**The American Revolutionary War**

During two conferences in 1774 and 1775, the politicians of the Thirteen Colonies prepared for independence. They started to store weapons for a possible war. The British sent soldiers to destroy these weapons. A gunfight erupted and the colonists’ soldiers forced the British to retreat. This event was the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

The colonists wanted to get help from other countries and colonists to fight the British. They decided to convince the people of the Province of Quebec to help them. When the French Canadian colonists refused, the American colonists invaded the province in 1775. They conquered Montreal but were not able to control Quebec City. The British chased the American soldiers and liberated the Province of Quebec in 1776.

Other countries were ready to support the colonists. The governments of France, the Netherlands and Spain were the enemies of Great Britain in Europe. They hoped that the British would lose the war. These three countries secretly provided ammunition, supplies and weapons to the revolutionaries. They even joined the war in 1778.

The French involvement was decisive. They won a sea fight against Great Britain in 1781. French and American soldiers then conquered the city of Yorktown. The British surrendered. Peace negotiations began in 1782. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 officially ended the war. The United States of America were now recognized as an own country and nation.