

*Fill in the gaps with the right dates*

1760 - 1774 - 1775 - 1776 - 1783 - 1821 - 1846 - 1850

The American independence movement, culminating in the Declaration of Independence on July 4, [ ], marked the birth of the United States as a sovereign nation. The roots of this movement can be traced back to the [ ]s when British colonial policies, including heavy taxation without representation, stirred discontent among the American colonists.

The Continental Congress, representing the thirteen colonies, convened in Philadelphia to discuss their grievances and devise a plan for asserting their rights. In [ ], delegates from these colonies met at the First Continental Congress, where they protested British actions and called for a boycott of British goods. Tensions escalated, leading to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War in [ ].

California, although not a central player in the early stages of the independence movement, had its role in later developments. The Spanish had established settlements in California in the 18th century, and these areas remained under Spanish control. While the focus of the Revolutionary War was on the eastern colonies, the idea of independence and self-governance had a ripple effect.

After the Treaty of Paris was signed in [ ], officially recognizing the independence of the United States, the western territories, including California, experienced a shifting of powers. In [ ], Mexico gained independence from Spain and took control of California. This Mexican rule set the stage for the Mexican-American War in the 1840s, during which California came under American control.

The Bear Flag Revolt of [ ], driven by American settlers in California, resulted in the brief establishment of the California Republic, a precursor to statehood. The discovery of gold in 1848 further spurred migration to the region, and California's rapid growth led to its admission as the 31st state of the United States in [ ].

In summary, while California did not play a prominent role in the initial stages of the American independence movement, its later incorporation into the United States and its unique historical trajectory, including Spanish and Mexican influences, shaped its place within the broader narrative of American history.