

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Letters of Marque and Global Alliances: An Advanced Revolution Quiz for Undergraduates

Analyze the logistical shifts following the 1778 Treaty of Alliance and the strategic impact of privateering on the British Admiralty's merchant supply chains.

1. Which diplomatic maneuver by Benjamin Franklin and the American commissioners in Paris was most instrumental in securing the 1778 Treaty of Alliance?

Answer: A) Leveraging the threat of a possible Anglo-American reconciliation to pressure the Comte de Vergennes.

Franklin skillfully hinted to French ministers that if France did not commit, the colonies might negotiate a peace with Britain, which would leave France isolated against a reunited British Empire.

2. In the context of the 'Southern Strategy,' the British expected significant support from _____, though this demographic proved less reliable after the brutal tactics of Banastre Tarleton.

Answer: B) Southern Loyalists

The British underestimated the volatility of the Southern backcountry, where heavy-handed military actions often drove neutral or Loyalist-leaning citizens toward the Patriot cause.

3. The 'Dunmore Proclamation' of 1775 was intended primarily as a humanitarian gesture by the British to end the practice of chattel slavery in the American colonies.

Answer: B) False

Lord Dunmore's proclamation was a military strategic move intended to disrupt the colonial economy and bolster British ranks, rather than a moral stance against slavery.

4. Which of wife Abigail Adams' correspondences to John Adams provides the most significant evidence of early feminist discourse regarding the legal status of 'feme covert'?

Answer: B) The 'Remember the Ladies' letter of March 1776

In this famous letter, Abigail Adams critiques the legal power husbands held over their wives and warned of a 'rebellion' if women were not granted a voice in the new code of laws.

5. The primary objective of the _____ of 1779 was to neutralize the Iroquois threat and seize western lands, demonstrating a total war approach toward Native Americans who allied with the Crown.

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Answer: B) Sullivan Expedition

The Sullivan Expedition targeted the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) heartland, destroying over 40 villages and significantly diminishing their ability to assist British forces.

6. How did the 1780 'Armed Neutrality' league formed by Catherine the Great of Russia fundamentally impact the British war effort?

Answer: B) It forced the Royal Navy to respect the commerce of non-belligerent nations, limiting their blockade effectiveness.

This league of neutral European powers protected neutral shipping from British searches for contraband, further isolating Britain diplomatically and economically.

7. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben's tactical contribution at Valley Forge was primarily the introduction of professionalized drill and bayonet training for the Continental Army.

Answer: A) True

Von Steuben standardized military manual of arms and maneuvers, transforming a disorganized militia-based force into a professional army capable of meeting British regulars in open field combat.

8. Often overlooked in military history, the victory of Bernardo de Gálvez at the _____ in 1781 opened a crucial supply line for the Americans through the Gulf of Mexico.

Answer: A) Siege of Pensacola

Spanish forces under Gálvez captured British West Florida, which distracted British naval resources and provided money and supplies to the American rebels.

9. Which radical political document, authored by Thomas Paine, argued that the monarchy was a 'popish practice' and fundamentally contrary to biblical scripture?

Answer: C) Common Sense

In 'Common Sense', Paine used plain language and biblical references to delegitimize the concept of hereditary monarchy for a broad colonial audience.

10. The 1783 Newburgh Conspiracy reflected the high tensions between the Continental Congress and the military over the issue of back pay and pensions.

Answer: A) True

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This near-mutiny by officers of the Continental Army highlighted the financial fragility of the new nation and was only defused by Washington's personal intervention.