

American Revolution: Struggle for Independence

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence as brought to life in the recent acclaimed Burns/Botstein/Schmidt television mini-series on PBS. Beginning with an orientation on the causes and scope of the eventual seven-year war, this seminar will focus on its first two years (1775-77) which largely took place in New England.

Some possible topics include: King George's Proclamation for Suppressing Colonial Rebellion, Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, the appointment of George Washington as Commander-in-Chief, the British takeover of New York City and Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress with its issuance of the Declaration of Independence and the Battle of Saratoga. Additional suggested topics include key individuals such as King George III, Lord Frederick North, and New England personalities such as John/Abigail Adams, John Hancock, Benedict Arnold, Mary Otis Warren, and Thomas Paine. Other potential topics include the role of Black and Native Americans, British Loyalists, spies, and women.

In coordination with the moderator, each participant will be asked to prepare and deliver a presentation or talk of approximately 30 minutes focused on one of the suggested American Revolution topics and participate in seminar discussions.

Janet Nichols, a retired college business lecturer, is an ardent student of history. She has moderated and co-moderated several FCLIR seminars. Dave Keehn (who has also co-moderated an ILR seminar) is a retired attorney who has authored several published history-related books and articles.

Suggested books include the Oxford Press' *The American Revolution: A Concise History* by Robert Allison, *The British Are Coming* by Rick Atkinson, and the book, *The American Revolution: An Intimate History* by Geoffrey Ward and Ken Burns which accompanies the Burns/Botstein/Schmidt miniseries.

