

1776 by David McCollough

PART I - The Siege

Chapter 1: Sovereign Duty

- ❑ Thursday, October 26, 1775, King George III of England rides in royal splendor from St. James Palace to the Palace of Westminster (London)
- ❑ 60,000 people were present to hear him address the issue of war in America
- ❑ Samuel Curwen was an American in London who was a Massachusetts Loyalist
 - ❑ He failed to see the king due to the large mob of people
- ❑ Two horse grenadiers led the way of the king in his gold chariot
 - ❑ 8 Hanoverian Creams pulled the chariot and 6 men at his side
 - ❑ King George had this chariot built years before, insisting that it be “superb”
 - ❑ At the top of the chariot were three gilded cherubs, each one to represent England, Scotland, and Ireland
 - ❑ London was home to millions of people and was known as the capital of the world
 - ❑ George III embodies the splendor of the British Empire, an empire that includes much of North America
- ❑ George III was 22 in 1760 when he came to the throne
- ❑ He drank wine only and was a man of simple taste
 - ❑ He refused to wear a wig
 - ❑ He was married to the German queen Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz
 - ❑ He had produced 15 kids with her
 - ❑ He was handsome and loved music and architecture
 - ❑ He founded the Royal Academy of Arts
 - ❑ George had a gift for putting people at ease, as said by Samuel Johnson, the era’s reigning arbiter of all things of the mind
 - ❑ By age 11 he still could not read
 - ❑ George may have had Porphyria, a hereditary disease
 - ❑ George knew that he would have to play the part of a patriot-king
 - ❑ His Prime Minister was Lord North
 - ❑ When speaking about war with the American colonies, he points out that the colonists outnumber the British
 - ❑ Lord Sandwich, a member of Parliament, claimed that the Americans pose no threat because they are undisciplined
 - ❑ Some of the people disagreed and Edmund Burke voiced ardent support for and admiration of the Americans
 - ❑ All people in the meeting, Tory and Whig, no one denied the supremacy of parliament
 - ❑ King George III dispatched three of his best major generals to join his “insufficient” army in Boston: **William Howe, John Burgoyne, and Henry Clinton**
 - ❑ William Howe, a Whig, previously said that he would decline a position in the war with America if it ever came to it but once it did come he changed his mind
 - ❑ Howe, having served in the 7 years war, was convinced the insurgents were few in number in comparison to those loyal to the crown
- ❑ War began on April 19th of 1775, with the first blood shed at Lexington and Concord near Boston
 - ❑ Then on June 17th at Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill (Battle of Bunker Hill and British Win)
 - ❑ On July 3rd, General George Washington of Virginia had taken command of the Americans
 - ❑ It took a month for news of the war to spread from America to England (Water separates them)

- ❑ At the end of July, George III hears of the Battle of Bunker Hill and says, “We must persist” to Lord North
 - ❑ On July 26th, at 10 Downing Street, the Cabinet decides to send 2,000 reinforcements to Boston and to have an army of no fewer than 20,000 in America by the following spring
- ❑ At the Battle of Bunker Hill, Howe and the British take the win but suffer more than 1,000 casualties in an appalling slaughter before gaining the high ground
 - ❑ A British ship docked at Plymouth, with 170 men who had fought at Bunker Hill
 - ❑ These men were in great distress
 - ❑ The battles wreak havoc on American cities
 - ❑ The king’s supporters flee and other Americans lose all their property in the chaos
- ❑ Despite the war, King George still remained popular in England
 - ❑ Bribery, favoritism, and corruption in great forms were rampant in politics, and all levels of society
 - ❑ Tobias Smollet compared London to “The devils drawing room”
 - ❑ Many of the English newspapers characterize his military action in the war as “unnecessary and unjust”
 - ❑ George III places William Howe in charge of the British troops in America
 - ❑ Richard Penn brings about the Olive Branch Petition, but George III wanted nothing to do with it
 - ❑ Lord North arranges for German princes to hire mercenary troops to be sent to America
 - ❑ George’s handling of the war is controversial, but as he rides to Parliament in October 1775, he’s never seemed more popular
 - ❑ Opposition to the war was stronger and more vociferous in London than anywhere in the country, yet the crowds greater than any since his ascension to the throne
 - ❑ George takes a seat at the throne of the House of Lords (They wore crimson robes)
- ❑ At this point, George III delivers one of the most important speeches in English history
 - ❑ He claims that America was in open revolt and that the Americans are traitors and are preparing for rebellion
 - ❑ They are said to have been raising troops, collecting a naval force, seized the public revenue, and that the torrent of violence has been strong enough to compel their acquiescence till a sufficient force shall appear to support them
 - ❑ He was “anxious to prevent, if it had been possible, the effusion of the blood of my subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war”
 - ❑ The rebellious war is carried by the will of the people in America hungry for an independent state
 - ❑ King George III thought to be a subject of great Britain is to be the freest member of any civil society in the known world
 - ❑ George III wanted to put a speedy end to this rebellion
 - ❑ To sum it up, George III had declared America in rebellion. He had confirmed that he was committing land and sea forces --- as well as foreign mercenaries, and that he had denounced the leaders of the uprising

for having American independence as their true objective, something those leaders themselves had not as yet openly declared

- ❑ This speech to parliament lasted a total of 20 minutes
- ❑ After George III departs, the House of Lords (which consists of the aristocratic MPs) debates his speech.
 - ❑ Some praise the king for his resolution to uphold the interests and honor of the kingdom, praised for his decisiveness
 - ❑ Those in opposition claim that the measures are reckless, and many are opposed to fighting the American colonists, whom they still consider British (“Shedding British Blood by British Hands”)
 - ❑ Others wonder why George III thinks the rebels are fighting for independence
 - ❑ Coming as a surprise, The Duke of Grafton, a former Prime Minister, surprises everyone by vehemently declaring his opposition to the king’s plan
 - ❑ Instead he supports a milder program: repealing the Stamp Act of 1765, the legislation that arguably first prompted a rebellion
- ❑ In Parliament’s House of Commons (A lower house than the House of Lords, consisting of publicly-elected MP’s) they denounce the king’s speech, but some come to the king’s defense
 - ❑ John Dyke Acland, who will go on to fight in America on the British side, declares that Britain’s army is the most powerful in the world.
 - ❑ John Wilkes, Lord Mayor of London, champion of the people and the homeliest man in Parliament, stood to be heard, and let there be no doubt that he was John Wilkes
 - ❑ He claims that if the British fail to win the war with the colonies, ‘the grandeur of the British empire will pass away’
 - ❑ George Johnstone says, “Every Machiavellian policy is now to be vindicated towards the people of America”
 - ❑ He praises the people of New England for their courage and fortitude when fighting British Troops at Bunker Hill
 - ❑ Alexander Wedderburn belittled the very idea of standing in the way of the King and called for the full-scale conquest of America
 - ❑ He demands that America must be conquered
- ❑ As the night dragged on, Lord North remained conspicuously silent
 - ❑ Lord North was much liked --- moderate, urbane, and intelligent
 - ❑ He knew that the majority of people stood behind the king
- ❑ Colonel Isaac Barre was a veteran of the French and Indian War and claimed that the only way to avert “This American storm” was to reach an accommodation just as soon as possible”
 - ❑ He was the first person to call the Americans, “Sons of Liberty”
- ❑ Edmund Burke and Charles James Fox filled the next several hours

- ❑ Burke took his time and explained his point of view for 2 hours... he devoted much of his time to the disgrace of the British forces cooped up in Boston by those said to be an undisciplined rabble
 - ❑ He opposed military action in America
- ❑ Charles James Fox was born into wealth and position, who was a very social and outgoing person
 - ❑ His intellect and oratorical gifts were second to none
 - ❑ He always spoke spontaneously and never from notes or a prepared text
 - ❑ He attacked Lord North calling him the “Blundering Pilot” who had brought the nation to a terrible impasse
 - ❑ “Lord Chatham, the King of Prussia, nay, Alexander the Great, never gained more in one campaign than the noble lord has lost, he has lost a whole continent”
- ❑ Lord North knew that he did not possess the qualities to conquer America, even though George III had called him his “sheet anchor”
 - ❑ He steps down from his military post
 - ❑ He also claims that the British will sail to America and offer the Americans “mercy upon proper submission”
 - ❑ He did not explain the proper submission
- ❑ In the House of Lords they voted in the King’s favor with a vote of 69-29
- ❑ In the House of Commons they voted in the King’s favor with a vote of 278- 108
- ❑ During the debate, House of Commons member Edward Gibbon had remained silent
 - ❑ He was extremely pleased with the outcome
 - ❑ He was a supporter of Lord North
 - ❑ He was usually silent but had been assuring friends that something will be done about the Americans
 - ❑ At the time, Gibbon is finishing his monumental *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
 - ❑ He is confident that Britain’s conquest of America will be successful
- ❑ In November, George III appointed a new Secretary for the American Colonies
 - ❑ Lord George Germain was to replace Earl of Dartmouth
 - ❑ His new role would require him to direct the main operations of the war and was expected to take a firm hand
 - ❑ He had no sympathy for the riotous rebels of America
 - ❑ Germain said that a “decisive blow” to the Americans was needed and the King thought highly of him

Chapter 2: Rabble in Arms; Part I (refers to the rebels, or the american troops)

- ❑ The chapter begins with Nathanael Green appraising the scene of Boston during the last days of October 1775... he wishes he had more gunpowder

- ❑ At age 33, Greene was from Rhode Island and was the youngest general officer in what constituted the American Army... many of the key players in the Revolutionary War were young
 - ❑ He had never served in a campaign, or even set foot on a battlefield... all he knew about warfare was attained through reading books... he had only been a soldier for 6 months
 - ❑ He was a Quaker and had a stiff right leg and limp as well as asthma
 - ❑ He had a total commitment to the Glorious Cause of America and was very clever and cunning
- ❑ George Washington was the Commander in Chief of the army and was only 43 years old
- ❑ John Hancock was the President of the Continental Congress and was only 39 years old
- ❑ John Adams was only 40 years old
- ❑ Thomas Jefferson was only 32
- ❑ Washington has quickly judged Greene to be “an object of confidence”
 - ❑ Nathanael Greene was born 60 miles south of Boston in Rhode Island
 - ❑ He was 3rd of 8 sons of a prominent industrious Quaker also named Nathanael
 - ❑ His dad trusted him specifically with most of the household chores
 - ❑ The Greens had a prominent forge business that brought them to wealth
 - ❑ Him having a sedan chair was a display of the family’s wealth
 - ❑ Greene has received little schooling due to his father’s idea of the Quaker way
 - ❑ He read books by Ezra Stiles, Caesar, Horace, Swift, Pope, and John Locke
 - ❑ He then began running a foundry in the nearby village and he married his wife, Katherine Littlefield
 - ❑ Due to his access to expensive and rare books, he educated himself on the art of militaristic campaigns and became a ‘fighting Quaker’
 - ❑ Courage, Intelligence, and Health are the 3 qualities of a general
 - ❑ He organized the local militia
 - ❑ By 1775, he was given control of the entire Rhode Island Regiment
 - ❑ He left for Boston to help with the war effort
 - ❑ Whatever he lacked, he made up for with watchfulness and industry
 - ❑ He was commander of the “Army of Observation”
 - ❑ The American.s goal at Bunker Hill was to confine the King’s men in Boston, cut them off from supplies of fresh provisions, and keep them from coming out to gain what one of their generals, Burgoyne, called “elbow room”
 - ❑ Greene knows that the American troops are untrained
 - ❑ George Washington was appointed to lead “the army of the United Colonies”
 - ❑ John Hancock referred to it as, “the troops under your command”
 - ❑ Washington called them “Troops of the United Provinces of North America”
 - ❑ Washington privately referred to them as “raw materials”
- ❑ The people who found refuge in Boston were known as the ‘rebels’ by the Loyalists and people of Britain and were undeserving of the words “American” or “Army”
- ❑ **General John Burgoyne disdainfully dubbed them as “a preposterous parade” and a “rabble in arms”**
- ❑ When the call came for Lexington and Concord, an army gathered from anywhere and everywhere in America
 - ❑ The strongest regiment, Massachusetts, may have numbered more than 10,000
 - ❑ The New England Army (America) had a total of double what the British army had... a whopping 2:1 ratio of members (14,000:7,000)
 - ❑ Washington was not pleased with the men he had gathered
 - ❑ He was warned not to expect discipline and regularity

- ❑ The British army had taken Charlestown and Bunker Hill, not far away, and George III has sent new troops to Boston
 - ❑ George Washington assigned John Trumbull, to do a series of maps and drawings (he even got within reach of the enemy lines for a sketch)
 - ❑ The British assigned Richard Williams to create a detailed map of the area
 - ❑ George Washington has spent only a little time in Massachusetts, but he knows the British are planning another attack
 - ❑ By the first week of August, Washington realizes that they are low on gunpowder and he failed to utter a word for 30 minutes
 - ❑ Washington's camp looked horrible, as the tents were put together with anything they could find
 - ❑ An exception was Greene's Rhode Islanders who had their tents arranged in the most exact English taste
 - ❑ The troops spent much of their time drinking and carousing
 - ❑ The camp did not possess many materials but there was a lot of food and alcohol as it is estimated that each man was drinking a bottle a day of rum
 - ❑ Men could count on meat and fish everyday and no one complained about a shortage of food
 - ❑ There was a "camp fever" or "putrid fever" going around that may have been dysentery, typhus, or typhoid (what are the symptoms)
 - ❑ Washington realizes that his men have become lazy and he establishes rules to bring discipline to the camp
 - ❑ "New lords, new laws"
 - ❑ Those who did not follow the rules of the camp were subjected to punishment
 - ❑ Flogged or were forced to ride the "wooden horse," or drummed out of camp
 - ❑ As described by Benjamin Thompson, Washington's men were the dirtiest men he had ever seen
 - ❑ Except for the Rhode Island regiments, the soldiers seemed more like farmers than soldiers
 - ❑ The men spent most of their days digging trenches and piling up mounds of earth to defend against the impending British attack
 - ❑ The American soldiers were responsible for preparing their own uniforms and guns
 - ❑ The uniforms were not pleasant and were mostly just ordinary clothes
 - ❑ An officer would wear a tricorne, a dressy hat
 - ❑ The guns they had were, "as various as their costumes"
 - ❑ The most popular gun was the musket
 - ❑ A good "Musket Man" could fire off a shot every 15 seconds
 - ❑ Major generals wore purple

- ❑ Brigaders wore pink
- ❑ Field officers wore special hats
- ❑ Sergeants wore a red cloth on their right shoulder
- ❑ Washington wore a light blue ribbon
- ❑ The majority of Washington's soldiers were farmers, artisans, or fishermen, who were used to hard manual labor
- ❑ Some of the soldiers were only teenagers (15 and younger)
- ❑ General Israel Putnam was 57 and was known as "Old Put"
- ❑ Israel Trask was only 10 and served as a messenger and the cook's help
- ❑ John Greenwood was a fifer
 - ❑ He was from Boston and was 16 and played the fife (small flute)
 - ❑ This skill allowed him to stay with the army for free and make \$8 a month to play for the soldiers
- ❑ Washington did not want blacks in the army although many did serve
- ❑ He later changes his mind due to other commanders claiming that black soldiers are "equally serviceable with other men"
- ❑ Some other soldiers desert the army out of cowardice or racism, or because they are needed back home
- ❑ By midsummer, American troops from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia have joined Washington's army
- ❑ Many of these men are "backwoodsmen of Scotch-Irish descent"
- ❑ They wore rifle shirts and used their long-barreled rifles, a frontier weapon made in Pennsylvania that was unknown to the New Englanders
- ❑ These were skilled gunmen, but largely indifferent to training or discipline
- ❑ Work on the defenses went on steadily to protect against the British
 - ❑ By August, the English and British troops are organizing night-raids on each other's camps
 - ❑ On August 30th, the Americans attacked Lighthouse Island, and killed several of the British, as well as bring in 23 prisoners
 - ❑ The British use their greater supply of gunpowder to send bombs and attack the Americans
 - ❑ Many of the British deserters cross the lines and are described as "half starved"
 - ❑ By the end of the summer, Washington's troops are in a state of decline
 - ❑ Their morale is low and they continue to behave lazily
 - ❑ The enlistments of the troops were up soon and the army was decreasing in size
 - ❑ There is a shortage of blankets and clothing, and winter is coming quickly
 - ❑ Washington, a Virginian, is personally biased against soldiers from New England, but he recognizes how dire the situation is and knows that he, and the army in general, need to put aside regional differences

Chapter 2: Rabble in Arms; Part II

- ❑ George Washington arrives in Cambridge, and resides in a mansion near Harvard University
 - ❑ The mansion belonged to the wealthy Loyalist, John Vassall (He had left to Boston) (Longfellow House)
 - ❑ The house became a hive of activity
 - ❑ It was at this home that Washington would confer with his fellow officers and speak about the colonies

- ❑ William “Billy” Lee, a black slave, became Washington’s right hand man
- ❑ Washington is widely regarded as a modest and amiable yet also an impressive gentleman
- ❑ He is known for inspiring his officers and employees to greatness
 - ❑ “Be easy... but not too familiar”
 - ❑ He taught according to Jesus, He felt nothing wrong with a captain shaving one of his soldiers
 - ❑ Benjamin Rush describes Washington as someone with martial dignity and he could be distinguished as a general and a soldier from a crowd of 10,000
 - ❑ John Adams prophesied that Washington could become one of the most important characters in the world
 - ❑ Joseph Reed, often says that he feels “bound by every tie of duty and honor” to obey Washington’s command.
- ❑ Washington was born in Tidewater Virginia on February 11th, 1732
- ❑ He was the great grandson of John Washington, an English emigrant, and the son of Augustine Washington, a tobacco planter who died when Washington was a boy
- ❑ His mother was Mary Bell
- ❑ Washington had little education and only 7 or 8 years of schooling by a private tutor
 - ❑ He was self-conscious about his lack of schooling
- ❑ He taught himself to read and write
- ❑ George liked his “glass, lass, and his game of cards”
- ❑ At age 16 he became an apprentice for a surveyor
- ❑ In 1753, at age 20, George traveled to Pennsylvania to protect the colony’s claim to the Allegheny River Valley from French troops. After a series of fights with the French, he won a reputation as a talented, resourceful commander
- ❑ George was a very arrogant and ambitious man on the battlefield and feared nothing
- ❑ In 1759, spurned in his desire for a royal commission, he “retired” at age 27 to the life of a Virginia planter and in that same year married Martha Dandridge Custis of Williamsburg
 - ❑ She had two children, John Parke Custis, and Patsy, who George gave great devotion
 - ❑ The worst tragedy of Washington’s life was the death of Patsy at age 7 in 1773
 - ❑ He lived life like an English Aristocrat and dressed very elegantly
 - ❑ Second to his passion for architecture and landscape design, was his love of the theater
 - ❑ He loved music and art as well
 - ❑ Washington’s favorite play was Cato, by Joseph Addison
 - ❑ “Tis not in mortals to command success, but we’ll do more, Sempronius, we’ll deserve it” was his favorite line
 - ❑ Washington was often said to be the richest man in America, though he was probably not in the top 10
 - ❑ He owned more than 100 slaves which showed his wealth
 - ❑ He enjoyed hunting and perfected his horse riding skills while fox hunting
 - ❑ Thomas Jefferson considered him the “best horseman of his age”
 - ❑ Billy Lee hunted with George
 - ❑ George loved precision and even recorded how long it took him to kill the foxes
 - ❑ Washington was said to have exhibited extraordinary feats of strength
 - ❑ Washington served without pay which showed his commitment
 - ❑ Washington was by no means an experienced commander due to the fact that he had never led an army into battle
 - ❑ Washington was charismatic but knew his limitations

- ❑ He appeared before the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and was able to convince his peers that he was the ideal candidate to command the army (June 16th 1775)
 - ❑ He attended congress in a splendid blue and buff uniform, ready to take command
 - ❑ Washington knew his role and had a great background in the field of politics that could lead him to victory on the battlefield

Chapter 2: Rabble in Arms; Part III

- ❑ In September of 1775, Washington begins drawing up plans for 2 bold moves
 - ❑ He plans a surprise attack on British forces in Quebec
 - ❑ Led by Benedict Arnold, they were to advance on Quebec across the Maine wilderness, taking a northeastern route of the Kennebec River
- ❑ His second plan was to end the waiting and strike at Boston, which, it was understood, could mean destruction of the town
- ❑ Washington wanted a “speedy finish,” to fight and be done with it
- ❑ Washington was told that he could make no moves until he advised his council of war, which he would do the next morning, September 11th
- ❑ On September 10th, mutiny broke out amongst the Pennsylvania riflemen
 - ❑ The mutiny is easily suppressed by Greene
 - ❑ This only added to the sense of an army coming apart, and Washington was visibly shaken
- ❑ The next morning, the council of war convened in his office
 - ❑ Present were: 3 major generals, including venerable Israel Putnam, 4 brigadiers, and all were New Englanders except Major General Charles Lee, who was Washington’s second in command and the only professional soldier present
 - ❑ Lee was nothing like Washington in terms of self pride and fought with Washington in the backwoods during the Braddock campaign
 - ❑ Lee loved dogs
 - ❑ Lee’s Indian name was “boiling water” due to his short temper
 - ❑ Washington specially requested that Lee be made 2nd in command due to his militaristic prowess
 - ❑ Major General Artemus Ward was also present and was competent, thoughtful, and not without good sense
 - ❑ **Washington assigned Lee to command the left wing**
 - ❑ **Washington assigned Putnam to command the center wing**
 - ❑ **Washington assigned Ward to command the right wing (included Dorchester)**
 - ❑ Ward was particularly interested in taking possession of Dorchester Heights, but the idea was unanimously rejected
 - ❑ He never dropped the subject
 - ❑ The Brigadiers present were John Thomas, William Heath, John Sullivan, Joseph Spencer, and Nathanael Greene
 - ❑ Sullivan, Thomas, and Greene were the best Washington had
 - ❑ Thomas was the most commanding
 - ❑ The council assembled and Washington argues that the Americans take part in an all-out amphibious (by water) assault on Boston, by sending troops across the shallow Back Bay in flat-bottomed boats big enough to carry 50 men each
 - ❑ The generals point out that it is too risky due to the lack of gunpowder, and issues with the tide

- ❑ Washington accepts the men's recommendation and pens a long letter to his friend John Hancock, requesting the Continental Congress send him more money
 - ❑ By September 29th, \$500,000 in Continental bills from Philadelphia were delivered to the headquarters at Cambridge
- ❑ When asked what they were fighting for, most of the army would say it was in defense of their country and of their rightful liberties as freeborn Englishmen
 - ❑ "To defend our common rights" is the explanation Greene gave to his wife
 - ❑ The British were the "hateful redcoats" that must be repelled
 - ❑ "Neither glory nor extent of territory, but a defense of all that is dear and valuable in life" ~ Washington
 - ❑ Independence was not mentioned, nor on the minds of anyone who fought at Bunker Hill
 - ❑ As time dragged on, the men sought independence, even a declaration of independence
- ❑ In late September, it is discovered that Dr. Benjamin Church, head surgeon for the American army, is a British spy
 - ❑ Church's treachery is discovered when soldiers apprehend a woman carrying a letter Church has written to the British.
 - ❑ Church was tried, found guilty, and exiled to the West Indies
- ❑ On October 18th, delegates from the Continental Congress including Benjamin Franklin, confer with Washington and decide not to approve an attack on British troops in Boston, since this would risk the destruction of Boston itself
 - ❑ On October 24th, a week later, news came that the British had attacked and burned the defenseless city of Falmouth
 - ❑ No one was killed, because the people present were warned in advance
 - ❑ Washington is dealt another setback when he learns that his secretary, Joseph Reed, has to retreat back to Philadelphia to see his affairs and look after his family
 - ❑ Washington wrote several letters asking Reed to return
 - ❑ Reed signed his letters with, "Your Affectionate and Obedient Servant"
- ❑ The weather is turning cold and construction of barracks has begun
 - ❑ Washington has ordered another 10,000 cords of firewood and an epidemic of dysentery is sweeping through the outlying towns
 - ❑ Local farmers were charging every-higher prices as well
 - ❑ Washington struggles to get over his bias of New Englanders because everyday they disrespect his authority in some way
 - ❑ Nathanael Greene felt that Washington only needed time to make himself "acquainted with the genius" of the New England troops
- ❑ Washington begins working very closely with Greene and a new face, Henry Knox
 - ❑ Colonel Henry Knox was not hard to notice
 - ❑ 6'0 250 pound machine
 - ❑ "Very fat, but very active"
 - ❑ He was born in Boston, and was self educated and opened a bookstore
 - ❑ Knox exploded his hand while hunting and lost 2 of his fingers
 - ❑ He and his wife slipped out of Boston in disguise during the raid of Lexington and Concord
 - ❑ Washington first met Knox at Roxbury on July 5th, only 3 days after he took command of the army

- ❑ **Knox was the first person to suggest the idea of going after the cannon at far-off Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, an undertaking so enormous, so fraught with certain difficulties, that many thought it was impossible**
- ❑ Fort Ticonderoga had previously been taken by the British by Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold, and a hand full of Green Mountain Boys earlier in May
 - ❑ The captured artillery had been abandoned
 - ❑ **Washington agreed and Knox was put in charge of the expedition**
 - ❑ Washington enjoyed Knox's company
- ❑ By November 16th, Knox was in his way, accompanied by his 19 year old brother, William, and with authority to spend as much as \$1,000
- ❑ Washington realizes that they need to conserve gunpowder, so the men were armed with spears in case the British were to attack
- ❑ The first snow fell on November 21st, which suggests that winter will be long and miserable
 - ❑ Food is in short supply and men were dying of scurvy and smallpox
 - ❑ Deserters from the American side were telling the British that they were tired and unpaid and that they had little to keep warm
- ❑ Israel Trask tells a story that demonstrates the tension amongst the troops
 - ❑ A snowball fight broke out on Harvard Yard between 50 or more backwoods Virginia riflemen and an equal amount of sailors from the Marblehead regiment
 - ❑ The fight quickly turned fierce and more than 1,000 people joined the brawl
 - ❑ Washington stepped in and single handedly ended the brawl
 - ❑ The whole fight lasted on 15 minutes
 - ❑ On November 25th, the British send several boatloads of the homeless Bostonians to Washington's encampment (300 people)
 - ❑ **These homeless people carried smallpox and Washington recognizes that the British were trying to spread disease upon his troops**
- ❑ As the enlistment for the troops comes to a close, Washington seeks a cause that will get his soldiers to reenlist for the coming year
 - ❑ Reenlistments were alarmingly few (only 1,000 of the current 10,000)
 - ❑ Washington sends a letter asking the Continental Congress to give him more money to pay the men to stay. He suggests they pay the men in advance
 - ❑ Washington confided in Joseph Reed specifically and explained to him his concerns and how they have yet to catch a break
 - ❑ The very next day, good news comes in
 - ❑ A privateer, the schooner Lee, under the command of Captain John Manley, had captured an enemy ship, the brig Nancy, off Cape Ann, north of Boston
 - ❑ The ship was loaded with military treasure including guns, cannons, and mortars... everything but gunpowder
 - ❑ This was the first triumph for Washington's "Navy"
 - ❑ Immediately Washington wrote to Reed, It was an "instance of divine favor, for nothing surely ever came more apropos"
 - ❑ The end of Enlistments was approaching, and everyone was on edge

- ❑ There has been no news from the expedition to Quebec, nor from Knox's expedition
- ❑ Martha Washington joins George in Cambridge and we learn that the Congress at Philadelphia has passed a directive to Washington to destroy the enemy forces in Boston, "Even if the town must be burnt" (John Hancock pushed for this)
- ❑ On December 24th, a snowstorm blows through Massachusetts and a foot of snow falls
- ❑ On December 30th, several British ships arrived bringing reinforcements
- ❑ On January first, 1776 the speech delivered by George III in October reaches Boston and the army was with rage and indignation
 - ❑ The soldiers were ominous and this marked a turning point in the war... the Americans were not going to settle for anything less than independence
 - ❑ The speech hit Washington specifically hard and he felt the need to tell Reed that they would not stop for anything besides a constitution
- ❑ Many men go home but 9,000 stay, and new soldiers arrive from distant colonies
 - ❑ They became the Continental Army
 - ❑ Washington also raised a flag in honor of the birthday of the new army
 - ❑ It had 13 stars and 13 stripes with British colors represented in the upper corner
 - ❑ The British mistook it as a flag of surrender

Chapter 3: Dorchester Heights; Part I

- ❑ On June 15th, the British had decided that they would seize the high ground on both Charlestown and Dorchester
 - ❑ They captured Bunker Hill in Charlestown, Massachusetts, but they never took Dorchester
 - ❑ Even though the capture of Dorchester was absolutely necessary for the security of Boston
 - ❑ Dorchester remained no-man's-land for a while
 - ❑ To loyalists, Dorchester was the key
 - ❑ Thomas Gage insisted that they leave Boston and relocate the troops to New York as it should be made, "the seat of war"
 - ❑ General James Grant agreed that they should leave Boston due to the winter and burn it before moving to NY
 - ❑ By the time General William Howe received orders to leave Boston, it's too cold, and the troops are forced to stay
 - ❑ Howe had no inclination to rush anything and had no interest in action if he had to strike first
 - ❑ John Burgoyne had left for England in early December
- ❑ Winter in America was a challenge for the British soldiers
 - ❑ Soldiers froze to death standing outside on watch, and keep warm seems impossible
 - ❑ The soldiers cut down trees in the surrounding area for firewood, and food remained scarce
 - ❑ They even had to destroy homes, shacks, and even a church for wood
 - ❑ The British soldiers could be described as skeletons
- ❑ The "redcoat gentry" lived a more lavish lifestyle and their time was not entirely bad
 - ❑ They attended plays and lived as if they were in a place of plenty
 - ❑ The plays that they attended were commissioned by General Howe and commonly made fun of the American soldiers
 - ❑ He even converted the Boston, Faneuil Hall, into an elegant playhouse

- ❑ On January 8th, the British packed the Hall and while in the middle of the play, the Connecticut soldiers led by Thomas Knowlton launched a surprise attack on Charlestown
- ❑ British Commander General William Howe
 - ❑ Well known for being an indulgent, fun-loving man. He's rumored to be in an adulterous relationship with a woman named Elizabeth Loring, the wife of a Boston Loyalist
 - ❑ William and his brothers belonged to one of England's most prominent families
 - ❑ William was often referred to as the quiet one
 - ❑ His courage and bravery was indisputable yet he is known to be too "shy for war"
 - ❑ He marched on the front line during the Battle of Bunker Hill
 - ❑ He was known to sometimes be slow-moving, and more interested in his own creature comforts and pleasures
 - ❑ He had far greater experience than George Washington and was roughly the same age as him (45)
 - ❑ Clinton, Howe's second in-command was the least impressive and could be shy
 - ❑ John Montresor was an officer of engineers whose years of service and experience seem to make a mockery of the very idea that someone like Nathanael Greene could be a major general
 - ❑ He was the best engineer in the British army and with more experience in America than anyone
 - ❑ Howe and Clinton disliked each other and did not work well together
- ❑ In mid January, General Clinton and 1,500 men sailed south to the Carolina's to see what advantage could be taken there
 - ❑ Howe did not even speak of Washington, while Washington pondered upon the thoughts and actions of Howe constantly
- ❑ On January 14th, George Washington writes a letter to Joseph Reed, explaining that his army is near collapse. He lists various problems: Little gunpowder, no money, many soldiers deserted, and undisciplined troops ... He also says that he should never have agreed to lead the American Army
 - ❑ On paper Washington's army listed between 8,000- 10,000 but only half were fit for duty
- ❑ In the week before writing his letter to Reed, Washington takes an important step
 - ❑ With the approval of Congress, Washington sends General Charles Lee to New York, recognizing that the city needs to be protected from a possible British invasion
 - ❑ John Adams approved it
- ❑ On January 16th, during a council of war, the americans decide that they must make a bold attempt on Boston
- ❑ On January 17th, Washington hears news regarding Benedict Arnold and the Quebec Mission
 - ❑ Arnold was wounded, 300 men were killed, and many more wounded and taken hostage
- ❑ On January 18th, Knox returns with the arms from Ticonderoga
 - ❑ Knox had been gone for 2 months
 - ❑ He returned with mortars and cannons (5,000 pounds)
 - ❑ Knox pulled the cannons across frozen Lake George using enormous sleds
 - ❑ During the journey, one of the cannons broke through the ice and sank-- but Knox manages to recover it and returns with all the cannons, and thousands more guns
 - ❑ Immediately, Washington put Knox in charge of the Artillery

- ❑ This charge of emotion leads the reader to believe that the stalemate in Boston will end shortly

Chapter 3: Dorchester Heights; Part II

- ❑ Dr. James Thacher predicted that there would be an attack on Boston, Dorchester, or both
- ❑ Washington knows that their army is still weak and temperatures are continuing to drop
- ❑ Washington calls for an attack on Boston once again, but once again the generals say no
 - ❑ They instead planned to lure the enemy out and strike them, just as they did at Bunker Hill
 - ❑ They would lure the British army out of Dorchester, and then attack Boston while some of the troops were away
 - ❑ They planned to occupy Dorchester late at night and to use their new cannons to defend their position
 - ❑ To distract the British from the noise of building, Washington suggests artillery fire from Cobble Hill
 - ❑ He sent 3,000 men under the control of Thomas Gage to fortify the Heights
 - ❑ He then sent 4,000 men to stand by Cambridge for an amphibious attack on Boston (Led by Generals Greene and Sullivan, they would send 60 flatboats across the Charles River)
- ❑ The move on Dorchester Heights would begin on March 4th and would end on March 5th, the anniversary of the Boston Massacre
 - ❑ To keep the operation a secret, Washington forbid any messages from being sent to Boston
 - ❑ The operation began by Washington's troops firing on Boston
 - ❑ The British fire back, but neither side does any damage
 - ❑ For two nights leading up to March 4th the firing continues, meanwhile American troops march out of Dorchester Heights and begin setting up fortifications
 - ❑ By dawn, the fortifications are finished... a phenomenal achievement
 - ❑ When General Howe awoke in the A.M he said, "My God, these fellows have done more work in one night than I could make my army do in three months"
 - ❑ British estimated that it must've taken at least 20,000 men to do the job, but in reality they only had 14,000
 - ❑ The British forces are intimidated by the Americans' move in Dorchester
 - ❑ Howe send 2,000 troops to march to Dorchester, and they leave by noon on March 5th
 - ❑ A horrible storm hits that evening, and Howe calls off the attack before troops have arrived and gave orders to evacuate Boston
 - ❑ He may have recognized that it was a mistake to send British troops to Dorchester, and then used the storm as an "easy out", rather than admitting his mistake.

Chapter 3: Dorchester Heights; Part III

- ❑ Within 48 hours, America had leveled a significant attack on Britain's control over Boston
 - ❑ Now that the Americans control Dorchester, it is unclear how much longer the British will be able to last in Boston
 - ❑ On March 6th, Howe orders his men to prepare to leave Boston

- ❑ Howe organizes a ship to carry away the army, as well as loyalists, and whoever else wanted to come
- ❑ On the night of March 9th, 4 British men, including Deacon Newell, crossed enemy lines and brought with them an unsigned paper that stated that, Howe had “no intention of destroying the town unless his men were molested”
 - ❑ On this same night, the British spotted American movement and bombarded them
 - ❑ Only 4 men were killed, and the next day the Americans gathered 700 cannonballs that had been fired at them
- ❑ Based on the consistent movement of the British troops, Washington assumed that Howe and his men were ready to make a sail to New York
- ❑ On March 10th, General Howe announces that he has arranged for Loyalist townspeople to be sailed away from Boston
 - ❑ Reverend Caner, rector of the King’s Chapel, documented leaving several items behind in his beautiful home
 - ❑ Many of the loyalists have never lived anywhere but Boston, and they’re frightened about leaving, especially since Howe is secretive about where the ships are bound (some say Nova Scotia)
 - ❑ More than one thousand Loyalists board the British ships, including many Harvard graduates, physicians, merchants, headmasters, churchmen, and more
 - ❑ Women were also present on the ship
 - ❑ On March 10th, Howe put Crean Brush in charge of making sure that all the Bostonians surrender any supplies that might be useful to the American troops
 - ❑ He claims that Bostonians will be compensated with certificated from England for doing so, but most people in the city understand that these certificates are worthless
 - ❑ Crean Brush takes advantage of the authority he has been given and uses force to steal precious resources from locals
 - ❑ This prompts a series of riots as soldiers plunder the towns
- ❑ On March 17th, the American troops recognize that the redcoats are leaving Boston (8,000 of them)
 - ❑ This day was called, “The finest day in the world”
 - ❑ 120 ships, 11,000 people, 8,906 troops, 667 women, 553 children, 1,100 Loyalists waiting down the harbor
 - ❑ General Howe’s ship ~ *The Chatham*
- ❑ Early that morning, the American troops spot the lobster backs and identify that they are leaving Boston
 - ❑ Washington assigned Ward to lead the group of 500 Roxbury men into Boston
- ❑ On March 18th, Washington rides into Boston and begins a survey of the city to assess the damage and things left behind
 - ❑ He finds that Boston had “suffered greatly”, but it was not in as bad of shape as he would have thought
 - ❑ John Hancock’s Beacon Hill Mansion was not touched
 - ❑ Buildings are still standing, and there are bushels of wheat and hay, along with many horses
 - ❑ There was everything but beef, gunpowder, and hard money
- ❑ On March 20th, Washington put Nathanael Greene temporarily in command of the town of Boston
 - ❑ Washington returns to Cambridge to focus on his next move

- ❑ Afraid that Howe had sailed to New York, Washington sends 5 regiments in that direction
- ❑ On the night of March 20th, Boston and the south shore are rocked by an explosion when British engineers Montresor and Robertson blew up Castle William
 - ❑ Howe's fleet dropped to Nantasket Road off Braintree
- ❑ Among the British ships, many of the soldiers wonder what Howe is planning
- ❑ The loyalist citizens are particularly terrified that they will never return to Boston
 - ❑ By March 27th, it's announced that the ships will be sailing to Halifax

Chapter 3: Dorchester Heights; Part IV

- ❑ **Washington sends the good news to the surrounding colonies and this was the first thrilling news of the war for those in favor of the American cause**
 - ❑ Washington earns a gold medal
- ❑ On May 6th, news of Howe's defeat in Boston reaches London and a storm of criticism and recrimination erupted in Parliament
- ❑ The assault on Dorchester has been a resounding success for the American Army
 - ❑ Washington defeated Howe, wages a military campaign while also negotiating with Congress for money, and he cultivated relationships with exemplary leaders from New England, and no longer speaks ill of New Englanders as a result
 - ❑ Knox and Greene played key roles
 - ❑ Knox 'saved the day'
 - ❑ In America, thinkers such as Thomas Paine, in his pamphlet *Common Sense*, begin lobbying for a declaration of independence from Britain
 - ❑ 'Everything that is right or reasonable pleads for separation' ~ Thomas Paine
- ❑ Emboldened by his success, Washington begins sending troops to New York in anticipation of another British invasion
- ❑ Many of the troops welcome the opportunity to leave cold Massachusetts
- ❑ By April 4th, Washington and his troops have begun the march to New York

PART II: Fateful Summer

Chapter 4: The Lines are Drawn; Part I

- ❑ Washington's troops march through Massachusetts toward New York in a hurry
- ❑ On April 5th, Washington paraded into Providence, Rhode Island, where he was greeted as a hero
- ❑ Greene and his men were thrown off from a snow squall and did not reach New York until April 17th
- ❑ The troops sense that they are heading towards danger, though nobody is sure where the British forces have gone
- ❑ The troops regardless are still high in spirit and each believes himself to be equal to 2 or 3 British men
- ❑ Washington knows that he'll face challenges in New York unlike any he faced in Boston
 - ❑ In New York, the British will be able to attack from almost any direction, and many of the New Yorkers are loyal to England, raising the possibility that locals will betray his troops
 - ❑ Washington understands the strategic and political importance of defending New York: if the British capture the city, it'll be a huge blow to the American morale
 - ❑ Washington had no comments from Congress and took it upon himself to attack New York
- ❑ At the time, New York is a divided city: the Loyalists and American factions are both prominent
 - ❑ Loyalist - Tory
 - ❑ Rebel - Whig
 - ❑ ⅓ of the property in New York belonged to Tories
- ❑ Upon arriving in New York, Washington is given 5 regiments
 - ❑ Lead by Livingston, Fish, Roosevelt, Remsen, and Cowenhoven

- ❑ Washington worries about the population in Long Island, as they are overwhelmingly loyal to George III
 - ❑ There are also British warships in the Upper Bay near New York City, a constant reminder of the impending threat of invasion
- ❑ Washington's troops are tired and worn-out from marching and fighting
 - ❑ He's recruited new troops during the march to New York, but these troops are just as disorganized as his original soldiers
- ❑ Many of the soldiers from New York also dislike that Washington has recruited black soldiers
- ❑ Washington and his wife arrive to New York on April 13th
 - ❑ They stay at the Kennedy Mansion, a famous New York building of the era, named after a Scottish land speculator named Archibald Kennedy
- ❑ Washington inspects the city's fortifications, which were designed by Charles Lee and built under the guidance of General William Alexander, better known as Lord Stirling. Stirling is a wealthy, powerful man, supposedly descended from a Scottish lord.
 - ❑ The defense was only about half completed
- ❑ New York City only has a population of 20,000, but it's one of the wealthiest American cities at the time
 - ❑ Many of the troops, including Henry Knox, are impressed with the resident's luxurious lives
 - ❑ Soldiers disdain the brothels (Found in the Holy Ground)
- ❑ On April 22nd, all hell erupted in the Holy Grounds
 - ❑ The dead bodies of two American soldiers were discovered in a brothel
 - ❑ Furious over the deaths, a group of soldiers tears down the brothel and starts a riot
 - ❑ Washington condemned such "riotous behavior" and ordered a strict evening curfew
 - ❑ Later on, smallpox appeared and several soldiers died
- ❑ General Lee has told Washington that the troops will need to be ready to defend New York from a naval invasion
 - ❑ From Brooklyn Heights, one looks down on NY, NJ, and beyond
- ❑ He recommends that cannons be installed overlooking the East River, much as Washington installed cannons in Dorchester Heights, and they begin fortifying Long Island
- ❑ General Greene is put in charge of Long Island due to its importance, and by the first week of May, Greene and his men, with the addition of the Pennsylvania Rifle Company, were encamped at Brooklyn
- ❑ In addition to Fort Stirling, 3 other forts were under construction on the other, eastern side of the hamlet of Brooklyn
 - ❑ To the left was Fort Putnam, in the middle was star shaped Fort Greene, mounting six cannon and commanding the Jamaica Road, to the right was Fort Box
 - ❑ At an isolated point on the Upper Bay called Red Hook, a fifth defense, Fort Defiance, was being built
 - ❑ Nearly 3 miles from Fort Putnam on the left to Fort Defiance on the right
 - ❑ Greene was tireless in his efforts and was always watching
- ❑ They install guns and cannons on Governors Island, and overlooking the Hudson River
- ❑ 120 cannons were in place throughout the city and ample ammunition was standing by
 - ❑ Knox persuaded Washington 5 or 600 men to the artillery
- ❑ Toward the Northern end of Manhattan, at the highest point on the island, the Americans build Fort Washington
 - ❑ On a small island on the Hudson, they build a second fort, Fort Constitution
- ❑ As the months drag on, Nathanael Greene and Henry Knox become good friends
 - ❑ On May 16th, Knox sends a letter to the Continental Congress to declare independence from Britain
 - ❑ Both Knox's and Greene's wife join them in New York

Chapter 4: The Lines Are Drawn; Part II

- ❑ On May 18th, Washington receives word that the British were sighted off the coast of Sandy Hook, which may indicate that they are on their way to New York
 - ❑ This was a false alarm, but even so the American troops feel it confirms their sense that the British will arrive soon
 - ❑ Washington feels ready for the fight
 - ❑ He has 8,880 men at hand and 6,923 ready for battle
 - ❑ The enemy British would have close to 30,000
- ❑ Washington leaves to consult with Congress in Philadelphia on May 21, leaving Putnam in charge
 - ❑ He returned on 6
 - ❑ While in Philadelphia, he managed to convince Joseph Reed to rejoin the army in exchange for General Horatio Gates to be sent to Canada
- ❑ Suddenly, it's discovered that a group of Loyalists in New York are conspiring to assassinate George Washington
 - ❑ A dozen men were arrested (including the New York mayor)
 - ❑ American troops took to the streets in search of torturing any Loyalists
 - ❑ Washington moved his residence
 - ❑ The Loyalist plotters are found and brought to trial, but only one is sentenced to death
 - ❑ Thomas Hickey, is publicly hanged on June 28th, to thunderous applause
 - ❑ Later that day, Washington learns that the British are sailing from Halifax to New York
 - ❑ Howe was on the frigate *Greyhound*
 - ❑ The next morning, Saturday, June 29, American troops spot British ships on the horizon
 - ❑ By July 2nd, the ships have docked near Staten Island
- ❑ The British arrived with 15,000- 20,000 soldiers and many more coming by the hour
- ❑ **In Philadelphia, on the same day the British landed on Staten Island, July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress, voted to “dissolve the connection” with Great Britain (INDEPENDENCE)**
 - ❑ The news reaches New York on July 6th, to much celebration
- ❑ The soldiers sense that the war has “entered an entirely new stage”
- ❑ Washington and the members of the Continental Congress are officially treasonous, meaning that they'll be sentenced to death if captured by the British
- ❑ The Declaration of Independence
 - ❑ High-minded, rhetorically masterful document, but it's “of little consequence, of course... without a military success against the most formidable force on earth.”
 - ❑ The Declaration has a strong impact on the soldiers, it was now an all-out war for an independent America, a new America, and thus a new day of freedom and equality
- ❑ On July 9th, the troops heard the Declaration aloud
 - ❑ The troops pull down the gilded statue of George III on his colossal horse
 - ❑ They even hacked off the head, severed the nose, clipped the laurels, and mounted the rest of the head on a spike outside a tavern
 - ❑ The rest of the head was melted down for bullets
- ❑ On July 12th, the Americans get a reminder of their weakness
 - ❑ Two British ships (Phoenix and Rose) sail up the Hudson, past New York, and Washington orders his troops to fire their cannons
 - ❑ The British ships fire back, causing mass panic.
 - ❑ The American cannons do no damage to the British ships and by the end of the day, the British have sailed all the way up the Hudson

- ❑ 6 American artillery men were killed (the only fatalities)
- ❑ Washington is furious
- ❑ The British have proven that they can send ships north at any time, meaning that they could halt Washington's retreat from New York

Chapter 4: The Lines Are Drawn; Part III

- ❑ On the British side, morale has never been higher
- ❑ They are fed well and confident that they can defeat Washington's forces
- ❑ The British army wants revenge for the defeat in Boston, and they ridicule the Declaration of Independence
- ❑ The British generals' strategy is quick, decisive military action in New York
 - ❑ Howe received these orders from Lord Germain
- ❑ Their greatest fear is that the Americans will continue to use a defensive strategy rather than fighting the British army head-on
- ❑ On July 14th, Lord Howe sent Lieutenant Philip Brown, across the bay to New York under a flag of truce carrying a letter to "George Washington, Esq."
 - ❑ He met with Joseph Reed
 - ❑ They would not accept the letter at first because it was addressed to "Mr. Washington" (an insult).
- ❑ On July 20th, James Paterson arrived in New York and went immediately to No. 1 Broadway to meet Washington, Reed, Knox, and others in attendance
 - ❑ It is only when a high-ranking British officer, Captain James Paterson, re-addresses the letter to "George Washington", Esq., etc., etc." that Washington agrees to a meeting
 - ❑ He gives him the letter but Washington refuses to open it due to the "etc., etc." in the address
 - ❑ Paterson explains that George III is offering pardons to Washington and his peers
 - ❑ Washington replies, "Those who have committed no fault want no pardon."
 - ❑ It is likely that Washington knew that Paterson was going to make peace offerings and the only reason he agreed to see Paterson was to prove, both to the British and to his own men, that he could "go through the motions quite as well as any officer and gentleman, but more importantly send a message to the British command absent any ambiguity"
- ❑ British ships continue to arrive in New York all throughout the summer of 1776
 - ❑ By August, over a hundred vessels have landed on Staten Island
 - ❑ Thousands of British troops, along with German Hessians are prepared for a fight
- ❑ Joseph Reed was extremely intimidated and had an unusual plan
 - ❑ He suggested they avoid any general action unless they had a great advantage
- ❑ Washington remained determined to make a stand
- ❑ There were 400 British ships anchored off the coast of Staten Island
 - ❑ This was the largest, most powerful fleet ever sent from Britain or any other nation
 - ❑ Howe chose speed and maneuverability over size and more massive firepower in his ships
- ❑ The American army now numbered 70,000 as new troops arrive everyday, and the troops were fairly optimistic about fighting
- ❑ Many soldiers also attempt to desert the American army, since 1776 is a bumper year for crops, meaning that it's more lucrative for many working class people to continue laboring on farms than to fight in the army
- ❑ Other soldiers desert in order to avoid "camp fever" in New York due to dirty water and lack of sanitation
 - ❑ 3,000 - 6,000 were sick
- ❑ Washington tries to predict how the British will most likely attack his troops in New York
 - ❑ He's worried that the British will attempt to invade Long Island due to the immense number of loyalists there are the broad accessible beaches where troops could readily land under the protection of British ships

- ❑ **Breaking a basic rule of military strategy, Washington divides his army into two halves, and sends one half out to Long Island to protect it**
- ❑ Washington's forces are becoming impatient
 - ❑ In the past 4 months they've done a spectacular job of fortifying New York, but now they're eager for battle
- ❑ Nathanael Greene becomes dangerously ill and Washington is forced to relieve his favorite general of his duty as a commander
- ❑ On August 19th, Washington had a number of old ships sunk at the mouth of the East River, between the Battery and Governor's Island, in the hope they would stop the British fleet from any attempt at getting between New York and Brooklyn
- ❑ **Washington placed John Sullivan in the place of Greene**
- ❑ An American commander in New Jersey sends word to Washington on August 21st that the British are preparing to attack from Long Island and the Hudson
 - ❑ Washington receives a letter but replies simply, "We have made no discovery of any movement of any consequence"

Chapter 5: Field of Battle; Part I

- ❑ On the night of August 21, 1776, a storm breaks out in New York and 10 soldiers are killed
- ❑ On August 22, the next day, the British invasion begins
 - ❑ By 8:00 AM, 4,000 British troops have come ashore at Gravesend Bay in Long Island
 - ❑ By noon, 15,000 have landed, and Loyalist New Yorkers are welcoming them ashore
 - ❑ The British are wowed by the abundance of crops-- indeed, Americans in the 1770's enjoyed an unusually high quality of life compared to people in most other parts of the world
 - ❑ The invaders of the British questioned why the Americans would run against their father who had provided them with such wealth
- ❑ Word reached New York early in the day, but Washington was misinformed about the size of the enemy force
 - ❑ He had been told they had 8,000 or 9,000 troops so he quickly dispatched 1,500 more troops across the East River to Brooklyn
 - ❑ This brought the total American strength to 6,000 men on Long Island due to the fact that he thought there would be another attack on the Hudson
 - ❑ Washington urges his troops to fight for liberty, telling them, "You are free men, fighting for the blessings of liberty." He also threatened death to anyone who showed cowardice
 - ❑ General Heath said, "They must be well watched. They, like the Frenchman, look one way, and row the other"
 - ❑ The generals were scared
 - ❑ The Americans fear a surprise the most
 - ❑ On August 24th, the American troops march out to meet the British
 - ❑ Washington also put Putnam in Sullivan's place
- ❑ When Washington arrives in Brooklyn to join his troops, he's appalled by their disorderliness
 - ❑ He also receives word that British forces in Long Island outnumber him, contrary to what he had been told
 - ❑ The plan was for general Putnam to direct the entire defense from the fortifications on Brooklyn Heights
 - ❑ Sullivan and Stirling and their troops were set to be positioned forward on the "out work" of the wooded ridge, to cover the few main roads or passes through the long, natural barrier
 - ❑ Gowanus Road was on the right, near the Narrows (Stirling had control)

- ❑ Flatbush Road was at the center, and was thought to be the way the British would come (Sullivan had control)
 - ❑ Bedford Road was on the left (Sullivan had control)
 - ❑ This ridge that separated the two armies was extremely important to the Americans and these 3 paths could be used to go around it
- ❑ Every man had to put a sprig of green in his hat as a form of identification
- ❑ Washington's specific order to Putnam was to position his best troops forward, and "at all hazards prevent the enemy's passing the wood and approaching the works"
 - ❑ The ridiculous plan was for 3,000 inexperienced troops to hold down a 4 mile long ridge
- ❑ The soldiers had no men on horseback
 - ❑ The Jamaica Pass was narrower than the others and thus easier to defend
 - ❑ Nothing had been said about defending this pass
 - ❑ Washington had 5 young militia officers with horses patrol the Jamaica Pass
- ❑ Washington believes that the British are going to "make a push" into Brooklyn from Long Island
 - ❑ Washington is aware that his men are ill prepared for the battle they are about to take part in
 - ❑ There were more sickness than anytime before
- ❑ It's been 5 days since the British have landed in Long Island, and there has not been battle
 - ❑ At night, Washington writes a letter to his wife, Martha Washington
 - ❑ What he writes to her is unknown, but Martha later decides to destroy all but 3 of Washington's letters
- ❑ General Henry Clinton of the British army hasn't distinguished himself in the war with America, having failed in the missions General William Howe has given him, and he's eager to prove himself
 - ❑ As a strategist, he well knew how to use a map and had decided that the best way to defeat the Americans would be to outflank them
 - ❑ Clinton, Erskine, and Rawdon rid through the Heights of Gowan
- ❑ Told by the local Loyalists, the Jamaica Pass was unguarded and the British found interest
 - ❑ Clinton forms a plan immediately and instead of reporting to Howe, he sends it directly to the troops and their officers
 - ❑ The plan is to send an advance guard into Brooklyn that night, while General Howe will follow the next morning with the remaining 10,000 troops
 - ❑ General Grant would have his troops strike at the right
 - ❑ General Leopold would occupy the center with the Hessians
 - ❑ Clinton and the main body of the army would move under the cover of darkness to be in position by daybreak
 - ❑ The British troops were experienced, accustomed to adverse conditions, healthier, disciplined, and extremely loyal to George III
 - ❑ They despise the American troops and consider them traitors and cowards
 - ❑ At 9 PM, Clinton gives the order for the British troops to move out to Brooklyn
 - ❑ As the 10,000 troops marches, at the head rode Captains William Glanville Evelyn and Oliver DeLancey Jr. as well as three loyalist farmers who knew the way
 - ❑ This plan is extremely risky... Clinton is leading a huge force into unknown territory at night: a surprise attack by the Americans could decimate the British forces
 - ❑ The route was north east along King's Highway
 - ❑ Early in the march, the British forces capture 5 American scouts: however, the scouts refuse to give up information about Washington's troops (these were the 5 Americans on patrol of the Jamaica pass)
 - ❑ By the time Howe and the army reached Bedford road... the sun was up
 - ❑ Amazingly, they've marched 9 miles in complete darkness and managed to avoid attack

- ❑ Howe leads the remaining British troops out of Long Island

Chapter 5: Field of Battle; Part II

- ❑ General Putnam was awake at 3 AM to the news that the enemy was attacking on the right near the Narrows, at the Gowanus Road
- ❑ Stirling has been resting in Brooklyn, when he was supposed to be watching Gowanus Road
 - ❑ Lord Stirling orders his 1,600 forces to hold their fire until the British are within 50 yards
 - ❑ The Americans fight bravely but they're badly outnumbered
 - ❑ They're confused that the British seem to be holding back, and wrongly assume that it's because the British are frightened
 - ❑ In reality, the British are waiting for the rest of their army to arrive
- ❑ Sullivan had ridden out to take control of the Flatbush Pass
- ❑ At 9 AM came the crash of Howe's signal guns, and suddenly Sullivan realized that a whole British army was coming at him from behind and that he was surrounded
 - ❑ General von Heister gave the order and with drums rolling, the Hessians were in motion
 - ❑ The Americans were terrified of the Blue Coated Hessians and dropped to their knees in mercy whenever they saw one
 - ❑ Sullivan orders his Americans to retreat, but he is captured in battle
 - ❑ The Hessians slaughter thousands of Americans, and the American defenses collapse
- ❑ Washington arrives in Brooklyn around 9AM, just before the second half of the British arrives
 - ❑ He was horrified by what he saw: his army outmanned and outmaneuvered
- ❑ Stirling's men believed that they were holding off Grant's British, when really they were just waiting for reinforcements
- ❑ At 11 AM, Grant's redcoats hit hard at the center of Stirling's line, as thousands of Hessians struck from the woods to the left
 - ❑ A full British division led by Cornwallis stood between Stirling and Brooklyn (They blocked off the Gowanus path so they couldn't escape)
 - ❑ Stirling tells his men to attack and the Marylanders angrily attack the British
 - ❑ Giving up, Stirling orders his men to disperse and to try to get back to Brooklyn
 - ❑ Many of them die at the hands of the British soldiers, while others are taken prisoner
- ❑ Stirling decides to surrender to the Hessian regiment and more specifically, General von Heister
- ❑ By noon, it is imminent that the Americans have been defeated and have lost many men in the process
 - ❑ **This was the first great battle of the Revolutionary War: the Battle of Brooklyn Heights/ Long Island and the largest battle ever fought in North America**
 - ❑ 40,000 men had taken part
- ❑ Howe only lost 400 while the Americans lost 3,000
 - ❑ Over 1,000 American prisoners had been taken
- ❑ Sullivan, Stirling, and Nathaniel Woodhull had been taken prisoner
 - ❑ These generals were treated with respect, while the other prisoners were subject to the bayonet
- ❑ Only 10 Marylanders made it back to camp

Chapter 5: The Lines are Drawn; Part III

- ❑ On the morning of August 28th, Washington was in a critical position
 - ❑ He was surrounded by the East River which could be used as an escape route, but only if the wind favored
 - ❑ Washington called in additional troops to Brooklyn from Manhattan
 - ❑ By the end of the day, additional troops have arrived and a wild storm has begun that prevents ships from landing

- ❑ The storm protects Americans from additional British ships landing in Brooklyn
- ❑ By noon on August 29th, Washington gives an order for all available boats to be rounded up, announcing that there are “many battalions from New Jersey which are coming over to relieve others here,” and that some soldiers will be sent away
 - ❑ Washington holds a meeting with his generals to decide what to do
 - ❑ Many of the generals recommend that they retreat, and in the end, there is a unanimous vote to flee
 - ❑ Washington is about surprise General Howe once again
- ❑ By 7 PM, the troops have their orders to pack up and prepare for a “night attack” on the British
- ❑ By 9 PM, the troops head for the Brooklyn Ferry, thinking they’ll be relieved by new soldiers
 - ❑ Washington once again keeps this plan a secret and only alerts his highest officials of the plan
- ❑ By 11PM, the winds die down and the Americans can safely sail back to NY
 - ❑ John Glover’s Massachusetts sailors headed to sail back to NY
- ❑ Mifflin’s men stayed behind and created a big enough stir to make it seem as if the Americans had never moved from camp
- ❑ By four in the morning, Major Alexander Scammell of the American army rides to the frontlines, looking for his commander, General Thomas Mifflin. Scammell tells Mifflin that Washington is waiting for the arrival of “the last remaining troops.” Mifflin is confused, but Scammell insists that these are the words Washington told him to pass on. Mifflin decides to assemble his regiment and retreat from the British army. Scammell has made a huge mistake: he misinterpreted Washington’s order, and as a result the frontline American troops are leaving sooner than planned.
 - ❑ Washington orders that these troops go back to their post
- ❑ By dawn, most of the American troops still have not left
 - ❑ By daybreak, a heavy fog covers Brooklyn which conceals the American’s actions from the British
 - ❑ The troops escape across the river without being seen... Washington managed to lead 9,000 men across the river in a single night without a life lost: remarkable

Chapter 5: The Lines are Drawn; Part IV

- ❑ The British realize the American’s retreat in the morning and are astonished
 - ❑ They are pleased because they can now claim all of Brooklyn for themselves
- ❑ Washington throws blame most specifically at Sullivan for too little vigilance at the Jamaica Pass, thus implying that if Greene were present, this would have been a different story
- ❑ Washington deserves credit for engineering a brilliant escape from Brooklyn
 - ❑ He of course also bears some of the blame for the American troops’s failure in Long Island, where they were outnumbered due to his decision to split the army
- ❑ General Howe’s decision not to continue attacking the Americans in the afternoon is still debated
 - ❑ Had he done so, he might have defeated Washington once and for all
 - ❑ A British victory at this point would most likely have ended the rebels hopes for independence
- ❑ The news of the Americans defeat stirs celebration in London, when it reaches Britain
 - ❑ Washington’s troops felt glum but his 9,000 lived to see another day
 - ❑ When Congress hears about the defeat they are devastated, but do not panic
 - ❑ When the Americans arrive back in NY, they all fall asleep, including Washington
 - ❑ Not until August 31st, did Washington muster the energy to write a letter to Congress
 - ❑ However, he soon begins arranging “new dispositions of our forces”

PART III: The Long Retreat

Chapter 6: Fortune Frowns; Part I

- ❑ Back in Manhattan, Washington's troops begin to despair
 - ❑ Riots break out throughout the city, with gangs of soldiers looting and stealing
 - ❑ Some even leave the army and head home
- ❑ There are rumors that Washington lacks the skills to lead effectively and some soldiers miss General Lee
 - ❑ Henry Knox's faith in Washington never falters though
 - ❑ Washington begins to question of New York is a lost cause
- ❑ Washington writes a letter to Congress in which he raises the possibility of leaving New York on September 2nd and Sullivan returns
 - ❑ Congress writes back and instructs Washington not to do anything to the city
- ❑ On September 5th, Greene returns to duty after battling his illness
 - ❑ He urges Washington to leave NY as soon as possible, since there's no telling when the British will strike
 - ❑ Greene also suggests that they burn New York so that it will be of no use to the British
 - ❑ Congress refuses to permit this, Washington can't make up his mind, and hundreds of soldiers desert and many suffer from disease
- ❑ **On September 9th, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Edward Rutledge depart to meet with Lord Howe at what would be known as the Staten Island Peace Conference**
 - ❑ The meeting is unproductive
 - ❑ Howe tells them to "tread back" on their claims of independence and the three delegates respond that this is impossible
- ❑ Washington held another war council on September 12th and this time they resolve to abandon the city
- ❑ On Friday the 13th, the British are spotted moving 4 ships up the East River and anchor in Bushwick Creek
 - ❑ The American troops fire on the ships, but do no damage
- ❑ On Saturday the 14th, Washington is given the green light to move just as he hears that the British have moved even further north to Harlem heights
- ❑ Clinton was set to lead the invasion of New York for the British
 - ❑ He argues with Howe about the best way to proceed with the invasion
 - ❑ Howe supports an invasion through Kips Bay, whereas Clinton thinks it would be better to proceed via the Harlem River
 - ❑ Howe overrules Clinton and then gives the troops a lackluster speech telling them that they would invade on September 15th and urging them to depend on their bayonets
 - ❑ He lacks the inspirational rhetoric that Washington is known for when rallying his troops

Chapter 6: Fortune Frowns; Part II

- ❑ 5 British frigates maneuver into position off Kips Bay
- ❑ Around 10 o'clock, 80 flatboats docked into the river carrying more than 4,000 British and Hessian soldiers
 - ❑ The early hours of the battle are humiliating for the Americans—they run from the British attack, confirming British soldiers' beliefs that the Americans are cowards.
 - ❑ By late afternoon, well over 10,000 British troops have landed and the Americans continue to flee, infuriating Washington
- ❑ The British forces do not pursue the Americans... had they done so, they could have trapped the Americans in Manhattan, and perhaps ended the war
 - ❑ As an explanation for the sheepishness of the British army, a rumor is circulated among American soldiers that a woman named Mrs. Robert Murray invited General Howe to tea in her home, where she delayed him from sending orders for two hours, allowing the Americans to escape

- ❑ The truth is that Clinton gave orders to drive back the Americans and then wait for his arrival in the late afternoon
 - ❑ New York was now in British hands and the British took this win as an immense success, although as a result of Howe's decision, it'll be "the Americans' turn to claim success" the next day
 - ❑ On September 16th, Washington awoke in his mansion which was at the highest elevation in all of New York
 - ❑ He and Greene witness the British chasing the American troops
 - ❑ Washington orders a counterattack of three companies of Virginia soldiers, headed by Colonel Thomas Knowlton, who fought at the battle of Bunker Hill
 - ❑ Knowlton botched the attack by firing on the British side before his soldiers cut off their path of retreat
 - ❑ Washington tries to call off the attack, but before he can do so, Knowlton is killed
 - ❑ The American troops killed hundreds of British soldiers -- heavier losses than the Americans have sustained
 - ❑ Although this is good, they lost Knowlton, a very talented commander
 - ❑ Washington and his troops are now based out of Harlem Heights, the rocky area overlooking the Harlem River which gives them a leg up in battle
 - ❑ The British army now handles much of Manhattan and General William Howe is planning a new assault on the American troops
 - ❑ On September 20th, a fire breaks out in New York
 - ❑ The fire burns down a sizeable chunk of the city
 - ❑ One reason that it is so deadly, is that there are no more warning bells left because Washington had them all taken to be recast for cannon
 - ❑ By the next morning, the fire has burned itself out, but hundreds of homes have been destroyed
 - ❑ Many British soldiers believed the fire to be the work of the enemy
 - ❑ In his letters to congress, Washington claims that the fire was a "lucky accident."
 - ❑ After investigation of the fire, the British take in Nathan hale
 - ❑ Hale is found to be in possession of firebrands, and he's promptly hanged for starting the fire
 - ❑ Hale admits to being an American spy, and historians now know that he served under General Thomas Knowlton
 - ❑ Hale's duties as a spy for Washington still aren't entirely clear
 - ❑ **"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"**
- ❑ In Harlem Heights, American soldiers are deserting as if leaving a sunken ship
 - ❑ Washington seems calm, even though he's secretly frightened that his army is about to be defeated for good
 - ❑ By the middle of September, however, Congress has issued payments for every soldier in Washington's army
 - ❑ The Congress also institutes new, harsh punishments for deserters
 - ❑ This comes as a result of John Adams abdicating for these things... (\$20 per soldier and 100 acres of land)
- ❑ As October begins, more British ships sail into New York

- ❑ On the morning of October 9th, the Americans open fire on three British Warships (Phoenix, Roebuck, Tartar) moving up the Hudson River towards the American forts
 - ❑ The warships fire back, and though the ships sustain considerable damage, the British prove “that the Hudson was undeniably theirs to employ as they wished”
 - ❑ 9 British seamen died
 - ❑ The forts had been shown to be useless
- ❑ The British again plan to outflank the American army by water
 - ❑ On October 12th, they send an armada up the East River
 - ❑ 150 ships set sail through the dangerous Hell Gate Channel in very thick fog
 - ❑ They land at Throgs Neck, a marshy point of land on the shoreline of Westchester County
 - ❑ Howe called in 7,000 Hessian reinforcements and they moved to Pell’s Point
- ❑ Washington knows that the army is doomed unless he acts fast
 - ❑ He would concentrate his forces 18 miles north at White Plains, the seat of Westchester
 - ❑ Washington uses Lord Stirling and John Sullivan, who had both been captured previously, as well as General Lee who has just returned, to his advantage
 - ❑ Lee was the second-in command which meant that if Washington were to resign, he would take control
 - ❑ As a gesture of appreciation, Washington renamed Fort Washington, Fort Lee
- ❑ On October 16th, Washington holds a war council and John Sullivan, Lord Stirling, Mifflin, and Henry Knox are all present, as well as General Charles Lee
 - ❑ The commanders agree that they should try to defend Fort Washington (Lee) located on the north Hudson
 - ❑ The plan was for all of the army to evacuate New York, except for 1,000 that would patrol Fort Washington
- ❑ On October 18th, Washington’s forces march towards Westchester, and the British land at Pell’s Point
 - ❑ Glover spots the British from a hilltop, and rushes ahead with 750 men
 - ❑ They kill many British and only suffer 8 fatalities
 - ❑ The British loss at Pell’s Point inspires General Howe to proceed with caution in case of another American assault
 - ❑ Howe is planning to maneuver the Americans onto an open field and defeat Washington “in one grand, decisive victory”
- ❑ On October 28th, a full ten days after landing at Pell’s Point, the British Forces along with the Hessian mercenaries march to White Plains, where they fight Washington’s troops, who are based at the top of Chatterton’s Hill
 - ❑ The British and German troops fight an uphill battle
 - ❑ The British side emerges victorious, but also sustains heavy losses
- ❑ On November 1st, Howe realizes that Washington’s troops had retreated back to the Bronx River
 - ❑ The British do not pursue the Americans but on November 5th, the British army swerves off in a different direction, toward the Hudson River

Chapter 6: Fortune Frowns; Part III

- ❑ Some of Washington’s generals believe the British are headed for Fort Washington, while others suggest that the British are sidestepping Washington’s forces altogether and preparing to move into Philadelphia. Washington, however, is confident that General Howe will attack again. He’s not sure if he should pull troops out of Fort Washington or leave them where they are stationed
- ❑ Washington decides to divide his troops once again
 - ❑ He divides them into 4 groups
 - ❑ 7,000 would go with General Lee to the Hudson River
 - ❑ 3,000 would go with General Heath to guard the Hudson Highlands

- ❑ 2,000 would go with Washington and cross the river into NJ
 - ❑ The rest would patrol the forts under command of Nathanael Greene
 - ❑ Washington and his men left on November 10th and landed in Fort Lee on November 12th... a 65 mile journey in 3 days
 - ❑ Washington was ready to completely abandon NJ, while Greene was inclined to command the troops at Fort Washington
 - ❑ Fort Washington isn't as strong as Greene believes -- in part because it has no water supply
- ❑ On November 2nd, Captain William Demont delivers the plans for Fort Washington after he defected from the American army (He has the plans but is not bringing it to any American people)
- ❑ A careless messenger left letters that revealed Washington's decision to divide his forces into four groups, and suggested his frustration with his men
 - ❑ General Howe decides that he will attack Fort Washington while Washington is away in New Jersey
 - ❑ On November 15th, he sends Captain James Paterson under a white flag to deliver a message to Fort Washington: "surrender or face annihilation"
 - ❑ Colonel Magaw responds bravely and declines the offer
- ❑ On November 16th, Washington crosses the Hudson with his generals on a scouting missions
 - ❑ They hear the noise of cannons assaulting Fort Washington
 - ❑ Greene suggests that Washington keep himself safe by staying away from the fort while other generals go back and fight, but Washington insists that everyone stay away from Fort Washington
 - ❑ The assault came from 3 directions
 - ❑ 4,000 Hessians came down from the north, over the King's Bridge, led by General von Knyphausen
 - ❑ Cornwallis's troops struck from the east and Lord Percy's troops struck from the south
 - ❑ By 10 o'clock, Howe had 8,000 troops attacking Fort Washington, which was 4 times the amount of Americans present
 - ❑ By noon, the Americans were driven back into the fort and by 3 o'clock, 2,837 Americans surrendered at the hands of the Hessians
- ❑ George Washington is said to have wept at the sight of the empty fort
- ❑ This is the most crushing blow to the Americans as more than 2,000 are captured
- ❑ Greene's confidence that Fort Washington could be defended has proven false
- ❑ Washington is ultimately the one to blame for the capture of the fort
 - ❑ He doesn't dismiss Greene but begins to think less of him as a result of the defeat
- ❑ General Lee was most frustrated with the loss
- ❑ Margaret Corbin fought alongside her husband in the battle and stepped into his place at the cannons when he died... she was captured but soon released for her bravery
- ❑ Soon after the British win, Howe sent 4,000 troops to Fort Lee (Constitution)
- ❑ Washington heard about the news most likely from a deserter and ordered the American troops to desert the fort immediately
 - ❑ The British arrived and found the place deserted while Washington and his army fled down the road and over the Hackensack River farther into NJ

Chapter 7: Darkest Hour; Part I

- ❑ On the morning of November 21st, Washington and his troops move into New Jersey
 - ❑ They push through a crossing point on the Passaic River called Acquackanonk, and entered into the town of Newark
 - ❑ Washington pushes forward with only 3,000 troops and does not seem in the slightest bit worried

- ❑ Washington's men are "broke and dispirited" due to their loss at Fort Lee and they have left everything behind there
 - ❑ Washington calls out for General Lee and suggests that he join him and his troops in NJ
- ❑ Unbeknownst to Washington, Joseph Reed sends a secret letter to Charles Lee
 - ❑ In the letter he implores Lee to join Washington, adding that he has often worried about Washington's "indecisive mind" during the New York campaign
 - ❑ He also suggests that Lee go to Congress "and form the plan of the new army"
- ❑ By December 1st, the enlistments of Washington's troops would be up and he fears that most of his men will not reenlist
 - ❑ The morale of the men is low suggesting that many will leave
 - ❑ They had lost 4 major battles in the past 3 months: Brooklyn Heights, Kips Bay, White Plains, and Fort Washington
 - ❑ Washington wonders if he should retreat to Pennsylvania and take time to regroup
- ❑ Washington faces the problem that the colonies are reluctant to donate troops to a continental army
 - ❑ There are plenty of opponents of Britain in the colonies but the colonies' leaders prefer to keep their armies at home, rather than sending them out to Washington
 - ❑ Washington sends Reed to Burlington, New Jersey to impress William Livingston, the governor of New Jersey to send reinforcements
 - ❑ Washington also dispatches Mifflin to Pennsylvania to alert Congress of their situation and to get them to send Pennsylvania soldiers
 - ❑ Mifflin reports that the Pennsylvania troops are "divided and lethargic"
 - ❑ Nothing is heard from Reed
- ❑ Thomas Paine was serving as a civilian aide for Greene's staff and is inspired by the troops' commitment
 - ❑ "These are the times that try men's souls" he later went on to write in his book, *The Crisis*, referring to this moment in the face of fear and doubt at the end of 1776
- ❑ Due to Loyalist domination in NJ, it is likely that the British knew of Washington's division of the army
- ❑ On the British side, the win at Fort Mifflin catalyzed a major shift in strategy
- ❑ General Clinton is reassigned to Newport, Rhode Island
 - ❑ He was not fond of this expedition
 - ❑ He was in favor of defeating Washington in Perth Amboy, NJ, but he was overruled
 - ❑ Clinton marched into Newport with 6,000 troops and easily seized it
 - ❑ This win would have little importance in the war
- ❑ Clinton and Howe have been quarreling for months
 - ❑ At White Plains Clinton says he can't stand Howe
 - ❑ Howe then replaces Clinton with Cornwallis
 - ❑ Cornwallis was a generic 18th century man and he had seemed to be doing everything right so far
 - ❑ He was the most popular British general serving in America
- ❑ Howe orders Cornwallis to pursue the Americans in Brunswick, but to not go any farther
 - ❑ Washington leads his troops past Brunswick without trouble
 - ❑ Washington reunites with Lord Stirling's troops, many of whom are tired and without shoes
- ❑ On November 30 at Brunswick, a messenger arrives with a letter for Reed from Lee
 - ❑ The letter was dated November 24
 - ❑ Washington opens the letter, and in it Lee expresses his concern over Washington's "fatal indecision of mind" and that he intends to march to New Jersey, as Washington has requested
 - ❑ Washington thinks Lee and Reed have "lost faith in him" and he undoubtedly feels hurt that his closest friends and followers are distancing themselves from him

- ❑ In Philadelphia, the members of the Continental Congress are all either “ill or exhausted or absent”
 - ❑ There are rumors that the British will march to Philadelphia
 - ❑ Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams... the 3 main writers of the Declaration of Independence, are absent on diplomatic missions
- ❑ On December 1st, 2,000 of Washington’s troops leave the army rather than reenlist
 - ❑ Washington sends another letter to Lee, summoning him to New Jersey
 - ❑ The British and Hessian troops are rapidly approaching New Jersey
 - ❑ By late afternoon, the British and Americans have begun exchanging fire
 - ❑ Alexander Hamilton led the Americans
 - ❑ Washington orders his men to retreat to Trenton
 - ❑ The British troops headed by Cornwallis are only 60 miles from Philadelphia

Chapter 7: Darkest Hour; Part II

- ❑ Admiral Lord Richard Howe and his brother William Howe send a peace treaty to the people of New Jersey
 - ❑ The treaty requires them to take a pledge of allegiance to George III and in return receive a pardon for any actions against the crown
 - ❑ Many people in New Jersey take the oath
- ❑ General Cornwallis arrives in Brunswick but, due to lack of clear orders from General Howe, doesn’t advance for 6 days, giving Washington and his troops the time they need to flee
 - ❑ If Cornwallis had been allowed to advance, he could have defeated Washington’s forces for good
- ❑ Everything seemed to have been going well for the British
 - ❑ However, many of the British and Hessian soldiers are pillaging local households and many British officers find their troop’s behavior disgraceful
- ❑ On December 7th, British and Hessian forces got under way from Brunswick and march to Trenton
 - ❑ Aware the British are on their way, Washington orders a retreat across the Delaware River to Philadelphia
 - ❑ Four hours, his men try to lift heavy artillery into boats
 - ❑ Thomas Paine describes the crossing of the Delaware as an “orderly retreat,” in which no sign of fear can be detected
 - ❑ Washington’s men are still dispirited, hundreds desert, and many are sick and tired
- ❑ It is likely that the British soldiers will cross the Delaware and seize Philadelphia
- ❑ On December 10th, news came that Lee and his 4,000 troops had landed in Morristown
 - ❑ Everything depended on Lee
- ❑ Washington expects Lee to march toward him, providing much-needed troops
 - ❑ However, unbeknownst to Washington at the time, Lee has been arrested
 - ❑ On December 12th, Lee stopped in a tavern
 - ❑ British cavalry arrived and burned the building, threatening to kill everyone inside unless Lee surrendered
 - ❑ Lee was captured, and his arrest was celebrated throughout the British Army
 - ❑ Colonel Harcourt led the abduction, he had served under Lee in Portugal
 - ❑ This is a severe blow to the American side
- ❑ Washington is also dismayed to learn that Congress has relocated to Lancaster for fear that Philadelphia will be invaded
- ❑ On December 13th, General William Howe suspends all further military operations for the winter, and orders his troops to retire in New York and New Jersey until spring
 - ❑ Howe sees no reason why he should press his advantage now: the winter is cold and miserable, and he’s confident that he’ll be able to defeat Washington’s forces for good in 1777

- ❑ Washington does not realize that General William Howe is suspending military operations
 - ❑ He sends spies to infiltrate the British army, and offers money for information on the British troops
 - ❑ He hears from sources in Trenton that Howe is going back to New York, but he is skeptical that this is true
 - ❑ He realizes that enlistments are up in on New Year's Day, and he fears that if they do not win by then, the game is pretty well over
 - ❑ Washington moved to Buckingham Pennsylvania, where he now has 7,500 men
 - ❑ For all intents and purposes, it seemed, "the war was over and the Americans had lost"
- ❑ Washington refused to accept that the war is over
 - ❑ He knows he needs to make decisive action-- especially since he has little left to lose at this point
- ❑ On December 22nd, Joseph reed sends Washington a letter
 - ❑ It advises him to strike at the British as soon as possible
 - ❑ Washington begins to plan an attack on the British, and schedules it for Christmas day
 - ❑ An attack on Trenton would begin on Christmas Day, and they would have to cross the Delaware River

Chapter 7: Darkest Hour; Part III

- ❑ On Christmas Eve, Washington confers with his generals to go over the final details of the attack
 - ❑ The army was to attack Delaware at 3 places:
 - ❑ A force of 1500 led by John Cadwalader and Joseph Reed, were to cross downriver at Bristol and advance toward Burlington
 - ❑ A force of 700 led by General James Ewing was to attack directly across the river at Trenton and hold the wooden bridge, which the British could use as an escape route
 - ❑ A force of 2,400 led by Washington, Greene, Sullivan, and Stirling would cross the Delaware at McKonkey's Ferry
 - ❑ **THE PASSWORD FOR THE NIGHT: VICTORY OR DEATH**
 - ❑ Henry Knox was put in charge of organizing the crossing
- ❑ Late on the night of December 25th, the troops cross the Delaware, aiming to arrive in Trenton by 5AM
 - ❑ The weather is harsh, and the Delaware is party frozen
- ❑ The crossing of the Delaware is an unforgettable experience for most of the troops
- ❑ John Greenwood, the fifer, later describes the intense cold weather, explaining that he was genuinely frightened that he would freeze to death
- ❑ By 3AM, the cannons have made it across the river thanks to Henry Knox
 - ❑ The troops are behind schedule because their plan was to make it by midnight
 - ❑ Instead of pulling back, Washington decides to continue with the attack
 - ❑ The two other attacks were called off
- ❑ Washington leads his 2,400 troops towards Trenton
 - ❑ Washington learns that some of his men's guns have become too wet so they no longer work
 - ❑ He says, "use the bayonet."
- ❑ By 8AM on December 26th, Washington's troops have arrived in Trenton
- ❑ A Hessian officer named Johann Gottlieb Rall has already received news that American troops might be planning an attack
 - ❑ On Christmas, an American patrol fired on Hessian officers
 - ❑ That evening, Rall, confident that the Americans would never attack on such a cold day, drank and played cards
 - ❑ He later received a letter warning about an attack, but instead of reading it he thrust it into his pocket

- ❑ The attack on Trenton began at 8AM... UNEXPECTED
 - ❑ Washington's troops have been cold and wet all night, they're exhausted and some weapons don't work
 - ❑ Meanwhile, the Hessians in Trenton march out of their barracks
 - ❑ The Americans overpower the Hessians and kill many of them, including Rall
 - ❑ In less than an hour, the Americans capture 1,000 prisoners while not one American dies
 - ❑ After the win, the Americans cross the river and head back to Pennsylvania
- ❑ Washington just won a huge victory and the defeat of the Hessians inspires the men
 - ❑ General William Howe hears the news and decides to march to New Jersey with an army of 8,000 troops
 - ❑ Washington learns of this and decides to "go after the enemy once again"
 - ❑ This poses a problem because Washington does not have enough troops to match the British in battle
 - ❑ With authorization from Congress, Washington takes every measure to ensure that his troops reenlist and stay in the army
- ❑ On January 1st, Cornwallis and his army arrive in Princeton, New Jersey
 - ❑ On January 2nd, he left part of his force there and took 5,500 to Trenton
 - ❑ Left no choice, Washington and the Americans troops left Trenton and went to attack Cornwallis's rear guard in Princeton
 - ❑ Washington again divided his force in 3
 - ❑ Greene's column went to the left, Sullivan's column to the right
- ❑ The Battle broke out on January 3rd
 - ❑ Colonel Charles Mawhood was the British general in charge of Princeton
 - ❑ "It's a fine fox chase my boys"
- ❑ This battle lasted only 15 minutes
 - ❑ 23 Americans died including Colonel Haslet and General Mercer
 - ❑ Many British died and 300 were taken prisoner
 - ❑ This was an "unexpected victory"
- ❑ Afterwards, Washington marched his troops to Somerset Courthouse, where they retire to the village of Morristown for the winter
- ❑ 1776 ends with two astonishing victories for Washington's troops
- ❑ The attack on Trenton is rightly seen as a turning point in the war--- the moment when Americans soundly bested their opponents in battle, outfighting and outsmarting them
 - ❑ Many British commanders see Trenton as a minor defeat for their side, but others admit that Washington is a greater general than they'd supposed
- ❑ As 1777 begins, George III once again rides to Parliament to speak about the war
 - ❑ The Whigs ardently denounced the wicked war like they had years before
- ❑ Parliament once again votes to send reinforcements to America to ensure a British Victory
- ❑ 6 years later, in 1783 the war comes to a close with the Treaty of Paris
 - ❑ Washington goes onto say that if anything were to happen to him, he would want Greene in charge
- ❑ At the end of the war, only two of the general officers who had been involved in the Siege of Boston are still serving
 - ❑ Washington and Greene
- ❑ Henry Knox was also present at the Siege of Yorktown
- ❑ The Americans go on to defeat the British largely because of military and financial support from France and the Netherlands
- ❑ Washington and his army won the war... not the French and the Dutch

Matt Gizzi

- ❑ Washington isn't a brilliant strategist, and he has made many mistakes by the time the war ends, but, he "never forgot what was at stake and he never gave up"
- ❑ Washington always preached perseverance throughout the war
- ❑ By the end of the war, 25,000 Americans had lost their lives
- ❑ 1776 is remembered as America's birth year but for most American soldiers it was a year of disease, hunger, and desertion with "all too few victories"
 - ❑ For those who served alongside Washington from 1776 to the end of the war, the American victory against the British "seemed little short of a miracle"