

became a turning point in the history of America.

### **Events of American War of Independence**

As the 7 years' war ended, Britain imposed the old restrictions like – Navigation, stamp duty, sugar duty etc – through Greenville Policy of 1765. It evoked sharp reaction from Americans and 'sons of liberty' and 'daughters of liberty' were found. They plundered the British stamp vendors and burnt them. They threatened to cut trade relations with Britain as well. This was the first open sign of unrest.

Stamp duties were abolished through Rockingham Declaration, but were retained through Townsend Plan on specific commodities like potato, glass etc. A mob protesting against these was massacred in Boston Massacre of 1770. It ruptured the relations between America and Britain. But Britain failed to realize the gravity of situation.

It was followed by Lord North's Tea Party which had twin objectives – relieve East India Co. from financial crisis and impose custom duty on tea as a symbol of British right to impose taxes in America. To fulfill this objectives, ships loaded with tea chests were sent to America. American resented this move and led by Samuel Adams they intruded into the ships furtively and dumped the tea chests into Atlantic Ocean when they arrived at Boston Harbor. This event is known as Boston Tea Party. It showed that Americans were now in no mood to subjugate to British hegemony.

Boston Tea Party led to First Philadelphia Convention which passed a resolution addressing the King George III of Britain regarding two key demands of colonies – all trade restrictions should be immediately lifted up and Americans should be given representation in British legislature. George III saw this resolution as symbol of revolt and initiated a military action which heralded American War of Independence.

As a consequence of start of the war, Second Philadelphia Convention was held representing 13 colonies and on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776 they declared independence. In the battle that ensued, Britain was defeated and a peace treaty was signed in Paris in 1783 in which Britain declared America independent.

Third Philadelphia Convention was held in 1787 leading to formation of American Constitution

### **Impact of American Revolution**

Rise of Modern Democratic System – It led to establishment of first republic in the world with George Washington as the first head of the state. It also gave the world first constitution.

Inspiration to Other Revolutions like French Revolution – General La Fayette took the ideas of liberty home from American Revolution.

Mercantilist theory that Colonies exist for the benefit of mother country was debunked

However, american war of independence was not a revolution that heralded deep societal