



The Battle of Yorktown

236 years ago, on October 19, 1781, the American Revolutionary War came to a close when British soldiers led by Lt. General Charles Cornwallis were



"The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown," from a painting by John Trumbull

defeated by the combined American Continental Army of General George Washington and French Army troops led by the Comte de Rochambeau. As the British Army band played *The World Turned Upside Down*, Cornwallis and his army marched out in formation to surrender to the Americans. Cornwallis' defeat and capture prompted Great Britain to negotiate an end to the conflict, which had begun six years earlier. British troops remained in the United States for the next couple of years as peace terms were negotiated. A peace treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783 and two months later, on November 25, 1783, the last British soldiers left New York City. The United States Congress of the Confederation finally ratified the Treaty of Paris on January 14, 1784. The site of the Battle of Yorktown still looks today much as it did then, as Dave Stotts discovered in his visit there for *Drive Thru History*, available on **CCC! Streaming Media**.



Comte de Rochambeau Lord Cornwallis George Washington

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Another conflict, the



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Chinese Civil War between Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists and the Chinese Communist Party, ended on October 1, 1949 when Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Chiang Kai-shek, 600,000 of his Nationalist troops and two million sympathizers took



Chairman Mao Zedong, leader of The People's Republic of China from 1949 until his death in 1976

refuge on the island of Taiwan, while Communist China became a Cold War threat to the United States. However, after President Nixon visited China in 1972, relations between the superpowers were normalized, paving the way for China to emerge as an economic power after Mao's demise. Today, it is also a top tourist destination, rich in history, as seen in this episode of *Beyond Our Borders* from **CCC! Streaming Media**.

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