

# The American Revolution: The Stories Behind the Story

## Readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> class (April 8)

1. Selection from Colin Woodard, *American Nations, A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*.
2. Gordon Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*. Introduction.
3. Excerpt from Carl Degler, *Out of Our Past, The Forces that Shaped Modern America, A New Kind of Revolution*.
4. A brief excerpt by Fareed Zakaria from, *Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present*.
5. If time watch the PBS interview of John Meacham by Walter Isaacson. It is worth seeing. It's a sober assessment of where we are right now, why accurate history is so important, and what we should do to protect this fragile democracy. [https://youtu.be/5kTOVKZfpYE?si=a\\_oq5y10fqMkQEZo](https://youtu.be/5kTOVKZfpYE?si=a_oq5y10fqMkQEZo)
6. And finally, two resources – a bibliography and a timeline

## Questions to Think About:

- What did North America look like in 1750? Who lived here? In what ways were these people – and the established colonies - different?
- What tensions existed before the French and Indian War? What was the importance of the French and Indian War? For France? For Great Britain? For the colonists?