

The Road to Revolution

(1630-1750)



A series of wars had left England deeply in debt. To raise money to repay their debt, Parliament decided to tax the colonies. Colonists were outraged. They saw the Parliaments action as an attack on their civil liberties. As time went by anger in the colonies spread. By 1775, it became clear to many that war could only settle the quarrel with England.

American colonists tarring and feathering a tax-collector.



Rivalry in North America

In June 1749, the Governor of New France sent a group of men to the Ohio Valley. They hung metal plates on trees that proclaimed that the land belonged to France. At the same time, Christopher Gist, a Virginia fur trader roamed the Ohio Valley. Gist was summoned by the king to find a good settlement. On February 1751, he carved his claim to the land on the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. This set the stage for a battle between France and England over the control of the Ohio River Valley.



Christopher
Gist

Competing Claims

By the mid-1700's, the worldwide nations were locked in a worldwide struggle for the Americas. France, Spain, England and the Netherlands were in competition for trade in the new colonies. By the Late 1600's, England had two rivals in North America (Spain and France.) The major threat from Spain was the West Indies and along the border between Georgia and Spanish Florida. Spain clashed in these areas because they had no settlements there. Spain had settlements in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona.



I want the
Americas for
Spain!

The French claimed a vast area in North America. They claimed the land west from the St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico. To protect their lands, the French built a system of forts. The French were determined to stop the English from intruding into their territory. The Ohio Valley was important because it was a vital link between their lands in Canada and the Mississippi River. In 1751, the French government issued an order that proclaimed, drive all the foreigners out of the Ohio Territory!



Stay out
Of the Ohio
Valley!



Native Americans Choose Sides

Native Americans had hunted animals and grown crops in the Ohio Valley for centuries. They did not want to give up their land to European settlers, French or English. Both France and England tried to make Indian allies because Indians controlled the fur trade in the heart of North America. The French expected the French to side with them. Most French people were trappers and traders, not farmers. The French did not destroy the hunting grounds by clearing the forests for farms. Many French men married Native American women and adopted their traditions.

I do not want to be friends with the Europeans!



The Les
Algonkians Algonquins **Canada 8**



In contrast, the English settlers were mostly farm families. They ignored the rights of the Indians and cleared the land for crops. They also did not respect Indian ways. The Indians fought back against the English to stop them from taking over their lands. In the end, both France and England found allies between the Native Americans. The French gained the support of the Algonquins and Hurons. In time, the English won over the powerful Iroquois nations, who were old enemies of the Algonquins.

Some of the Indians supported the English because they charged lower prices for trade goods than the French did. Many Indians began to buy goods from the English rather than the French. A loss of Indian trade angered the French people who were determined to defend their claims to the Ohio Valley.

The French and Indian War

On December 4, 1753 the French Captain Joncaire was just sitting down to eat his dinner when a tall young man strode into the room. He introduced himself as Major George Washington. Washington was delivering a letter to the French forces in the Ohio Valley from England. Captain Joncaire invited Washington to dine with him. In his letter that Washington delivered he stated to the French to get out of the Ohio Valley, or else! A conflict between the English and French was now evident!



Opening Shots

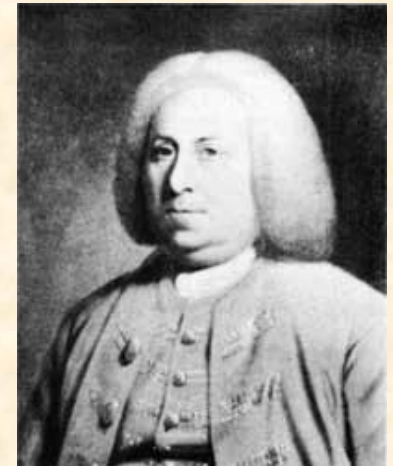
Great Britain (England) and have been fighting for power in Europe and North America since 1689-1748. In 1754 fighting broke out again. The long conflict was called the *French and Indian War*. Scuffles between France and Great Britain in the Ohio River Valley triggered opening shots of the French and Indian War. Major George Washington played a very important role in this war.



[George Washington](#) grew up on a plantation in Virginia. He was the son of wealthy parents. At age 15 he began work as a surveyor. His job took him to the frontier lands of West Virginia. After Washington returned from delivering the warning to the French his commander, Lieutenant [Governor Dinwiddie](#) promoted him. Governor Dinwiddie then ordered Washington to take 150 men and build a fort where the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers met. The fort was built to protect Virginia's land claims in the upper Ohio River Valley.



George
Washington



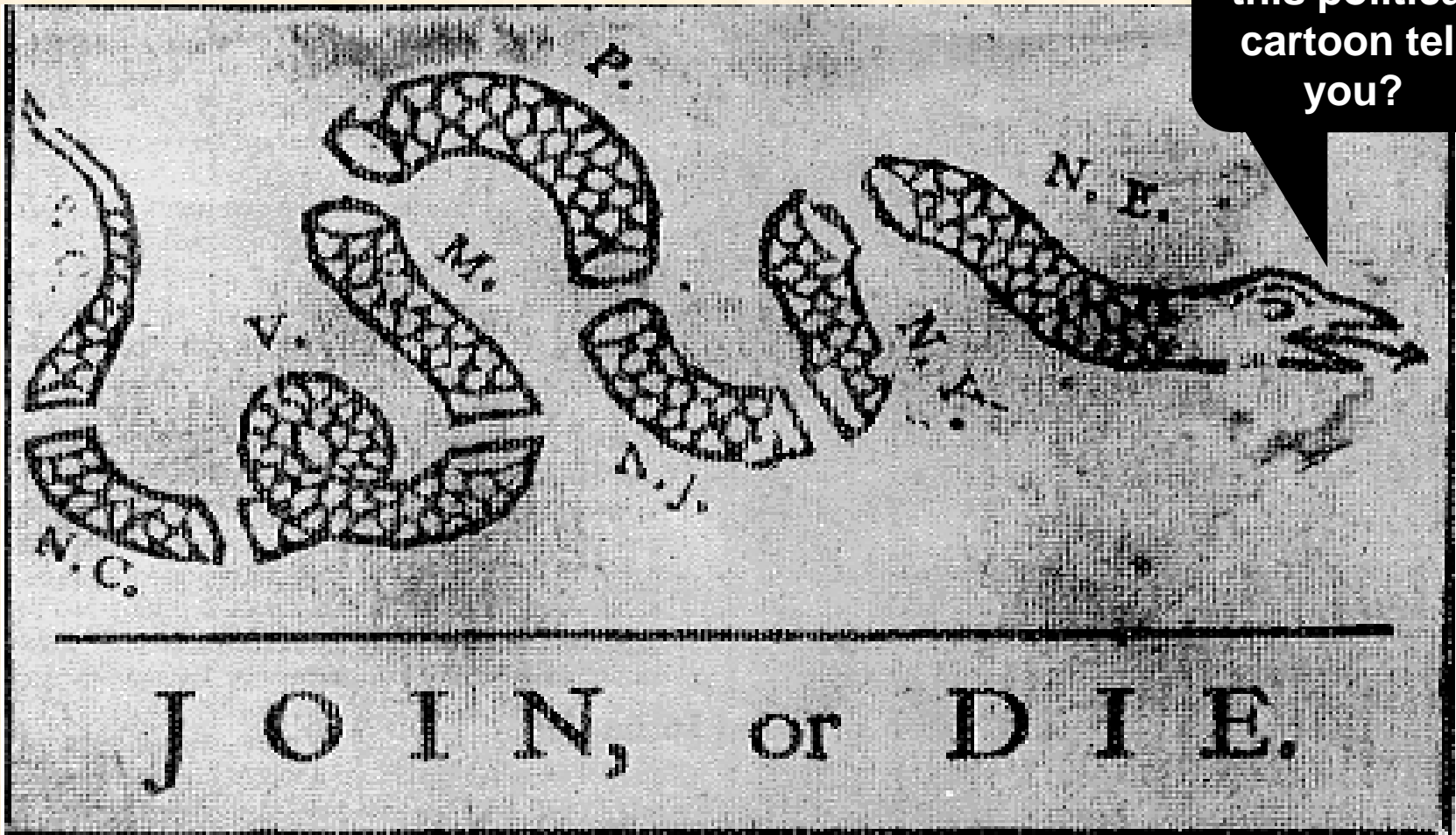
Governor
Dinwiddie

On April 1754, Washington headed for Ohio. Shortly afterwards he heard some disturbing news. The French had just completed [Fort Duquesne](#) at the fork of the [Monongahela](#) and [Allegheny Rivers](#). This was the precise spot Washington planned to build his fort. Quietly Washington surprised a French scouting party that was camped in the woods. He caused them to run away and scatter. Washington heard that the French were going to counter attack so he built a [stockade](#). The troops named it [Fort Necessity](#). A large group of French and Indians surrounded Washington and his troops. He was outnumbered so he surrendered. The French released Washington so he returned home to Virginia. This event raised the anger between the English and the French.



[Fort Necessity.](#)

What does
this political
cartoon tell
you?



Benjamin Franklin's Snake Device, 1754, printed in the Pennsylvania Gazette just prior to the Albany Congress, was the first newspaper cartoon published in British America.

The Albany Congress

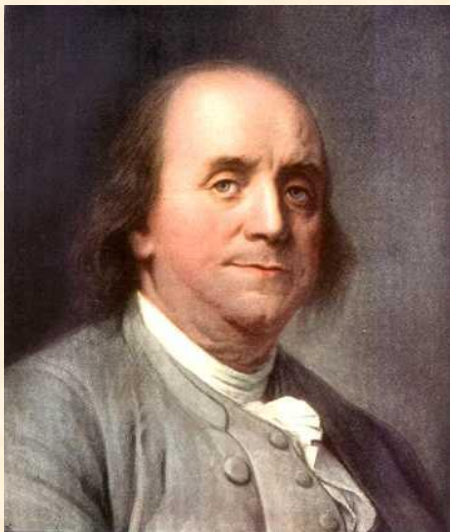
While Washington was defending Fort Necessity, delegates from the seven colonies gathered in Albany, New York. They met for two reasons. They wanted the Iroquois to help them fight against the French. They also wanted to plan a united defense. The Iroquois left the meeting without agreeing to help the British. But they did not join the French either.



The colonists knew they had to work together if they were to defeat the French. Benjamin Franklin, the delegate from Pennsylvania, proposed the Albany Plan of Union. The plan called for a Grand Council with representatives from each colony. The council would raise taxes, make laws, and set up the defense of the colonies. The plan was submitted and the delegates voted to accept the plan, but not approve it.

Benjamin Franklin stated in his own words:

“ Everyone cries a union is needed, but when they come to the manner and for of the Union, their weak noodles are perfectly distracted!” **What was Ben Franklin trying to say with these words?**



We must stand united!

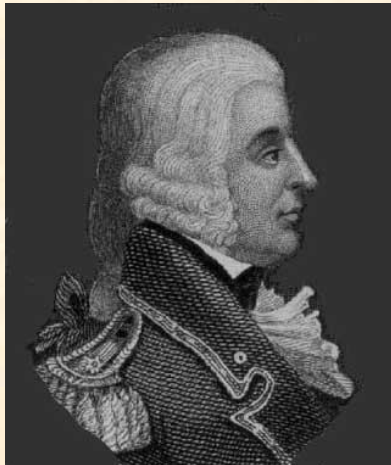


The Early Years of the War

At the start of the French and Indian War, the French enjoyed some advantages over the British. Because the British had 13 colonies that approved all decisions, they could not agree on a line of defense. The French had only a single government so it was easy for them to plan a way to defend themselves. The British colonies ruled the seas and had the coastal ports.



EMBARKATION OF ABERCROMBIE'S EXPEDITION AGAINST CARILLON



In 1775, [General Edward Braddock](#) led British and colonial troops in an attack against [Fort Duquesne](#). He was nicknamed “the bulldog” He could fight a war in open fields but he knew little about how to fight in the wilderness of North America. [George Washington](#), who went with Braddock, warned him that he was moving his troops too slow. Braddock ignored Washington’s suggestion to move faster.

A Bold Leader Takes Charge

In 1757, William Pitt became the leader of the British government. Pitt set out to win the war in North America. Pitt sent Britain's best generals to fight the war. To encourage colonists to support the war, he promised large payments for military service and supplies. Under Pitt's leadership, the tide of battle turned. In 1758, Major Jeffery Amherst captured Louisbourg, the most important fort in French Canada. Pitt also persuaded the Delaware people to abandon the French at Fort Duquesne. Soon the British conquered the fort and renamed it Fort Pitt.





The Fall of New France

In 1759, the British pushed the French from Fort Niagara and Fort Ticonderoga. General Pitt sent General James Wolfe to capture Quebec, the capital of New France. Quebec was vital to the defense of New France. Without Quebec, the French would not be able to support their forts farther up the St. Lawrence River.

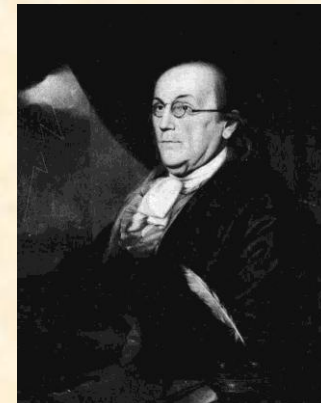
General Wolfe devised a bold plan. He sent his troops in small ships to quietly sneak into the town in the evening. In a grassy field just outside the city the troops battled.

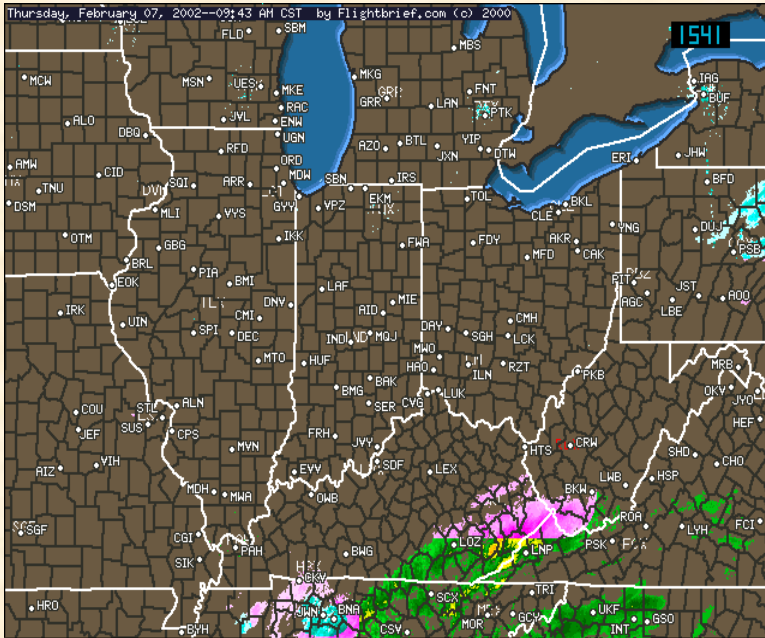
Soon afterwards the British won the battle. The fall of Quebec sealed the fate of France. In 1760, the British took Montreal and won the war in North America. Fighting went on until the French signed the Treaty of Paris in 1763. The Treaty of Paris marked the end of French power in North America. Under the treaty, British gained Canada and all lands East of the Mississippi River. France was allowed to keep a few sugar-growing islands in the West Indies. In 1762, Spain gave Florida to Britain. In return, Spain gained all the lands west of the Mississippi as well as the city of New Orleans. After years of fighting peace returned to North America.



A Storm Over Taxes

As Britain celebrated the victory over France, a few British officials wondered if the 13 colonies would become too independent and a threat to Great Britain. They thought that maybe someday the colonies would unite against Great Britain. Benjamin Franklin thought that it was improbable for the colonies to unite.



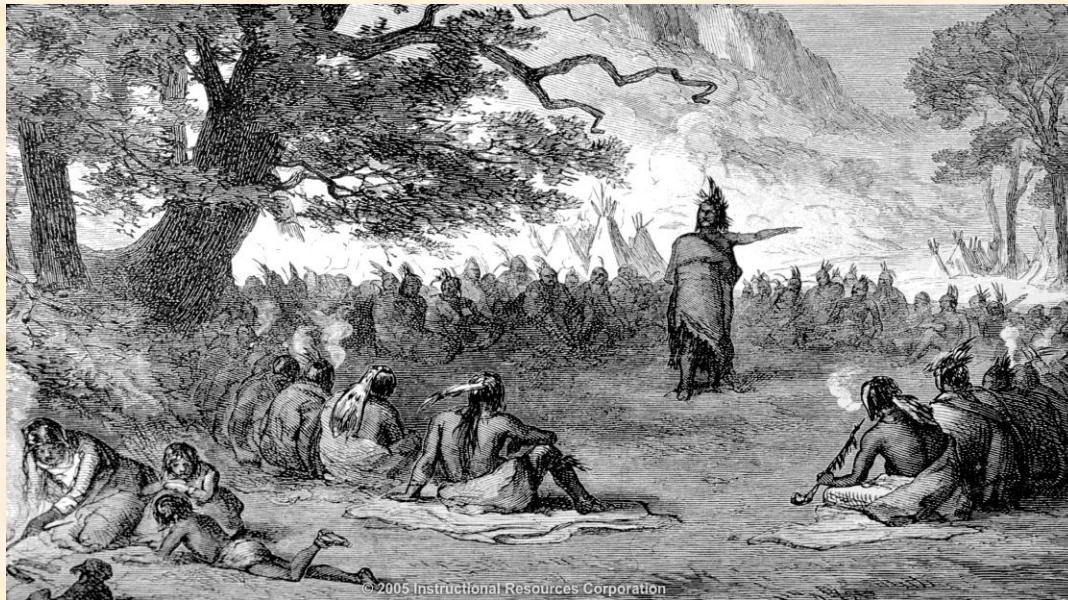


New Troubles on the Frontier

By 1760, the British had driven the French from the Ohio Valley. With the French gone, the British eagerly headed west to farm the former French lands. Many Indian nations lived in the Ohio Valley. As the British settlers moved into the valley, they often clashed with the Native Americans. In 1762, the British sent Lord Jeffery Amherst to the frontier to keep order. French traders always treated the Native Americans as friends. They held large feasts for them and giving them presents.



Lord Jeffery raised the price of British goods traded to the Indians. He also allowed the British to build forts on Indian lands. Unhappy with Lord Jeffery, Native Americans found a leader in Pontiac, an Ottawa chief who had fought with the French. In 1763, Pontiac spoke against the British, calling them “dogs dressed in red, who have come into our hunting grounds to drive us away.”



Soon after, [Pontiac](#) led an attack on British troops at [Fort Detroit](#). Other Indians joined the fight, and in a few months they captured most of the British forts on the frontier. The British struck back at the Indians and gained most of their captured lands back from the Indians. In October 1763, the French informed Pontiac that they signed the [Treaty of Paris](#). The treaty marked the end of French power in North America. As a result the Indians could no longer hope for French aid against the British. One by one the Indians stopped fighting.



001_002_1_53 Painting by De Cox Smith. Reproduced from Pontiac's Conspiracy, by Francis Parkman.

Proclamation of 1763

Pontiac's war convinced the British to close western lands to settlers. To do this, the government issued the Proclamation of 1763. Under the Proclamation, settlers were forbidden to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. If there are any settlers west of the Appalachian Mountains, they had to move immediately. To enforce this law the British sent 10,000 troops. This proclamation angered the colonists that claimed lands in the

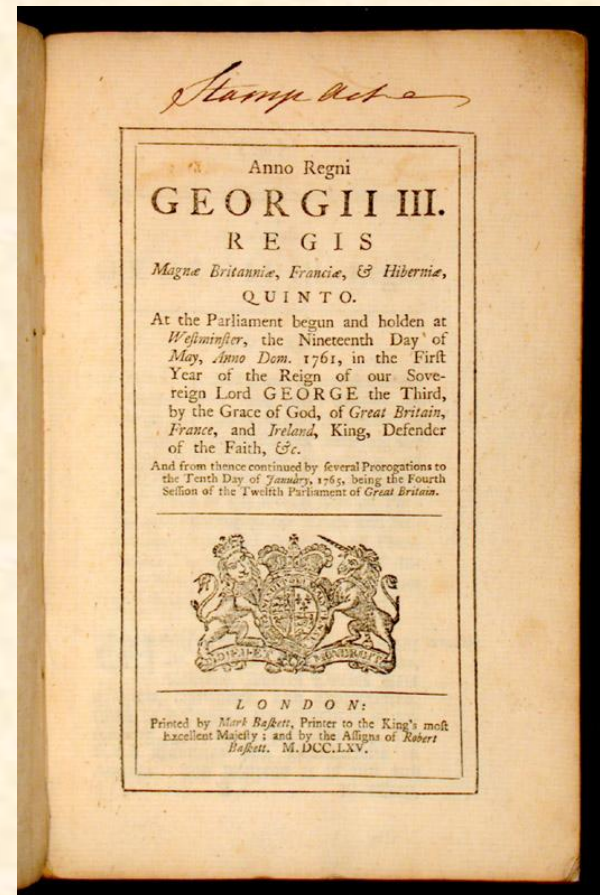
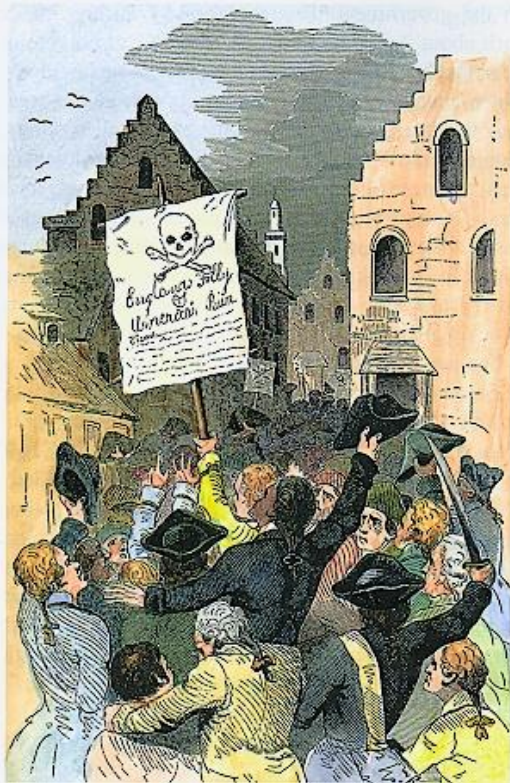
Proclamation of 1763

- King George said that the colonists couldn't move across the Appalachian Mountains or the Mississippi River; Instead the king made it the Indian's hunting grounds. Another thing the king made the colonists do is pay for all the damages in the battles; he also made some soldiers stay there, just in case.



Stamp Act Crisis

The French and Indian War put the British deeply into debt. As a result, the tax bill for citizens in Great Britain rose sharply. The British Prime Minister, George Grenville, decided that the colonists in North America should share the burden of new taxes.



Grenville persuaded parliament to pass two new laws:

The Sugar Act of 1764 placed a tax on molasses.

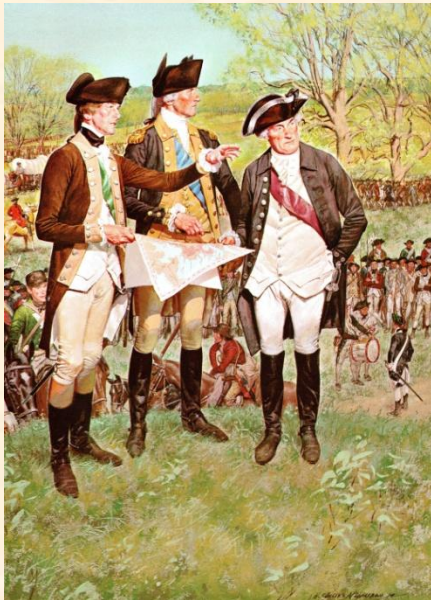
The Stamp Act of 1765 put a tax on legal documents such as wills, diplomas, and marriage papers. It also taxed newspapers, almanacs, playing cards, and even dice. All items named in the law had to carry a stamp showing the tax was paid. When the British tried to enforce the Stamp Act, the colonists protested. Riots broke out in New York City, Newport and Charleston. Angry colonists threw rocks at tax agents and help public protests.



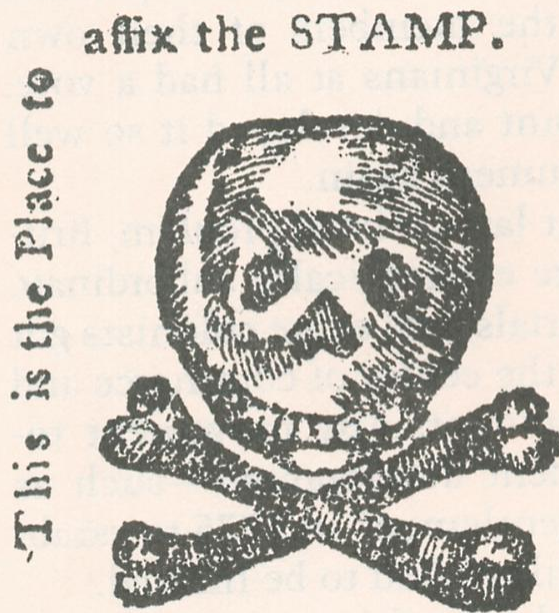
The Sugar and Stamp Act

- The Sugar and Stamp act started in the year of 1765.
- The Parliament played a very important part in these acts. They were the people that passed the laws. They said that whenever you buy sugar from another country you had to pay an extra tax. They also said that whenever you buy a paper product you had to have a special stamp put on it to show that you paid for it.
- The cost of sugar went up and this made the colonists mad because they might not have the money to pay for the sugar they needed.
- Almost all of the paper products you used had to have a certain stamp and this made the colonists mad because they didn't want a stupid stamp put on their paper products just to show they paid for it.

The British could not understand why the colonists were so angry. The British just protected the colonies from the French in a war. The colonists reacted by stating that the taxes were unjust. They claimed there should be no taxes without representation. The colonists argue that only elected officials can vote on the right to pass taxes. The Parliament had no right to tax them because they did not elect the members of the Parliament. The Stamp Act brought a sense of unity in the colonies. In October 1765, nine colonies sent delegates to what became known as the Stamp Act Congress. The colonists drew up petitions and letters to King George III and to the Parliament. In these petitions they rejected the Stamp Act. And stated that the Parliament had no right to tax the colonies.



The colonists took other steps to change the law. They joined together to boycott British goods. To boycott means to refuse to buy certain goods and services. The boycott caused trade to fall 14 percent. In 1766, Parliament repealed, or cancelled the Stamp Act.



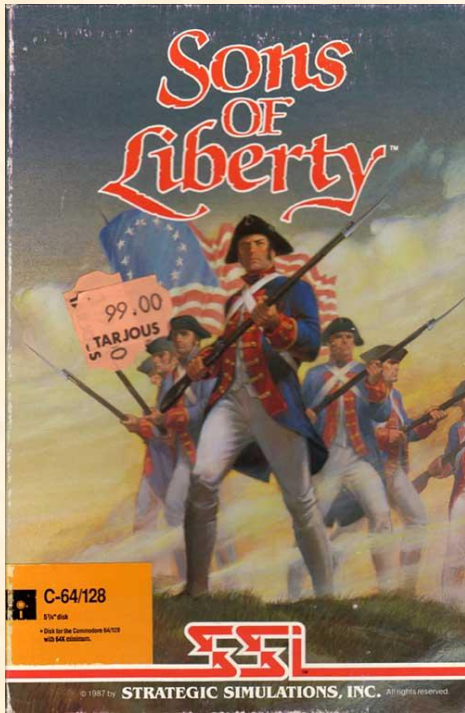


More Taxes

In May 1767, Parliament continued the debate over taxing the colonies. In the next month, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts. Which taxed goods such as glass, paper, paint, tea and lead. The taxes were low, but the colonists still objected. The colonists said again, no taxation without representation.

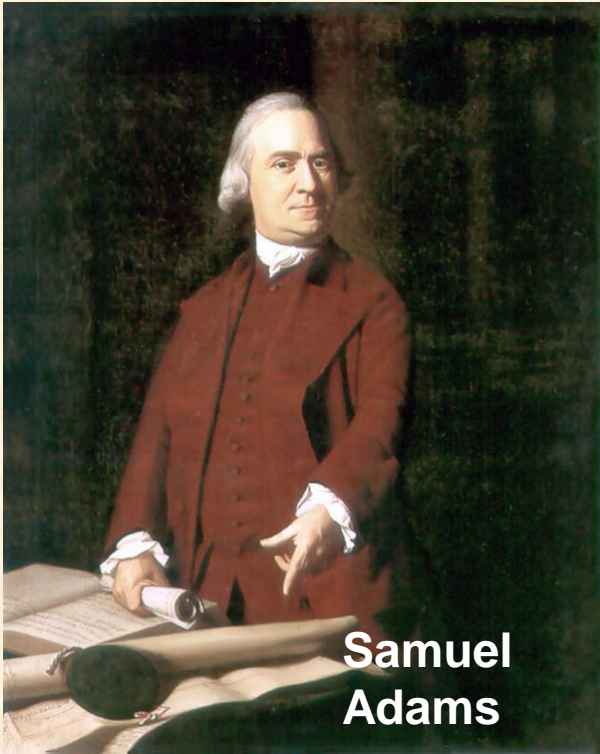
Colonists Fight Back

The colonists' response to the Townshend Acts was loud and clear. From north to south, storekeepers signed the nonimportation agreements. In these agreements, they promised to stop importing goods taxed by the Townshend Acts. The colonists hoped the new boycott would repeal the Townshend Acts. Some angry colonists joined the Sons of Liberty. This group was first formed during the Stamp Act. The Sons of Liberty was a protest group against the British policies. Women also joined together and called their group the Daughters of Liberty.



Leaders in the Struggle

During the struggle over taxes, leaders emerged in all the colonies: In Massachusetts, Samuel Adams organized a Committee of Correspondence, which he wrote letters and pamphlets reporting on the events in Massachusetts. Adam's cousin, John Adams was another important leader in Massachusetts. John Adams was a lawyer. His knowledge of British law earned him much respect.

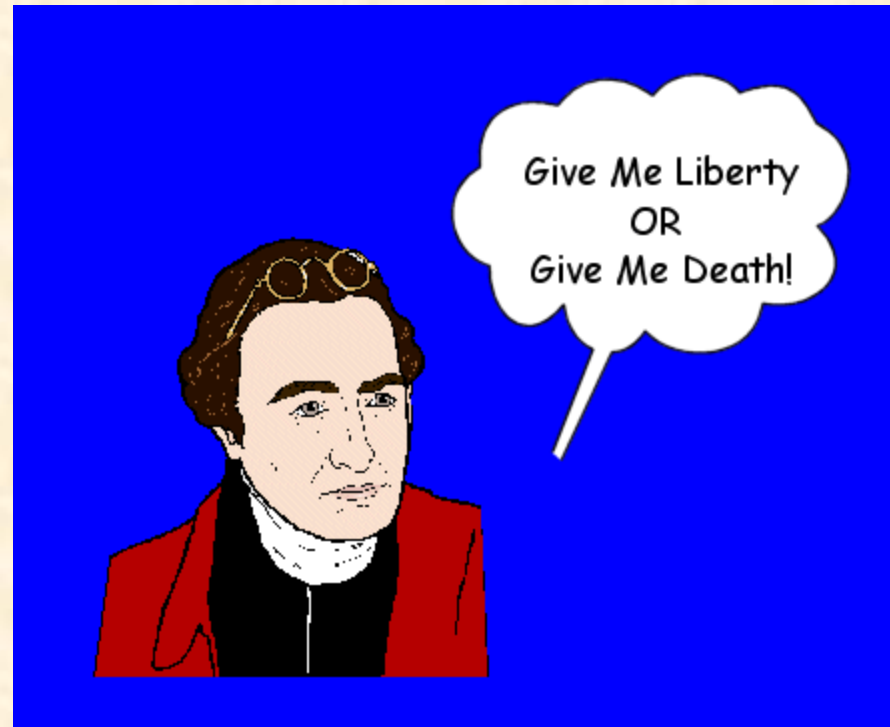
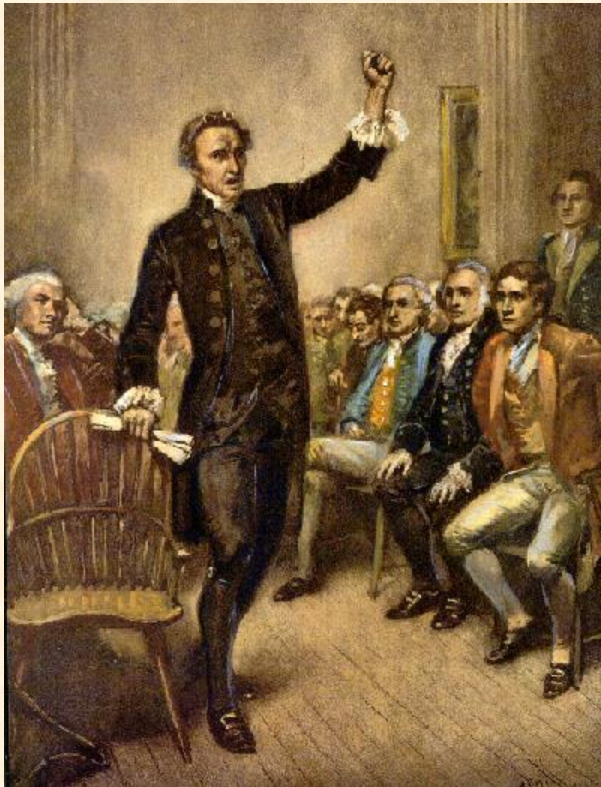


Samuel
Adams



John
Adams

In Virginia, George Washington joined with other Virginians to protest the Townshend Acts. A Young man, Patrick Henry, gave speeches that attacked British policies.



Centers of Protest

Port cities such as Boston and New York City were centers of protest. In New York, a dispute rose over the Quartering Act. Under that law, colonists had to provide housing, candles, bedding and beverages to British soldiers stationed in the colonies. New Yorkers saw the law as another way to tax them without their approval. Britain also sent soldiers into Boston to bully the citizens and protect the British tax collectors and officials.



The Quartering Act

The Quartering act was when the colonists refused to house and feed the soldiers that were sent to protect them.

"I will not feed or house any soldiers!"

By Calixta S. Geneva G.



The Boston Massacre

On the night of March 5, 1770, a crowd gathered outside the Boston Commons House. Colonists shouted insults to the British soldiers, calling them “lobster-backs.” They also threw snowballs, oyster shells and chunks of ice at the soldiers. The crowd grew louder and rowdier. Suddenly the soldiers panicked and fired into the crowd. When the smoke from the muskets cleared, five people were dead. Sam Adams quickly wrote to the other colonists about the shooting. He called the shooting the Boston Massacre. The news of the massacre spread and the colonists’ outrage grew tremendously. The soldiers were brought to trial and were defended by Sam Adams. The British soldiers received light sentences because the crowd of people provoked them.

The Repeal of the Townshend Acts

By chance, on the day of the Boston Massacre, Parliament voted to repeal most of the Townshend Acts. British merchants were hurt by the Nonimportation Agreements and asked King George III to repeal the taxes. King George agreed only to keep the tax on tea. Many colonists agreed to the tax on tea because it was not so important. For a few years, the colonies remained calm.



To Arms!

On night in July 1774, John Adams stopped at a tavern in eastern Massachusetts. After riding more than 30 miles he was hot and dusty. He asked the innkeeper for a cup of tea. The innkeeper said he would have to drink coffee because the innkeeper refused to sell tea because of the high tax place on tea.

Uproar Over Tea

Tea became popular after it was brought to the colonies in the early 1700's. By the 1770, at least one million Americans drank tea twice a day. The British East India Company brought most tea to the colonies. The company sold the tea to the merchants.

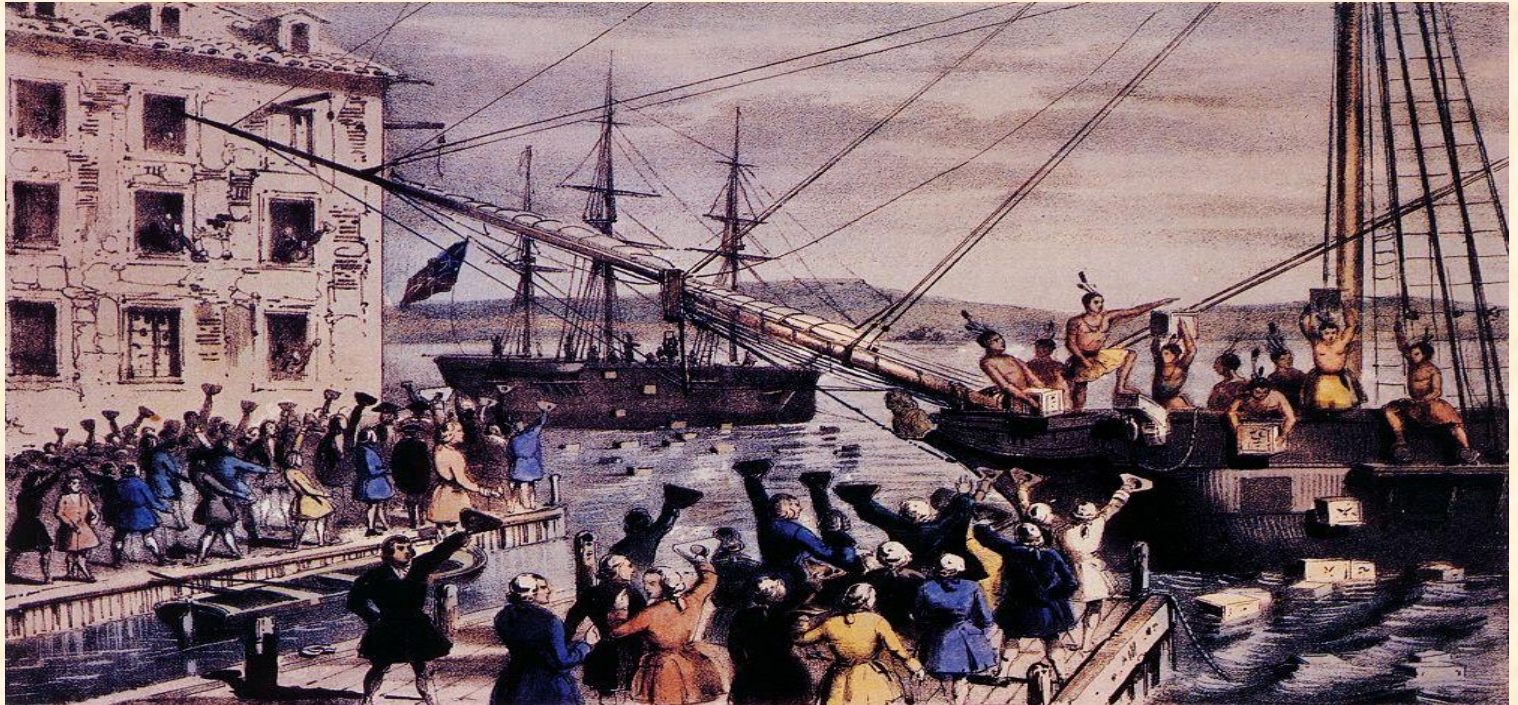


The merchants sold the tea to the colonists. The colonists refused to pay the tax for tea so more than 15 million pounds of tea laid unsold in the East India's warehouse. The colonists resented the tax on tea so they bought less amounts of tea. The parliament passed the [Tea Act](#), in 1773, in order to help the east India Company. *The Tea Act* allowed them to sell their tea directly to the colonists and avoid the merchants. To the surprise of the Parliament, the colonists protested the Tea Act. They still [boycotted](#) tea.



The Boston Tea Party

In late November 1773, three ships carrying tea arrived in Boston harbor. Governor Thomas Hutchinson ordered the captain to pay the required taxes for the tea. If the taxes were not paid in 20 days the governor would seize the cargo and have it sold. The deadline was Thursday December 16th. All the people in Boston wondered what the Sons of Liberty were going to do about this situation. They wanted the ships to sail out of the harbor. A group of men dressed like Mohawk Indians burst onto the ship and dumped the tea into the Boston Harbor. By 10:00 P.M. All the tea from the ship was dumped into the harbor. This event was called the Boston Tea Party.





Britain Strikes Back

It was never disclosed who organized the Boston Tea Party. Britain was outraged with the tea party. In 1774 the Parliament acted to punish the colonists in Massachusetts. First the Parliament shut down the port of Boston. No ship could enter or leave the harbor. Not even a small boat!

Second

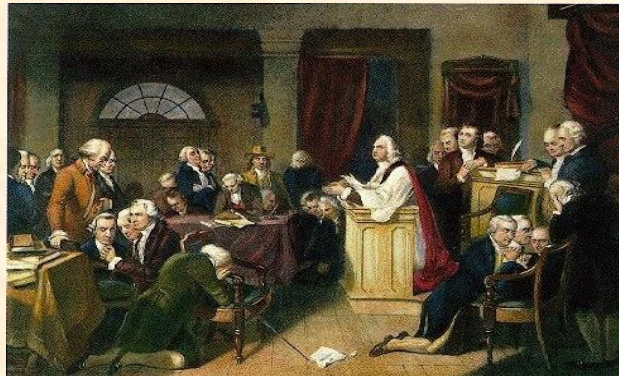
Parliament forbade colonists to have town meetings without the governor's permission. In the past town meetings did not require permission.

Third

Parliament provided for customs officers and other officials charged with major crimes to be tried in Britain instead of Massachusetts. Massachusetts's colonists protested these acts.

Fourth

Parliament passed the new **Quartering Act**. No longer would British soldiers ("red coats") camp in tents in the Boston Common. They now forced citizens to house the British soldiers. Colonists called these laws the **Intolerable Acts** because they were so harsh. The news of the Intolerable Acts spread. People responded to help the colonists in Boston.



The First Continental Congress

In response to Intolerable Acts, colonial leaders called a meeting in Philadelphia. In September 1774, delegates from twelve colonies gathered in what became known as the First Continental Congress. After much debate, the delegates passed over a solution backing Massachusetts in the struggle against the entire Intolerable Acts. They agreed to boycott all British goods and a stop exporting goods to Britain until the harsh laws were repealed. The delegates set up their own militia. A militia is an army of citizens who serve as soldiers during an emergency. The delegates organized soldiers called minutemen. They were called minutemen because they were able to get ready to fight in a minute's time.



The Shot Heard Around the World

The British organized and prepared their troops for battle against the colonists. 4,000 more soldiers were brought from Great Britain to fight the colonists. Soon there were clashes between the colonists and soldiers that led to battles in Lexington and Concord. This was the start of the battles for our new independent nation.



The End