May 1775 Second Continental Congress:

Second Continental Congress meets after Lexington and Concord to form an army and reach a peaceful solution with Great Britain. Washington is appointed Commander-in-Chief.

January 1776 Thomas Paine's 'Common Sense':

Thomas Paine writes and distributes Common Sense, which calls for independence from Great Britain and denounces British Rule over the Colonies.

July 1776 Declaration of Independence:

The Second Continental Congress creates and signs the Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary War escalates.

November 1777 Articles of Confederation:

The first governing document for the United States is adopted. With no executive or judicial branches and no power to levy taxes it is flawed and widely criticized.

March 1781 The United States of America:

The thirteen colonies accept the Articles of Confederation and the newly named United States of America wins the Revolutionary War.