

**The Second
Continental Congress**

May 10th, 1775

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- The delegates who convened in Philadelphia found themselves in charge of inter-colonial government.
- They were the “acting” [de facto] government for the colonies.
- JOHN HANCOCK was elected President of Congress.

Accomplishments...

1. It authorized borrowing, taxation, and the printing of money (Continental) to purchase supplies and ammunition.
2. It established a committee to supervise relations with foreign countries & the Native Americans

Accomplishments...

3. It established an intercolonial post office.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was chosen

Postmaster General.

4. The **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** was formed
to enforce a boycott of all English goods.

Accomplishments...

1. **5.** It strengthened the militia. It also created the CONTINENTAL ARMY and appointed generals. GEORGE WASHINGTON of Virginia was named Commander-in-Chief.
 - a. Washington worked as a surveyor but the early death of his older brother and marriage to the wealthy widow Martha Custis had made him rich.
 - b. He was committed to representative government but had not played a prominent role in pre-revolutionary activity.
 - c. He had great stamina and in 8+ years of war never had a serious illness. He was known for judgment, steadiness, and discretion. Six feet tall, he commanded respect.
 - d. Washington took command of the army July 3, 1775. This was after the Battle of Bunker Hill. He had to bring order and discipline to unruly troops and organize a supply system.

Accomplishments...

6. OLIVE BRANCH PETITION JULY, 1775

Congress sends this begging the king to stop the war and bring about a "happy and permanent reconciliation".

The British Response...

- King George III declared the colonists to be traitors.
- Not all in England agreed. The WHIGS under the leadership of William Pitt and Edmund Burke sympathized with the colonial cause and opposed the policies of George III and his Tory ministers.