



Volume 22

Number 020

**America's Revolution (110) – Second
Continental Congress – Early Months - IV**

Lead: In the 1700s the United States broke from England. No colony in history had done that before. This series examines America's Revolution.

Intro: *A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts*

Content: During the early months of the Second Continental Congress in spring and summer 1775, there were serious divisions between those committed to independence

and the advocates of reconciliation with Britain even after the shedding of blood in Massachusetts. This reflected the deep notional schizophrenia that gripped this Congress and the colonies it represented. Yet, as each week passed, the reality facing the Americans pushed the Congress in the direction of confrontation. When word arrived of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, the initial reaction was hesitation, but soon the congressional spirit moved in a more martial direction. It first sent a letter to the Canadians, whom Congress deemed “fellow sufferers,” calling on its northern neighbor to join the struggle for “liberty.” Then in late June, Congress authorized an invasion to secure Canada led by General Philip Schuyler.

Congress was soon assembling military supplies and offering to pay militia companies recruited from Pennsylvania,

Maryland and Virginia to be sent north to join New England forces surrounding Boston. By the end of June 1775, Congress had appointed George Washington commander of all continental forces and raised money to pay for that army. If the Continental Congress was not yet emotionally committed to independence – it would be a year before it issued Mr. Jefferson’s Declaration – it was at least beginning to act like it represented an independent country.

At the University of Richmond’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I’m Dan Roberts.

Resources

Brooke, John. *King George III.* New York, NY: Constable Publishing, 1972.

Brown, Wallace. "An Englishman Views the American Revolution: The Letters of Henry Hulton, 1769-1776." *Huntington Library Quarterly*. 36 (1972).

Burnett, Edmund Cody. *The Continental Congress.* New York, NY: Macmillan, 1941.

Christie, Ian and Benjamin W. Labaree. *Empire of Independence, 1760-1776, A British-American Dialogue on the Coming of the American Revolution.* Oxford, UK: Phaidon Press, 1976.

Henderson, H. James. *Party Politics in the Continental Congress.* New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1974.

Higgenbotham, Don. *The War of American Independence.* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1971.

Jensen, Merrill, ed. *English Historical Documents, Vol. IX: American Colonial Documents to 1776.* London, UK: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1964.

Jensen, Merrill. *Founding of the American Nation: A History of the American Revolution, 1763-1776.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1968.

Knollenberg, Bernhard. *Origin of the American Revolution.* New York, NY: Macmillan, 1960.

Middlekauff, Robert. *The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution, 1763-1789.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Rakove, Jack N. *Beginnings of National Politics: An Interpretive History of the Continental Congress.* Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.

Watson, J. Steven. *The Reign of George III, 1760-1815.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1960.

Copyright 2018 Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.