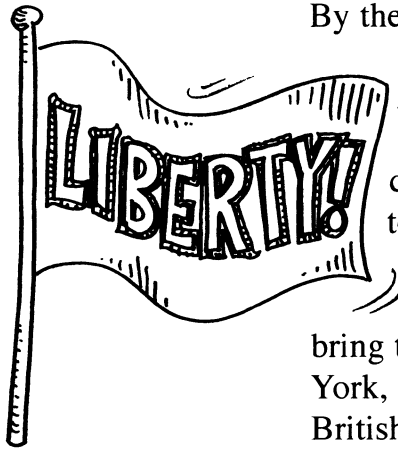




War Had Already Begun

Since April 1775, the colonies had been waging war against Mother England. Many of the colonists had argued that it was insanity to do so, since England was the most powerful nation in the world and the colonies were 13 separate entities, ill equipped to wage war.



They were three million different people—different in many ways and spread along a two thousand mile coastline. Unorganized with a multitude of religions, customs, and with only a third of them willing to support the war for independence—could they ever expect to win this conflict?

Soon, an already angry king discovered the colonies were planning to declare their independence from England. King George's anger turned to white rage.

He would do whatever was required to stop this colonial rebellion.

By the time the Declaration of Independence was signed very dark clouds were already forming over the colonists. The King's plan was to launch a three-pronged assault which would divide the colonies and quickly bring the rebels to their knees. New York, would be attacked by 45,000 British and Hessian [German] troops. In the north, General Burgoyne's royal grenadiers, Hessians and hordes of Mohawks, were driving Benedict Arnold's ragged troops to the lower Hudson River Valley. In the south a flotilla of warships under Sir Peter Parker were attacking Charleston with troops commanded by Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis—with orders to subjugate the rest of the region.

These great battles would make an indelible imprint on the cost of liberty. They would determine the young nation's resolve.

Suggestions for Study

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- Do you think the American Army was strong enough to contend with the powerful military of England? Let's talk about it.
 - How was the King planning to conquer the colonists?
 - What soldiers and warriors assisted England?
 - How would you have felt if this happened to you?