

Considering both sides of the conflict, could the war for independence have been ...



War of Independence: A Political Blunder on the Part of Britain of the of the Concerned July 2, War of Independence: A Political Blunder on the Part of Britain Britain lost the War of Independence not on the American battlefields, but much earlier, in its inability to formally and responsibly participate in the political life and modes of governance in its American colonies. Britain's efforts to assert dominion over the American colonies were primarily pecuniary and Britain centric in their perspective and did not aspire to engage in the issues that were of direct political, social, emotional and economic relevance to the locals. The textbook says that " Britain had previously never exercised much direct control over the colonies (Millett & Maslowski, 1994, p. 53)." In contrast, the reality was that pre-war measures taken by Britain like the establishment of Proclamation Line, placement of the British garrisons and arbitrarily taxing the colonies amounted to blatant attempts to exercise control while sidelining the popular aspirations of the colonies (Millett & Maslowski, 1994, p. 53). One direct outcome of this political debacle on the part of Britain was its highhanded approach towards things based on the false perceptions created by the Loyalists. It was true that," England underestimated the militia's potential and patriot numerical strength (Millett & Maslowski, 1994, p. 56)." The conflict could have been avoided if Britain had given heed to the popular expressions of dissent rising way back in 1765, when only select colonies vouched for complete independence. A majority of the patriots even during the early phase of the war were fighting for their rights as English subjects and not for complete independence (Millett & Maslowski, 1994, p. 53). The War of Independence could simply have been avoided if Britain had responded with a sensitive and

pragmatic political initiative right in the start, while taking a realistic assessment of its colonial and local, economic, logistic and political limitations. References Millett, Allan R & Maslowski, Peter. (1994). A Military History of the United States of America. New York: Free Press.