The Horse America, throwing his Master.

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Political cartoons use words and images to make a point about a political or social issue. Sometimes they are meant to persuade the viewer and sometimes they are simply meant to make the viewer laugh. Political cartoons were created by supporters of both the Revolution and of British authority, by both Americans and the British alike. They could be found in newspapers or might be sold individually as prints.

This political cartoon was published in England in August of 1779, 3 years into the war with their American colonists and three years after the Declaration of Independence. The image shows a bucking horse, throwing off its rider, and is labeled “The Horse America, throwing his Master.” The rider, wearing a coat decorated with a sash and a badge, and with his hair fashionably styled, is holding a crop, a leather strap used to hit a horse to encourage it to run faster. The crop pictured has tools of war – swords, daggers and a hatchet – attached to it. In the background, a soldier walks by wearing a cocked hack and displaying a large flag similar to the new American flag.

**Fun Fact**

The rider on the horse is meant to represent King George III. Look up portraits of the King and see if you can see the resemblance!