

This research/compilation is in the **Language and Colonialism** section because we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence which formalized the American revolt **against British colonial rule**. The American Revolutionary War against Britain lasted 8 years and 146 days. The war's outcome was uncertain for most of the conflict, but the decisive victory at Yorktown led the British monarch to recognize American independence. **The United States was no longer a British colony.**

FEEDBACK ABOUT JUNE 14, 2026 UFC FIGHTS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Researched and compiled by Bill Jackman, PhD

In case you hadn't seen it, we recently passed on to you an Associated Press report about the UFC fighting cage being constructed on the White House's South Lawn that appeared in the East Bay Times of May 27, 2026, p. A3 (excerpt included below).

There has been a **lot of feedback**.

1. Unaware of the event

A common reply was from those who were unaware of the upcoming fights, for example

"Wow. I actually had no idea about this. Thank you for passing on the information."

2. Opposed to the event

Many of you replied with strong opposition to the event, for example:

"Unfortunately, I have seen the news. I guess this is what happens when the country elects a game show host. What a disgrace?"

"If only Trump was in the ring."

"Such an embarrassment. Vote wisely and smartly."

3. The UFC fights at the White House violate the spirit of American soldiers in the Revolutionary War

“Soldiers in the revolutionary war was engaged in necessary combat, not entertainment combat as in the UFC fights at the White House.”

Google AI Overview

The Revolutionary War involved existential, life-or-death combat for the founding of the United States, which stands in stark contrast to the athletic entertainment of mixed martial arts.

Edge Copilot Search

Revolutionary War Combat vs. Modern Entertainment Combat

Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War were engaged in **real, life-or-death combat** to defend their cause, not staged entertainment like UFC matches at the White House. Their battles were part of a prolonged struggle for independence, fought under harsh conditions and with limited resources.

Contrast with Modern Entertainment Combat

Unlike UFC or staged events, Revolutionary War combat was **not for spectacle**. It was a **war of survival**, with soldiers risking their lives for political and national goals. The stakes were not entertainment points or pay-per-view buys, but **freedom, survival, and the future of a nation**.

In short, Revolutionary War soldiers fought with **discipline, sacrifice, and the weight of history**, far removed from the entertainment-driven combat of modern mixed martial arts.

4. The UFC fights at the White House have nothing to do with how American soldiers fought in the Revolutionary War.

“Americans did not defeat the British with MMA punches and bare-footed kicks.”

This comment is true: Americans defeated the British colonial armies with guns, not Mixed Martial Arts (MMA); Americans primarily used smoothbore flintlock muskets, most notably the French Charleville and the British Brown Bess. 18th-century warfare was decided by gunpowder, cannons, and naval logistics. Although bayonet charges occurred, hand-to-hand combat was not a major factor in the American Revolutionary War. Actual close-combat bayonet melees were extremely rare, occurring in less than 1% of engagements. The vast majority of damage was caused by artillery and musket fire.

(Incidentally, bayonet charges are not considered part of MMA which is strictly an unarmed combat sport that focuses entirely on empty-hand striking and grappling.)

5. President Trump should focus on how the U.S. can keep its lead in AI instead of presenting entertainment combat at the White House.

“AI is one of the few areas in technology/manufacturing where the U.S. has a lead over China. This White House fight spectacle is a distraction.”

This comment is true: President Trump delayed signing an executive order on artificial intelligence (AI) because he did not want to hamper American innovation. He emphasized: "We're leading China, we're leading everybody, and I don't want to do anything that's going to get in the way of that lead".

Yet President Trump's enthusiasm for UFC MMA fights may conflict with his goal of keeping the U.S. in the lead in AI.

Internet query: Should AI programmers try to avoid the blows to the head that often occur in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)?

Google AI Overview, May 31, 2026

Yes, AI programmers absolutely should try to avoid blows to the head in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) or any other combat sport.

While the two disciplines (i.e., AI and MMA) do not intersect professionally, taking repeated blows to the head carries severe health risks that directly impact cognitive

function. Here is a quick breakdown of why protecting the brain is vital for AI programming:

- **Preserves Cognitive Function:** AI Programming requires intense focus, complex problem-solving, logical reasoning, and memory. Head trauma can impair these executive functions, making it harder to write and debug code.
- **Prevents Long-Term Damage:** Repeated concussions increase the risk of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which can lead to memory loss, mood disorders, and dementia later in life. [\[1\]](#)
- **Reduces Costly Downtime:** Recovering from a concussion or traumatic brain injury (TBI) requires significant time away from work and intense mental rest.

Internet query: Do UFC fighters get head injuries?

Google AI Overview, June 4, 2026

Yes, UFC fighters are at high risk for brain damage. The danger stems from acute concussions and the cumulative effects of repetitive blows to the head from fighting and daily sparring. National Institutes of Health

Key facts about brain injury risks in the UFC:

- **High KO/TKO Rates:** Approximately one-third of MMA matches end in a knockout (KO) or technical knockout (TKO) involving head trauma. Hartford Hospital
- **Microstructural Changes:** Studies have shown that prolonged sparring and fight exposure can lead to structural changes in the brain's white matter and a reduction in brain volume. Hartford Hospital
- **Long-Term Risks:** Fighters are vulnerable to Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disease linked to repetitive head impacts that cannot be cured. National Institutes of Health
- **Fighter Concerns:** In a survey conducted by *The Athletic*, over 60% of UFC fighters expressed worry about long-term brain damage, with about 21% reporting

noticeable cognitive differences after their fighting careers.

American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine

Internet query: Is Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) risky for piano players?

Google AI Overview

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is highly risky for piano players. The fine motor skills, ligament flexibility, and tendon health required for the piano conflict directly with the blunt-force impacts, fractures, and joint locks common in combat sports.

The Key Risks

- **Hand & Finger Fractures:** Punching heavy bags or an opponent's guard carries a high risk of breaking metacarpals.
- **Tendon and Ligament Tears:** Grappling arts (like Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu or Wrestling) heavily stress your finger joints and ligaments. A single torn ligament can permanently destroy your dexterity and finger independence.
- **Bruising and Swelling:** Bruised tendons or forearms will immediately slow down your fingers and cause stiffness at the keyboard.
- **Nerve Damage:** Repeated impact to the wrist or elbow can cause ulnar or median nerve contusions, resulting in numbness or tingling.

There is no prominent public record of President Trump's adult children actively playing the piano. However, his grandson (Ivanka Trump's son, Theodore) has showcased his piano skills and original compositions for the President at the White House.

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June 2026

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE

Subject: UFC fighting cage rises on White House's South Lawn

Hi friends and neighbors,

You may have missed this *Associated Press* report about the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) fighting cage being constructed on the White House's South Lawn that in appeared in the *East Bay Times* of May 27, 2026, p. A3. Tickets are going fast, so if you plan to attend these UFC fights, you had better reserve your tickets.

President Trump says "I have never seen anybody want anything so much as people want those tickets," Trump said recently of demand to attend the UFC fight, adding, "That's gonna be something."

"Crews are erecting an octagon-shaped cage on the South Lawn that will host next month's UFC bout, helping mark the nation's 250th anniversary — and President Donald Trump 's 80th birthday.

"Online renderings depict what the completed, wire-mesh-fence-ringed fight space is expected to look like ahead of the June 14 event. It will be ringed by a red, white and blue stage under a towering arch featuring stars and stripes patterns and two large screens carrying the action live.

"The cage and stage will themselves be surrounded by thousands of temporary seats, including ringside space for a full marching band that can set the entire scene to blaring music.

"The project is part of a series of events celebrating the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence's signing on July 4, 1776."

“Trump has said that the finished UFC project will feature “a 5,000-seat arena right outside the front door of the White House.” Additional large screens broadcasting the fights will be set up in a park at the nearby Ellipse, and the UFC has said it plans to issue as many as 85,000 free tickets to accommodate spectators at both locations.”

250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence

The nation’s 250th anniversary (the Semiquincentennial or Quarter Millennium) culminates on Independence Day, July 4, 2026, marking exactly 250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The signing of the Declaration of Independence formalized the American revolt by changing the conflict from an internal dispute over colonial taxation between Britain and its Thirteen U.S. Colonies into a formalized war for national sovereignty. The armed conflict itself had officially begun more than a year earlier on April 19, 1775, with the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts.

The American Revolutionary War lasted 8 years and 146 days.

The American Revolutionary War, also known as the American War of Independence, was a conflict between Great Britain and its 13 North American colonies, who declared independence as the United States of America. The war began with the skirmishes between British troops and colonial militiamen in Lexington and Concord in April 1775 and continued until the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, acknowledging the independence of the Thirteen Colonies. The war was fought in North America, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic Ocean, with key battles including the Siege of Yorktown in 1781. The war's outcome was uncertain for most of the conflict, but the decisive victory at Yorktown led to the British monarchy's recognition of American independence.

Guns, not MMA

Incidentally, Americans defeated the British colonial armies with guns, not Mixed

Martial Arts (MMA); Americans primarily used smoothbore flintlock muskets, most notably the French Charleville and the British Brown Bess. 18th-century warfare was decided by gunpowder, cannons, and naval logistics. Although bayonet charges occurred, hand-to-hand combat was not a major factor in the American Revolutionary War. Actual close-combat bayonet melees were extremely rare, occurring in less than 1% of engagements. The vast majority of damage was caused by artillery and musket fire.

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