

1776

- 1) **FULL TITLE:** 1776: AMERICA AND BRITAIN AT WAR
- 2) **WRITTEN:** 2002-2004
- 3) **PUBLISHED:** MAY 24, 2005
- 4) **GENRE:** NON-FICTION, AMERICAN HISTORY
- 5) **HISTORICAL CONTEXT:** The primary historical event of 1776 is of course, the Revolutionary War. In 1776, the founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, officially announcing their intentions to secede from the British Empire. The Revolutionary War ended with an American victory in 1783 with the help of French.
- 6) **GEORGE WASHINGTON** is the central character of 1776.
- 7) **KING GEORGE THE THIRD** is the leader of England during the Revolutionary War. He is often remembered as a “mad king”, due to the dementia he suffered at the end of his life.
- 8) **EDMUND BURKE** is a prominent Scottish politician and intellectual, notable for his support for the American cause during the Revolutionary War.
- 9) **EDWARD GIBBON**, a famous British historian, politician, and orator, who is most famous for his work, *THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE*.
- 10) **JOHN ADAMS** is one of the Founding Fathers and the third president of the United States. He is the principle author of the Declaration of Independence.
- 11) **JOHN LOCKE** is an English philosopher whose political writings had a major influence on Thomas Jefferson and other Founding Fathers.
- 12) **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN** is one of the Founding Fathers and the author of the famous pamphlet, *COMMON SENSE*, which argues American Independence from the British Empire.
- 13) **LORD NORTH** is the British Member of the Parliament who arranges the hiring of German mercenaries, or Hessians, in the Revolutionary War.

THEMES

- 1) Military strategy
- 2) Leadership
- 3) Idealism vs. Practicality
- 4) Colonial Society
- 5) British Society