UNIT 3 STUDY GUIDE
Path to Independence and Republicanism, 1754-1789

How To Use This Study Guide:
Over the course of the year, we will look at 25 key concepts, spread out over 9 time periods. The key concepts are there to provide broad ideas that you should know in order to understand the development of U.S. history. It will be helpful to use these key concepts as a review of your reading notes/lecture notes. Be sure that you can define and explain the examples within the key concept. The more you can integrate the smaller details with the larger, broader picture, the better you will understand and remember the information that you read.

Period 3: 1754-1800

Key Concept 3.1: British attempts to assert tighter control over its North American colonies and the colonial resolve to pursue self-government led to a colonial independence movement and the Revolutionary War.

I. The competition among the British, French, and American Indians for economic and political advantage in North America culminated in the Seven years' War (the French and Indian War), in which Britain defeated France and allied American Indians.
   A. Colonial rivalry intensified between Britain and France in the mid-18th century, as the growing population of the British colonies expanded into the interior of North America, threatening French–Indian trade networks and American Indian autonomy.
      Examples: French-Huron alliance, British-Iroquois alliance, French and Indian War, Albany Plan of Union, Treaty of Paris
   B. Britain achieved a major expansion of its territorial holdings by defeating the French, but at tremendous expense, setting the stage for imperial efforts to raise revenue and consolidate control over the colonies.
      Examples: End of salutary neglect, writs of assistance, use of admiralty courts to try smugglers, virtual representation of Parliament
   C. After the British victory, imperial officials' attempts to prevent colonists from moving westward generated colonial opposition, while native groups sought to both continue trading with Europeans and resist the encroachments of colonists on tribal lands.
      Examples: Pontiac's War, Proclamation of 1763, Iroquois Confederacy

II. The desire of many colonists to assert ideals of self-government in the face of renewed British imperial efforts led to a colonial independence movement and war with Britain
   A. The imperial struggles of the mid-18th century, as well as new British efforts to collect taxes without direct colonial representation or consent and to assert imperial authority in the colonies, began to unite the colonists against perceived and real constraints on their economic activities and political rights.
      Examples: Sugar Act (1764), Stamp Act (1765),Quartering Act (1765), "No taxation without representation", Declaratory Act (1766), Townshend Acts (1767), Tea Act (1773), Intolerable Acts/Coercive Acts (1774), Quebec Act (1774)
   B. Colonial leaders based their calls for resistance to Britain on arguments about the rights of British subjects, the rights of the individual, local traditions of self-rule, and the ideas of the Enlightenment.
      Examples: Taxation without representation, consent of the governed, republicanism, bicameral colonial legislatures, Enlightenment, natural rights
   C. The effort for American independence was energized by colonial leaders such as Benjamin Franklin, as well as by popular movements that included the political activism of laborers, artisans, and women.
      Examples: Paul Revere, Mercy Otis Warren, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Sons of Liberty, Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania (John Dickinson), Stamp Act Congress (1765), Boston Tea Party, committees of correspondence, First and Second Continental Congress
   D. In the face of economic shortages and the British military occupation of some regions, men and women mobilized in large numbers to provide financial and material support to the Patriot movement.
      Examples: Committees of Correspondence, Minutemen of Massachusetts
E. Despite considerable loyalist opposition, as well as Great Britain’s apparently overwhelming military and financial advantages, the Patriot cause succeeded because of the actions of colonial militias and the Continental Army, George Washington’s military leadership, the colonists’ ideological commitment and resilience, and assistance sent by European allies.

*Examples: Battle of Saratoga, French Alliance, Battle of Yorktown*

**Key Concept 3.2:**
The American Revolution’s democratic and republican ideas inspired new experiments with different forms of government.

I. The ideals that inspired the revolutionary cause reflected new beliefs about politics, religion, and society that had been developing over the course of the 18th century.

A. Enlightenment ideas and philosophy inspired many American political thinkers to emphasize individual talent over hereditary privilege, while religion strengthened Americans’ view of themselves as a people blessed with liberty.

*Examples: End of primogeniture laws, First Great Awakening, New Lights vs. Old Lights, consent of the governed, John Locke*

B. The colonists’ belief in the superiority of republican forms of government based on the natural rights of the people found expression in Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* and the *Declaration of Independence*. The ideas in these documents resonated throughout American history, shaping Americans’ understanding of the ideals on which the nation was based.

*Examples: Common Sense, Declaration of Independence, republicanism, natural rights*

C. During and after the American Revolution, an increased awareness of inequalities in society motivated some individuals and groups to call for the abolition of slavery and greater political democracy in the new state and national governments.

*Examples: Quakers, Abigail Adams’ “remember the ladies”, Pennsylvania gradual emancipation law (1780), reduction of state property requirements to vote, abolition societies, separation of church and state, Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1786)*

D. In response to women’s participation in the American Revolution, Enlightenment ideas, and women’s appeals for expanded roles, an ideal of “republican motherhood” gained popularity. It called on women to teach republican values within the family and granted women a new importance in American political culture.

*Examples: Republican motherhood, improved education for women*


*Examples: French Revolution (1789-1799), US Neutrality Proclamation, Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)*

II. After declaring independence, American political leaders created new constitutions and declarations of rights that articulated the role of the state and federal governments while protecting individual liberties and limiting both centralized power and excessive popular influence.

A. Many new state constitutions placed power in the hands of the legislative branch and maintained property qualifications for voting and citizenship.

*Examples: Conventions to ratify constitutions, strong state legislatures combined with weak governors and courts*

B. The *Articles of Confederation* unified the newly independent states, creating a central government with limited power. After the Revolution, difficulties over international trade, finances, interstate commerce, foreign relations, and internal unrest led to calls for a stronger central government.

*Examples: Unicameral legislature with no power to tax, or regulate trade; lack of judicial or executive branch; tariff and currency disputes; Spanish restrictions on Mississippi River; British occupation of forts on US land; Shay’s Rebellion; Newburgh Conspiracy; Annapolis Convention*
C. Delegates from the states participated in a Constitutional Convention and through negotiation, collaboration, and compromise proposed a constitution that created a limited but dynamic central government embodying federalism and providing for a separation of powers between its three branches. 
Examples: Great (Connecticut) Compromise, checks and balances, separation of powers, Electoral College, Supreme Court, republicanism, federalism

D. The Constitutional Convention compromised over the representation of slave states in Congress and the role of the federal government in regulating both slavery and the slave trade, allowing the prohibition of the international slave trade after 1808. 
Examples: Three-fifths compromise, slave trade compromise, fugitive slave clause

E. In the debate over ratifying the Constitution, Anti-Federalists opposing ratification battled with Federalists, whose principals were articulated in the Federalist Papers (primarily written by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison). Federalists ensured the ratification of the Constitution by promising the addition of a Bill of Rights that enumerated individual rights and explicitly restricted the powers of the federal government. 
Examples: Federalist Papers, Bill of Rights, Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

Key Concept 3:3
Migration within North America and competition over resources, boundaries, and trade intensified conflicts among peoples and nations.

I. In the decades after American independence, interactions among different groups resulted in competition for resources, shifting alliances, and cultural blending.
A. Various American Indian groups repeatedly evaluated and adjusted their alliances with Europeans, other tribes, and the U.S., seeking to limit migration of white settlers and maintain control of tribal lands and natural resources. British alliances with American Indians contributed to tensions between the U.S. and Britain. 
Examples: March of the Paxton Boys, Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794), Treaty of Greenville (1795)

B. As increasing numbers of migrants from North America and other parts of the world continued to move westward, frontier cultures that had emerged in the colonial period continued to grow, fueling social, political, and ethnic tensions. 
Examples: Scots-Irish migration to the frontier, frontier vs. tidewater gentry, Whiskey Rebellion, Regulator Movement, east vs. west

C. As settlers moved westward during the 1780s, Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance for admitting new states; the ordinance promoted public education, the protection of private property, and a ban on slavery in the Northwest Territory. 
Examples: Land Ordinance of 1785, Northwest Ordinance of 1787, abolition of slavery in Northwest Territory

D. An ambiguous relationship between the federal government and American Indian tribes contributed to problems regarding treaties and American Indian legal claims relating to the seizure of their lands. 
Examples: Battle of Fallen Timbers, Treaty of Greenville