

IMPORTANT DATES AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE EVENTS

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND POST ERA,
1770-1859

1770	5 March	Five colonists killed by British troops during a demonstration. Becomes known as the Boston Massacre.
1774	13 May	General Gage, the commander of British forces in the colonies, is named Royal Governor of Massachusetts.
	5 September	First Continental Congress opens in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
1775	19 April	British troops clash with colonials at Lexington and Concord.
	15 June	George Washington named chief of the continental forces.
	17 June	Battle of Bunker Hill.
	30 September	Benjamin Church is arrested and later convicted of being a British spy.
	10 October	General Howe succeeds General Gage as British commander.
	20 November	Continental Congress establishes a Committee to review intercepted mail to determine who is authorized to conduct such operations.
	29 November	Second Continental Congress creates Committee of Secret Correspondence. Members are Benjamin Franklin, John Dickinson, Benjamin Harrison, John Jay, and Thomas Johnson.
1776	2 May	France decides to aid America and sets up a cover company to supply munitions to the colonies.
	June	Committee (later Commission) for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies established in New York.
	12 June	Continental Congress adopts first secrecy agreement for government employees.
	28 June	Sgt. Thomas Hickey, a member of Washington's guards, is hanged for his role in a plot to kill the General. First American soldier executed by military court.
	4 July	Declaration of American Independence signed in Philadelphia.

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1776	16 July	The Provincial Congress passes a motion by John Jay prescribing the death penalty for treason.
	August	Enoch Crosby contacts Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies and agrees to become a double agent.
	21 August	The first Espionage Act adopted by the Continental Congress.
	23 December	Enoch Crosby dispatched on his second double agent mission by the Committee.
	26 December	George Washington crosses the Delaware River and attacks and captures the Hessians.
	21 September	The New York Convention reestablished the committee to detect, and defeat all conspiracies which may be formed in the State against the liberties of America.
	22 September	Nathan Hale is captured and hanged as a spy by the British.
1777	4 January	Daniel Strang, British spy, tried at Peekskill, New York and sentenced to hang.
	12 February	Joseph Hyson recruited as a British spy to penetrate the American Commission in Paris, France.
	17 April	Committee of Secret Correspondence reconstituted as the Committee for Foreign Affairs.
	14 June	Washington notes execution of Abraham Patten as a spy and says that Patten conducted himself with great fidelity to the American cause.
	24 June	Treason defined by resolution of the Continental Congress.
	17 October	Americans defeat General Burgoyne at Saratoga which is considered the turning point in the war.
	17 December	France recognized the independence of the United States.

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1778	13 January	Matthias Colbhart is tried as a British spy, found guilty and subsequently hanged.
	8 May	General Clinton succeeded General Howe as British commander in the colonies.
1779	12 January	Thomas Paine fired from his post with Foreign Affairs Committee for violation of government secrecy agreement.
1780	20 September	Major John Andre, head of British intelligence in the colonies, is captured by American militiamen after meeting with General Benedict Arnold. Arnold escapes to the British lines.
	2 October	British spy John Andre is hanged in Tappan, New York.
1781	March	James Armistead volunteers to be an American spy against the British at Yorktown, Virginia.
	August	Daniel Bissell is dispatched as an American spy against the British in New York.
	19 October	Washington accepts formal surrender of Cornwallis' army at Yorktown.
1782	4 April	Sir Guy Carleton succeeds General Clinton as British commander.
1783	19 April	Continental Army receives official announcement of "cessation of hostilities" with Great Britain.
	8 June	Daniel Bissell is awarded the Purple Heart for his work as an American spy.
	3 September	Peace Treaty signed between England and the United States.
	4 December	Last of the British troops leave the United States.
1787	May	Constitutional Convention established the President as the manager of intelligence.
1789	27 July	Department of Foreign Affairs established; officially redesignated Department of State on 15 September 1789.

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1789	7 August	Department of War created.
	2 September	Department of Treasury established.
1790	1 July	Congress authorizes Contingent Fund of Foreign Intercourse, the so-called secret fund.
1798	18 October	XYZ Affair; representatives of French Minister Talleyrand suggests US pay a bribe to France to recognize the American Commission.
	3 May	Department of Navy established.
	18 June	The Naturalization Act passed, establishing a uniform rule of naturalization in the US. This act was never enforced.
	25 June	Alien Act passed which gave the President the power to expel any alien from the country. The act was never enforced.
	6 July	The Alien Enemies Act passed. This act made any aliens subject to arrest during a time of war. The act was never enforced.
	14 July	The Sedition Act passed (expired/repealed in 1800-1802).
1803	18 January	President Jefferson requests covert funding from Congress for the Lewis and Clark expedition, an intelligence gathering operation.
1805	9 August	Zebulon Pike leads expedition as part of an intelligence operation targeting the Spanish lands in the west. His arrest as a spy created a controversy with Spain.
1807	19 February	Aaron Burr arrested and indicted for treason. Found not guilty.
1811	15 January	President Madison obtained secret Congressional approval for covert action to acquire the Florida's.
1812	20 February	Madison purchased letters from British spy, John Henry, proving British operations in the US.
1818	7 April	Andrew Jackson invaded Florida.

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1818	22 March	Congress declassifies the first SECRET journals, except for those the President determines to require continued protection.
1819	22 February	Spain ceded East Florida to the US.
1831	October	Senator John Forsyth gives first public description of the Contingent Fund of Foreign Intercourse.
1841	13 June	President Tyler defends sources and methods in responses to Congressional inquiry in Duff Green matter.
1846	11 June	After leaving office, Tyler defends his decision authorizing Daniel Webster expenditures of Contingent Funds in domestic propaganda operations.
1849	18 June	President Taylor publicly defends secret American Observers (spies) abroad.