



# Principle Approach® Education

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: SCIENTIST AND STATESMAN

by Kathy Brown

*He snatched the lightning from the heavens and the scepter from tyrants.<sup>1</sup>*

The year was 1706, exactly seventy years before the American colonies declared their independence. Since 1620, the colonies had opened their arms to the persecuted of England who had followed their consciences in regard to religion, rather than obey the state church. These were the people who had settled America with their blood, sweat, and money. The colonies had not been obtained by military conquest or forced by arms to submit to a conquering nation. They were Englishmen who had practiced self-government under the English king for 100 years. Their governments had been formed on Biblical principles and English Law. They were loyal subjects to the king of England.

It was at this time that Benjamin was born into the large Franklin family on January 17, 1706, in Boston, Massachusetts. The liberty and local self-government of the colonies allowed Franklin's intellect and character to be developed to their fullest. God raised up Benjamin Franklin to be fully prepared for the coming conflict in the colonies. He would witness the English king and parliament seeking to bring the American colonists into the position of conquered subjects rather than equal brothers. Franklin's contributions against this enslavement would be crucial.

Benjamin Franklin was the first soldier in the American Revolutionary War. He helped educate, inspire, protect, and lead the attack to preserve America's independence. America has the honor to lay claim to this remarkable man, whose beliefs about liberty, equality, and government were typical of all Americans at that time. The Lord used him to represent the American spirit of liberty to the world. He represented the Christian idea of man and government in contrast to the English traditional philosophy of the class system. He played an indispensable role in raising up a nation like none other in history.

The early historian, George Bancroft, shared this view of Franklin's importance.

Not half of Franklin's merits have been told. He was the true father of the American Union. It was he who went forth to lay the foundation of that great design at Albany; and in New York, he lifted up his voice. Here among us he appeared as the apostle of the Union. It was Franklin who suggested the Congress of 1774; and but for his wisdom,



and the confidence that wisdom inspired, it is a matter of doubt whether that Congress would have taken effect. It was Franklin who suggested the bond of the Union which binds these states from Florida to Maine. Franklin was the greatest diplomatist of the eighteenth century. He never spoke a word too soon; he never spoke a word too much; he never failed to speak the right word at the right season. <sup>2</sup>

In the first sixty years of Benjamin Franklin's life, God was preparing Franklin to make a major contribution to the colonies and the world. He rose from poverty to become a successful businessman, scientist, inventor, writer, and statesman; all by self-education. His unique American spirit laid the cornerstones of education, science, civic voluntarism, and economics on sound principles. This included discovering foundational knowledge in each of these subjects as well as establishing the original organizations that supported each of them. He was recognized and honored by the everyday man, the most learned men of the times, and even kings. The work accomplished in the last twenty years of Benjamin Franklin's life would be crucial to America's independence and sovereignty. At a time when most men Franklin's age were retired or deceased, Franklin was serving his country on two continents.

In 1766, he protected the American colonists' rights in England with his work to repeal the Stamp Act. Returning to the colonies in 1775, he was the first to suggest independence from England and dedicated the rest of his life working for it.

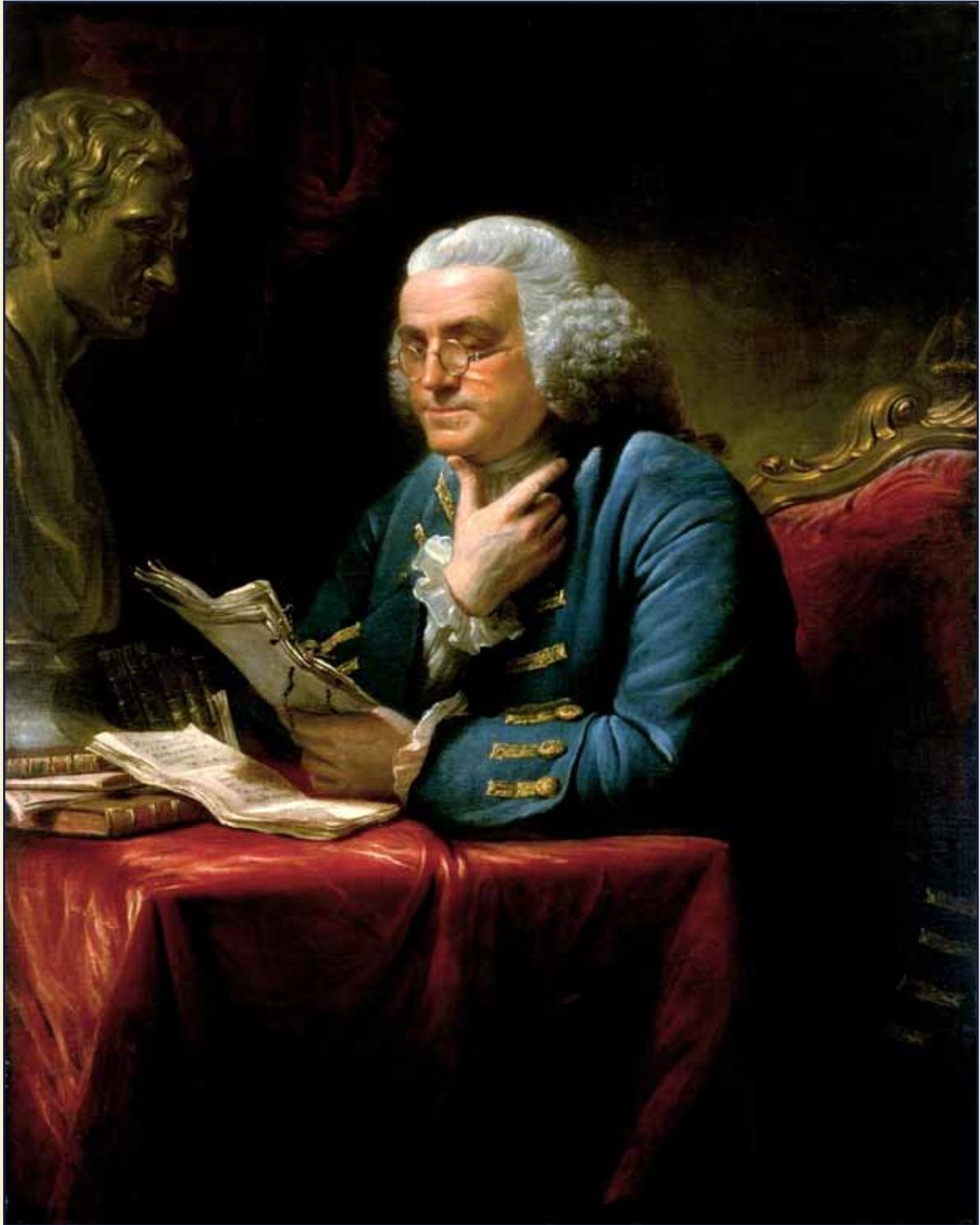
He negotiated a treaty of alliance with France during the Revolutionary War and fought for American independence in a treaty with England, the most powerful empire on earth at that time. He was known as "the European Washington." His final major contribution was to attend the Constitutional Congress, where he suggested that the men daily call out to God in prayer.

God had him in place a generation before our other founding fathers. He performed the role of grandfather, laying the foundations upon which the following generations could build. Franklin's dream was that the colonies would be united as a nation, the United States of America. His spirit, character, and contributions to the American cause establish Benjamin Franklin as the "Grandfather of America."

### **PROVIDENTIAL PREPARATION**

*. . . that He made the world and govern'd it by His Providence . . .*<sup>3</sup>

The English class system determined a man's station in life and his career and kept the classes separate. Nobles bred nobles and candle makers would always be candle makers. In contrast, in the American colonies, one's social standing and career was based on liberty, equality, and the character of the individual. God used English tradition and American liberty to prepare Benjamin Franklin. A candle maker's son would stand as an equal before kings.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 1706–1790

by David Martin (Original is in the White House)



## A Heritage of Three Hundred Years

The Franklin family in England had always believed in liberty for the individual. Three hundred years before Benjamin Franklin's birth, they had embraced the dissenting way of the Reformation. Practicing their religious liberty, they acted on their beliefs and dared to own and read an English Bible. During this period of time, this action was an offense that could have resulted in their deaths. Franklin's great, great grandfather hid the family Bible by taping it under a stool seat. When he read to his family, he would station a child at the door to keep watch, then turn the stool over and read. The child at the door signaled when an official was near, and the stool was quickly set upright, hiding the valuable book. Franklin's own father had to flee to America to practice religious liberty. The Franklins had cherished their liberty to obey God, thus teaching their children the importance of liberty of conscience. Benjamin Franklin was providentially bred for liberty.

## The Early Years—The Franklin Family

Josiah Franklin, Benjamin's father, was a candle and soap maker. Being well respected for his wisdom, town leaders often sought him for counsel. He was asked to run for public office, which he refused because of the responsibility of raising his seventeen children. Josiah was involved in the education of his children. Their home library contained books on religion, as well as Plutarch, Defoe, and Bunyan. Guests were invited to dinner quite often when the conversation and the reasoning from principles would serve to educate his children. Franklin's father advised him on how to refine his writing and debating skills. He repeated this proverb often to his son:

Seest thou a man diligent in his calling; he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men. (Proverbs 22:29) <sup>4</sup>

At age eight, Franklin was sent to school with the goal of becoming a minister. He attended only two years because of the financial needs of the large Franklin family. This was the only formal schooling Benjamin was to receive, but it was the beginning of a life long motivation to self-educate.

## The Apprenticeship and “Silent Dogood”

After two years of working as his father's apprentice in the candle shop, Franklin asked for a change. He and his father visited all the different tradesmen seeking one which Franklin thought he would like. While all the jobs were interesting, none were quite right. The search for the right job for Benjamin ended with his being apprenticed to his brother, James, who was a printer. It was perfect—Franklin loved to read.

Franklin had a God-given thirst to know the truth about everything. During his apprenticeship, he used any extra time to study many subjects. With any spare money he earned, he bought books, which were read and then sold to buy more. He was influenced greatly by two books: *Defoe's Essay of Projects* and *Dr. Mather's Essays to Do Good*. Franklin reasoned that the combined principle of these books was to benefit others by doing a project. The projects involved solving problems through self-education. Franklin accomplished many projects throughout his lifetime.



From reading *The Spectator*, he worked out exercises from which he learned the principles of writing. His self-education continued with arithmetic, navigation, grammar, French, Italian, Spanish, and Latin. His reading of the classics led him to a form of debate that was based on the principles of conversation rather than contradiction. He realized “the chief ends of conversation are to inform and to be informed; to please or to persuade.”<sup>5</sup>

At the age of sixteen, Franklin wrote satirical pieces for his brother’s paper under the name of Silent Dogood. The well-written articles were slipped under the print shop door. This kept his brother guessing as to the author’s identity. He thought he must be a very intelligent man and praised him highly. When Franklin revealed the truth, it resulted in a beating from his brother.

Benjamin Franklin published the newspaper single-handedly during the time James was in prison for writing against the Pennsylvania Assembly. His actions exhibited a character that was reliable and self-governing.

### **Philadelphia—The City of Brotherly Love**

After another serious conflict with James, Franklin left Boston at the age of seventeen and traveled to Philadelphia. Walking into the city with three cents in his pocket, he found work at Keimer’s print shop. As his skills increased, Governor Keith of Pennsylvania took notice of him. Seeing Franklin’s ability and potential, he offered to set him up in a printing business. He wanted to send him to England to purchase printing equipment. To pay for the press, he offered him letters of credit, which would allow the eighteen-year-old to open his own printing shop in Philadelphia.

### **England—God’s Finishing Touch**

Franklin sailed with a promise that the letters were on board ship. Upon arrival, he found the important envelopes were empty. Franklin was stranded in England with no credit and no money. He had to start over. He immediately found a printing job and a place to live. At the print shop he learned new techniques and methods of printing. He was paid fairly and lived in an inexpensive room. He could have saved money and purchased the printing press and his passage back to America but he wasted it instead. He spent his money on entertainment and friends. He was drifting. When he finally came to his senses, he had learned many lessons. Wasting produces debt, which is a form of slavery. A consequence of his wasting resulted in his own indentureship to pay for his passage back to America. He learned that thrift, hard work, and self-government produce liberty and this self-government enabled him to outwork the other men and stay out of debt. He refused to drink the customary cups of ale offered to all the workers after lunch. He did not borrow money to quench his thirst as the other men did. He became a master printer. Learning the latest printing techniques enabled him to provide a unique printing service in America. God was equipping him with the tools to be a successful businessman.



## FRANKLIN'S PHILOSOPHY

*There is one God, the Creator of all things. Doing good to man is the service most acceptable to God.* <sup>6</sup>

God's Providential preparation of Benjamin Franklin through his family's convictions, his self-education, and his experiences in England produced his lifelong philosophy. Franklin established his philosophy just as he established all truth. Having a scientist's mind, he observed, read, asked questions, and looked at the results to prove his theories. His beliefs about God were no exception.

His parents, being Presbyterian, instructed him in Reformed doctrine and independent self-government. While he did not agree entirely with their teaching, it did instill in him a strong conscience and a desire to live a moral life, and gave him a love for the principles of liberty.

In his reading, he came across a book supposedly refuting Deist doctrine. He felt the reasons supporting the Deists were stronger than the arguments against it. This convinced him to follow that philosophy. Several years later, he realized that this doctrine did not yield good character. It did not prove itself to be true. Franklin turned from being a Deist.

Later in life, he compared all the religions practiced in America at the time and compiled the principles that were true and common to every religion. He rejected the articles of each that caused division or immorality. He could not agree totally with any religious organization and would not pledge his allegiance to any church. Yet Franklin saw the evidence of the hand of the Creator in the world around him as well as in the affairs of men. He clearly saw God's common grace to all.

### Letter from Benjamin Franklin to Joseph Huey

Philadelphia, 6 June, 1753

Sir,

I received your kind letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> instant, and am glad to hear that you increase in strength; . . .

As to the kindness you mention, I wish it could have been of more service to you. But if it had, the only thanks I desire is, that you would always be equally ready to serve any other person that may need your assistance, and so let good offices go round; for all mankind are all of a family.

For my own part, when I am employed in serving others, I do not look upon myself as conferring favors, but as paying debts. In my travels, and since my settlement, I have received much kindness from men, to whom I shall never have any opportunity of making the least direct return; and numberless mercies of God, by a readiness to help his other children and my brethren. For I do not think, that thanks and compliments, though repeated weekly, can discharge our obligations to each other, and much less those to our



Creator. You see in this my notion of good works, that I am far from expecting to merit heaven by them. By heaven we understand a state of happiness, infinite in degree, and eternal in duration. I can do nothing to deserve such rewards. He that, for giving a draft of water to a thirsty person, should expect to be paid with a good plantation, would be modest in his demands, compared with those who think they deserve heaven for the little good they do on earth. Even the mixed, imperfect pleasures we enjoy in this world are rather from God's goodness than our merit; how much more such happiness of heaven!

For my part, I have not the vanity to think I deserve it, the folly to expect it, nor the ambition to desire it; but content myself in submitting to the will and disposal of that God who made me, who has hitherto preserved and blessed me, and in whose fatherly goodness I may well confide that he will never make me miserable; and that even the afflictions I may at any time suffer shall tend to my benefit.

The faith you mention has certainly its use in the world. I do not desire to see it diminished, nor would I endeavor to lessen it in any man. But I wish it were more productive of good works, than I generally see it; I mean real good works; works of kindness, charity, mercy, and public spirit; not holiday-keeping, sermon reading or hearing; performing church ceremonies, or making long prayers, filled with flatteries and compliments, despised even by wise men, and much less capable of pleasing to deity. The worship of God is a duty; the hearing and reading of sermons may be useful; but, if men rest in hearing and praying, as too many do, it is as if a tree should value itself on being watered and putting forth leaves, though it never produced any fruit. Your great master thought much less of these outward appearances and professions, than many of his modern disciples. He preferred the doers of the world, to the mere hearers; the son that seemingly refused to obey his father, and yet performed his commands, to him that professed his readiness, but neglected to work; heretical but charitable Samaritan, to the uncharitable though orthodox priest and sanctified Levite; and those who gave good food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, raiment to the naked; and clothes to the stranger, and relief to the sick; though they never heard of his name, he declares shall in the last day be accepted; when those who cry out Lord! Lord! who value themselves upon their faith, though great enough to perform miracles, but have neglected good works, shall be rejected. He professed that he came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; which implied his modest opinion, that there were some in his time so good, that they need not hear even him for improvements; but now-a-days we have scarce petty ministrations; and that whoever omits them offends God.

I wish to such more humility, and to you health and happiness, being your friend and servant,

*B. FRANKLIN* <sup>7</sup>



## FRANKLIN, THE PHILADELPHIA BUSINESSMAN

*One who could also handle a pen.* <sup>8</sup>

Arriving back in Philadelphia, twenty-two-year-old Franklin became a partner with a friend in a printing business. In sharp contrast to the early days in England, he worked hard, sometimes from dawn to well into the night. To save money, he even trundled his own paper across town in a wheelbarrow. His industriousness was rewarded and his business prospered.

Because of his belief in equality and brotherly love, Franklin desired to share his knowledge. He believed that education was not just for the privileged class. He started the publishing of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1729 with the goal of truth, knowledge, and integrity. He wrote in his autobiography “In the conduct of my newspaper, I carefully excluded all *libeling* and *personal abuse*.” [emphasis added] <sup>9</sup>

He creatively included drawings, an original idea at the time. His newspaper was well received. In 1732, he began publishing an almanac with the purpose of educating the common man who could not afford to buy books. He shared the knowledge of the world through humorous stories written in a proverbial style. As an American *Æsop*, he was able to reveal an individual’s faults without insulting him.

Franklin agreed with Pope: “Men should be taught as if you taught them not, and things unknown *proposed* as things forgotten, to speak *though* sure with seeming *dissidence*.” [emphasis added] <sup>10</sup>

The purpose of Franklin’s almanac was explained through a character named Richard Sanders.

I might in this place attempt to gain thy favor by declaring that I write almanacs with no other view than that of the public good, but in this I should not be sincere, and men are now-a-days too wise to be deceived by pretences, how specious soever. The plain truth of the matter is, I am excessively poor and my wife, good woman, is I tell her excessively proud; she cannot bear she says, to sit spinning in her shift of tow, while I do nothing but gaze at the stars; and has threatened more than once to burn my books and rattlingtraps (as she calls my instruments) if I do not make profitable use of them for the good of my family. The printer has offered me some considerable share of the profits, and I have thus begun to comply with my dame’s desire. <sup>11</sup>

The public nicknamed *Poor Richard’s Almanack* because of this tale. He, in good humor, exposed the foolishness of astrology. His hard work in teaching himself writing had been successful. He proved to be skillful with a pen. Both the *Pennsylvania Gazette* and *Poor Richard’s Almanack* were well accepted.

## GRANDFATHER OF AMERICAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*To cease to think is but little different from ceasing to be.* <sup>12</sup>

Franklin’s next project in education was to organize a study club for tradesmen named Junto. Their purpose was to educate themselves and help the other members. The requirements of the club were to



study, write papers, and share this knowledge with the group. The final requirement was to be politically active. The organization was a success, with many sister groups forming all over Philadelphia. For many years, this group of men was very influential in the politics of Pennsylvania.

Out of their necessity for new study material for Junto came Franklin's idea of a subscription library. His hard work produced America's first public library. The idea of the library was repeated in other cities, causing a visitor from another country to comment that our man on the street was more intelligent than his counterpart in any other country.

Franklin continued working. He was involved in the establishment of the Philadelphia Academy, now called the University of Pennsylvania. Benjamin Franklin was the inspiration and driving force behind putting into reality the American idea that success is based on individual character, not on a family name. His goal was to give the individual the opportunity for an education. His ideas on education spread throughout the colonies and were a direct cause of the colonists becoming a thinking and reasoning people.

#### GRANDFATHER OF AMERICAN CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS

*A wise man will desire no more than what he may get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully, and leave contentedly.*<sup>13</sup>

The governmental and economic principles being practiced during the Colonial Period were unique to America. They were the external results of the internal principles of self-government, Christian character, and liberty.

Dr. Charles Wolfe identified these principles in his article, "The Principle Approach® to American Christian Economics" found in *A Guide to American Christian Education: The Principle Approach* by James Rose. First, each individual has the right and responsibility to choose his life's calling, to be self-reliant, and to voluntarily help others in need. The second principle is economic self-government. The manufacturer determines to produce a quality product and the consumer buys only what he needs so that he can save. Self-government is needed for a free economy. The other character traits needed are thrift, industry, ingenuity, integrity, and Christian brotherly love.

Franklin's life illustrated these American economic principles and character qualities. At the age of twelve, Benjamin chose to be apprenticed to his brother, James, as a printer. He was well-adapted to his work: his long fingers handled the type quickly. His apprenticeship also gave him the opportunity to read books.

At the age of twenty-two, Franklin had started a print shop. Being a printer was a dirty, low-paying, tradesman job. It barely made enough to support a family; yet, twenty years later, when he was forty-two, Franklin had risen from poverty to become financially independent. This success would not have been possible under any other form of government. Franklin desired to pay his debt to God by helping others. God blessed him financially.



After reading the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, several city elders from other colonies contacted Franklin. They requested that he publish newspapers for their cities. He decided to offer a partnership to a few trusted men. Franklin would start them in business by buying their equipment and providing one-third of the operating expenses for a set length of time. They in return would pay him one-third of the profit for the same time. After this period ended, the partner had the right to buy the presses at a fair price. This generous arrangement gave the Franklins income and, at the same time, helped other individuals progress.

Franklin was now free to pursue his interests in science and other projects.

### GRANDFATHER OF AMERICAN SCIENCE

*To know the truth—that yearning always stirred in Benjamin’s mind.*<sup>14</sup>

The curiosity that had led Franklin to be well read now caused him to study and observe the world around him. Science became his focus. His interests were many and varied. As he studied and experimented, he shared his findings in letters to his English book merchant, Collins. Collins published Franklin’s experiments throughout Europe. A whole continent of people knew and loved this American through his science long before he set foot in England and France.

Franklin was driven by a fearless curiosity and dared to reach out and touch the unknown. The world intrigued him. Once, while riding with friends on horseback, a small tornado came up. Franklin rode alongside cracking a whip through it. He was testing the popular theory that a tornado would collapse if its spiraling force could be severed. Science takes nerves of steel.

He saw the purpose of science as a way to serve mankind.

When he invented a stove in 1742 which heated a room instead of allowing most of the warm air to go up the chimney, the Governor of Pennsylvania proposed to give him a monopoly patent. Franklin not only refused the favor, he published a pamphlet in which he completely described the construction and operation of the stove so that any good blacksmith could make one.<sup>15</sup>

Franklin never sought a patent for any of his inventions. He believed that if knowledge were shared, the progress of all the colonies would happen faster. He shared many inventions to benefit all.

As we enjoy great advantages from the inventions of others, we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any inventions of ours.<sup>16</sup>



BENJAMIN WEST (detail)



In studying electricity, he established many major principles and terms. He found that lightning and electricity are the same and that there is a positive and negative charge. He wanted to know the purpose as well as the principles and how it could serve us. He invented the Franklin Rod (lightning rod) and published instructions so all could protect their homes. His invention prevented many house fires that otherwise might have spread to whole sections of town.

In trying to find the purpose for electricity, Franklin experimented with improving food. Meat at this time was very tough. He had a theory that electricity could tenderize meat, so one Christmas day, he hooked up several of his electric jars (his batteries—lightning stored in jars) to try to electrocute their dinner, a live turkey! As might be expected, the turkey did not cooperate and ran. In Franklin's haste as he chased the turkey around the garden, he accidentally touched himself with the wires and electrocuted himself. The shock knocked him unconscious with sparking and loud popping. He was not seriously hurt. His experiments with electricity made him understand the tremendous potential of this powerful force.

Franklin studied in many different areas: meteorology, hydrography (study of ocean currents), geology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, mathematics, aeronautics, navigation, agriculture, medicine, hygiene, paleontology, seismology (study of earthquakes), zoology, and music.

Franklin was able to produce inventions using his scientific knowledge which solved problems, met needs, and benefited many. Many of these inventions we still use today: the Franklin Stove, the Franklin Lightning Rod, bifocal glasses, lime to improve acid soil, the armonica (a musical instrument that Mozart wrote a solo for), odometer, a school chair, electric batteries, rubber catheter, daylight savings time, and military weapons.

A lasting scientific contribution made by Franklin to America was the establishment of the American Philosophical Society. He called for all men who were investigating natural phenomena to write and share their findings. This society was the country's first scientific association. He laid the foundation for unity of the colonies on an intellectual level.

### **GRANDFATHER OF AMERICAN CHRISTIAN VOLUNTARISM**

*Once a man had accumulated enough money to assure himself and his family moderate comfort, the good citizen should turn his hand to public service.<sup>17</sup>*

Franklin's scientific inventions and his service to the community went hand in hand. When he observed a need, he would try to find a solution. He promoted many civic projects. If they were too big for one person, he would enlist the help of others. In pamphlets or in his newspaper, he would reason through the benefits of supporting his cause. He usually drove home his point with a graphic story illustrating the consequences. Never promoting the projects as his own idea, he gave credit to others. His accomplishments include Philadelphia's first volunteer fire department, first militia, garbage pickup, public library, police department, street cleaning, and hospital for the poor.



## DEPUTY POSTMASTER TO THE THIRTEEN COLONIES

Benjamin Franklin was appointed Deputy Postmaster of the colonies in 1753. When he took over the job, the postal system was disorganized, extremely slow, and unreliable. After traveling through the colonies observing, he was able to make many improvements. He reduced the travel time of a letter going from Boston to Philadelphia from six weeks down to three. He also established new routes and mileage markers. One step in uniting the colonies was through the communication of ideas by the Committees of Correspondence. Franklin provided an improved system for the travel of these ideas. He was appointed America's first Postmaster General after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

## GRANDFATHER OF FOREIGN DIPLOMACY

### England 1757–1775

*In free governments, the rulers are the servants and the people their superiors and sovereigns.*<sup>18</sup>

Twenty years before the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, England was waging a war of conquest upon her fellow Englishmen in America. The king's policies and laws began to slowly change the colonies' government from the consent of the governed to the sovereign power of the Crown and the English Parliament. Franklin was providentially the first soldier on the front lines. The secret declaration of war was to be revealed to him while he was in England on another mission.

The French and Indian War had escalated. The Pennsylvania frontier was under heavy attack. The colony needed money to finance their protection. The Pennsylvania Assembly was seeking the right to tax all property equally, regardless of who owned it. The Penn brothers, Pennsylvania's Proprietors, had used their control over the governor to keep their vast property tax free. Their property was being protected at the expense of others. Franklin was sent to England to represent the Pennsylvania Assembly in this tax dispute.

At the first negotiation meeting between Franklin and the Penn brothers, Lord Grenville was present. He revealed the English view of government and the rights of Americans:

You Americans have wrong ideas of the nature of your constitution. You contend that the king's instructions to his governors are not laws, and think yourselves at liberty at your own discretion. But . . . they are so far as relates to you, the law of the land, for the king is the legislator of the colonies.

Franklin informed his Lordship:

This is new doctrine to me. I had always understood from our charters, that our laws were to be made by our assemblies, to be presented, indeed, to the king for his royal assent, but that being once given, the king could not repeal or alter them. And as that assemblies could not make permanent laws without his assent, so neither could he make



a law without theirs.

Franklin later reported “[Lord Grenville] assur’d me I was totally mistaken.”<sup>19</sup>

After years of negotiation with the Penn brothers, the Privy Council settled the dispute in favor of the Pennsylvania Assembly. Their land was to be appraised and taxed with safeguards. In 1762, after five years, Franklin sailed home. He had been successful in his first mission to England. He also returned home with a better understanding of the English philosophy of man and government.

Even after the Privy Council’s decision, there were years of continued negotiation with the Penn brothers during which they refused to pay any taxes. The Pennsylvania Assembly came to the conclusion that the only solution was to ask for a change of government. They wanted their colony’s government under the direct control of the king. It was the only way their rights as Englishmen could be protected. In 1764, Franklin was sent for the second time to England to petition the king.

God once again had other purposes for Franklin being in England. God revealed to Franklin their hidden sword of domination. Franklin was in place at every twist and turn of this political attack to witness and expose England’s secret declaration of war. His Providential preparation allowed him to write and speak in defense of the American colonists’ rights. Lastly, he revealed the heart of America to the common Englishman on the street as well as to the lords of the English parliament, and he shared the Christian idea of man and government.

The internal attitude of English supremacy was expressed externally through the passage of the Stamp Act. While Lord Grenville professed to understand how troubled the colonists were about the tax, he still insisted on its necessity. He hid the true intent of the bill, which was to establish Parliament’s right to tax the colonies. He pressed them with the colonies’ financial responsibility to pay for the French and Indian War. The conflict came to a climax with the debate between Charles Townsend and Isaac Barre. Barre’s eloquent speech in our defense did not convince Parliament. The Stamp Act became law.

The colonists were outraged. Each colony’s Assembly and the Sons of Liberty called for the resignation of the stamp agents. Taxation without representation was not acceptable. Franklin’s Providential preparation would come into play at this time. He used his skill with the pen, his friendships, and his trusted integrity to campaign for the repealing of the Stamp Act. In letters printed in the newspapers, both in the colonies as well as in England, he wrote answers to the attacks with wit and sarcasm. Using his personal influence on members of Parliament, he explained, reasoned, and disputed at every available chance. He also worked with the English merchants who greatly benefited from the American trade, to appeal to Parliament in writing, explaining that they would be ruined if the Stamp Act were not repealed. The final turning point came when Franklin spoke before Parliament on February 13, 1766. His response was well-planned and rehearsed. He answered a total of 174 questions from friends and enemies. The American printer stood nose to nose with England’s high lords and persuaded them with practical logic. On March 18, 1766, the Stamp Act was repealed.



This one battle was won, but Lord Grenville's attitude of English supremacy still remained. Franklin continued to write using Æsop-style stories to educate the English public. One of the most entertaining was the letter from a Russian ruler claiming from ancient occupation the right to rule and tax all of England. The English people were in an uproar until the hoax was revealed. Franklin was able to bring understanding of the American point of view with his anecdotal writing. Even so, Parliament continued to push their right to tax by passing the Townsend Act. One summer, Franklin had the opportunity to travel to Ireland. Like America, Ireland was a colony of the British Empire. The similarities stopped there. The poverty of the common people was astounding. Most of the people were beggars, clothed in rags, standing idle because there were no jobs. They lived in mud huts owned by British overlords. Their main diet was potatoes.

Franklin compared them to American farmers: "Our New England farmers, of the poorest sort, in regard to enjoyment of all comforts of life, are princes when compared to them."<sup>20</sup> He reasoned that the cause of the poverty was severe economic and governmental domination by the British overlords who discouraged individual industry by restricting liberty.

God was showing Franklin what the results would be of England's governmental and economic policies over the colonies. He revealed what peace at any cost would bring. Franklin clearly saw the plans England had for her American colonies. His character would not allow him to stand passively by, giving his tacit consent. He continued to write both for England and America. He was labeled "the most dangerous man in America." The conflict between the two philosophies of government was fast approaching the point of no return and Franklin was right in the middle of it. The next point of conflict, Lord North would say, was the cause of the Revolutionary War!

Franklin's attaining and revealing political secrets caused him to be called before the Privy Counsel. Accused of treason, he was humiliated before the Lords of England. There was a serious threat of his arrest. The event that had brought on the attack involved Franklin being given letters written by Governor Hutchinson of Massachusetts addressed to the English parliament. In the letters, Hutchinson called for the English parliament to recind the power of the Massachusetts Assembly because of rebellion. These letters revealed Hutchinson's betrayal of his colonists. The letters were to be for the eyes of British officials only and were to be kept out of the American agents' hands. Franklin especially was to be kept out of the loop, though they were public letters. Once in his hands, he recognized that the Massachusetts Assembly needed this information and he sent copies to leaders in Boston requesting that they be kept confidential. Instead, they were published in the *Boston Gazette*. Hutchinson's betrayal outraged the Massachusetts Assembly and they called for his removal. As their agent, Benjamin Franklin presented this request to Lord Dartmouth.

The king with his cabinet normally would handle this type of petition. Instead, it was to be brought before the Privy Council in a formal hearing. Ten days before this council meeting, news of the Boston Tea Party, December 16, 1773, reached London. The Americans would not be bought with cheap tea. The conflict between England and her colonies had come to a head. Franklin knew that this was the last chance to settle the dispute peacefully if union was to be kept.



Present in the room was every lord of Parliament, a total of thirty-six. There were also many spectators: courtiers, ladies, and politicians. Franklin, calm and assured, entered the room wearing his brown velvet suit. His lawyers spoke first, presenting the Massachusetts Assembly's petition; asking for Hutchinson's removal. Then Wedderburn, the lawyer representing Hutchinson, approached the table. He opened his speech with the rejection of the petition saying it was the result of complete rebellion of the people. He then turned on Franklin, blaming him for instigating this defiance. He attacked his character by saying he obtained the letters illegally. This was especially spiteful since Franklin was the Postmaster General. Franklin stood silent for the entire hour Wedderburn verbally attacked him, revealing his strength of self-control. This was one of his greatest achievements. After the trial ended, he told Wedderburn, "I will make your master a little king for this."<sup>21</sup>

The next day, Franklin received a letter dismissing him as Deputy Postmaster General. He immediately warned America that the safety and privacy of the mail was in question. Parliament had given the power to every colony's secretary to open letters. The establishment of the colonial postal system and boycott of the British postal system resulted from his warning. Franklin would soon be appointed America's first Postmaster General. It was clear now that there would be no peace.

Before Franklin left England for America, an incident happened which revealed the character of a nation and a man.

Franklin was invited by a friend to play chess with Lady Howe. Her brothers, Sir William Howe and Richard Lord Howe, were known to be friends of America. At one of their chess matches, Miss Howe complimented Franklin on being a peacemaker. She felt he had been treated badly at the Privy Council and revealed there were those who regretted what had happened. At the same meeting, two Quaker friends also approached Franklin. They repeated Miss Howe's opinions of regret over his treatment. Feeling that there was hope for reconciliation, they requested Franklin draw up a plan to be presented to those in power. An olive branch was being extended.

Franklin wrote "Hints For a Conversation Upon The Subject of Terms That Might Probably Produce a Durable Union Between Britain and The Colonies." The article listed seventeen points, recommending actions that protected and restored the colony's rights and liberties.

At the next meeting, Lord Howe was present to discuss the reconciliation as an unofficial agent. Franklin was promised secrecy. He communicated to Franklin that Lord North and Lord Dartmouth both wanted peace, but the seventeen points, in their present form, would not accomplish that. Howe dangled several prizes, which he thought would be appealing. He guaranteed peace and union between the King and his people. He knew this was important to Franklin. If Franklin was willing to rewrite the seventeen points, the Crown was willing to give him anything he wanted. Again, he promised secrecy. This bribe to Franklin was like "spitting in the soup."<sup>22</sup> Howe had assumed that everyone had a price. Franklin did rewrite the seventeen points, but he did not give any ground on the principles of liberty! His seventeen points were rejected.



“Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”<sup>23</sup>

At the same time, the Continental Congress had sent another petition for Franklin to submit to the king. Like Howe’s offer, there was the hope the petition would be considered. In the end, Parliament refused to even hear the petition on the grounds that the Continental Congress was not a legal political body.

When Franklin left England, he knew in his heart that war was the only solution. Blood would be shed for conscience sake. Men would have to die to secure liberty.

### **America 1775–1776**

*Our cause is the cause of all mankind . . .*<sup>24</sup>

In Philadelphia, everyone was getting ready for a war that the Continental Congress was desperately trying to avoid. The Pennsylvania Militia was marching and practicing in the fields while Congress swung back and forth between peace and war. Only a few understood that it was only a matter of time before their own colony would lose their liberty like Massachusetts.

The day after Franklin arrived home, the Pennsylvania Assembly elected him a delegate to the Continental Congress. John Dickinson, leader of that delegation, was strongly standing for peace, while Franklin’s stance was for independence. The idea of independence was in the minority both in the Pennsylvania delegation and in the Congress. Led by John Dickinson, a group wanted Congress to petition the king once more for peace. While Franklin did not agree with this petition, he did not urge independence either. He knew each man must be convinced in his own heart that peace was not an option before he could support independence.

In 1775, one year before Thomas Jefferson’s, Franklin wrote his own declaration of independence. He included his version of articles of confederation to establish the colonies’ unity. Only together could their independence stand. While Jefferson and Adams wholeheartedly supported him, Franklin was not allowed to formally present the idea to Congress. The majority followed Dickinson’s Olive Branch Petition.

As Benjamin Franklin pushed forward the principle of liberty, his son, William, worked just as passionately against it. Using his position as governor of New Jersey, he convinced the assembly that, by staying loyal to the king, they would be able to petition the government separately as an independent colony. It had been promised that those who stayed loyal would be richly rewarded. The king’s plan was to divide and conquer. If William’s tactic succeeded, he would be handing the king all of the colonies on silver platter! Without unity, none would be able to stand for long. William’s reward for his betrayal would be the highest favors. He was taking the bribe his father had refused. In answer to William’s treachery, the Continental Congress sent a delegation to the New Jersey Assembly. William could not prevent them from speaking directly to the Assembly. They convinced them to wait until the answer to John Dickinson’s Olive Branch Petition had been answered. William’s dangerous plan was Providentially stopped.



The king's answer to the petition arrived in December of 1775. He did not recognize the Continental Congress as a legal political body. He rejected the petition and declared the colonies to be in rebellion and hired Hessian soldiers to help bring them under submission.

As Congress took steps toward independence, committees were established which dealt with the formation of troops, war supplies, relations with other countries, as well as our own unity and independence. Franklin served on ten committees. His first meeting started at 6:00 a.m. and three hours later he was in attendance for a full day's work at the Congress. One committee was to secretly contact foreign nations for help. A French agent did make contact. He arranged the purchase of arms through one of their merchants.

Franklin also served on the committee to write the Declaration of Independence with Thomas Jefferson as the principal writer. That honor was denied to Franklin because of the loyalist position of his son. Franklin did make a few changes in the wording of Jefferson's document and sat with him as Congress reviewed and shredded his writing. Franklin comforted the young man with the sensitivity and wisdom of a grandfather.

At the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Franklin spoke in his witty style. Understanding the great danger each man faced, he emphasized the importance of the unity of the colonies. "We must indeed all hang together or most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."<sup>25</sup>

The American people had the spirit to fight for their liberty. They willingly joined their local militias. This brand-new country would need guns, food, and clothing for their army. Loans would have to be made in order to purchase the supplies. Negotiations with foreign countries became vital. Congress voted unanimously to send Franklin to France.

### France 1776–1785

*Independence was the goal . . .*<sup>26</sup>

Franklin's first sixty years of life were preparation for the last twenty. He would face death threats and enjoy world renown. He would be involved with foreign commissions, naval captains, and ships. He would knowingly hire enemy spies. God used him to turn England's political attacks into a tool to use to build an alliance with France. He was a master negotiator, able to secure our nation's independence from England, the world's most powerful empire at that time. He obtained loans and a treaty with France with terms that prevented any encroachment on our independence or sovereignty. His dealings with France established a long friendship between our two countries.

In 1776, he sailed on the ship *The Reprisal* with two grandsons, William Temple and Benjamin Franklin Bache, who was six years old. *The Reprisal* was a fast ship whose Captain Wickes had given up a career in privateering to join the U.S. Navy. On the voyage over, Wickes and his crew, with Franklin's permission, made exciting captures of two British merchant ships. Upon arrival in a French port, the ship's merchandise was sold while the ships were repainted and disposed of. Franklin was establishing



French relationships and ports for future raids on the high seas. He would later commission sea captains such as John Paul Jones to attack British ships.

Before Franklin had set foot on French soil, he was a well-known figure there. His writings in *Poor Richard's Almanack* and his electrical experiments preceded him. He received a warm and exuberant welcome from the French people. He caused quite a stir wearing his Marten fur hat and ordinary brown suit. The fashionable French did not expect a statesman to appear dressed so simply. Franklin understood human nature and used this to the American advantage. His hat and clothes became a symbol of American simplicity, which appealed to the French people. He became the symbol of the American cause. His face became as well known as the king of France. A French merchant had Franklin's portrait printed on terra cotta medallions and the French people bought thousands. Franklin knew that to be successful in negotiating an alliance, he had to win the heart of the French people as well as the king.

Franklin's diplomatic philosophy was based on respect for the individual character and liberty of each person. His tolerance embraced all nationalities and beliefs. His wonderful ability to put people at ease made America many friends. He dealt with people on the basis that you trusted someone until he proved that he could not be trusted. He was an excellent judge of character, which gave him the ability to know whom to deal with. He did not need to take credit for success in the negotiations just as long as America's independence was protected. This meant that others could be praised and encouraged. Franklin's primary goal was to come into the negotiations with America as France's equal. He wanted to establish America as an independent and sovereign nation among the powers of the world with France as an ally.

The commercial side was all that was discussed at the first meeting. He emphasized that America did have something of value, her economic trade. He wanted to bargain for France's help, which would also greatly benefit France.

The negotiations began by Franklin asking for eight manned French ships, as well as loans for supplies. If France agreed, she would be making a strong public statement of war with England. France wanted to be sure that the American cause would be worth a war. The king was willing to give a loan but unwilling to commit any ships.

Even though the loans and negotiations were a highly kept secret, the British knew all. Franklin was warned that King George III had an army of spies. What England meant for evil, God meant for good. Franklin used this situation for America's benefit. He hired a known British spy to pass on information to England. He knew that once King George III knew of the negotiations, he might be goaded into declaring war against France. Franklin did not care who declared war. His goal was to have France on America's side, the quicker the better.

By the fall of 1777, the negotiations with the French slowed because of defeats sustained by the American troops. France did not want to support a losing war. With the first loan almost depleted, Congress wrote Franklin that without more help, independence would be hard to hold onto. This panicked Silas Deane, another American negotiator. He wanted to insist that the French give them an alliance. Franklin refused



because he knew the ultimatum would be a threat to them. He remembered what he had witnessed in 1776—the miracle of America declaring national unity and independence. Depending on his faith in the American cause, he encouraged himself and the other Americans to hold on.

An American ship carrying important dispatches for the American agents arrived in Paris. The messenger confirmed the rumors of Philadelphia’s capture. At the news of his home city being occupied, Franklin turned away, but the messenger continued. General Burgoyne and his whole army had been defeated. The Americans had won a battle! Their French friends rejoiced with the Americans. Many of the men and guns fighting at Saratoga were French! It was the French ship *Amphitrite* that had broken through the British blockade.

It was this success on the battlefield that was the first step toward the American and French alliance. France was now ready to sign if one condition could be met. Spain must sign the treaty first. This presented a problem because Spain was not allowing American agents into the country. An agreement could not be reached with Spain and the French refused to sign. Only Providence could have caused the chain of events that protected America and moved France to sign the treaty! It began with England sending an agent to negotiate peace with Franklin. Knowing England’s true intentions from past experiences, Franklin discerned the real purpose was to sabotage the negotiations with France so he put into play a daring plan.

Wentworth, a British agent, was sent to Paris to talk to Franklin about this possible truce. Silas Deane attended the meeting. The French Secret Service reported the meeting immediately to Count de Vergennes. His reaction was one of panic. If America made a separate truce with England, France would be facing war with both countries. As a result, France promised formal recognition, but not a treaty, to the United States if there was an agreement not to settle a separate peace with England. Franklin had achieved a step in his plan.

Franklin then sent a well-prepared Deane again to the British. Deane’s negotiations gave the British nothing. Wentworth even tried bribery. At the same time, the Count de Vergennes was shown the letter from London that had been received at the meeting. It offered a truce and promised almost total independence to America. Despite the pressure, the Count still refused to sign. Spain was the necessary ingredient to the treaty.

Providentially, on December 31, 1780, news from Spain arrived. They refused to sign the treaty. Vergennes was silent for five days following this news. He needed one more push! Franklin would provide a daring one!

Franklin agreed to meet personally with Wentworth with one unbendable requirement—there would be no offers of rewards. On January 6, 1778, Franklin met with the British agent. Wentworth tried to convince him that America and England belonged together. America was part of the greatest empire on earth. He appealed to Franklin personally using flattery, argument, and reasoning. Franklin’s unwavering answer was always the same—total and complete independence. Wentworth then tried threats. He produced a letter saying England would fight for another ten years and would not give America her independence. Franklin returned staunchly, “America is ready to fight fifty years to win.”<sup>27</sup>



After the meeting ended, Wentworth reported to his superiors his confusion. Franklin had willingly met with him to negotiate but then refused every proposal he made. He had refused to negotiate on any point!

Franklin did not give Vergennes a report of this meeting as his normal habit was. So naturally, he assumed England's wooing was working. Vergennes went to the French council of ministers and told them that now was the time for action. The council voted for an alliance with America and King Louis XVI gave his personal pledge to sign the treaty. This was done without Spain. France recognized America as an independent, equal partner in this treaty. Franklin had protected America's liberty! France entering the war guaranteed our victory!

An event that happened at the signing gives us some insight into Franklin's character. The date set to sign the treaty was February 5, 1778. The American agent's were ready to leave for the event when they received word it would be postponed until the next day. On that day, as they were leaving for the French offices, it was noticed that Franklin was wearing the same brown suit he had worn the day before. When questioned, he replied it was the suit he had worn when Solicitor General Wedderburn had humiliated him at the Privy Council in England years ago. He had worn it this day, ". . . to give it a little revenge!"<sup>28</sup> He never wore it again.

Assured of America's victory in the war because of France's involvement, Franklin immediately began to lay the groundwork for negotiating peace with England. His first move was to take advantage of the immediate results of the French Treaty of Alliance to create his long-range goals. He knew the best people to negotiate America's peace would be his supporters in Parliament. This meant that Lord North and his supporters would need to be removed. Franklin made sure through the English Secret Service that the king and Lord North knew about the treaty. He thought it a good use of the king's money! The pressure of France entering the war caused Lord North to turn in his resignation.

Franklin's diplomatic war was against the men who were in control of the most powerful nation in the world. Knowing how dangerous Franklin was to England, they wanted him eliminated. Warnings were sent to him that his life was in danger, but believing in God's Providence, he did not scare easily. Franklin's reply revealed his trust in God's sovereignty: "having nearly finished a long life, I set but little value on what remains of it . . . perhaps the best use such an old fellow can be put to is to make a martyr of him . . ." <sup>29</sup> God protected him, allowing him to finish his work.

Franklin worked alone with the English at the beginning of the negotiations. His efforts produced a treaty that was very beneficial to America. America was to be an independent nation and England would compensate the colonies for war damages. Part of this compensation was Canada. In Franklin's visionary mind, he saw not a vast wasteland but a rich addition to our new country.

John Jay and John Adams joined Franklin in the negotiations with England. Jay and Adams, because of their distrust of the French, wanted separate negotiations. Even though the French would feel betrayed, Franklin agreed to the separation. The talks started in February 1781. The battle waged in the diplomatic arena was just as important as the battles happening in America. The American agents signed the



preliminary treaty protecting America's independence on November 30, 1782. Franklin was seventy-eight years old!

Franklin wasted no time in sending a copy of the treaty to Vergennes the same day it signed. The French count remained silent for days. Franklin arranged a meeting with him where he defended America's separate actions. He explained that America's treaty with England would not go into effect until France had a signed peace treaty with England. Franklin also made a brazen petition for a much-needed loan. Still, Vergennes continued to remain silent. In a daring move, Franklin put into play diplomatic maneuvering to convince Vergennes to agree to the loan. He alternated between threatening that America might pull back from the war to explaining in a letter that though America was independent and had negotiated as such, this negotiated peace meant nothing if France had her treaty. He made apologies for not consulting them and expressed his and America's respect and gratitude to the king for all he had already done. He pointed out that this last loan would finish the work and bring glory to his reign. King Louis XVI consented to the loan!

The American ship *Washington* sailing for America carried the preliminary peace treaty with England, the first half of the loan from France in the amount of 600,000 livres and a British passport. This passport offered to the Americans was made out to the United States of America. It was the first written recognition of our independence and was signed by King George III. Franklin had accomplished the impossible! He had battled on the field of diplomacy to establish our independence and sovereignty as a nation. He kept our friendship and alliance with France intact despite the diplomatic blunders of others. He kept our country afloat financially with France's loan.

"Benjamin Franklin had proved himself the equal, if not the superior, of the best diplomats of Europe."<sup>30</sup> He played against the best and won! He remained in Paris as the American agent until 1785, about two years after the peace treaty had been signed.

The people of France greatly loved Franklin. His friends wept and begged him to stay, but he felt drawn to go home. God had one more job for Franklin to do for which he was already prepared. His departure from France was with the highest governmental honors. The traveling arrangements were intended to be as easy physically as they could be for Franklin. He traveled in a royal litter pulled by the king's mules and sailed home on an English ship.

The American Revolutionary War was fought over two philosophies of man and government. Franklin had stood for the Christian idea of man and government— that all men are equal in the eyes of God and that liberty for the individual is a God-given right.

When Benjamin Franklin landed in America on September 13, 1785, the whole city of Philadelphia met him. They shouted, cheered, shot off guns, and lit bonfires for "the only man who equaled George Washington in the hearts of his countrymen."<sup>31</sup> Franklin was home! He wrote in his diary about this day, "God be praised and thanked for all His mercies."<sup>32</sup>



## GRANDFATHER OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

### America 1775–1790

. . . *wisdom enough to govern ourselves.*<sup>33</sup>

Benjamin Franklin knew that the Articles of Confederation would not be sufficient to bind the states in their new union. He was willing at the age of eighty-two, though he was in pain, to attend the Constitutional Convention daily at the Pennsylvania State House to debate, encourage, and offer his wisdom. He felt an urgency in his heart.

“I pant for the time when the establishment of the new government and the safety to individuals which shall arise from it . . . I have yielded to a deep sense of the extreme danger of my country in quitting the cabin for a station at the pump . . .”<sup>34</sup>

When Congress came to a problem that seemed impossible to solve; Franklin was the first to propose prayer. “. . . And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? . . . I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business. . . .”<sup>35</sup>

Congress elected a Grand Committee to solve the representation problems. Franklin was the representative of one of the large states. Speaking before the committee, he suggested compromising. He then offered a solution of a two house Congress. One house would have equal representation—one vote per state; and the second house would be represented in proportion to the population. His proposal passed by a majority of five to four. This compromise was the turning point. The remaining issues were worked out by the whole convention.

After the convention, Franklin, in person, presented the Constitution to the Pennsylvania Assembly to ask that it be ratified as soon as possible.

The last two years of his life saw Franklin’s health failing. He lived with his daughter, Sara Bache, and her seven children. William Thayer, in his biography, wrote. . . . “He had a picture of Christ on the cross placed so that he could look at it as he lay on his bed. That is the picture of one who came into the world to teach men to love one another. His last look, as he passed away, was cast upon that painting of Christ.”<sup>36</sup>

On April 17, 1790, Franklin died surrounded by his family. He was buried in Christ Church Cemetery with twenty thousand people in attendance at his funeral. Benjamin Franklin greatly blessed his own generation as well as every generation to the present day! In a letter to a friend, he prayed for all of us: “God grant that not only the love of liberty but a thorough knowledge of the rights of man may pervade all the nations of the earth so that a philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its surface and say, ‘This is my country!’”<sup>37</sup>



- <sup>1</sup> Alice Hall, "Philosopher of Dissent, Benjamin Franklin," *National Geographic*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, Vol. 148 #1, July 1975, 93.
- <sup>2</sup> William M. Thayer, *From Boyhood to Manhood: Life of Benjamin Franklin*. (Originally copyright 1885, James H. Earle.) Bridgewater, Virginia, 22812: American Foundation Publications, November 2002, 6.
- <sup>3</sup> *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1964, 146.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 144.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 65.
- <sup>6</sup> Clara Judson, *Benjamin Franklin*. Chicago, Illinois: Follett Publishing Company, 1957, 1976, 68.
- <sup>7</sup> Verna M. Hall, *The Christian History of the American Revolution: Consider and Ponder*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1975, 189–190.
- <sup>8</sup> *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, 121.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 165.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 66.
- <sup>11</sup> Thomas Fleming, *The Man Who Dared the Lightning*. NY: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1971, 13–14.
- <sup>12</sup> Alice Hall, 95.
- <sup>13</sup> Clara Judson, 194.
- <sup>14</sup> Alice Hall, 94.
- <sup>15</sup> Thomas Fleming, 9.
- <sup>16</sup> *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, 192.
- <sup>17</sup> Thomas Fleming, 20.
- <sup>18</sup> Alice Hall, 102.
- <sup>19</sup> Thomas Fleming, 261–262.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 212.
- <sup>21</sup> Alice Hall, 112.
- <sup>22</sup> Thomas Fleming, 273.
- <sup>23</sup> Alice Hall, 108.
- <sup>24</sup> Clara Judson, 158.
- <sup>25</sup> David C. Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*. Chicago, Illinois: J. G. Ferguson Publishing Company, 1972, 86.
- <sup>26</sup> Thomas Fleming, 468.
- <sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, 374.
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 376.
- <sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, 378.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 375.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, 480.
- <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, 482.
- <sup>34</sup> David C. Whitney, 99.
- <sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 99.
- <sup>36</sup> William M. Thayer, 497.
- <sup>37</sup> Milton Meltzer, *Benjamin Franklin: The New American*. NY: Franklin Watts, 1988, 273.