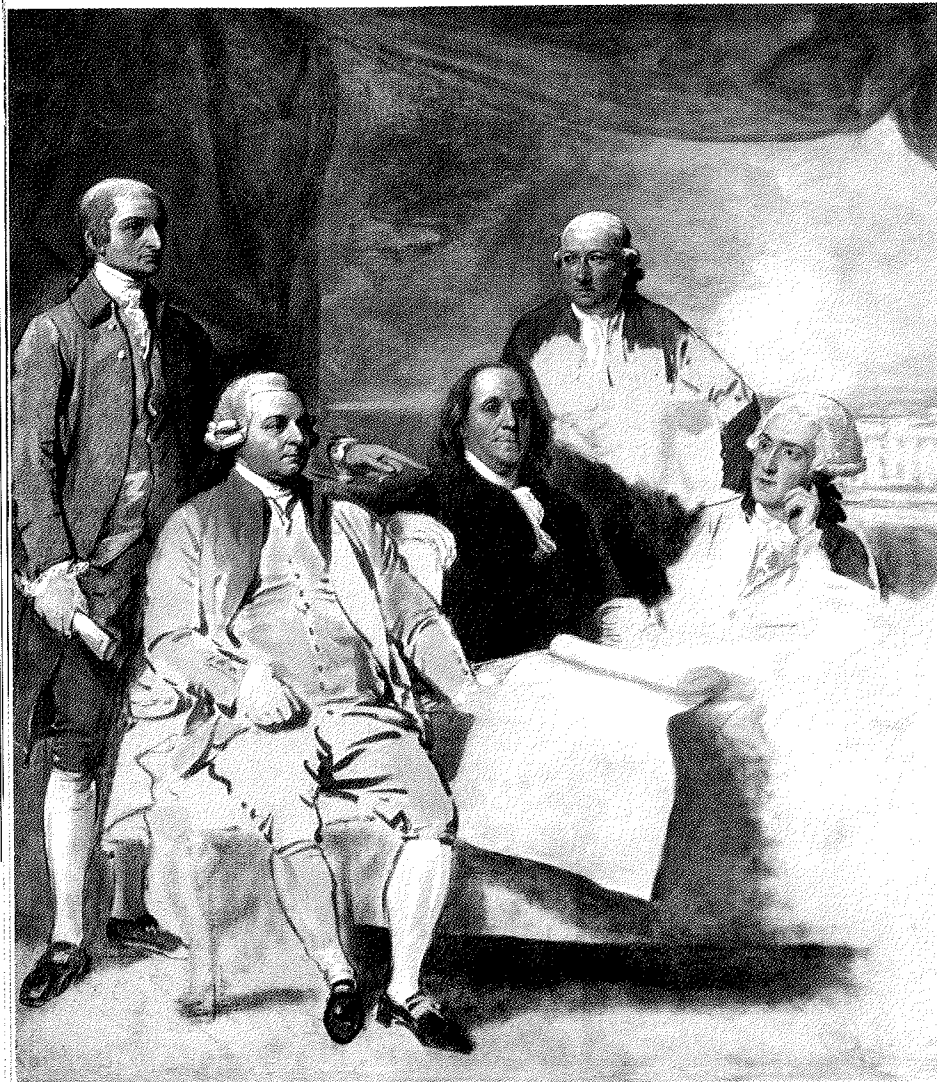


## 13.8 The Treaty of Paris: American Victory

After the Battle of Yorktown, Britain was ready to end the war. By this time, Britain was fighting Spain and France as well as America. Representatives from all these countries met in Paris to work out peace agreements.



In 1783, the Revolutionary War was ended with the Treaty of Paris. This painting of the American representatives to the peace talks was never finished because British representatives refused to pose.

Meanwhile, the fighting continued. On the seas, the British navy wiped out American shipping. On land, the British still controlled the cities of New York, Charleston, and Savannah. To the west, small but terrible battles were fought in places like Ohio, Kentucky, and western New York. There, Continental soldiers fought against British soldiers, Loyalists, and Native Americans. Villages burned. Women and children on both sides were killed.

In September 1783, the war finally ended with a set of agreements called the *Treaty of Paris*. Britain agreed to recognize the United States as an independent nation. Britain also gave the United States a huge amount of land. It included all the territory that was east of the Mississippi River, south of Canada and the Great Lakes, and north of Florida. (Britain kept Canada, and Florida was returned to

Spain.) This vast area included land that the British had promised to Native Americans.

In the treaty, the United States promised to restore the rights and property of Loyalists. Unfortunately for the Loyalists, Americans did not keep this part of the agreement. Instead, thousands of Loyalists left the United States to live in Britain, Canada, and other places. African Americans who had fought for the British also escaped to other countries.

The Patriots had won the war. From now on, the former colonists would be known simply as Americans.