From the point of view of some Europeans, the American Revolution pitted the ideals of the Enlightenment, republicanism, and democracy against Europe's established order, as exemplified by Britain. Some countries found that watching wasn't enough-they joined the fight.

One of these countries was France. Without France, a very important ally of America in the Revolutionary War, the Americans might not have defeated the British army. The French supported the Americans for a number of reasons. A weakened England could only heighten France's status and influence-both in Western Europe and around the world as various countries competed to establish colonies. Some French might have been seeking payback. Only twelve years before the American Revolution, France was at war with Britain in the Seven Years' War, and they lost. This resulted in France being forced to give North American territories to Britain.

Five months after the Declaration of Independence was signed, Benjamin Franklin traveled to Paris. He hoped to explain the revolutionary cause to the French and enlist their support. Franklin was already popular in France for his writings and scientific discoveries, and he was able to secure French support. At first, France supported the Americans only in secret. Gunpowder, ammunition, weapons, and money were smuggled into the country, hidden in commercial ships. Military strategists crossed the Atlantic to advise Continental Army military commanders.

In February 1778, France officially recognized the United States (following the Battle of Saratoga, in which the Continental Army decisively defeated the British army and gave a resurgence of hope to the Americans' fight for independence), and the countries signed an alliance. French soldiers fought alongside Americans; French and British fleets clashed from Rhode Island down to Georgia. In addition to manpower, France contributed money and weapons. For helping the American cause, France spent the
equivalent of what would be about 13 billion dollars in the U.S. today.

Spain also supported the Americans. First, like France, the Spanish contribution consisted of money and weapons. But in 1779, Spain joined France with military support. Also like France, the Spanish navy played an important role in combatting the formidable British fleet. Land and sea battles were sometimes fought far from the North American continent—in the Mediterranean and West Africa.

But French, Spanish, American, and British armies were not the only armies fighting in the American Revolution. A quarter of all soldiers under the British flag were actually from the area known as Germany today—30,000 hired men in all. These soldiers were known as Hessians, because many of them were from the independent principality of Hesse-Cassel.

Native Americans also fought in the American Revolution. Most considered the United States to be a threat to their territory, so they fought on the British side. In total, approximately 13,000 Native Americans fought for the British. But other Native Americans fought against them. The Revolution was, for some Native Americans, a controversial and divisive matter. For instance, the Iroquois Confederacy, also known as the Six Nations, was a powerful organization of tribes that tried to stay neutral. But pressed to choose a side, the Confederacy could reach no agreement; it split up, with two tribes pledging their allegiance to the Americans, and four to the British.

Not only did foreign nations and groups join the Revolution, but foreign individuals did, too. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a Prussian, served as inspector general and major general of the Continental Army. He went on to serve as George Washington's chief of staff. He wrote *The Revolutionary War Drill Manual*, which was the official American drill manual for the next forty years.

Other notable figures were two men from Poland: Tadeusz Kociuszko and Casimir Pulaski. Tadeusz Kociuszko was born in Poland, moved to France, sailed to America, and rose to the rank of brigadier general. His countryman, Casimir Pulaski, has been called the "father of the American cavalry." Pulaski organized and trained the Continental Army's horsemen, which had been used mostly for scouting. Pulaski was also promoted to general but was killed in the war. Pulaski and Kociuszko joined the Americans out of idealism. They believed in the struggle for freedom and self-governance. As Pulaski wrote to George Washington after his arrival in Massachusetts, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."
Non-Colonists in the American Revolution

by ReadWorks

During the American Revolution, the U.S. colonies fought against Britain to win independence. To some people in Europe, the revolution represented a fight between ideals. To them, America stood for the ideals of democracy, republicanism, and the Enlightenment. And these ideals were up against the idea of Europe's existing order, which Britain represented. Some countries felt that watching that fight wasn't enough. So they joined the fight.

France was one of the countries that joined the fight on America's side. It was an ally of America. Without France's help, the Americans might not have won the war. Benjamin Franklin was the person who helped get the French to support America. He traveled to France to explain the American cause, or the purpose of their fight. He was already popular in France because of his writing and scientific discoveries. So he was able to get French support for America's cause.

The French supported the Americans for many reasons. One reason was that they wanted to weaken Britain. They felt that if Britain were weaker, France would have more power in Western Europe and around the world. Some French might have supported the Americans for a different reason. They had lost a war with Britain recently, and had to give land in North America to Britain. So some French might have wanted to get back at Britain.

At first, France supported the Americans only in secret. They hid money, weapons, and fighting supplies in ships and sent them to America. They also sent people to America to give advice to America's army leaders about fighting strategies.

Then, the American army won a battle against the British. Winning that battle gave people hope that America would win its independence. After that, in February 1778, France officially recognized the United States as its own country. France and the U.S. signed an alliance, which made France's support official. After that, French soldiers and warships fought against the British. But that was not the only way France helped out. France also contributed, or gave, weapons and a huge amount of money to help the American cause.

Spain also supported the Americans. At first, Spain's contribution was money and weapons, like France. But in 1779, Spain began contributing military support. Also like France, Spain's navy was important in fighting the strong British navy. They helped fight battles on land and at sea in areas far away from North America.
French, Spanish, American, and British people were not the only people fighting in the American Revolution. In fact, a quarter of all soldiers fighting on the British side were actually from the area known as Germany today. These soldiers were known as Hessians. They were hired to fight for Britain. There were 30,000 of them in all.

Native Americans also fought in the American Revolution. Most of them fought for the British because they thought of the United States as a threat to their land. In total, about 13,000 Native Americans fought for the British. But other Native Americans fought against them. And so the war divided up some Native American groups. For instance, the Iroquois Confederacy, was a powerful group of Native American tribes that tried not to choose sides in the war. But when it was forced to choose a side, the tribes in the Confederacy could not agree. So they split up. Two tribes chose to fight for the Americans and four fought for the British.

Individuals from other nations joined the fight, too. For example, a Prussian named Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben held important roles in America’s army. He went on to be George Washington's chief of staff. He even wrote *The Revolutionary War Drill Manual*. That was the official American drill manual for the next forty years.

Two men from Poland were also important fighters in the war. One of them was Tadeusz Kociuszko. He joined the American army and became a general. The other Polish man who fought for the American cause was Casimir Pulaski. He organized and trained the American army's horsemen. For that reason, he has been called the "father of the American cavalry." He also became a general, but he was killed in the war. Both Polish men joined the Americans because of the ideals they believed in. They believed in the fight for freedom and an independent government. They came to America to help defend freedom, and to live or die for it.
Non-Colonists in the American Revolution

by ReadWorks

During the American Revolution, the U.S. colonies fought against Britain. They were trying to win their freedom. Some people in Europe thought this war stood for a fight between ideals. An ideal is a strong belief. People in Europe thought America stood for the ideals of democracy and the Enlightenment. They thought America also stood for the power of the people. And they thought Britain stood for the way things already were in Europe. Some people and countries felt so strongly that they chose a side and joined the fight.

France was one of the countries that fought on America's side. France was an ally of America. An ally is a person, group, or country that is helping someone else for a purpose. Benjamin Franklin was the person who helped get France to support America. He went to France to explain America's cause. A cause is a purpose that people work or fight for. Franklin was already popular in France. So he was able to get their support.

The French supported America's cause for many reasons. One reason was that they wanted to weaken Britain. That would make France more powerful around the world. Some French people might have supported the Americans for a different reason. France had lost a war with Britain, and had to give them land. So French people might have wanted to get back at Britain by fighting against them.

At first, France helped America in secret. They hid money, weapons, and supplies in ships and sent them to America. They also sent people to help America’s army leaders with strategies for fighting.

Then, the Americans won a battle against the British. This gave people more hope that America could win the war. After that, France became an official ally to the United States. France's soldiers and warships fought against the British. But that was not the only way France helped the American cause. They also gave America lots of money and weapons. Without France's help, America might have lost the war.

Spain also supported America. At first, they just gave Americans money and weapons, like France. Then in 1779, they started to help with fighting. The Spanish navy was important in fighting the strong British navy. Spain helped fight Britain on land and sea in places far away from America.

French, Spanish, American, and British people were not the only people fighting in the war. Many of the soldiers fighting for Britain were actually from the area known as Germany today.
These soldiers were known as Hessians. There were 30,000 of them in total!

Native Americans also fought in the American Revolution. Most of them fought on the British side. They supported Britain because they thought the United States was a threat to their land. About 13,000 Native Americans fought on Britain’s side in the war. But other Native Americans fought against them. And so some Native Americans were very split over the war. One group of Native Americans that was divided over the war was the Iroquois Confederacy. This was a powerful group of tribes. At first, the tribes tried not to choose sides in the war. But when they had to choose sides, the tribes could not agree. So they split up. Two tribes chose to support the Americans. The other four supported the British.

Some individual people from other countries joined the fight, too. One of these people was Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben. He was from Prussia. He held very important jobs in America's army. He also was an important helper to George Washington in the war. And he wrote a manual for training the army. It was called the Revolutionary War Drill Manual. This was the official American drill manual for the next forty years!

Two men from Poland were also important fighters in the war. One of them was named Tadeusz Kociuszko. He became a general in the American army. The other man from Poland who fought for America was Casimir Pulaski. He organized and trained the American soldiers who rode horses while fighting. He also became a general in the army. But he was killed in the war. Both of these men fought for the American cause because of the ideals they believed in. They believed in fighting for freedom. They believed the U.S. should have its own government. They fought for America because they wanted to live or die for freedom.
ally  al-ly

Advanced Definition

transitive verb
1. to unite or connect in a formal bond (usually followed by to or with).

In World War II, England allied itself with the United States.

2. to associate by some common factor, such as mutual interest or similarity.

In her historical analysis, she closely allied politics and economics.

intransitive verb
1. to take part in an alliance.

England, France, and the United States allied against Germany in World War II.

noun
1. one that is part of an alliance.

The Soviet Union and the United States were allies during the second world war.

2. one who cooperates with or is a friend of another.

As a foreigner, the new queen had few allies in her husband's court.

He needed some allies in government in order to bring about the reforms that he wished to achieve.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. An ally is someone who promises to come to your aid if something threatens you.

2. The United States entered the war in 1941, after Japan, Germany's ally, attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii. The war ended in 1945.

3. Mackay was from Scotland, an American ally. He was an officer, or leader, with the 11th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from 1915 until the end of the war.

4. Without France, a very important ally of the United States in the Revolutionary War, the U.S. might not have defeated the British army. The French supported the colonists for a number of reasons.

5. Eventually, one of the allied tribes broke the agreement, and Muhammad decided to support his own ally, who had been attacked. By this time his forces outnumbered the Meccans, so he
planned a surprise attack on the city of Mecca itself.

6. He joined the army in 1972 during the Vietnam War, which pitted the Communists in North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its ally, the United States. When Saigon was captured on April 30, 1975, my uncle was sent to a concentration camp.

7. But when Japan bombed the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in 1941, China gained a powerful ally—the United States. The United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945, forcing the country to surrender and ending World War II and the Chinese-Japanese War.
cause  cause

Definition

noun
1. something that makes a thing happen.

   *A match was the cause of the fire.*

2. a purpose that people think is important and will give their efforts to.

   *They are working for the cause of world peace.*

verb
1. to make something happen.

   *The sleepy driver caused the car accident.*

   *The rain caused them to cancel the game.*

Advanced Definition

noun
1. something or someone that produces a result or effect.

   *The new baby was the cause of much joy.*

   *The cause of the fire was a lighter.*

2. good reason or sufficient motive.

   *There is no cause for worry.*

   *He punished the child without cause.*

3. a principle or goal that one serves by action.

   *They're working for the cause of world peace.*

4. in law, a basis for legal action.

   *You must show cause in order to receive an injunction.*

transitive verb
1. to make happen; be the cause of.
The rain caused severe flooding.

The insult caused him to lose his temper.

The ice caused the car to skid.

**Spanish cognate**

causa: The Spanish word *causa* means cause.

**These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:**

1. Farm practices that are unregulated or dangerous and **cause** harm to the public-contamination of water supplies, for example-are definitely taken seriously in court.

2. Brown’s fellow abolitionists, who mostly disapproved the use of violence, thought the raid was insane and misguided; however, Brown became a martyr for the antislavery **cause**.

3. When the biodiversity of a region declines, many of the organisms critical to this filtering process can disappear. So, pressures on the freshwater supply can **cause** biodiversity to decrease, which can cut the drinkable water supply even further.

4. Tubman began working at six years old, rented out by her “master” as a weaver. As a teenager, she began working in the fields of the plantation. She suffered many beatings at the hands of the plantation’s overseers, which **caused** permanent damage.

5. When Officer Harry is working, or "on duty," he spends a lot of his day "on the beat." That means Officer Harry basically walks around a certain neighborhood. Part of his job is certainly watching out for criminals and people trying to **cause** trouble.

6. Sometimes, I break the system in a way that’s so clever there’s no point in making a fix. The team will tell me that no sane person would go to that much effort to break the system, so the bug will probably never **cause** us trouble.

7. A novel by George Orwell called "Burmese Days," based on the years the famous author spent living in Burma, was rejected by the state of Texas because of similar concerns that it would **cause** a riot.
contribution  con·tri·bu·tion

Definition
noun
1. something that is given for a purpose.

_They made a contribution to the local museum._

Advanced Definition
noun
1. the act of contributing.
2. that which is contributed.

Spanish cognate

contribución: The Spanish word _contribución_ means contribution.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. His understanding of humans became his biggest contribution to the herd.
2. Brandi thinks her contribution will help "so there's more knowledge about teens."
3. Sequoyah will always be remembered for his important contribution to the Cherokee people.
4. They were excited about the contribution they would make to human understanding of the universe.
5. Livestock's contribution to environmental problems is on a massive scale, U. N. officials wrote in a recent report.
6. A plaque near St. Martin's grave commemorates his contribution to science: "Through his affliction he served all humanity."
1. Which nation was a very important ally of America in the Revolutionary War?
   A. Germany
   B. France
   C. Britain
   D. Poland

2. What does the author describe in this passage?
   A. the ways that different nations and individuals helped Americans in the Revolutionary War
   B. the reasons why different nations decided to support Britain during the Revolutionary War
   C. the reasons why the American army needed so much help from other nations and people
   D. the reasoning Ben Franklin used to convince France to support the Americans in the Revolution

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"French soldiers fought alongside Americans; French and British fleets clashed from Rhode Island down to Georgia. In addition to manpower, France contributed money and weapons. For helping the American cause, France spent the equivalent of what would be about 13 billion dollars in the U.S. today."

What conclusion can you draw about France based on this evidence?
   A. France was very committed to helping the Americans defeat the British.
   B. France wanted to defeat the British as payback for the Seven Years' War.
   C. France supported the Americans because of the ideals they represented.
   D. France did not want to be as involved in the war as it was.
4. Read these sentences from the text.

"Other notable figures were two men from Poland: Tadeusz Kociszko and Casimir Pulaski. [ . . . ] Pulaski and Kociszko joined the Americans out of idealism. They believed in the struggle for freedom and self-governance. As Pulaski wrote to George Washington after his arrival in Massachusetts, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."

What conclusion can be drawn based on this evidence?

A. Most people in Poland did not support the Americans' struggle for freedom and self-governance.
B. The ideals of the American Revolution appealed to people outside of America.
C. The Americans and the British were both fighting for freedom and self-governance.
D. Pulaski and Kociszko did not think that Poland was a free country.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

A. The French chose to support the Americans because of their own desire to improve their status by weakening Britain.
B. Many individuals and groups aside from the Americans and the British participated in the American Revolution.
C. Most people around the world supported the Americans in the American Revolution because of the ideals that the Americans represented.
D. The British received help from Native Americans and Hessians during the American Revolution.
6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Without France, a very important ally of America in the Revolutionary War, the Americans might not have defeated the British army. The French supported the Americans for a number of reasons."

What does the word "ally" mean here?

A. a country that fights a lot of wars and is disliked by other countries  
B. a country that prefers to solve problems peacefully than to solve them by fighting  
C. a country that helps another country during a war  
D. a country that never gets involved in wars

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Most Native Americans fought on the British side ________ they considered the Americans to be a threat to their territory.

A. therefore  
B. although  
C. because  
D. before

8. Why did Tadeusz Kociuszko and Casimir Pulaski join the Americans' fight?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
9. What reasons did the French have for supporting the Americans? Include at least two pieces of information from the text in your answer.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

10. Non-colonists and non-British people fought in the American Revolution mostly to improve their own status or well-being. Argue for or against this statement, using evidence from the text.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________