

The Story Behind
by
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Let's talk about George's unpopular war for a moment.

It sure seemed like a good idea at the time, didn't it? We faced a clear and present threat. War, of all things, seemed like the prudent course of action. After all, we had a bold new kind of warfare and the vaunted 'status quo' was unstable to begin with. There were constant squabbles going on over there, it was time for a change.

But then we started losing soldiers and it becomes necessary to question our motives for the war... and they aren't sounding too good, are they? In fact, when we look closely it becomes obvious that George is simply doing this for all his rich buddies. Are we crazy, putting our hopes in a wealthy *businessman*? His bold new warfare sure wasn't working out, now, was it?

And on re-examination, it seems we brought the threat upon ourselves. Admit it, we were just asking for it! If we keep to ourselves, it will be a lot safer.

What were we thinking? We're supposed to give freedom and democracy to a people who've never had it? They won't know what to do with it! The new government – if we ever get that far – will be incompetent at best, puppets at worst.

Now let's talk exit strategy. There isn't one! No one knows what the world will look like if we disrupt the status quo! It could blow up in our face!

This war is a bad idea.

Or so it seemed at the time. George *Washington*, the wealthiest businessman in the colonies (his business was farming), and his rich founding-father cronies challenged the warring England for our freedom. We weren't too successful at first, the hit-and-run experiment didn't seem to be working against the thronging redcoats; and with the likes of the Boston Tea Party and other protests, the Brits weren't about to leave. Not only were many of the soon-to-be Americans against the war, but the enemy found the very concept of self-government... amusing. To think that *farmers* without a drop of nobility in their veins would seek to rule? Ridiculous!

In early peace-talks, a British general asked Benjamin Franklin what this government they hoped to form would look like. Franklin had no answer. The Constitution wouldn't be ratified until eight *years* after the war.

Still, it worked out all right, don't you think?

(Unless you're the first President of this new country called America, of course. Not only did he have to run off all the countries trying to take a piece out of America; the first president was in constant danger of being overthrown by George Washington! But that's next month's story...)