

Road to the American

Revolution

1754-1783

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AP U S History



The French and Indian War

Seven Years War



The Seven Years' War was fought between 1754 and 1763, the main conflict occurring in the seven-year period from 1756 to 1763.

- The Seven Years' War pitted the alliance of Britain, Prussia and Hanover against the alliance of France, Austria, Sweden, Saxony, Russia, and eventually Spain.
- The war was driven by the commercial and imperial rivalry between Britain and France, and by the antagonism between Prussia (allied to Britain) and Austria (allied to France).
- The Seven Years' War was the **first global war**, fought in Europe, India, and America, and at sea.

The Seven Years War

In the Seven Years War Prussia fought against France in Europe.

England fought against France in the Caribbean, India and North America.

- In North America, imperial rivals **Britain** and **France** struggled for supremacy
- Native Americans defeated British troops under general **Edward Braddock**.
- The British Prime Minister **William Pitt** decided that England would pay the war no matter what the cost.
- Eventually the colonies would pay tax expenses of the war.
- **The fall of Quebec and Montreal** ended the French Indian War



Map of the Seven Years War

The Iroquois Confederation

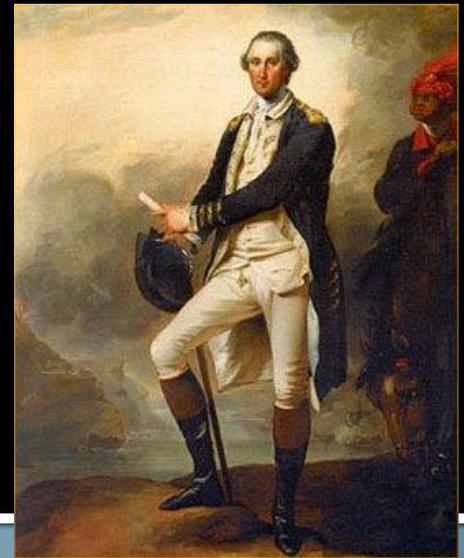


- Six indigenous nations of the Great Lakes.
- Neutral with the French and the British.
- They exchanged furs and other goods with both Nations.



The British invaded the Valley of the Ohio River, causing pressures between France and England, as they allied to the Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and the Tuscarora of the Iroquois Confederacy.

George Washington



- ❑ The French built several forts protecting their settlements along the river in the Ohio Valley.
- ❑ He was appointed in command of the militia to challenge the French expansion by Governor Robert Dinwiddie .
- ❑ Washington established Fort Necessity in the current city of Pittsburgh near the French Fort Duquesne.
- ❑ The French attacked and he was defeated, but was proclaimed a hero in returning to Virginia.

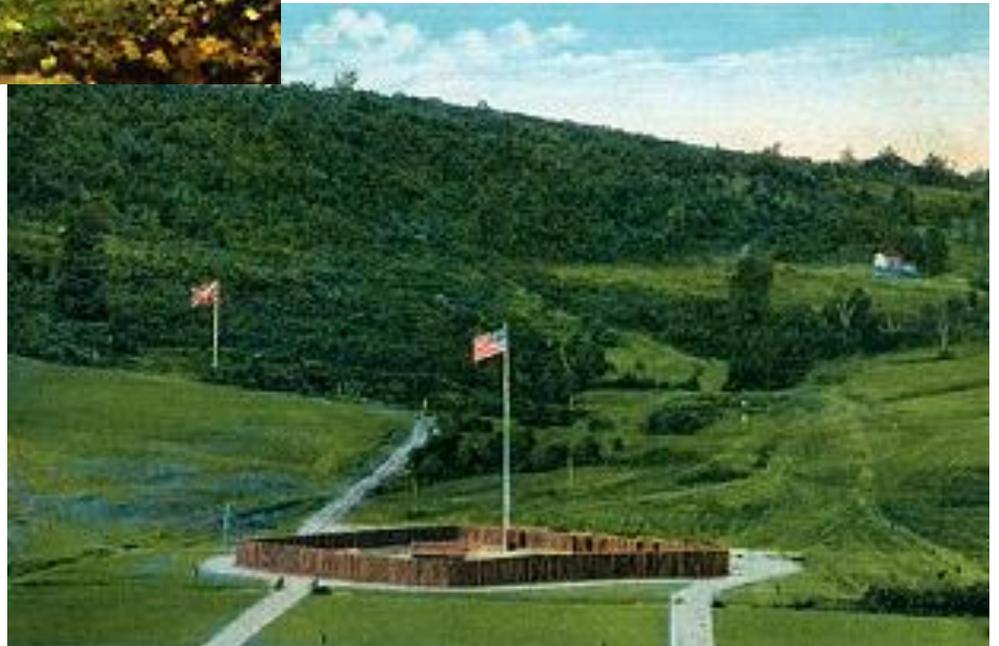


Fort Duquesne

600 soldiers and
French fur traders
lived here.

Fort Necessity

Built by the 150 militia
of Washington in five
days.

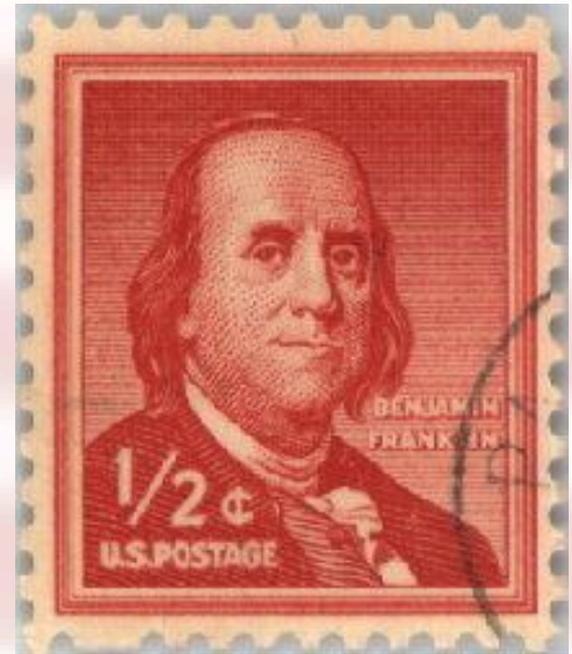




Albany Plan of Union

Albany Plan of Union

- ❑ Developed by **Benjamin Franklin** to join the eleven colonies in one central Government to protect themselves from the French.
- ❑ No colony supported the plan. They did not want to lose control of their own territories.
- ❑ Albany failed. Iroqui Confederation broke relations with British and traded with the French.



First reference to a **Union Plan in the American British colonies.**

Proclamation of 1763



Proclaimed that land west of the Appalachian Mountains temporarily off limits to settlements.

British halt Westward Expansion to minimize costs in maintaining a military force to secure the Frontier.

Colonists upset. Especially those who had bought shares in companies or bought land in the newly captured territories.

This creates a fragile peace between the British and the Native Americans.

Who is especially unhappy about the French loss?



Pontiac's War

- British Trappers and Settlers refuse to pay Native Americans for the use of the land.
- Chief Pontiac puts together a Native American Alliance and strikes back at the British.
- Pontiac fails to capture key terrain.
- Pontiac's War ends in 1765.

William Pitt decides to fund the war through the British Treasury and through loans.

This relieves the American colonists from fronting the bill for the war.

After the war is over, Britain must settle its debts and pay for a standing army in America.

In order to do this they decide to have the colonists bear some of the burden for their own defense.

No Taxation Without Representation

No Taxation Without Representation

Sugar Act: taxes on imports of molasses and raw sugar (and silk, wine, coffee, pimento and indigo). (American Revenue Act of 1764)

Currency Act: prohibited American colonist from issuing their own currency.

Stamp Act: required stamps to be purchased and placed on newspapers, almanacs, pamphlets, legal documents, and playing cards.

Townshend Act: taxes on glass, lead, candles, paper, and tea.



Tar and Feathering

American patriots used it to wage a war of intimidation against British tax collectors.

Writs of Assistance, 1761

Were enacted by the British, enforced by customs officers; general search warrant that gave British officials a “carte blanche” to search civilian property. They were meant to enforce Navigation acts, aid British officials in America. Colonists were outraged and tensions increased.

Writs of Assistance



“ An act against the Constitution is void; an act against natural equity is void. Taxation without representation is tyranny.” *James Otis, Arguments Against the Writs of Assistance, 1761*

The Boston Massacre

(March 5, 1770)



The Boston Massacre was a street fight that occurred on March 5, 1770, between a "patriot" mob, throwing snowballs, stones, and sticks, and a squad of British soldiers.

The presence of British troops in the city of Boston was unwelcome.

The riot began when about 50 citizens attacked a British sentinel. A British officer called in additional soldiers and these too were attacked, so the soldiers fired into the mob, killing 3 on the spot.

A black, African-Indian American sailor named **Crispus Attucks** became a martyr for the cause against the British.

This led to a campaign by speech-writers to rouse the ire of the citizenry.

The Gaspee Affair (1772)



Providence, Rhode Island coast

Lieutenant William Duddington, of Her Majesty's Ship Gaspee, was in charge with patrolling the waters of Narragansett Bay, off Rhode Island.

He was an overzealous enforcer; boarding and detaining vessels and confiscating cargoes, often without charge, and without recourse for merchants whose goods were impounded.

Losses were mounting and it was believed that these harassments were directed at members of the **Sons of Liberty**.

A local vessel out of Newport was under way to Providence when it baited the HMS Gaspee into shallow waters. A group of 50 men boarded the ship and looted it.

Rather than attempt to prosecute the attackers, charges were brought against Lt. Duddington for illegally seizing goods.

Though the identities of the perpetrators were widely known, the investigation against them was fruitless. No arrest was ever made.

Virginia House of Burgesses

and Thomas Jefferson

Warn neighboring colonies about incidents with Britain.

Unified the colonies and shaped public opinion.

Broaden the resistance movement.

Committees of Correspondence

British East India Company:

- Monopoly on English tea imports.
- Many members of English Parliament held shares.
- Permitted the Company to sell tea directly to the colonies without colonial middlemen (cheaper tea!)

 Lord North expected the colonies to choose the cheaper tea.



Tea Act (1773)

The arrival of three tea ships in Boston ignited a furious reaction of 7,000 agitated locals at the wharf where the ships were docked.

A mass meeting at the Old South Meeting House that morning resolved that the tea ships should leave the harbor without payment of any duty or tax.

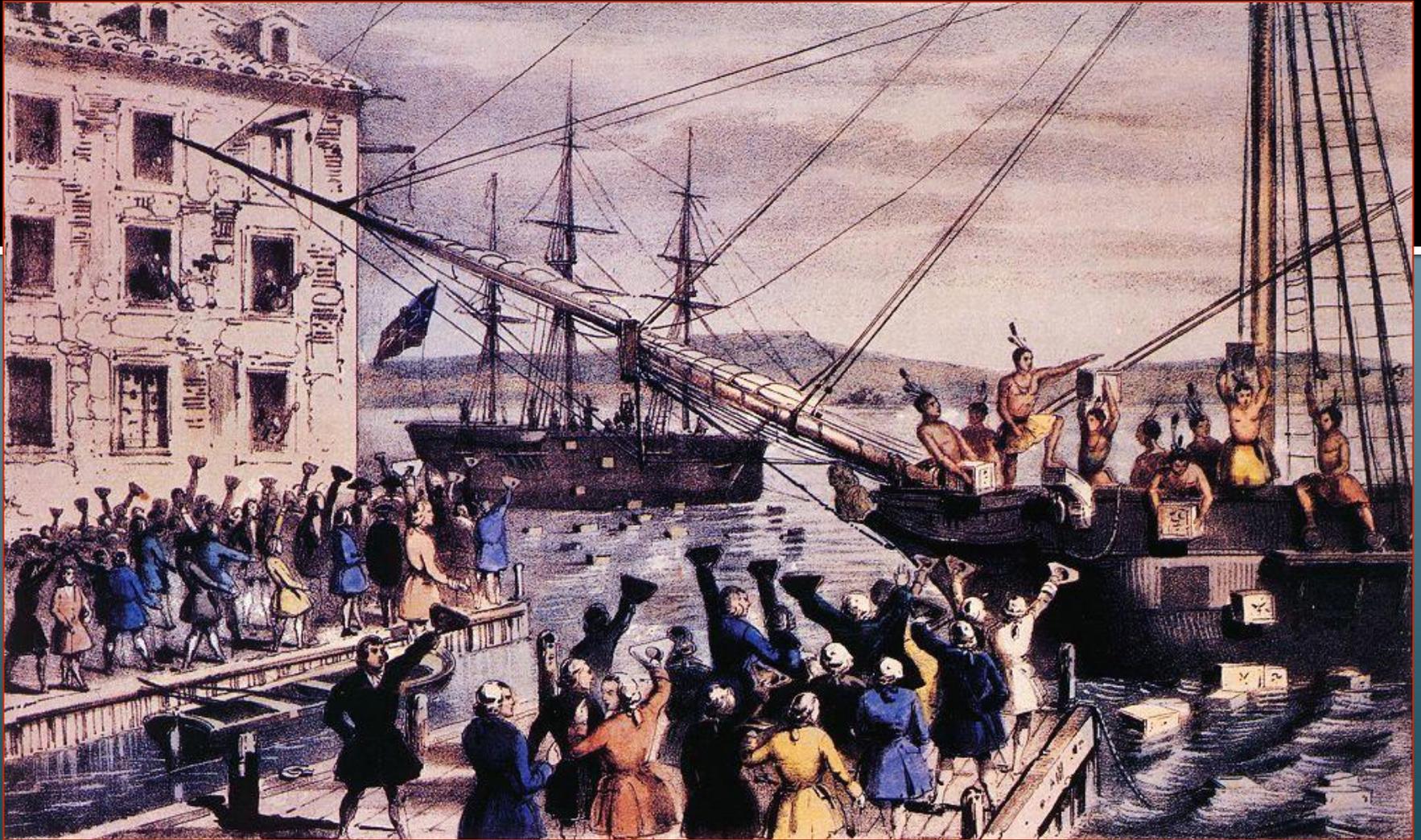
A committee was selected to take this message to the **Customs House** to force release of the ships out of the harbor.

The **Collector of Customs** refused to allow the ships to leave without payment of the duty and there was a stalemate.

The committee reported back to the mass at the meeting hall and in early evening, a group of about 200 men, some disguised as Indians, assembled on a near-by hill.

Singing war chants, the crowd marched two-by-two to the wharf, descended upon the three ships and dumped their offending cargoes of tea into the harbor waters. This event is known as the **Boston Tea Party**.

Boston Tea Party (1773)



George Hewes, Samuel Adams and John Hancock took part in the raid.

King George III “Intolerable Acts”

- The Royal Navy blockades the Boston Harbor so no colonial goods could be sent out until tea was paid for.
- Colonists had to quarter the British soldiers.
- The King assigned British General Gage to be Massachusetts governor.



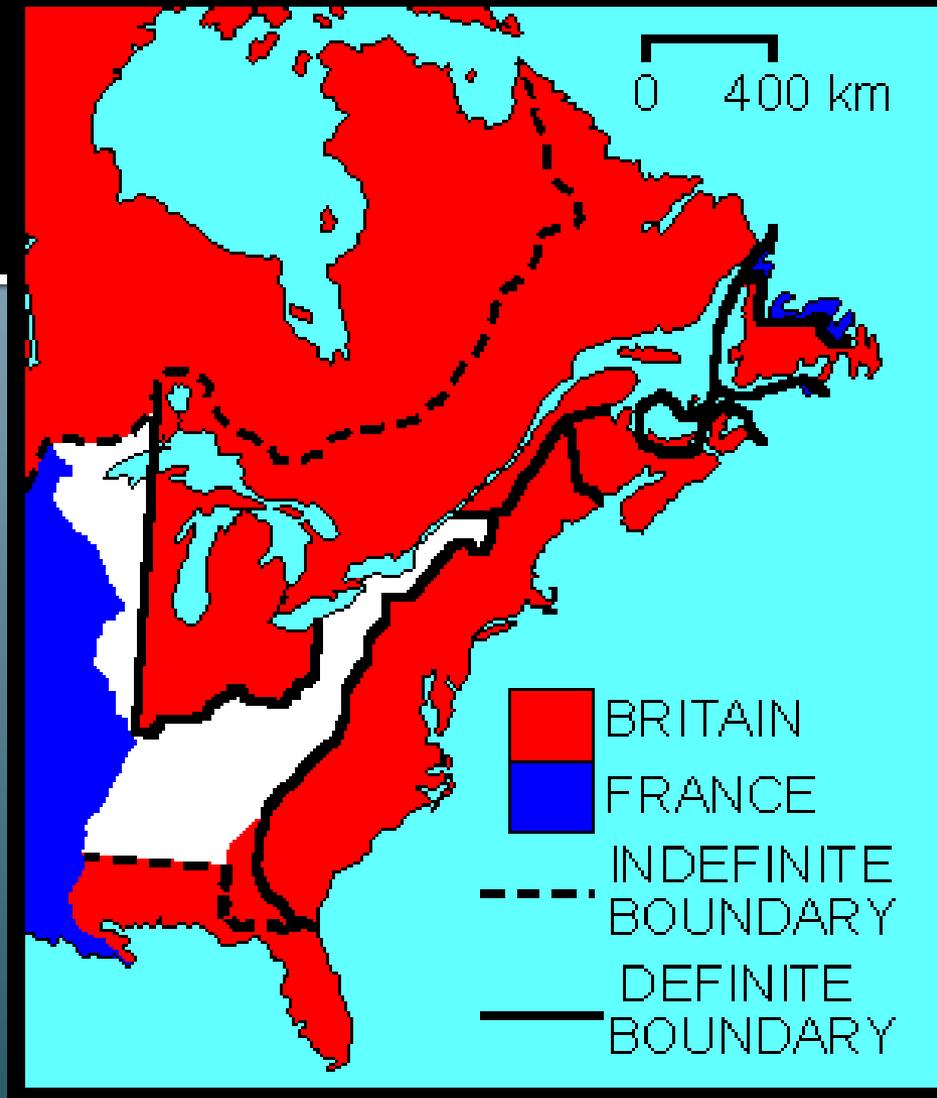


Lord North, prime minister of
England

1. Boston Port Act
2. Massachusetts Government Act
3. New Quartering Act
4. Administration of Justice Act

The Coercive or Intolerable Acts (1774)

The Quebec Act (1774)



The Quebec Act provided for the following:

- A new governor and council were to be appointed to govern affairs in Quebec.
- The French civil code was officially recognized for use in Quebec, but English law would continue to prevail in criminal matters.
- The Roman Catholic Church in Quebec was officially recognized; Catholics were previously ineligible for public office, but now could qualify by taking an oath of loyalty to Britain.
- The administrative boundaries of Quebec were extended south to the Ohio and west to the Mississippi rivers; this last-minute provision was an admission that the Proclamation Line of 1763, and Indian policy in general, had been a massive failure.
- Many Americans missed the distinction and regarded the law as simply another "Intolerable Act."

First Continental Congress (1774)

How to respond to the Coercive Act & the Quebec Act?

55 delegates from 12 colonies attended, except Georgia.

1 vote per colony represented.



The Suffolk Resolves



Declaration of Rights and Grievances

The Massachusetts Provincial Congress - *the minutemen militia*

"To these grievous acts and measures, Americans cannot submit, but in hopes their fellow subjects in Great Britain will, on a revision of them, restore us to that state, in which both countries found happiness and prosperity..."
First Continental Congress

The Suffolk Resolves

The Suffolk Resolves was a declaration made on September 9, 1774 by the leaders of Suffolk County, Massachusetts, of which Boston is the major city.

The declaration rejected the **Massachusetts Government Act** and resolved on a boycott of imported goods from Britain unless the **Intolerable Acts** were repealed.

“The British Are Coming . . .”



Paul Revere & *William Dawes* make their midnight ride to warn the *Minutemen* of approaching British soldiers.

The Shot Heard 'Round the World!



Lexington & Concord – April 18, 1775

British-American Colonial Tensions

Colonials

British

Methods of Fighting:

- Indian-style guerilla tactics.

- March in formation or bayonet charge.

Military Organization:

- Col. militias served under own captains.

- British officers wanted to take charge of colonials.

Military Discipline:

No military deference or protocols observed.

- Drills & tough discipline.

Finances:

- Resistance to rising taxes.

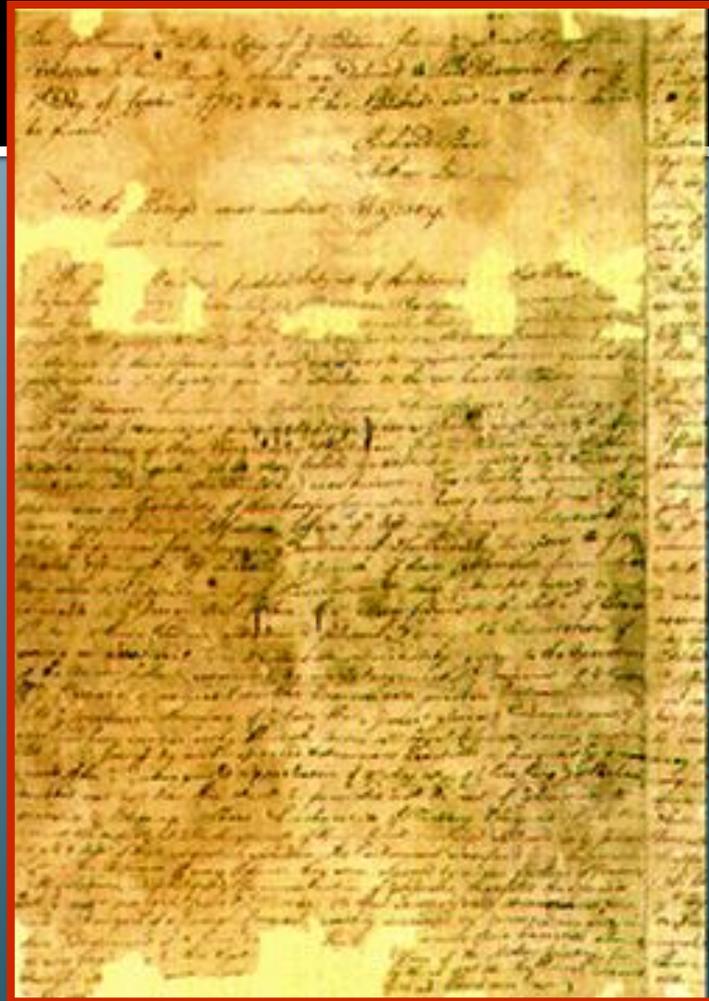
- Colonists should pay for their own defense.

Demeanor:

- Casual, non-professionals.

- Prima Donna Britain officers with servants & tea settings.

The Second Continental Congress (1775)



The Congress was divided into three factions:

A group of conservatives led by **John Dickinson** who fought to compel Great Britain to return to pre-1763 conditions.

A second group, directed by **Thomas Jefferson**, believed that “British parliament had no right to exercise authority over us” and considered the king as a sole and final authority. This second group had the support of the majority of members of congress.

A third more radical group supported by **Samuel Adams** and **John Adams** favored total independence from Great Britain, however it was too radical a demand to be made public.

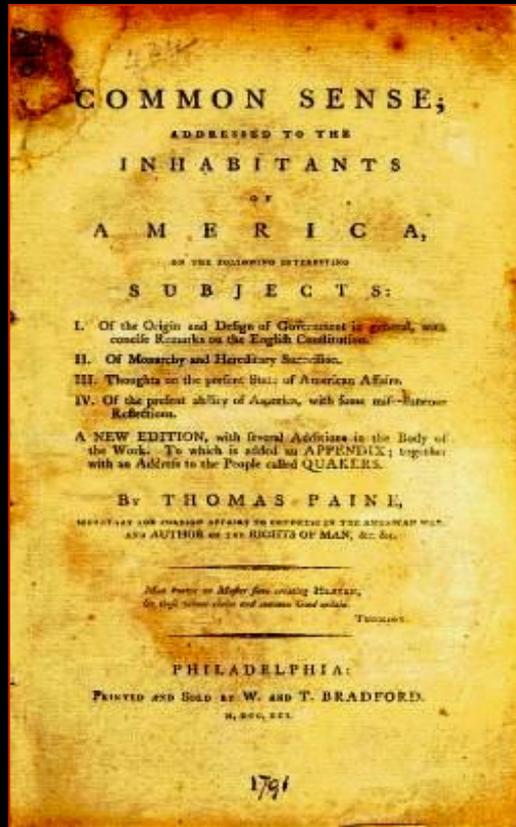
Continental Army
George Washington
Battle of Bunker Hill



Was the
American Revolution
Inevitable?

Loyalists (Tories) vs Patriots (Whigs)

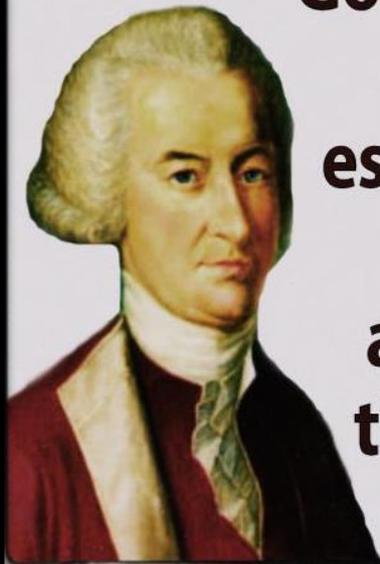
Thomas Paine's Common Sense



Published in 1776, *Common Sense* challenged the authority of the British government and the royal monarchy. The plain language that Paine used spoke to the common people of America and was the first work to openly ask for independence from Great Britain.

The Olive Branch Petition

John Dickinson



**"Governments could not
give the rights
essential to happiness.
We claim them from
a higher source: from
the King of kings, and
Lord of all the earth."**

The petition was approved by Congress on July 5, 1775 and sent to King George III three days later. It abided loyalty to him but disapproved colonial policy issued by parliament.

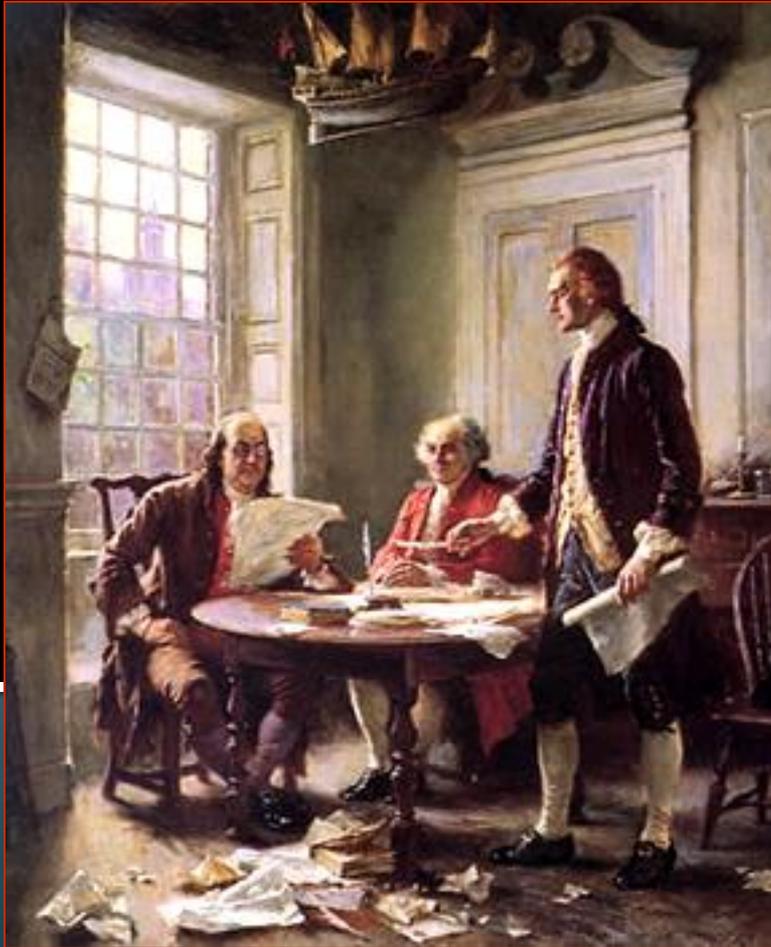
It claimed that the colonies were not demanding independence but wanted to negotiate taxation and trade policy.

Just as the Olive Branch petition was about to reach the King, a confiscated letter written by John Adams reached the hands of the King.

In it John Adams expressed his discontent with the petition stating that war was inevitable.

The King refused to accept the petition and declared the colonies in a state of rebellion.

Declaration of Independence (1776)



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inalienable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Maladministration of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

- For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;
- For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;
- For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;
- For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;
- For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;
- For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;
- For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same arbitrary Rule into these Colonies;
- For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Form of our Governments;
- For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.
- He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
- He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.
- He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to conquest the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Age, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.
- He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and

Preamble

Explains why the Continental Congress drew up the Declaration.

Natural Rights

Declared the rights of people to life, liberty and property.

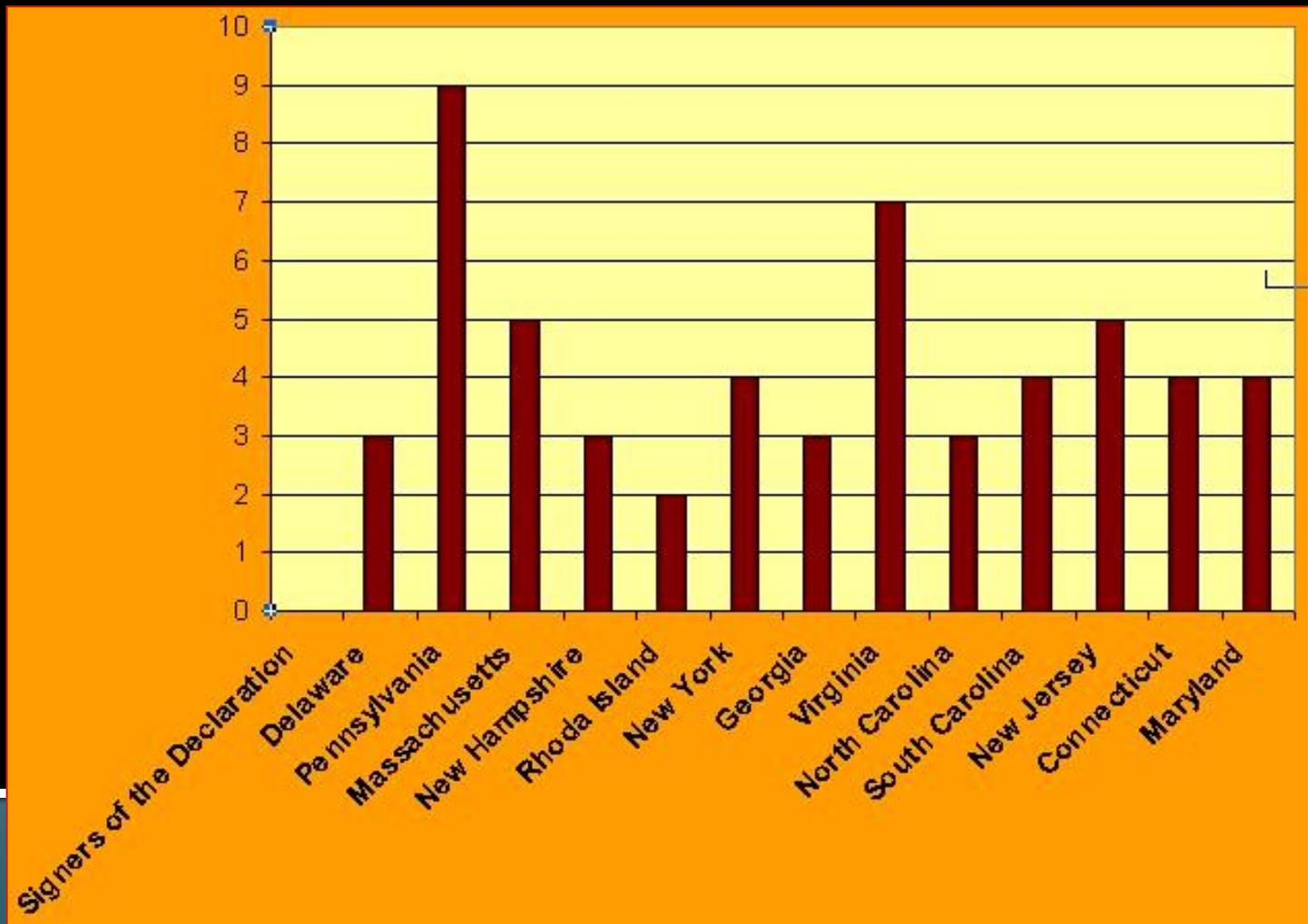
List of Grievances

Colonies complaints against the English and King George III.

Resolution of Independence

Declares the colonies free and independent states.

Signers of the Declaration



**Most members of the Congress signed the document on
August 2, 1776**

The colonies had become the
United States of America



The American Revolution had begun...