



Iran vows to respond to U.S. strikes

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Speaking Colonially



Samantha Ricchiuti, in character as Betsy Ross, talks to visitors at the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia. Ross was a working-class woman raised as a Quaker, and she used the sect’s “plain speech” throughout her life, Ricchiuti said. PROVIDED BY I&C IMAGEWORKS FOR HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA, INC.

Founding Fathers’ accent might surprise you, linguists say

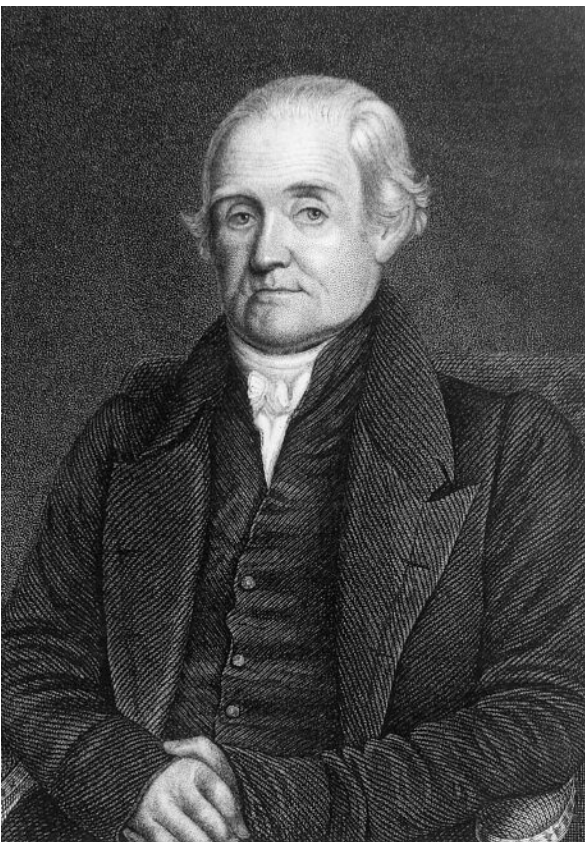
Phaedra Trethan
USA TODAY

Did loyalists to the English crown think that George Washington, John Adams and Ben Franklin were a bunch of *snollygosters* and *belswaggers* *brabbling* as they *droiled* and *desudated* in the July heat? • Did their hearts *ake*, missing the *wimmin* and *dawters* they left at home as they fought for what they *beleev*?

Confused? If a 21st century American heard the way people spoke during the Revolutionary period, they’d hear a lot of words and phrases that sounded familiar, since the former British subjects spoke English. But the English they spoke was different from our modern-day diction, from varying accents to unfamiliar words and phrases and even spelling that would make a present-day teacher wear out their red pen.

But how do we know what people in 18th century America sounded like? There are no recordings from the time, of course, so we’re left to try and glean information from contemporary journals, letters and diaries, said Esteban Touma, a linguistics expert with Babbel, the online language learning platform.

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Noah Webster, who was born in Connecticut in 1758, wrote the “American Spelling Book” in 1783 and the American Dictionary of the English Language in 1828. Britannica writes that he “was instrumental in giving American English a dignity and vitality of its own.” HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

Mobile data used to track Ebola

Analysis aims to help predict spread of cases

Clement Bonnerot
REUTERS

DAKAR, Senegal – Health officials battling the Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo are using anonymized mobile phone data to map population movements and identify areas where the virus could spread next, according to the World Health Organization and researchers working with it.

The approach, which has not been used before in an Ebola response, comes as authorities struggle to contain what the WHO has described as the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record.

Cases have been confirmed in six provinces, with more than 6,250 people infected and 3,039 killed since the outbreak was declared May 15, according to the latest government data.

The outbreak, Congo’s 17th, is caused by the Bundibugyo species of Ebola, for which there are no approved vaccines or treatments.

Identifying areas at risk

As the virus spreads, health officials are looking for ways to anticipate where cases could emerge next and direct limited surveillance and response resources.

“Population movements have always been a factor in outbreaks, but they are particularly important in the current epidemic,” said Olivier Le Polain, head of epidemiology and analytics for response at the WHO Health Emergencies Program.

Traditional risk assessments focus on outbreak hot spots and assume the virus is most likely to spread to surrounding areas. Analyzing mobility data allows responders to identify risks in places that may be geographically distant but closely connected through travel patterns.

“It gives us a more nuanced understanding of risk,” Le Polain said, citing the example of Ituri province, in the northeast, where the virus is believed to have started circulating. “There are very significant population movements in Ituri linked to mining activities and trade. Understanding those movements is crucial to understanding how the outbreak spreads.”

The analysis is produced by Swedish nonprofit Flowminder, using anonymized records generated when mobile

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Poll: Some Trump voters have regrets over 2024

Fernando Cervantes Jr.
USA TODAY

Nearly two years after President Donald Trump defeated former Vice President Kamala Harris to win back the

White House, some of the voters who helped put him there are having second thoughts.

A new University of Massachusetts Amherst/YouGov poll found that 16% of Trump voters say they would change

their 2024 vote if given the chance. An even larger share, 21%, said they now have second thoughts about supporting the president.

The findings come as Trump’s approval ratings remain underwater in

multiple national surveys and amid concerns over the economy, rising prices and the ongoing Iran war.

On Sept. 2, Trump promised to

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