

The American Revolutionary War French Revolution Revolution History

How were the American and French Revolutions similar? How were they different?

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18 Answers



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Answered May 15, 2017 · Author has 257 answers and 684.8k answer views

The **French Revolution** and **American Revolution** had some **similar** aspects; however, there are a lot of differences between these two wars. A main difference is the context of the war. The **American Revolution** was caused by a majority of the **America** population becoming unhappy because of how the British **were** ruling them.

Both the American and French Revolutions were focused around liberty and equality. Both countries were trying to gain freedom. America was trying to gain freedom from the rules and taxes put upon them by Great Britain. Whereas the French wanted to abolish the French monarchy and create a better government in which the people could have more of a say in society. Although the revolutions of both started for very similar reasons, and both countries fought for the same thing, the outcomes of the two were very different.

The American Revolution was mainly focused on gaining independence. After the British victory during the Seven Year War, America was tied down from the British rules. America was obligated to pay off the war, and to pay the high taxes that British Parliament assigned. The British enforced the Stamp Act on the Americans. The stamp tax levied taxes on commercial and legal documents, such as, diplomas, pamphlets, newspapers, almanacs, dice, and playing cards. A stamp glued to each article indicated that the tax had been paid. What also angered the Americans was the lack of representation from the British Parliament, Americans had to no way to speak their mind to the British, other than rebellion. The British had crossed the line when they allowed the East India Tea Company to ship their products directly to the colonies, rather than sending it through the middlemen in London. In order to show the public's opinion, Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense, this book ridiculed the idea of a small island ruling a large continent, this was a call for freedom and republican government. After much fighting, the Americans finally found a way to make things fair. On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the

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Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson. By 1783, Britain allowed the 13 colonies of North America to have independence.

The common people of France wanted to get rid of the French monarchy, the lower classes wanted to enforce equality rather than having the nobles and the king overpower them. Like the Americans, the French were also in debt from war, they entered the Seven Years War by using borrowed money. In order to pay the it off, the king, Louis XIV, levied a large tax, however the people refused to pay. To resolve this issue, Louis went to converse...

Basic Differences



- French Revolution wanted to change everything - Government, Social Structure, Economy, Religion
- American Revolution sought a change in government, but the social system remained intact

Slide 2

The French Revolution and American Revolution had some similar aspects; however, there are a lot of differences between these two wars. A main difference is the context of the war. The American Revolution was caused by a majority of the America population becoming unhappy because of how the British were ruling them. They believed they deserved more freedom from the British. The French Revolution was started by French's lower class because they were unhappy with how they were being treated. Although both of the wars were caused by similar reasons, they were started by completely different kinds of people. One started by all different classes of people, but led by the upper class, and the other started by the lower class of a country. Another difference is who got involved after these Revolutions started. The American Revolution pretty much stayed between the Americans and the British except when the French joined. The French Revolution started between the French lower class and the French government. It then evolved into the French fighting against other monarchies in Europe such as Austria and Prussia. Another smaller difference is that the French Revolution was more violent and bloody. The revolutionaries in the French Revolution would kill anyone who they heard were supporters of the king. The revolutionaries in the American Revolution never really killed supporters of the British and weren't very violent to British people unless they were in battle. These are just a few of the many difference between the French and American Revolutions.