The Simple AP® US History Unit 3 Cheat Sheet

3.1–3.2 Seven Years' War (1754–1763)

Causes

Cause: Britain + France fight over N. America, esp. the fur-rich **Ohio River Valley** & its forts.
George Washington (1754): VA militia clashes w/ French at Fort Necessity → war starts.
Albany Plan (1754, Franklin): plan to unite colonies; rejected → little unity yet.
Most Native nations sided w/ France (fewer settlers). **Iroquois** leaned British.
Turning point: William Pitt sends more money + troops → British wins (Quebec, 1759).

Outcome: Treaty of Paris (1763)

Britain wins: gets Canada + land to the Mississippi. France leaves mainland N. America.

Effect	Result
War debt	Britain taxes colonies
End of salutary neglect	Stricter rules
Pontiac's Rebellion	Native resistance
Proclamation of 1763	No settling west
French gone	Less need for Britain

Proclamation of 1763: banned settlement west of the Appalachians → colonists angry.
Salutary neglect before 1763: loose British rule → colonists used to self-government.

✓ 1763 = turning point: war debt → new taxes + tighter rule → protests → Revolution.

⚠ This war (1754–63) is NOT the Revolution (1775–83); it sets the stage for it.

3.3 Taxation Without Representation

British Acts & Colonial Responses

Act	Year	Response
Sugar Act	1764	Smuggling
Stamp Act	1765	Boycotts
Townshend	1767	Boycotts
Boston Massacre	1770	Propaganda
Tea Act	1773	Tea Party
Coercive Acts	1774	1st Cont. Cong.

Protest & Political Arguments

Stamp Act: first direct tax on paper goods → biggest protests. **Sons of Liberty** resisted.
Stamp Act Congress (1765): 9 colonies meet; "no taxation without representation" in Parliament.
Virtual representation: Britain said Parliament spoke for all subjects. Colonists disagreed.
Boycotts: women made homespun cloth (**Daughters of Liberty**) → politics.
Committees of Correspondence: colonies share news + plan resistance (Sam Adams).
Tea Act (1773): cheap tea, but an East India Co. monopoly + tax → Boston Tea Party (Dec. 1773).
Coercive (Intolerable) Acts (1774): close Boston port, punish MA after the Tea Party.
1st Continental Congress (1774): boycott British goods; still loyal to the king, want rights.

⚠ Colonists didn't want seats in Parliament; they denied its right to tax them at all.

✓ Pattern: British act → colonial protest → repeal or harsher act → escalation (1764–75).

3.4–3.5 Ideas & the American Revolution

Philosophical Foundations

John Locke: natural rights (life, liberty, property); people can overthrow unjust gov't.
Republicanism: elected representatives; citizens put the public good first (civic virtue).
Common Sense (Paine, 1776) → mass push for independence. **Declaration of Independence** (July 4, 1776, Jefferson): natural rights.

Key Events

Event	Year	Significance
Lexington/Concord	1775	War starts
Saratoga	1777	France joins
Valley Forge	1777	Hard winter
Yorktown	1781	Brit. surrender
Treaty of Paris	1783	Independence

Why the Patriots Won

French alliance (1778): money, navy, troops. Plus Washington's leadership + home turf.
Loyalists (~20%) stayed loyal to Britain; many fled. **Dunmore's Proclamation** (1775): freedom for enslaved who joined the British army.
Most Native nations backed Britain to stop westward settlers (e.g., Mohawk).
Enslaved + free Black men fought on both sides; Britain promised freedom to many.
Women ran farms and businesses while men fought; some followed the army.

⚠ Most colonists didn't want independence until 1776 (Common Sense, fighting, king's refusal).

3.6 The Influence of Revolutionary Ideals

Who Gained? Who Didn't?

Group	Impact of Revolution
White men	More voting rights
Women	Republican motherhood
Enslaved	North: gradual freedom
Native Americans	Lost land

Republican motherhood: women raise good citizens → more schooling, no vote.
Abigail Adams: "Remember the ladies."
Women's education grew; **Judith Sargent Murray** argued women were equal in mind.
Slavery: Northern states slowly end it (PA, 1780); the South keeps it & slavery grows there.
Free Black writers like **Phillis Wheatley** challenged slavery in print & poems.

New State Governments

State constitutions: written rights; strong legislatures, weak governors (fear tyranny).
Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1786): church and state separate (Jefferson).
Voting: some states lowered property rules, but most voters were still white men w/ property.

Global Influence

Ideals spread to the **French** (1789) and **Haitian** (1791) revolutions & Latin America.

⚠ "All men are created equal" didn't mean equality for all in 1776 (women, enslaved).

✓ Ideas changed; slavery + gender roles continued (continuity & change).

3.7 The Articles of Confederation

Structure (1781–1789)

Articles: first national gov't. Weak 1-house Congress, 1 vote per state, no president.
Why weak? After fighting a king, states feared a strong central gov't (fear of tyranny).

Weakness	Problem it caused
Couldn't tax	No money, debts
No army	Couldn't stop revolts
No trade control	State trade fights
Unanimous to amend	Couldn't fix itself

Achievements

Land Ordinance of 1785: surveyed western land into townships; 1 section for schools.
Won the war (w/ French help) + signed the Treaty of Paris (1783) w/ Britain → independence.
Currency: states print own money; no national coin → inflation, trade confusion, debt.
Northwest Ordinance (1787): territory → state process; **banned slavery** in the Northwest.

Shays' Rebellion (1786–87)

Shays' Rebellion: indebted MA farmers revolt; national gov't can't respond (no army).
Impact: leaders call for a stronger gov't → Annapolis (1786) → Constitutional Convention.
Foreign problems: British kept forts in the West; Spain closed New Orleans to U.S. trade.

⚠ The Northwest Ordinance was a lasting success (statehood model, slavery ban).

✓ Shays' Rebellion → fear of disorder → push for a stronger national government (1787).

3.8–3.9 Constitution & Ratification

Constitutional Convention (1787)

Constitutional Convention (1787): **Madison** leads; Washington presides; Articles replaced.

Compromise	Issue	Solution
Great	Representation	House + Senate
3/5	Enslaved	3/5 counted
Slave trade	Imports	OK to 1808
Electoral Coll.	President	Electors

Virginia Plan (big states, by population) vs. **New Jersey Plan** (equal votes per state).
Constitution + slavery: fugitive slave clause; slavery protected without naming it.
Principles: **federalism**, **separation of powers**, **checks and balances**, limited gov't.
Federalism: power shared between national and state governments (10th Amend.).
Amending: 2/3 of Congress + 3/4 of states.

Ratification Debate

	Federalists	Anti-Federalists
Leaders	Madison, Hamilton	Patrick Henry
Wanted	Strong nat'l gov't	States, rights
Writing	Federalist Papers	Brutus

Bill of Rights (1791): first 10 amendments to win Anti-Federalist support for the new plan.
Ratification: 9 of 13 states needed; close fights in VA and NY; RI ratifies last (1790).

⚠ Anti-Federalists lost, but won the Bill of Rights.

3.10 Shaping a New Republic (1789–1800)

Washington (1789–1797)

Washington: cabinet, 2 terms. **Hamilton's plan**: national bank, pay state debts, tariffs.
Bank fight: Hamilton = **loose construction**; Jefferson = **strict construction**.
Whiskey Rebellion (1794): Washington sends troops → federal power works.
Neutrality (1793) in Britain–France war. **Jay's Treaty** (Britain), **Pinckney's Treaty** (Spain).
Treaty of Greenville (1795): after Fallen Timbers, Natives give up most of present-day Ohio.
Haitian Revolution (1791) raises Southern fears of slave revolts in the U.S. (e.g., in Virginia).
Citizen Genêt (1793): French envoy recruits Americans, tests U.S. neutrality; recalled.
Farewell Address: avoid alliances + parties.

First Party System

	Federalists	Dem.-Republicans
Leaders	Hamilton, Adams	Jefferson
Gov't	Strong	Limited
Foreign	Pro-Britain	Pro-France

John Adams (1797–1801)

XYZ Affair → **Alien & Sedition Acts** (1798) → **VA & KY Resolutions** (states push back).
Election of 1800: power passes peacefully to Jefferson's party ("Revolution of 1800").

✓ Shays' (Articles failed) vs. Whiskey (Constitution worked) = classic comparison.

3.11–3.13 Identity, Movement & Exam Skills

American Identity

National culture: Noah Webster's dictionary; art & writing about the Revolution & its heroes.
North (trade, ending slavery) vs. **South** (plantations, slavery) → sectional split.

Movement in the Early Republic

Westward migration (KY, TN, OH) → conflict w/ Native nations & Spain over land.
Cotton gin (1793) → slavery expands in the South.
Free Black communities grow in Northern cities.
Naturalization Acts: debates over who can become a citizen & how fast (5 → 14 yrs).

Continuity & Change (3.13)

Changed	Continued
Colony → nation	Slavery
King → elected	White male power
New Constitution	Native land loss

Exam Format

MCQ 40%, **SAQ** 20%, **DBQ** 25%, **LEQ** 15%.
DBQ: thesis, context, use 4+ docs as evidence, outside evidence, sourcing (HIPP).
LEQ: thesis, context, 2 pieces of evidence, reasoning (cause, compare, change over time).

⚠ Context = broader background tied to your argument, not 1 vague sentence.

✓ Big themes: ideals vs. reality; federal vs. state power; the effects of 1763 on colonists.