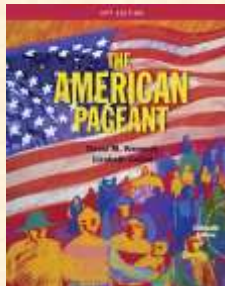


Chapter 7

*The Road to
Revolution
1763–1775*



AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1607 TO 1789

Revolution in Thought 1607 to 1763



- Early settlers disliked England
- America's isolation and distance
- Weakened England's authority
- Produced rugged and independent people
- Allowed Colonies to govern themselves
(made their own laws and taxes)
- Produced a new civilization and culture
"American"




AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1607 to 1789

Revolution in Action 1763 to 1789

- Taxation without Representation
- Colonial blood shed by British
- Battle of Lexington and Concord
- Declaration of Independence
- War and Separation from Great Britain
- Writing of the US Constitution
- The New Nation

Was 1763 a "turning point" in British-colonial relationships???



I. The Deep Roots of Revolution

- America was a revolutionary force from the day of its discovery by Europeans:
 - The New World nurtured new ideas about the nature of society, citizens, and government.
 - **Republicanism**—defined a just society as one in which all citizens willingly subordinated their private, selfish interests to the common good.
 - Stability and government depended on the virtue of the citizenry.

I. The Deep Roots of Revolution (cont.)

- Virtue of the citizenry—its capacity for:
 - Selflessness
 - Self-sufficiency
 - Courage
 - Appetite for civic involvement
- Republicanism was opposed to hierarchical and authoritarian institutions such as aristocracy and monarchy.

I. The Deep Roots of Revolution (cont.)

- **Radical Whigs:** British political commentators whose ideas fundamentally shaped American political thought:
 - They feared the threat to liberty posed by the arbitrary power of the monarch and his ministers relative to elected representatives in Parliament.
 - They warned citizens to guard against “corruption” and conspiracies to take away their liberties.

I. The Deep Roots of Revolution (cont.)

- Americans had grown accustomed to running their own affairs.
- The great distance from Britain weakened royal authority.

II. Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- **Mercantilism:**
 - Rested on the belief that wealth was power.
 - A country’s economic wealth (and its military and political power) could be measured by the amount of gold or silver in its treasury.
 - To amass gold or silver, a country needed to export more than it imported.



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II. Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances (cont.)

- Colonies conferred distinct advantages:
 - Could supply raw materials to mother country, reducing need for foreign imports.
 - Could provide guaranteed market for exports.
 - London government viewed American colonies as tenants.

II. Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances (cont.)

- From time to time Parliament passed laws to regulate the mercantilist system:
 - Navigation Law (1650)—aimed at Dutch shippers—said that all commerce flowing to and from colonies could be transported only in British (including colonial) vessels.
 - European goods destined for America first had to land in Britain, where tariff duties could be collected and British middlemen got profits.

II. Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances (cont.)

- Other laws stipulated that American merchants must ship “enumerated” products, notably tobacco, exclusively to Britain, even though prices might be better elsewhere.
- British policy inflicted a currency shortage on the colonies.
- This situation forced the colonies to issue paper money.

II. Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances (cont.)

- But Parliament prohibited colonial legislatures from printing paper currency.
- The British crown reserved the right to nullify any legislation passed by colonial assemblies if it would harm the mercantilist system.
- Royal veto was rarely used, but just the idea of a veto incited colonial anger.

III. The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

- The British mercantile system seemed oppressive, but its laws were loosely enforced.
- Americans also reaped direct benefits:
 - London paid liberal bounties to colonial producers.
 - Colonies had protection of the world’s most powerful navy and a strong, seasoned army.

III. The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism (cont.)

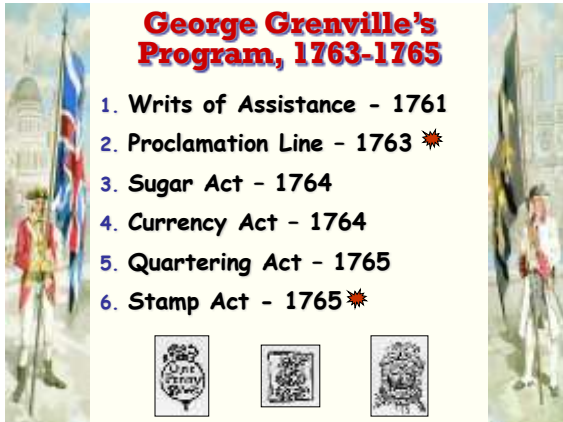
- The mercantile system burdened colonists with annoying liabilities:
 - It stifled economic initiative and imposed a rankling dependency on British agents and creditors.
- Colonists found it to be debasing:
 - They felt used and kept in a state of perpetual economic adolescence.

IV. The Stamp Tax Uproar

- After the Seven Years’ War, Britain held one of world’s largest empires and the biggest debt.
- It moved to redefine its relationship with the colonies.
- 1763: Prime Minister George Grenville ordered the navy to strictly enforce the Navigation Laws.




IV. The Stamp Tax Uproar (cont.)

- 1764: He secured from Parliament the **Sugar Act**, the first law passed by Parliament to raise revenue for the crown from colonies:
 - Increased duty on sugar from the West Indies.
 - After bitter protests, duties were lowered substantially, and agitation died down.
- Resentment renewed when the **Quartering Act** (1765) required colonies to provide food and quarters for British troops.



George Grenville's Program, 1763-1765

1. Writs of Assistance - 1761
2. Proclamation Line - 1763 ✨
3. Sugar Act - 1764
4. Currency Act - 1764
5. Quartering Act - 1765
6. Stamp Act - 1765 ✨

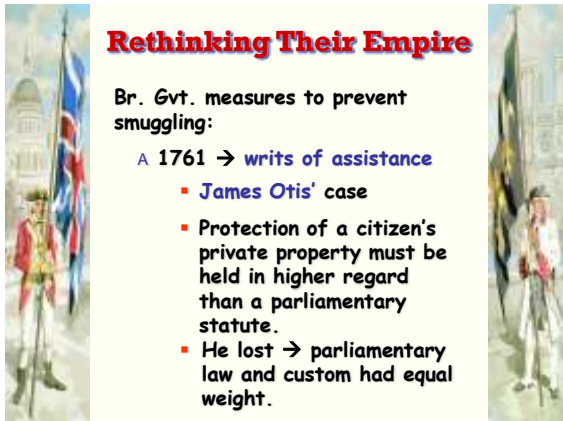






Smuggling

A Serious Problem

Photo Credit: Mary Harrsch



Rethinking Their Empire

Br. Govt. measures to prevent smuggling:

- A 1761 → writs of assistance
- James Otis' case
- Protection of a citizen's private property must be held in higher regard than a parliamentary statute.
- He lost → parliamentary law and custom had equal weight.



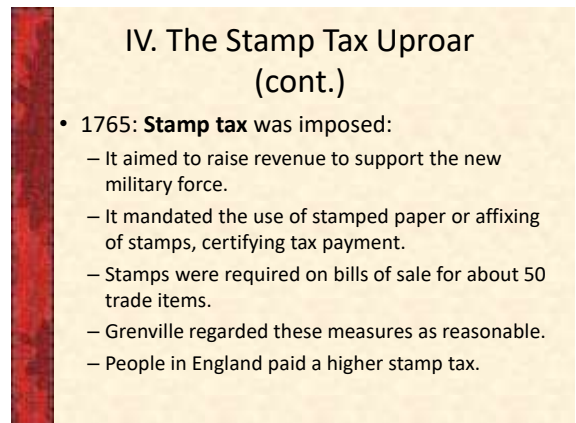
The Sugar Act 1764

IMPORT Tax on Foreign Sugar

ADMIRALTY COURTS Jury Trials




Cost of Quartering Troops in the colonies



IV. The Stamp Tax Uproar (cont.)

- 1765: **Stamp tax** was imposed:
 - It aimed to raise revenue to support the new military force.
 - It mandated the use of stamped paper or affixing of stamps, certifying tax payment.
 - Stamps were required on bills of sale for about 50 trade items.
 - Grenville regarded these measures as reasonable.
 - People in England paid a higher stamp tax.

The Stamp Act 1765

INTERNAL Tax
on
legal documents

MASS RESISTANCE
Boycotts
Mob Violence



The Hated Stamp Tax




- Tax on legal documents, playing cards, newspapers, etc.
- A **direct tax** which went to the British government.
- Paid for **debt** and British troops in the Colonies.
- Colonists hated the Stamp Tax = "**taxation without representation**"
- British tax collectors were tarred and feathered.....
- **Stamp Act** protests led by the **Sons of Liberty**.....

The Hated Stamp Tax



DO NOT EVEN PONDER THE THOUGHT
OF SELLING OR TRADING GOODS
WITHOUT

THE ROYAL STAMP

IF YOU CHOOSE TO DISOBEY THE LAW
A SEVERE PENALTY WILL BE PAID

NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

IV. The Stamp Tax Up roar (cont.)

- But Americans were angry:
 - The new law pinched pocketbooks and seemed to strike at local liberties.
 - Some colonies refused to comply with the Quartering Act; some voted only to supply a fraction of the supplies requested.
 - The acts also seemed to jeopardize the basic rights of colonists as Englishmen.
 - Offenders were tried in **admiralty courts** without juries and "innocent until proven guilty" concept.

IV. The Stamp Tax Up roar (cont.)

- With French and Indians defeated, what need was there for a military force in the colonies?
 - Colonists feared a conspiracy to strip them of their historic liberties.
 - The Stamp Act became the chief target of their anger.

IV. The Stamp Tax Uproar (cont.)

- Americans made a distinction between “legislation” and “taxation”:
 - They conceded the right of Parliament to legislate matters related to the entire empire.
 - They denied the right of Parliament, in which no Americans were seated, to impose taxes on Americans.
 - Such taxes were seen as robbery.
 - Only colonial assemblies could tax colonists.

Taxing Authority



NOTE: The colonists did not want to be represented in Parliament, where their representatives could have been outnumbered. They believed that only their representatives in their own colonial legislatures could legitimately tax them.

IV. The Stamp Tax Uproar (cont.)

- Grenville used the theory of “virtual representation”:
 - All citizens were represented by Parliament.
- The dispute eventually caused Americans to:
 - Deny the authority of Parliament
 - Consider their own political independence

Theories of Representation

Real Whigs

Q-> What was the extent of Parliament's authority over the colonies??

Absolute?

OR

Limited?

Q-> How could the colonies give or withhold consent for parliamentary legislation when they did not have representation in that body??

Great Britain vs. The Colonies

Virtual Representation

- The 13 Colonies were represented under the principle of “virtual” representation.
- It did not matter if the Colonists did not elect members from each colony to represent them in the British Parliament.
- Not all citizens in Britain were represented either.
- The British Parliament pledged to represent every person in Britain and the empire

Actual Representation

- Americans resented “virtual” representation.
- Colonists governed themselves since the early settlers.
- They had direct representation by electing colonial assembly members to represent their interests.
- Colonists were not opposed to paying taxes because the Colonies taxed their citizens.
- If the British Parliament was to tax them, they should be able to elect a representative from their colony to represent their interests in Parliament.

The Power to Tax is the Power to Destroy

□ If you have the power to tax, you have the power to take all their wealth from them.

□ If there is no **check** upon the people who possess the “power to tax” then they have the power to destroy.

□ Colonists wanted an “**actual**” representative elected from them to address their concerns to Parliament.

The Power to Tax is the Power to Destroy



- ❑ If a politician wants to have power he needs votes of the people that elect him.
- ❑ He has to live among those people so he will not use his power to destroy them,
- ❑ Or, the people may in turn vote him out of power or worse destroy him.
- ❑ **Man's nature is greedy. Therefore, he cannot be trusted with unchecked power.**
- ❑ **Absolute power corrupts, absolutely.** ☀

V. Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- Colonial protest against the hated stamp tax took various forms:
- **Stamp Act Congress** of 1765:
 - Stated the rights and grievances of colonists
 - Beseeched the king and Parliament to repeal the repugnant legislation
 - Was ignored in England
 - Was a significant step toward intercolonial unity

V. Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act (cont.)

- **Nonimportation agreements:**
 - Agreements against importing British goods
 - Were a promising stride toward union
 - Helped unite the American people for the first time in common action
 - Gave Americans new opportunities to participate in colonial protests



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V. Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act (cont.)

- **Sons of Liberty** and **Daughters of Liberty:**
 - Took law into their own hands
 - Cried, "Liberty, Property, and No Stamps"
- Shaken by colonial commotion, the machinery for collecting the tax broke down.
 - By the time the act was to go into effect (1765), all stamp agents had been forced to resign.
- The boycott also hurt the English economy.
- Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766.

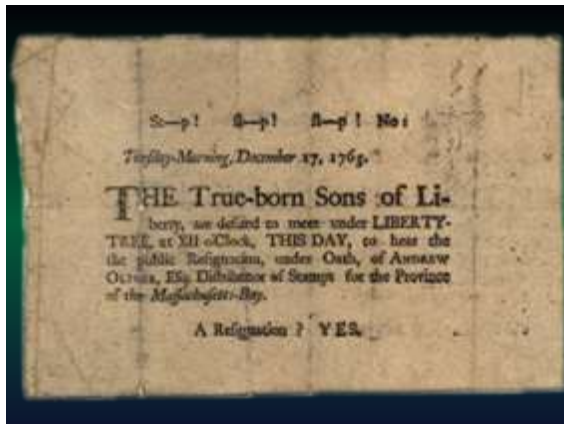
Sons of Liberty

*Resistance
Movement(s)*



*Intimidation
Mass Protests*





Daughters of Liberty

Homespun Fabric



Reduced dependence on British textiles




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Stamp Act Crisis

Loyal Nine - 1765

Sons of Liberty - began in NYC:
Samuel Adams



Stamp Act Congress - 1765
* Stamp Act Resolves

Declaratory Act - 1766

Patriots or Terrorists



Paul Revere

- **Sons of Liberty** was a secret society formed in protest of British rule.
- They had a large role in the repeal of the Stamp Act and the Boston Tea Party.
- 9 original members which included the leaders **Samuel Adams** and **Paul Revere**

"If our trade be taxed, why not our lands, or produce, in short, everything we possess? They tax us without having legal representation."
Samuel Adams



Colonial Resistance



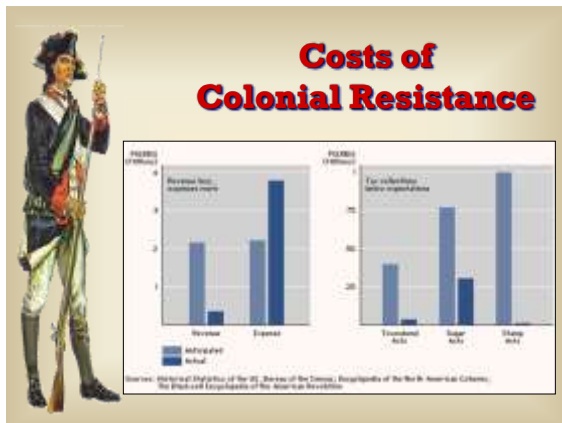
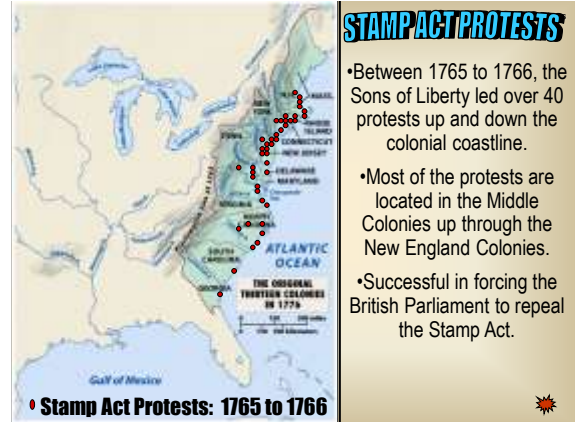
Boycotts: Colonists refused to trade or buy British goods until Stamp Act was repealed.

Protests: Led by the Sons of Liberty up and down the colonies from 1765 to 1766.

Committees of Correspondence: Colonies kept in contact with one another and described British actions through letters exchanged by carriers on horseback.

V. Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act (cont.)

- Parliament then passed the **Declaratory Act** reaffirming its right “to bind” colonies “in all cases whatsoever.”
- The British government defined its constitutional principle: absolute and unqualified sovereignty over the colonies.
- The stage was set for continuing confrontation as colonies wanted a measure of their own sovereignty.



BRITISH RESTRICTIVE POLICIES

Stamp Act of 1765

- Parliament repeals Stamp Act.

Declaratory Act, 1766

- declared Parliament had the power to tax the colonies both internally and externally, and had absolute power over the colonial legislatures.



VI. The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston "Massacre"

- **1767: Townshend Acts:**
 - Imposed a light import duty on glass, white lead, paper, paint, and tea
 - Was an indirect customs duty payable at American ports
- Colonists refused any taxes without representation.
- They were especially concerned because these taxes would pay salaries of royal governors.

Townshend Acts 1767

Tax on Imports

Pb Lead
Atomic Number: 82
Atomic Mass: 207.20



Townshend Duties Crisis: 1767-1770

1767 → William Pitt, P. M. & Charles Townshend, Secretary of the Exchequer.

- A Shift from paying taxes for Br. war debts & quartering of troops → paying col. govt. salaries.
- A He diverted revenue collection from internal to external trade.
- A Tax these imports → paper, paint, lead, glass, tea.
- A Increase custom officials at American ports → established a Board of Customs in Boston.

Colonial Response to the Townshend Duties

1. John Dickinson → 1768
 - * *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania.*
2. 1768 → 2nd non-importation movement:
 - * "Daughters of Liberty"
 - * spinning bees
3. Riots against customs agents:
 - * John Hancock's ship, the *Liberty*.
 - * 4000 British troops sent to Boston.

These Guys Again



More of *These Guys*



VI. The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston "Massacre" (cont.)

- Nonimportation agreements were renewed against Townshend Acts, but
 - Colonists took the light new tax less seriously.
 - They found they could get cheap tea via smuggling.
- To enforce order, British then landed two regiments of troops in Boston in 1768.
- March 5, 1770: A clash erupted that became known as the **Boston Massacre**.

Boston Massacre 1770

Confrontation between *British Troops* and a *Rowdy Mob*

BOSTON MASSACRE



□ 1768–1770, British soldiers arrived in Boston, MA to maintain order and enforce the taxes the colonists were asked to pay after the French and Indian.

□ The people of Boston resented the British soldiers and considered them a foreign presence.

BOSTON MASSACRE



□ High tensions between British and Bostonians over enforcing British policies.

□ March 1770, the British shed Colonial blood for first time blood.

□ The relationship between the Colonies and England would never improve

□ Used as propaganda to convince people of the colonial cause.



BOSTON MASSACRE

Boston Mass.

An eyewitness account

"An unruly gang of civilians (colonists), to the amount of thirty or forty, mostly boys and many of them drunk, left a local tavern and saw a regiment of British soldiers. The gang assembled ... near the sentry at the Custom-house door, began taunting the British, calling them names and throwing snow balls, along with horse manure and ice balls ... I saw a party of soldiers come from the main guard, and draw themselves up ... the people still continued in

BOSTON MASSACRE

Boston Mass.

An eyewitness account

the street, crying, 'Fire, fire, and be damned,' and threw more snow balls. British Captain Preston could not control the crowd as they taunted the soldiers. He ordered his troops "Don't fire!" but with the commotion I heard the word 'fire' given ... and instantly the soldiers fired one after another." The troops fired and killed three men instantly; another two died later. The first man to die was Crispus Attucks, a black man. "

BOSTON MASSACRE

Boston Mass.

When the smoke and confusion cleared, five Bostonians were dead or dying. John Adams, a lawyer (and future President), helped win acquittal for six of the soldiers, but his cousin, Sam Adams, a patriot leader, called the incident a "plot to massacre the inhabitants of Boston" and was used to rouse fellow colonists to rebel.



•The 5 Colonists killed at the **Boston Massacre** would become **martyrs** for the Colonial cause

•They would be buried in the same cemeteries as **Paul Revere** and **Samuel Adams**.

•British soldiers were tried in court and 2 were found guilty of manslaughter.





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VI. The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston "Massacre" (cont.)

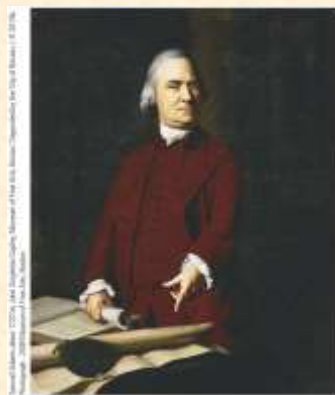
- Crispus Attucks, a "mulatto" and a leader of the mob, was one of the first to die.
- Both sides shared blame for the incident, but only two redcoats were found guilty.
- The soldiers were then released after being branded on the hand.

VII. The Seditious Committees of Correspondence

- By 1770, young King George III was attempting to assert the power of monarchy.
- He surrounded himself with "yes men," notably his prime minister, Lord North.
- Townshend Acts:
 - They failed to generate revenue.
 - But they did produce near-rebellion.
 - Nonimportation actions hurt English economy.

VII. The Seditious Committees of Correspondence (cont.)

- Parliament eventually repealed most Townshend duties but kept the tax on tea.
- But flames of discontent continued because:
 - British officials increased efforts to enforce the Navigation Laws.
 - Zealous Samuel Adams continued to incite what was called his "trained mob."
- Adams organized first **committees of correspondence** in Massachusetts.



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VII. The Seditious Committees of Correspondence (cont.)

- Committees of correspondence:
 - After one was organized in Boston (1772), some 80 towns set up similar organizations.
 - They exchanged letters that kept alive opposition to British policy.
 - Intercolonial correspondence committees were the next logical step.
 - Virginia led the way in 1773.
 - Twelve other colonies soon joined the effort.

VII. The Seditious Committees of Correspondence (cont.)

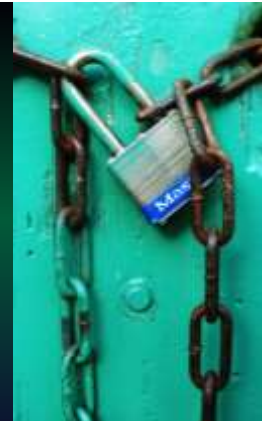
- They played a key role in stimulating and disseminating sentiment in favor of united action.
- They evolved directly into the first American congresses.

The Chain of Events

Leading to the Revolution

- Tea Act
- Boston Tea Party
- Intolerable Acts
- Lexington & Concord

Photo Credit: Darwin Bell



For the first time,
many colonists began calling people
who joined the non-importation
movement,
"patriots!"



VIII. Tea Brewing in Boston

- By 1773, the powerful British East India Company was facing bankruptcy:
 - It had 17 million pounds of unsold tea.
 - British ministry awarded it a complete monopoly of the American tea business.
 - It could sell its tea at a very low price.
 - But colonists saw this as an attempt to trick them into accepting taxes.

VIII. Tea Brewing in Boston (cont.)

- British authorities decided to enforce the law:
 - Colonists rose up in anger.
 - Mass demonstrations forced tea-bearing ships to return to England with their cargo.
 - Only in Boston did a British official refuse to be cowed.
 - Governor Thomas Hutchinson refused to budge.

VIII. Tea Brewing in Boston (cont.)

- Hutchinson infuriated Boston's radicals when he ordered tea ships not to leave Boston until they had unloaded their cargoes:
 - December 16, 1773: About 100 Bostonians, loosely disguised as Indians, boarded the ships.
 - They smashed open 342 chests of tea and dumped the contents into the harbor.
 - This action became known as the **Boston Tea Party**.

The Tea Act 1773

Parliament
Grants a
Monopoly
to a British
Company

Photo Credit: John-Morgan

Boston Tea Party 1773



BOSTON TEA PARTY **Tea Act, East India Company**

- Made it illegal for the colonies to buy non-British tea and forced the colonies to pay the tea tax of 3 cents/pound.
- The Colonists had to buy tea from the East India Tea Company----gave them a monopoly
- Colonists claimed it was "taxation without representation"
- Sons of Liberty protested against the Tea Act in Dec. 1773 by dumping 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor





BOSTON TEA PARTY

- To the British, the Boston Tea Party represented a *crucial change* in the relationship with the Colonies, *an act of defiance*.
- The Colonists refusal to buy tea from the British and dumping it overboard was a "*gesture*" to the British that the Colonists were saying, "*you can take your tea and stuff it where the sun doesn't shine*".





VIII. Tea Brewing in Boston (cont.)

- Reaction varied:
 - Sympathetic colonists applauded.
 - Referring to tea as “a badge of slavery,” they burned the hated leaves in solidarity with Boston.
 - Hutchinson, chastened and disgusted, retreated to Britain, never to return.
 - The British chose a perilous path that led only to reprisals, bitterness, and escalating conflict.

IX. Parliament Passes the “Intolerable Acts”

- Parliament responded with measures in 1774 that brewed a revolution:
 - It passed a series of acts to chastise colonists, especially in Boston.
 - The acts were branded in colonies as “the massacre of American Liberty.”
- Most drastic was the Boston Port Act:
 - It closed the port until damages were paid.

IX. Parliament Passes the “Intolerable Acts” (cont.)

- Other **Intolerable Acts** limited rights traditionally practiced in Massachusetts:
 - Restrictions were placed on town meetings.
 - Unlike before, officials who killed colonists in line of duty could now be sent to Britain for trial.
 - New Quartering Act gave local authorities power to lodge soldiers anywhere, even private homes.



Intolerable Acts 1774



Boston Port Act

Massachusetts Government Act

Quartering Act

Administration of Justice Act

Quebec Act



COERCIVE ACTS

Closed the port of Boston from Colonial trade and placed Massachusetts under **martial law** until Colonists paid for the tea.

Colonists referred to these as the **"Intolerable Acts"**



IX. Parliament Passes the "Intolerable Acts" (cont.)

- **Quebec Act** (1774) covered French subjects in Canada:
 - It guaranteed their Catholic religion.
 - They could maintain institutions (which did not include representative assembly or trial by jury).
 - Québec's boundaries extended to the Ohio River.
- From French viewpoint, the Quebec Act was a shrewd and conciliatory measure.

IX. Parliament Passes the "Intolerable Acts" (cont.)

- From American viewpoint, the act was noxious:
 - It had a much wider range.
 - It set a dangerous precedent by denying jury trials and by allowing unrepresentative assemblies.
 - It alarmed land speculators by snatching a huge trans-Allegheny area from their grasp (Map 7.1).
 - It angered anti-Catholics by extending Catholic jurisdiction south into a region about the size of the 13 colonies.

X. Bloodshed

- American dissenters responded to the plight of Massachusetts:
 - Colonies sent food to the stricken city of Boston.
 - Rice was shipped from faraway South Carolina.
- Most memorable was summoning of the **First Continental Congress** in 1774:
 - It met in Philadelphia to redress grievances.
 - 12 of 13 colonies (except Georgia) sent 55 men: S. Adams, J. Adams, G. Washington, P. Henry.

1ST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS



• Colonies send their representatives to Philadelphia to form a Congress in response to the Intolerable Acts in 1774

• Main goal was to try and negotiate with King George and Parliament

- Moderates argue with Radicals whether or not to go to war.
- Representatives send a document **“Declaration of Rights and Grievances”** in 1774 to King George and Parliament
- In the meantime, Congress ordered militias to prepare for war.



Map 7.1 p127

X. Bloodshed (cont.)

- First Continental Congress (cont.):
 - Deliberated for 7 weeks in fall 1774.
 - Not a legislative but a consultative body.
 - A convention rather than a congress.
 - John Adams played a key role.
 - It drew up a Declaration of Rights as well as a solemn appeal to other British colonies, to the king, and to the British people.

X. Bloodshed (cont.)

- Most significant action was creation of **The Association**:
 - Called for complete boycott of British goods: nonimportation, nonexportation, nonconsumption
- Delegates were not calling for independence.
- They sought merely to repeal offensive legislation.

X. Bloodshed (cont.)

- But fatal drift toward war continued:
 - Parliament rejected Congress's petitions.
 - Violators of Association were tarred and feathered.
 - Muskets were gathered and men began to drill openly.
 - April 1775: British commander in Boston sent troops to **Lexington and Concord** to seize stores of gunpowder.



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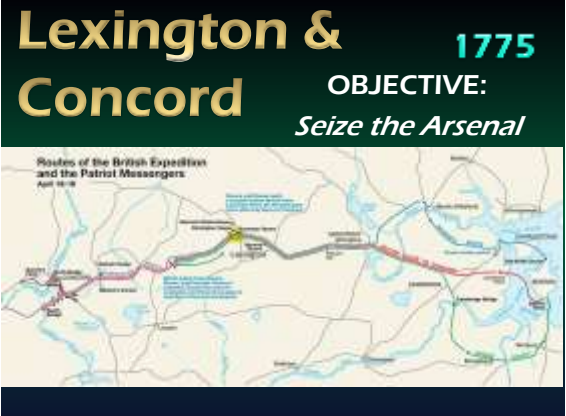
X. Bloodshed (cont.)

- Troops were also supposed to arrest ringleaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock.
- At Lexington, “Minute Men” refused to disperse.
- Shots were fired, killing 8 Americans and wounding several more.
- Redcoats then pushed on to Concord, where they suffered heavy losses.
- Britain now had a war on its hands.

XI. Imperial Strength and Weakness

- Americans brashly rebelled against a mighty empire:
 - Population: 7.5 million Britons to 2.5 million colonists
 - Monetary wealth and naval power overwhelmingly favored England.
 - Britain’s professional army equaled some 50,000 men as compared to numerous but poorly trained American militia.







BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD



•British Captain Pitcarin orders Minutemen off the green.

•Response by the Minutemen, “this is our green”

•Controversy over who fired the first shot

•8 Americans killed.

•British didn’t find any weapons and continued to Concord



BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD



•Minutemen engage British troops at Concord Bridge.

•British find some weapons at Concord.

•British return to Boston, 5,000 Minutemen attack British troops.

Americans

•90 dead wounded or captured

British

•250 dead, wounded, or captured



The Old North Bridge

Photo credit: herzoghr





XI. Imperial Strength and Weakness (cont.)

- Mighty empire (cont.):
 - George III could also hire foreign soldiers, including some 30,000 Germans (the Hessians).
 - British enrolled about 50,000 American Loyalists and enlisted some Indians.
- Yet Britain was weaker than it seemed:
 - Oppressed Ireland required troops to maintain British control.
 - France was waiting to get even with Britain.

XI. Imperial Strength and Weakness (cont.)

- Britain's weakness (cont.):
 - The London government was weak and inept.
 - There was no William Pitt, only stubborn George and his pliant prime minister, Lord North.
 - Many Britons had no desire to kill Americans.
 - English Whigs opposed Lord North's Tories.
 - Whigs believed a battle for British freedom was being fought in America.

XI. Imperial Strength and Weakness (cont.)

- Britain's army in America operated under numerous difficulties:
 - Generals were second-rate.
 - Soldiers were brutally treated.
 - Provisions were often scarce, rancid, and wormy.
 - Britain had to operate 3,000 miles from home.
 - Distance greatly increased delays and uncertainties from storms and mishaps.

XI. Imperial Strength and Weakness (cont.)

- Difficulties of British army (cont.):
 - Military orders issued in London but received months later did not fit a changing situation.
 - America's geographical expanse was enormous: roughly 1,000 by 600 miles.
 - Colonies had no urban nerve centers.
 - British armies took every city of any size.
- Americans wisely traded space for time.

XII. American Pluses and Minuses

- American advantages:
 - They had outstanding leaders: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin.
 - Eventually they had foreign aid from France.
 - European officers volunteered to fight for pay.
 - Marquis de Lafayette proved invaluable in securing further aid from France.



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XII. American Pluses and Minuses (cont.)

- Other conditions aided Americans:
 - They were fighting defensively, with odds favoring the defender.
 - Colonies were self-sufficient in food.
 - Americans enjoyed a moral advantage from belief in a just cause.
- But American rebels were poorly organized:
 - Continental Congress was mostly a debating society.

XII. American Pluses and Minuses (cont.)

- Americans poorly organized (cont.):
 - Disorganized colonists fought almost the entire war before adopting a constitution—the Articles of Confederation—in 1781.
 - Jealousy hindered the war effort:
 - Individual states, regarding themselves as sovereign, resisted attempts by Congress to exercise its powers.
 - Sectional jealousy boiled over the appointment of military leaders.

XII. American Pluses and Minuses (cont.)

- Economic difficulties:
 - Metal money had been drained away.
 - The Continental Congress, unwilling to raise taxes, massively printed “Continental” paper money.
 - Confusion proliferated when individual states issued depreciated paper money.
 - Inflation skyrocketed prices.



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XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes

- Military supplies in colonies were scanty:
 - In earlier wars, England provided funds and weapons.
 - Rebels were caught: the cost of home defense mounted just as the supply of British funds and war material evaporated.
 - Sufficient stores of gunpowder, cannon, and other armaments could not be found in agricultural colonies.

XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes (cont.)

- Lack of military supplies (cont.):
 - Among the reasons for alliance with France was need for a reliable source of military supplies.
 - At **Valley Forge**, Pa., soldiers went without bread for 3 days in the cruel winter of 1777–1778.
 - In one campaign, some men fainted for lack of food.
 - Manufactured goods were in short supply.
 - Clothing and shoes were appallingly scarce.

Valley Forge

- Washington set up camp at **Valley Forge**, 20 miles to the west of the British.
- Washington and his troops endured a winter of terrible suffering, lacking decent food, clothing, and shelter.
- Washington's greatest challenge at Valley Forge was keeping the Continental Army together.

Valley Forge, continued

- Most of the men at Valley Forge lacked blankets, shoes, and shirts.
- Soldiers made moccasins out of scraps of cowhide.
- Many men **deserted**, or left without permission, and some officers resigned.
- Volunteers—including Washington's wife, Martha—made clothes for the troops and cared for the sick.
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- In April 1778 Washington told his troops of the Patriots' alliance with France, raising their spirits greatly.

XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes (cont.)

- Militiamen were numerous but unreliable:
 - They received only rudimentary training.
 - Besides desertion, troops were hit by smallpox.
- Women played a significant part in the Revolution:
 - They maintained farms and businesses while fathers and husbands fought.

XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes (cont.)

- The part of women (cont.):
 - Many female **camp followers** accompanied army:
 - They Cooked and sewed in return for money and rations.
 - One Massachusetts woman dressed in men's clothing and served in the army for 17 months.
- Seven to eight thousand regulars were finally whipped into shape by stern drillmasters:
 - German Baron von Steuben was an organizational genius.

XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes (cont.)

- Blacks fought and died for the American cause:
 - Many states initially barred them from the military.
 - But eventually more than 5,000 blacks enlisted.
 - The largest contingents came from northern states with substantial numbers of free blacks.
 - Blacks fought at Trenton, Brandywine, Saratoga, and other important battles.



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XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes (cont.)

- African Americans also served on the British side:
 - In November 1775 the governor of Virginia promised freedom for any slave who joined the British army.
 - Eventually thousands of slaves fled to the British.
 - At the end of the war, the British evacuated 14,000 “Black Loyalists.”

African Americans

- At the beginning of the war southern states persuaded congress to ban African Americans from fighting.
- Lord Dunmore, the royal governor of Virginia, announced that slaves who fought on the British side would be freed, and many men answered his call.
- As the need for soldiers grew, some states ignored the ban and let African American fight.

African Americans, continued

- Lemeul Hayes and Peter Salem were two famous African American patriots.
- African Americans fought for the same reasons other Americans fought—they believed in the cause or they needed the money.
- Some African Americans earned their freedom by fighting.



XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes (cont.)

- Morale in the Revolutionary army was undermined by American profiteers:
 - They sold to the British because British could pay in gold.
 - Speculators forced prices sky-high.
 - Some Bostonians made profits of 50% to 200%.

XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes (cont.)

- Brutal truth: Only a minority of colonists selflessly devoted themselves to the cause of independence.
- Seldom have so few done so much for so many.

Native Americans

- Although some Indians helped the Patriots, more of them sided with the British, who seemed to present less of a threat than the Americans did.
- Settlers continued to push westward, threatening the Native Americans' way of life.
- Mohawk chief **Joseph Brant** led a number of brutal attacks against American settlements in southwestern New York and northern Pennsylvania.
- **Henry Hamilton**—who commanded the main British base in the west, Detroit— was called the “hair buyer” because of rumors that he paid Native Americans for the scalps of settlers

CHRONOLOGY

1650	First Navigation Laws to control colonial commerce	1770	Boston Massacre All Townsend Acts except tea tax repealed
1703	Seven Years' War breaks out (British Win ends)	1772	Continuation of correspondence begins
1764	Sugar Act	1773	British East India Company granted tax monopoly Governor Hutchinson's actions provoke Boston Tea Party
1765	Quotering Act Stamp Act Stamp Act Congress	1774	"Intolerable Acts" Curfew Act First Continental Congress The Association boycotts British goods
1766	Declaratory Act	1775	Battle of Lexington and Concord
1767	Townshend Acts New York legislature suspended by Parliament		
1768	British troops occupy Boston		

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