Social/Political Images from the Revolutionary War Era

Since photography was not invented during the 1770s and 1780s, paintings, sketches, and engravings are helpful resources for what military scenes looked like. These images are from the 18th Century and not all of them are completely accurate; sometimes these images also had layers of story-telling and propaganda in them as well.

1. Unidentified girl, mid-18th Century
2. Portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mifflin, 1773 by John Singleton Copley
3. Unidentified children
4. A Native American warrior, from a detail of Benjamin West’s “Death of General Wolfe”
5. Colonial era illustration of enslaved families making music and dancing
6. An American school scene by Benjamin West
7. Shipping Merchant’s office (European)
8. Tar and Feather response to British taxation
9. The Declaration of Independence in a British engraving
10. Destroying King George’s statue in New York City according to a French illustration
11. George Washington in a British engraving from 1775
The Manner in which the American Colonies declared themselves INDEPENDANT of the King of ENGLAND, throughout the different Provinces, on July 4, 1776.