

***Advantages / Disadvantages
of the British
& Americans During the
American Revolution***

BRITISH

<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- British army was well trained & well equipped--Navy was strong-Hessian mercenaries-Wealthiest country in the world- Financial & manufacturing means to supply the army / navy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Battlefront was 3000 miles away. Reinforcements could not be sent quickly-Orders from London often took months to reach the colonies-- Not everyone in Parliament supported the idea of the war (Some Whigs sympathized with the colonists)

AMERICAN COLONISTS

<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-The colonists were fighting on their “home soil” – they knew the land and could use guerrilla tactics-Committed to the cause – fighting for their independence- After Saratoga, Spanish & French aid to the colonial cause (training, money, troops, supplies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Badly equipped- Poorly trained- Constant turnover within the ranks due to short enlistment period (1 year)- Local militia would often disappear during harvest / planting seasons- American soldiers were not used to taking orders- Lacked wealth – 2nd CC had difficulty raising money to pay troops / purchase supplies- Military supplies had to be purchased and brought in from other countries

British Strategy

American troops could not withstand a full-on war with the professional troops of the British Army

Britain also sent thousands of Hessian (Germany) mercenaries as well

Use same tactics as other major [European] land wars - capture major cities.

Quick, decisive victories over American troops without suffering many casualties themselves

A clear-cut military victory would automatically mean that the colonists would go back to supporting British rule

Error in British Thinking – THE BRITISH DID NOT ACCOUNT FOR THE FOLLOWING...

- 1. American commitment to the cause (willing to fight & die for Independence)***
- 2. American colonies were thousands of miles away (across the Atlantic) and very spread out - capturing major cities did not affect most colonists' lives***
- 3. A military victory did not guarantee a political victory***