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Date Details

1584-1732	1584-1732 Colonies come into existence: The thirteen original colonies come into existence and write constitutions that establish various forms of democratic governments.
1754	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	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	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	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.
Sept/Oct. 1774	Sept/Oct. 1774 First Continental Congress: On the heels of many individual protests, twelve of the thirteen colonies met in Philadelphia to discuss the unfair taxes Great Britain was imposing on them.
April 1775	April 1775 Revolutionary War Begins: With no declaration of war, it began with militias in some of the colonies, notably in Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts, fighting small battles against British troops.
May 1775	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	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	July 1776 Declaration of Independence: The Second Continental Congress creates and signs the Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary War escalates.
November 1777	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	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.
1781 - 1787	1781 - 1787 Articles of Conf. are Flawed: U.S. is a poor, powerless country with no power to collect taxes, coin money, regulate trade or settle fights between the states. National Government is too weak.
May/Sept. 1787	
1788 - 1789	