

4-3.4 What were the effects on the lives on African Americans, women, and Native Americans?

Effects on African Americans

The American Revolution had many effects on the lives of **African Americans** and the **continuation of slavery**. African Americans **fought** on both sides of the **war**. **Crispus Attucks**, a freed slave, was killed during the Boston Massacre. **Peter Salem**, a former slave and Minutemen hero, was one of a few who was given his freedom for



serving in the American army at Bunker Hill and Saratoga. Some slaves were promised **freedom** after the war. However most of their promises were not kept. As a result of American Revolution and the idea found in the Declaration of Independence that “**all men are created equal**,” states in the **North** passed laws to slowly **emancipate** their **slaves**. **Northerners** were **not** as economically **dependent** on **slave labor** as **landowners** were in the **South**. Therefore, Northerners didn’t necessarily have a need for slaves. In the South, some slave owners struggled with the conflict between keeping their slaves or setting them free. A few southern slave owners set their slaves free. A few southern states made **manumission** (emancipation from

slavery) easier. However, the southern landowners’ **dependence** on **slave labor** to work their **plantations** and their fear of freeing a large numbers of slaves caused most states to have more severe **controls** over their **slaves**. The invention of the **cotton gin** in 1793 made southerners **more dependent** on slave labor and confirmed their **commitment** to **slavery**.

Why did African Americans, including slaves, fight in the war?

Why was the north less dependent on slaves than the south?

How were the laws passed in the north and south different with regard to slavery?

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Effects on Women

During the war, **women** were expected to work the **farm** or help run the **family business**. They cared for their **children** and planted and harvested **crops** while their husbands were gone. For example, **Abigail Adams**, the wife of John Adams, ran the family farm while her husband served in the Continental Congress. Some women served the army as **nurses** or **cooks**. A few even served in **battle** by enlisting as men or fighting alongside their husbands. For example, **Martha Washington**, wife of George Washington, traveled with her husband as he served as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. **Mary Ludwig Hayes** also served alongside her husband in the war as well. She **cooked, washed clothes**, and took care



of **wounded soldiers**. When the situation demanded it, Mary stepped in and took her husband's place when he was wounded during the battle of Monmouth. In spite of the role women played during the American Revolution, they were **not allowed** to **vote** nor have a **say** in the **government** after the war was over.

What did women do during the Revolutionary War?

Women in general	Abigail Adams
Mary Ludwig Hayes	Martha Washington

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Effects on Native Americans

Native Americans were also affected by the outcome of the American Revolution. As a result of the French and Indian War, the Native Americans had **lost** the **support** of their **French ally** when France lost the war and its North American territories. When the British made peace with the American colonists and ended the Revolutionary war, the Native Americans also **lost** their **British ally** in the thirteen new states. As a result, the Native Americans were forced to move **west**. The Native Americans tried to **resist** the American settlers as they pushed them to territories **west** of the **Appalachian Mountains**. The **British** continued to offer **support** to the Native Americans from their forts within the **northwestern** boundaries of the new United States.



What impact did the Revolutionary War have on the Native Americans?

The Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787

The passage of the **Land Ordinance of 1785** and the **Northwest Ordinance of 1787** showed the spirit of the American Revolution. **The Land Ordinance** stated that white settlers could **purchase** undeveloped **land** in the **west**. **The Northwest Ordinance** created the **Northwest Territory**. The Northwest Territory refers to land that is northwest of the Appalachian Mountains including present-day Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. Many Native Americans were forced to move west to this territory. The Northwest Ordinance **banned slavery** within the boundaries of the newly created Northwest Territory. The Northwest Ordinance also promised to **treat** the **Native Americans** living there **fairly**. Disappointingly however, the federal government soon sent troops to **force** the **Native Americans** to make **treaties** that protected the **white settlers** and allowed them to **settle** in the



NORTHWEST TERRITORY

Because **westward expansion** was encouraged by the federal government through the passing of the **Land Ordinance** and the **Northwest Ordinance**, for years Native Americans were **forced to give up their land** and **move further west**. The institution of **slavery** moved **west** with **southern settlers** too.

Did the American government keep their promise to the Native Americans with the passage of the Northwest Ordinance?

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	Political Effects	Economic Effects	Geographic Effects	Social Effects
African Americans				
Women				
Native Americans				

Compare how the Revolutionary War impacted African Americans and Native Americans.

African Americans

Native Americans

