

STUDY GUIDE

WHAT WAS REVOLUTIONARY ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

KEY TERMS: nation
republic

revolution
empire

economic initiative
ideals

| NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section <u>during</u> the video. Include definitions and key terms. | CUE COLUMN: Complete this section <u>after</u> the video. |
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| Who described the American Revolution as “The birthday of a new world?” | What was so novel and new about the American model of government that differentiated it from all of the previous models in history? |
| The new American model of restrained government took the country from a fledgling state to a world power in just how many years? | What have the lasting outcomes been of the U.S. keeping to the governing model that its founding fathers created and implemented? |
| Why did the American founding fathers regard the rest of the world as a potential threat? | |

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Professor Guelzo examines the previous types of revolutions and notes: "...the Americans did not propose merely overthrowing a monarchy. They proposed ending the very idea of monarchy as a worthwhile form of government. In America, the citizen, not the government or the king, would hold the keys to power. With this overturning of the old way of doing things, the rebels made the political systems of Europe look as antiquated and irrational as fully as Newton's laws had made medieval physics look antiquated and irrational." What do you think motivated the founders to attempt a brand new, untested model of governing? How do you think that the founders came up with such a brilliant new model? Explain. In what ways, specifically, did the new American model of governing make the European ones look so old and irrational? Explain.
- Continuing on the point of doing away with a monarchy-style of government, Professor Guelzo also points out: "Tearing up the old order meant more than just refusing to take political orders from kings, dukes and princes. It meant taking no economic orders from them, either. In a society of free and equal citizens, Americans would follow their own economic initiative. They would be as free economically as they were politically." What, exactly, do you think Professor Guelzo means by the term "economic initiative"? Why do you think having economic freedom was so important to the new style of government being able to work, and to work so well? Explain.
- Professor Guelzo then explains: "This small government model meant the state was to interfere as little as possible in the citizen's life. Americans founded the only country ever to be based on the principle of restraining the government. And that unleashed such dynamic economic growth, it took America from a fledgling state to a world power in just fifty years." What do you think the relationship is between a restrained, lessened government and dynamic economic growth- i.e. why does less government translate into a booming, healthy economy (and, thus, significantly more power for that nation)? Explain.
- Later in the video, Professor Guelzo further points out: "The sheer novelty of the Revolution's first two legs, the political and the economic, was so great that many Americans, such as Yale President Timothy Dwight, expressed a desire not merely to remake the North American continent, but the rest of the world as well. America, Dwight wrote in a popular poem of the time, was destined to 'Hush the tumult of war, and give peace to the world.' But the Founders rejected this view. The United States was to be a republic, not an empire; a beacon, not a kingdom." What do you think President Dwight meant by his poetic passage? Why do you think that the founders were adamant about the U.S. being a model for other nations, but not imposing that model onto other nations forcibly? Explain.
- At the end of the video, Professor Guelzo concludes: "...the wonder of America, from its founding to this day, is not that it has stumbled; the wonder is that Americans have stumbled as infrequently as they have. And managed to make and keep America the strongest and freest country in the world. That birthday Thomas Paine proclaimed is still very much worth celebrating. If it isn't celebrated, it will be lost. And that would be a tragedy- for America, and for the world." Do you agree that the founding of the U.S. is still worthy of celebrating? Why or why not? What do you think Professor Guelzo means when he states that if the founding of the U.S. model of governing isn't celebrated that it will be lost, and why would that be a tragedy? Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: The Transcontinental Railroad

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “10 Ways the Transcontinental Railroad Changed America,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Prior to May 10, 1969, how long would it take someone to travel from the East Coast to the West Coast, and how would that person have to travel? The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad shortened the trip from New York to San Francisco to how long? How many workers laid the 1,776 miles of track, and who were they? In today's money, how much did the project cost? How did the completion of the line affect California? How much freight was the line carrying by 1880? What was the basis for the rapid expansion of American industry and agriculture? How much less expensive was a coast-to-coast trip after the line was built, in terms of cost percentage? How did the Transcontinental Railroad alter Americans' perception of reality? Who started the first mail-order catalogue business, and what made it possible? What put pressure on the labor market after the line was completed? Who were “the Big Four,” and what was their financial relationship with the U.S. government? What did the Transcontinental Railroad become a symbol of, for Americans?
- How do you think the small government of the time contributed towards being able to achieve such an endeavor? Do you think it was worth it to build a transcontinental railroad? Why or why not? What type of infrastructure do you think could be built today that would also stimulate the economy so well?
- Which facts in the article support which points made in the video? Considering the spectacular success of the U.S., why do you think that some countries still follow other models of governance? Explain.



QUIZ

WHAT WAS REVOLUTIONARY ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1. Who described the American Revolution as “The birthday of a new world?”
 - a. John Quincy Adams
 - b. Thomas Jefferson
 - c. Thomas Paine
 - d. Benjamin Franklin

2. The American Revolution was something that, _____, the world had never seen.
 - a. politically
 - b. economically
 - c. diplomatically
 - d. all of the above

3. Like the rebellions in Britain, the goal of the American revolution was to extort new protections and privileges from the existing regime.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. The new American model of restrained government took the country from a fledgling state to a world power in just how many years?
 - a. 50
 - b. 60
 - c. 70
 - d. 80

5. The ‘wonder’ of America is that _____.
 - a. Americans have permanently imposed their governing principles on so many other nations with such spectacular success
 - b. Americans keep changing their values so frequently
 - c. such a high percentage of Americans agree on everything
 - d. Americans have managed to make and keep America the strongest and freest country in the world



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/18/tennis/martina-navratilova-trans-women-comments-spt-scli-intl/index.html>

Martina Navratilova criticized for comments about trans women in sport

By James Masters, CNN

Updated 7:09 AM ET, Mon February 18, 2019



Martina Navratilova has been criticized for her article on transgender athletes.

(CNN)Tennis great Martina Navratilova has been criticized after claiming it is a form of "cheating" for transgender women to be allowed to compete in women's sport.

The 18-time Grand Slam winner wrote in The Sunday Times that it was "insane" that "hundreds of athletes who have changed gender by declaration and limited hormone treatment have already achieved honors as women that were beyond their capabilities as men."

This is not the first time Navratilova, a gay rights campaigner who suffered homophobic abuse when she came out in 1981, has caused controversy with her remarks on transgender athletes.

In December she was criticized after tweeting: "You can't just proclaim yourself a female and be able to compete against women. There must be some standards, and having a penis and competing as a woman would not fit that standard."



Martina Navratilova won 18 Grand Slams during her tennis career.

Her comments led to her becoming embroiled in an online argument with cyclist Rachel McKinnon, the first transgender woman to win a world track cycling title in October 2018.

Navratilova, a nine-time Wimbledon champion, wrote on Sunday that this debate had led to her going away to do more research on the subject, adding: "Well, I've now done that and, if anything, my views have strengthened.

"To put the argument at its most basic: a man can decide to be female, take hormones if required by whatever sporting organization is concerned, win everything in sight and perhaps earn a small fortune, and then reverse his decision and go back to making babies if he so desires.

"It's insane and it's cheating. I am happy to address a transgender woman in whatever form she prefers, but I would not be happy to compete against her. It would not be fair."



Trans Actual
@TransActualUK



We're pretty devastated to discover that Martina Navratilova is transphobic. If trans women had an advantage in sport, why aren't trans women winning gold medals left, right & centre? Coz trans women don't have an advantage. Look up the changes that oestrogen makes to the body.

♡ 1,182 12:31 AM - Feb 17, 2019



💬 489 people are talking about this



Her comments were labeled "transphobic" by trans rights group Trans Actual, which tweeted: "If trans women had an advantage in sport, why aren't trans women winning gold medals left, right & center?"

McKinnon reacted to Navratilova's article by tweeting: "It's a wild fantasy worry that is an irrational fear of something that doesn't happen. An irrational fear of trans people? Transphobia."

This is, in her own words with the time of forethought and authorship, Martina Navratilova's 'core' argument against trans women athletes.

It's a wild fantasy worry that is an irrational fear of something that doesn't happen. An irrational fear of trans people? Transphobia. pic.twitter.com/RAX3ynGyTl

— Dr. Rachel McKinnon (@rachelvmckinnon) February 17, 2019

Navratilova rejected accusations of transphobia, adding that she deplores "what seems to be a growing tendency among transgender activists to denounce anyone who argues against them and to label them all as 'transphobes.'"

She also highlighted her friendship with Renée Richards, the transgender tennis player who campaigned to be able to play at women's US Open.

According to current rules issued by the International Olympic Committee in 2016, trans men are allowed to compete without restriction.

Trans women, however, must show that their testosterone level has been below a certain level for at least 12 months before their first competition.

Navratilova's comments came the day before the case of Caster Semenya, the double Olympic 800-meter champion, went before the Court of Arbitration of Sport on Monday.



Caster Semenya celebrates with flag after winning the 800-meter final during the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The South African athlete has a condition known as hyperandrogenism which means that her testosterone levels are naturally elevated.

Semenya is challenging a case being launched by the sport's governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), that would require testosterone levels to be limited in female athletes competing in races between 400 meters and a mile.

The IAAF's proposal would mean she would need to take medication to reduce those levels.

Her case has already won support from the South African government as well as Navratilova, who wrote: "I hope she wins."

"She has never taken medication or sought an advantage," Navratilova added. "She has just trained and run."