

KEY DOCUMENTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

OCTOBER 1774

Declaration and Resolves

Adopted by the First Continental Congress in response to the Intolerable Acts.

JANUARY 1776

Common Sense

Thomas Paine's pamphlet that argued for independence from British rule in plain language.

JULY 4, 1776

Declaration of Independence

The formal statement written by Thomas Jefferson declaring the thirteen colonies free from Great Britain.

NOVEMBER 1777

Articles of Confederation

The first written constitution of the United States, establishing a loose confederation of sovereign states.

SEPTEMBER 1783

Treaty of Paris

The formal document ending the Revolutionary War and recognizing American independence.

SEPTEMBER 1787

United States Constitution

The supreme law of the United States, replacing the Articles of Confederation with a stronger federal government.

DECEMBER 1791

The Bill of Rights

The first ten amendments to the Constitution, guaranteeing individual liberties and rights.