

“Canada A People’s History: A Question Of Loyalties”

A Question Of Loyalties

- A year before the revolution, Quebec City is at peace. In the dozen years since the conquest, French and English have reached an accommodation of sorts. Quebec has become part of the British Empire without losing its language, its French laws, or its _____ religion. In return, the seigneurs and the church leaders – the elite of Quebec society – have pledged their loyalty to Britain.
- A Montreal merchant begins spreading a message from the American rebels. Thomas Walker has always hated British military rule. Now he has become a militant republican. Under the guise of selling wheat in the rural districts, he begins selling sedition instead. Walker circulates a proclamation from the American rebels inviting Quebec to join the _____. It is both an appeal and a threat.
- The loudest voice opposing the rebellion is the _____. Its leaders know the Americans will never recognize the Catholic religion as the British have done. The bishop decrees that anyone who takes up arms against the king will be denied the sacraments and the right to Christian burial.
- The cloud bursts at Lexington, Massachusetts in April 1775. The shot heard around the world plunges Britain and her thirteen colonies into war and _____ are rapidly drawn into America’s revolution.
- The rebel commander, George Washington, is determined to seize _____ before Britain can use it as a springboard to invade the thirteen colonies.
- Most Canadians want no part of a war they regard as a family feud between two brands of Englishmen. When the governor calls up the militia, most _____ to take up arms. Carlton

now faces a bitter reality; he must defend the province with only a small force of British redcoats.

Invasion

- In the summer of 1775, General Washington sends two armies to invade Quebec. One force of a thousand men will sail up Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River to strike at Montreal. It is led by Richard Montgomery, once a captain in the British army, now the youngest Major General in the American army. But, the second attack is to be the real surprise, coming up through the wilds of Maine and then up the Chaudière to assault _____.
- By mid-September they are on the doorstep to Montreal. Now all that stands between the city and the enemy is the British _____ at St. Jean. The Americans surround it, cut its supply lines, and bring up the siege guns.
- A surrender with honour. On November 3rd, the battered garrison at Fort St. Jean gives in. Much of the British army is now in captivity. Montreal is _____.
- A few days later, Montgomery's Americans take _____ without a fight.
- Governor Carleton escapes Montreal at the last minute and flees to Quebec City. On route, he is stunned by the news he must defend it against not one, but _____ invading armies.
- Fortunately for Carleton, Benedict Arnold's army is a wreck. The map George Washington gave him is fifteen years old and underestimates the distance to Quebec by _____ hundred miles. Most of Arnold's boats have been smashed to pieces, food and supplies swept away in the freezing water. The survivors are reduced to eating their candles and shaving soap, even the leather of their shoes.
- It is a skeleton army that finally emerges at Pointe Levis to stare across at the ramparts of Quebec. Of the 1200 men who started out, less than _____ remain. But, Arnold is still

eager for battle. On the morning of November the 15th, he marches his men onto the plains outside the city walls and taunts the garrison to come out and fight.

The Siege

- But on New Year's Eve the weather turns and finally the Americans attack. The plan is to take lower town first, then rush the fortress. At 2:00 in the morning, Montgomery attacks on one flank leading a force of about 300. All that stands in his way is a band of 30 Canadian militiamen and a few British seamen. They are outnumbered ten to one, but they have one advantage, in the driving _____ Montgomery never sees them. The Canadians fire a single devastating volley. Montgomery and most of his officers are cut down. The rest of the Americans flee back to camp.
- Arnold himself is stopped by a musket ball in the leg. But his men fight their way to the rendezvous in lower town where Montgomery is supposed to join them. They don't know he is already dead and no one is coming. But, Governor Carleton knows. He sends a force of Canadian militia to circle around behind and cut off their retreat. Arnold's men wait and in waiting they _____ the battle.
- 400 Americans surrender, another 80 are dead in snow now so deep many of the bodies will not be found until spring. Now even those Canadians who secretly prayed for an American victory turn against them. The fortress has held. As soon as the ice breaks on the St. Lawrence, British ships arrive with reinforcements. And the American invasion of _____ begun almost a year earlier collapses in failure.

The World Turned Upside Down

- By the summer of 1776, the revolution has become a bloody struggle between the United States and Britain. In New York City, a mob celebrates the Declaration of _____ by toppling a statue of King George the third and melting it down for musket balls.

- But the revolution has left Americans deeply divided. On one side, the rebels who support independence. On the other, the British _____. The rebels declare them enemies of American liberty. Thousands of families are driven out, paying the price of their loyalty with exile.
- Before it is over, the revolution will make refugees of 100,000 loyalists and nearly half of them will find refuge in the land that will become _____. Rich, poor, black, white, Indian, their flight is one of the great mass migrations in North American history.
- Loyalty to _____ has been declared a crime punishable by the whipping post and the noose.
- Whole _____ go up in smoke as rebel and loyalist families make war on each other.

His Majesty's Loyal Allies

- The six nations have been split by the white man's war. Four of the tribes agree to fight for the British, but the Oneidas and the Tuscaroras choose the rebel side. Throughout the revolution six nations warriors _____ in every major battle in the north.
- The Indians are driven out. Their villages _____, fields and orchards laid waste, their burial grounds defiled.