

Mini Essay #4: 2 Narratives of The American Revolution

The American Revolution Narrative #1

America was founded on the glorious battlefields of The American Revolution. General George Washington's intelligence and bravery helped unite Americans together and defeat the mighty British Empire. George Washington was able to discipline common and scared colonists and turn them into brave soldiers. Washington had to form a Continental Army that would be brave and disciplined enough to stand up to the British army. At first, none of the American colonists wanted to fight in this brave way. Most common soldiers would be scared and would run away from the firing lines. They were undisciplined and would not work together. However, Washington's toughness was able to discipline the men into a united and brave fighting army. After many years of training and discipline, Washington was finally able to form an army strong enough to challenge the British. Washington slowly took this army and won many famous victories at The Battle of Trenton and Princeton and then again at Saratoga. Finally, it was George Washington brilliant leadership as commander that surrounded The British at Yorktown, Virginia and forced The British to surrender in 1781. Washington had turned a group of unorganized and undisciplined commoners into a disciplined and brave Continental Army that had won independence for the colonies and made the United States of America.

The American Revolution Narrative #2 America was founded by violent guerrilla warfare and France. George Washington and his Continental Army were not strong or smart enough to challenge the more professional British army. In fact, the years 1776-1778 saw the British army continually defeat Washington and his army. Just when it looked like there would never be a U.S.A. common people and the French came to the rescue. First, normal people-mostly farmers- rejoined local militias and started using guerrilla warfare against the British army. They did not use any heroic traditional warfare to fight the British. Instead, they used surprise attacks and would then run away. Many militias would hide, shoot British soldiers in the back when they rode by, and then run away. These surprise attacks and retreats were very effective against the British army who were used to more honorable battles in open fields. Because these guerrilla tactics were successful, the war was able to continue longer. After the war had lasted 3 years, France decided that maybe the colonies could actually defeat England. So, in 1779, France decided to join the war against England. Because of this England had to fight wars on many fronts now-America, Europe, and The Caribbean. The result was that England's army was much weaker now. Most importantly, however, was that France sent the French navy to the Americas to defeat the English navy. Without the French navy support, America never could have forced England to surrender in 1781 and form the United States of America. So, every year Americans should celebrate Independence Day by remembering the two things that formed America: guerrilla warfare and France.