

Overview of Major American Wars: Colonial and National Periods

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War has been part of the mortal experience since the beginning of time. Even before time began as the Holy Scriptures declare in Revelation 12:7, “And there was a war in heaven...” Such is the history of our world as told by the scribes and historians.

Looking back over the vast history of the American continent we see the Eighty Years War (also known as the Dutch Revolt) of 1568-1648 that English men learned the art of war and became soldiers in the warfare that was prevalent in Europe. Men such as Captain John Smith, who was vital to the survival of Jamestown in its early years, and Miles Standish, an English military office officer hired by the Pilgrims as a military advisor for Plymouth Colony. These men gained experience in in the Eighty Years War and then came to the early American Colonies where they played significant military roles during the founding and settlement by Europeans.

As colonization began to spread in the “New World” so did conflict with those already in place on the continent as well as with other European powers vying for dominance in this new land.

Military acumen changed as the people interacted with the natives. Records of skirmishes, battles and all-out-wars have been recorded. These records hold vast treasures of information just waiting to be re-discovered.

Simple Timeline of Colonial Wars

1634-1638 Pequot War	Fought between colonists of southern Connecticut and the Pequot Indians of the same area. Colonies involved were Connecticut and Massachusetts. Native Americans included the Pequot and the Niantic. The Mohegan (allies of the colonists), and the Narragansett (allies of the colonists).
1675-1676 King Philip's War	Fought between colonists in Massachusetts and Connecticut and the Wampanoag Indians and their allies. Colonies involved were Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Native Americans included the Wampanoag, Nipmuck, Podunk, Narraganzett, and Nashaway. The Mohegan (allies of the colonists), and Pequot (allies of the colonists).

<p>1689-1697</p> <p>King William's War</p>	<p>Colonial Powers were England and France.</p> <p>English colonies involved Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York.</p> <p>French colonies involved New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Quebec.</p> <p>Native Americans included the Iroquois Confederacy: Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, and Seneca (Allies of England). And the Wabanaki Confederacy: Abenaki, Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot (Allies of France).</p>
<p>1702-1713</p> <p>Queen Anne's War</p>	<p>Colonial Powers included Great Britain, France, and Spain.</p> <p>British colonies involved Carolina, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia.</p> <p>French colonies involved New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.</p> <p>(Maine and Newfoundland were disputed by the British and the French.)</p> <p>New Spain colonies involved Florida.</p> <p>Native Americans included Chickasaw, Creek, Iroquois Confederacy, and the Yamasee (allies to the British). The Apalachee, Choctaw, Kahnawake Mohawk, Natchez, Timucua, and the Wabanaki Confederacy (allies to New Spain).</p>
<p>1739-1748</p> <p>War of Jenkin's Ear</p>	<p>Colonial powers were Great Britain and Spain.</p> <p>British colony involved was Georgia.</p> <p>Spanish colony involved was Florida.</p>
<p>1744-1748</p> <p>King George's War</p>	<p>Colonial powers were Great Britain and France</p> <p>British colonies involved were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York.</p> <p>French colonies involved were New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec.</p> <p>Native Americans included the Iroquois Confederacy (allies to the British) and the Wabanaki Confederacy (allies to the French).</p>
<p>1754-1763</p> <p>French and Indian War</p>	<p>Colonial powers were Great Britain and France</p> <p>British colonies involved were Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.</p> <p>French territories involved were Louisiana, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec.</p>

	Native Americans included the Catawba, Cherokee, and the Iroquois Confederacy (allies to the British). The Algonquin, Kahnawake Mohawk, Lenape, Ojibwa, Ottawa, Shawnee, the Wabanaki Confederacy, and the Wyandot (allies to the French).
1774 Lord Dunmore's War	Fought between Virginia colonists, and the Shawnee and Mingo Indians.
1775-1783 American War of Independence	Colonial powers included the British, French, Hessians, and Spanish. Original British colonies included: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

The American Revolutionary War involved citizens of world powers, it included American Colonists, leaders and soldiers from countries involved in the war, African Americans, and American Indians. When the revolution began the colonists were subjects of Great Britain. There was no regular army, each colony was defended by a militia made up of local men. Any male 16 years or older was required to participate in the militia with few exceptions.

Canada, the province of Quebec, remained loyal to Great Britain. Today that area is known as Ontario and Quebec.

While many of our modern states did not exist at the time of the Revolution, some of them have information specific to their area because individuals that served, later settled and lived in these states: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Simple Timeline of National Wars

1785-1795 Northwest Indian War	Fought between the United States and numerous Indian tribes with support from the British. Native Americans included the Miami, Shawnee, Delaware, Ottawa, and Wyandot.
1800-1805 Barbary Wars	Fought between the United States and the Barbary states of North Africa. Barbary states included: Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli.
1812-1815	Fought between the United States and Great Britain.

<p>War of 1812</p>	<p>Countries involved included Canada, Great Britain, and the United States.</p> <p>Native Americans, Canadian Aboriginal Peoples, and African Americans participated in this conflict.</p>
<p>1813-1814</p> <p>Creek War</p>	<p>Fought between opposing Creek factions, European empires and the United States.</p> <p>Native Americans involved Creek, Cherokee, and Choctaw were also allies to the United States.</p>
<p>1817-1818</p> <p>First Seminole War</p>	<p>Fought between the United States and the Seminole in Spanish-held Pensacola and St. Marks.</p>
<p>1827</p> <p>Winnebago War</p>	<p>Fought between the United States and the Winnebago in Michigan Territory.</p> <p>Native Americans of the Menominee, Oneida, and Stockbridge peoples were allies to the US.</p>
<p>1832</p> <p>Black Hawk War</p>	<p>Fought between the United States and the following Native American tribes: Kickapoo, Meskwaki (Fox), Ottawa, Potawatomi, Sauk, and Winnebago.</p> <p>Illinois, Iowa, Michigan Territory (now Wisconsin), and Missouri were areas of the conflict.</p> <p>Native American peoples who were allies to the US included: Menominee, Potawatomi, and Dakota (Sioux).</p>
<p>1835-1842</p> <p>Second Seminole War</p>	<p>Fought between the United States and the Seminole over their refusal to abandon their reservation.</p> <p>Areas of conflict included: Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida.</p>
<p>1836-1832</p> <p>Second Creek War</p>	<p>Fought between the United States and the Creek Indians.</p> <p>The battle took place along the Alabama-Georgia border.</p> <p>Native Americans of the Upper Creek were allies to the US against the Lower Creek.</p>

1836-1839 Cherokee Disturbances and Removal	Fought between the United States and the Cherokee. Area of conflict included: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
1846-1848 Mexican War	Fought between the United States and Mexico. People from 24 states, California, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia supported the United States.
1855-1858 Third Seminole War	Fought between the United States and the remnant Seminole remaining in Florida.
1861-1865 Civil War	Fought between the states. The American Civil War, also known as the "War between the States," "The War of Northern Aggression," and the "War of Secession."
1898 Spanish-American War	Fought between the United States and Spain. The main areas of this conflict were in Cuba and the Philippines.
1899-1902 Philippine Insurrection	Fought between the United States and Philippine revolutionaries. This war was a continuation of the Philippine struggle for Independence from Spain (the US acquired the Philippines from Spain during the Spanish-American War).
1917-1919 World War I	The United States entered this war in April 1917. It was a global war that lasted from 1914 to 1918.
1941-1942 World War II	The United States entered this war in 1941. It was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945.
1950-1953 Korean War	War between North and South Korea, in which the United Nations fought for South Korea and China and the Soviet Union fought for North Korea.

1965-1973 Vietnam War	This war occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
1990-1991 Gulf War	War in the Persian Gulf region, waged by coalition forces from 34 nations.
2001- Afghanistan War	United States invaded Afghanistan after September 11.
2003-2011 Iraq War	United States invasion of Iraq.

From the beginnings of European settlement on the American continent the military age for men was deemed 16 to 60 years of age, although there could be those younger or older involved. With the advent of World War I, the age changed to 18 to 60 years of age.

Sources for further study online

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