



New York was an important battleground during the American Revolution. The British victory at Brooklyn Heights in August 1776 paved the way for their takeover of New York City, which remained their headquarters throughout the war. Their efforts in the northern part of the colony were not so successful. Britain wanted to cut off New England from the rest of the colonies by gaining control of the Hudson River. The retaking of Fort Ticonderoga in July 1777 seemed a promising step toward this goal, but victory was short-lived. The Patriot triumph at Saratoga on October 17 was a major turning point in the war. Not only did it end Britain's advance along the Hudson, it also convinced France to enter the war as America's ally.