
CHAPTER 3

AMERICA IN THE

BRITISH EMPIRE

The American Nation:
A History of the United States, 13th edition
Carnes/Garraty

THE BRITISH COLONIAL SYSTEM

- Colonies had great deal of freedom after initial settlement due to
 - British political inefficiency
 - Distance
- External affairs were controlled entirely by London but, in practice, the initiative in local matters was generally yielded to the colonies
 - Reserved right to veto actions deemed contrary to national interest
- By 18th Century, colonial governors (except Connecticut and Rhode Island) were appointed by either the king or proprietors

THE BRITISH COLONIAL SYSTEM

■ Governors

- executed local laws
- appointed many minor officials
- summoned and dismissed the colonial assemblies
- proposed legislation to them
- had power to veto colonial laws

- They were also financially dependent on their “subjects”

THE BRITISH COLONIAL SYSTEM

- Each colony had a legislature of two houses (except Pennsylvania which only had one)
 - Lower House: chosen by qualified voters, had general legislative powers, including control of purse
 - Upper House: appointed by king (except Massachusetts where elected by General Court) and served as advisors to the governor
- Judges were appointed by king
- Both judges and councilors were normally selected from leaders of community
 - System tended to strengthen the influence of entrenched colonials
- Legislators came to dominate colonial politics through slow accretion

THE BRITISH COLONIAL SYSTEM

- Official representatives of the Crown were prisoners of their surroundings
 - Served at whim of government in London
 - Had few jobs or favors to offer
 - Judges might rule on English precedent but colonial juries had the final word
- King's Privy Council formulated colonial policy
 - Could annul specific colonial laws
 - Acted as a court of last appeal in colonial disputes
 - Dealt with cases individually, did not make blanket colonial policy
- Despite occasional crown attempts to combine colonies, they often went their own ways
 - 1704 Delaware separated from Pennsylvania
 - 1712 North and South Carolina separated

THE BRITISH COLONIAL SYSTEM

- The Board of Trade, instituted in 1696, came to determine colonial policy
 - Nominated colonial governors and other high officials
 - Reviewed all laws passed by the colonial legislatures
 - Recommended annulment of those that conflicted with imperial policy (only about 5% suffered this fate)
- Colonies sent agents to London to represent their view before board

MERCANTALISM

- Colonies were important as a source of raw materials
 - Gold and silver were universally valued so the more a nation had, the more it was seen as powerful and prosperous
- Mid-17th Century developed concept of favorable balance of trade—sold more than bought by being self-sufficient and producing items sought elsewhere
 - If there was an unfavorable balance, had to make up difference with gold or silver
 - Colonies were viewed as a means to obtain a favorable balance of trade



MERCANTALISM

- Tropical and subtropical English colonies supplied raw materials
- More northerly ones were seen as markets
- In 1680 the sugar from Barbados was worth more than the goods sent by all the mainland colonies
- Trade was at the center of wealth
 - Required goods to sell
 - Encouraged manufacturing by placing tariffs on foreign manufactured goods and subsidizing British made textiles, iron and other products



THE NAVIGATION ACTS

- A series of laws enacted over half a century and designed to
 - bring gold and silver into the Royal Treasury
 - develop the Imperial Merchant Fleet
 - channel the flow of colonial raw materials into England
 - keep foreign goods and vessels out of colonial ports
- Began in 1650s in response to competition with the Dutch

THE NAVIGATION ACTS

- Navigation Act of 1660
 - reserved the entire trade of the colonies to English ships and required the captain and three-quarters of his crew be English
 - Certain “enumerated articles”—sugar, tobacco, cotton, ginger, and dyes—could not be moved outside the empire
- 1663: required all European products bound for colonies to go through England
- Early 18th Century enumerated items expanded to include rice, molasses, naval stores, furs, and copper

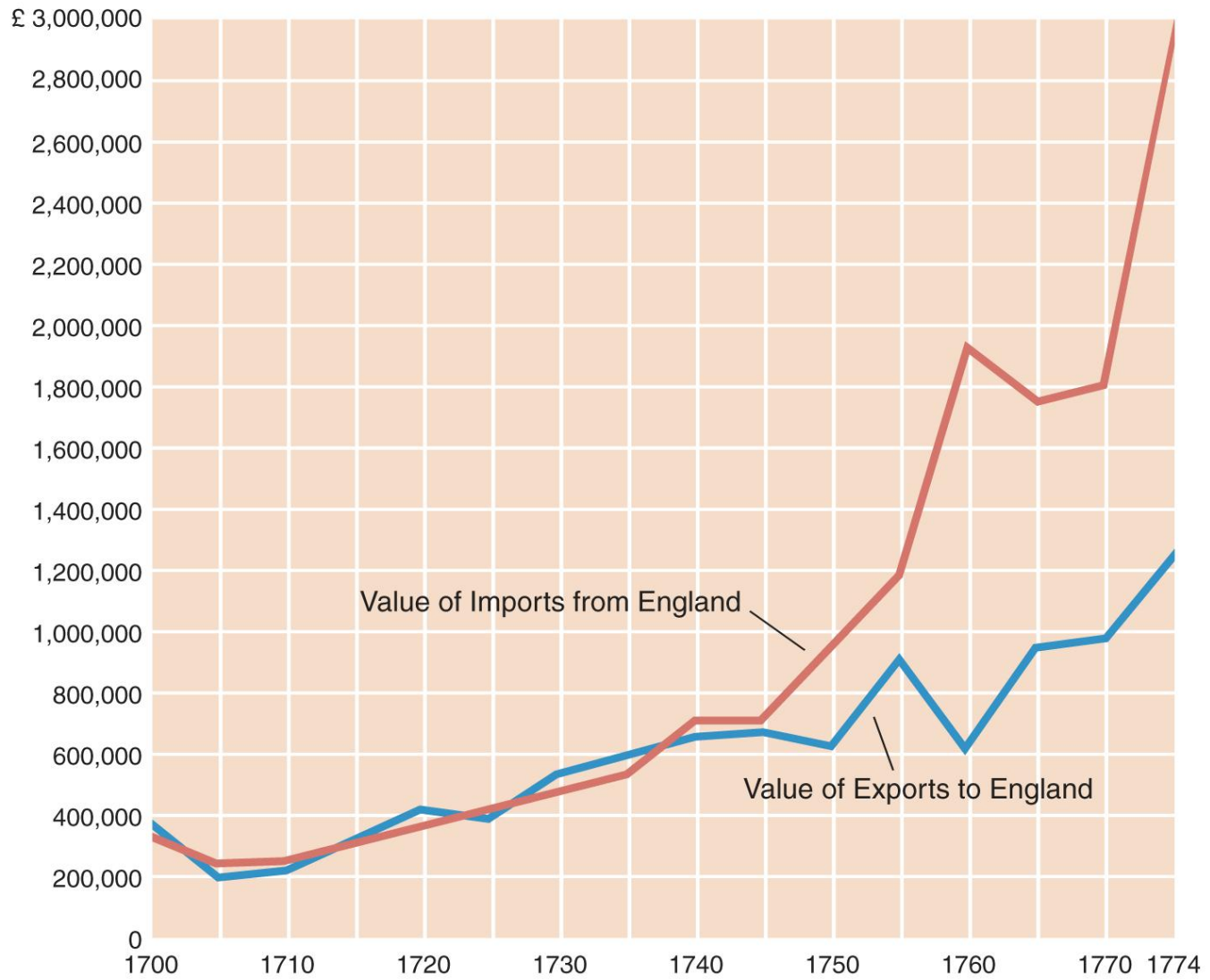
THE NAVIGATION ACTS

- Essentially symbiotic relationship
 - Crown prohibited growing of tobacco in England and paid bounties to colonial producers of indigo and naval stores
- There were restrictions put on colonies
 - 1699 Wool Act prohibited export of colonial woolen cloth
 - Aimed primarily at Irish woolens
 - 1732 similar act regarding hats
 - 1750 Iron Act outlawed construction of new rolling and slitting mills in America
 - Designed to steer American iron industry—eliminated duties on colonial pig and bar iron—not destroy it

THE EFFECTS OF MERCANTALISM

- Colonists complained about the situation but what was the truth?
- Colonies had unfavorable balance of trade which did mean shortage of specie but also meant England was investing capital in colonies
- Colonial products for which there was no market in England went straight to foreign ports
- Most colonial manufacturing was not affected by English law
- Shipbuilding benefited from Navigation Acts

5-Year Averages (1774: 4-Year Average)



★ Colonial Trade with England, 1700–1774

THE EFFECTS OF MERCANTALISM

- Two issues to keep in mind:
 1. When there was a conflict of interest, Mother Country always won—would become a problem as colonial economy grew and became more complicated
 2. Mercantilist effects were blunted by inefficiency, especially in the face of local resistance
- Mercantilism hurt some colonists (tobacco growers) but helped many others
- Colonies enjoyed almost continual prosperity and England profited greatly
- Mercantilism merely steered colonial economy in direction likely to take due to ties of language and heritage

THE GREAT AWAKENING

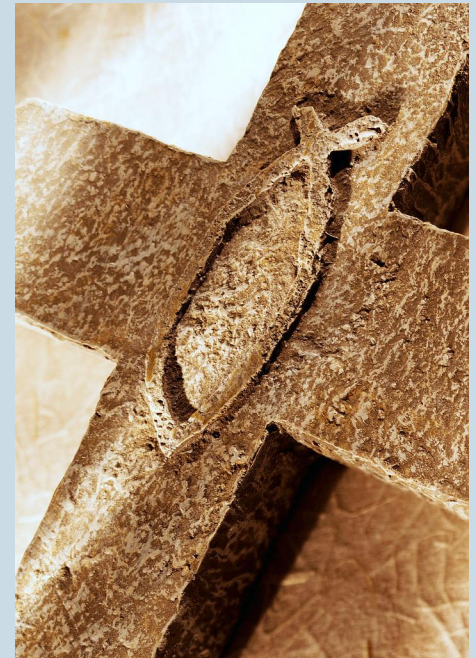
- By 1750, the term “American” entered language as designation for something characteristic of all British possessions
- Early 18th Century slackening of religious fervor was result of:
 - prosperity
 - proliferation of denominations making it impracticable to enforce regular observance
 - frontier settlers beyond reach of church or clergy

THE GREAT AWAKENING

- Response to slackening of religion was Great Awakening of 1740s
 - 1720s two new ministers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania tried to instill evangelical spirit and zeal they had witnessed in Europe
 - 1738 Reverend George Whitfield, a marvelous orator, arrived in Georgia and then went on fundraising tour of colonies
- Whitfield's tour attracted huge audiences, indoors and out, and released an epidemic of religious emotionalism

THE GREAT AWAKENING

- Preached simplified religion
- Chastised listeners as sinners but left them with hope of salvation
- God was responsive to good intentions
- Encouraged listeners to disregard sectarian differences



THE GREAT AWAKENING

- Churches split into factions that tended to run on class lines
 - Those who supported the incumbent minister (often the better off)—“Old Lights” among Congregationalists and “Old Sides” among Presbyterians
 - Those who favored revivalism—“New Lights” or “New Sides”
- Many were deeply moved by new ideas
 - Those chafing under puritan authority
 - Those guilty of over preoccupation with material goods
- Helped undermine traditional views of authority

THE GREAT AWAKENING

- In 1741 the president of Yale criticized itinerant preachers and the resulting dispute led to the founding of the College of New Jersey (Princeton University) in 1746 by New Side Presbyterians
- Three other educational institutions followed:
 - College of Rhode Island (Brown University), founded by Baptists in 1765
 - Queen's College (Rutgers University), founded by Dutch Reformers in 1766
 - Dartmouth, founded by New Light Congregationalists in 1769

THE RISE AND FALL OF JONATHAN EDWARDS

- In 1741 Jonathan Edwards delivered his famous sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
- Edwards’ vision that only conversion, not merely good intentions, saved one’s soul led to his dismissal in 1749
- He became a missionary to the Stockbridge Indians and died of smallpox in 1759 before he could take office as President of Princeton

THE RISE AND FALL OF JONATHAN EDWARDS

- By the early 1750s there was a reaction against revivalism which now waned everywhere but in the South
- Great Awakening
 - Caused divisions
 - Fostered religious tolerance
 - First truly national event in American history
- 1754 Benjamin Franklin, drawing on new links forged during Great Awakening, proposed Albany Plan—vision of colonial union to deal with common problems

THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN AMERICA

- Founders of colonies had been contemporaries of
 - Galileo Galilei (1564-1642): astronomer
 - René Descartes (1596-1650): philosopher-mathematician
 - Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727): discoverer of gravity and laws of motion
- New discoveries implied impersonal, scientific laws governed the behavior of all things
- God set in motion and oversaw but rarely interfered
- This meant that since everything was governed by natural laws, not God's will, it was knowable
 - People could control their own destinies

THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN AMERICA

- Result was Age of Reason, which had effect among churchgoing colonists
 - Some repudiated doctrine of original sin and asserted benevolence of God
 - Unitarians doubted divinity of Christ
 - Some, like Benjamin Franklin, embraced Deism, a faith that revered God for the marvels of His universe rather than for His power over humankind
- Writings of political theorists (John Locke) and philosophers (Francis Hutchinson, David Hume, Montesquieu, and Voltaire) had a widespread audience
 - Were discussed by almost everyone

THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN AMERICA

- Ministers lost monopoly on intellectual life
 - 1750s: minority of Harvard and Yale graduates becoming ministers
 - 1751: College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania) and 1754 King's College (Columbia University) were founded but not as training grounds for ministers
- New intellectual elite were...lawyers, at least in public affairs
- On scientific front...doctors and professors of natural history

COLONIAL SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- John Bartram, a Philadelphia Quaker, gathered and classified plants from Florida to the Great Lakes. He also studied Indians.
- Benjamin Franklin
 - 1752 kite experiment
 - Invented lightening rod, Franklin stove, bifocal spectacles, among others
 - Served in Pennsylvania assembly from 1751-1764
 - Founded circulating library
 - Helped get first Philadelphia hospital built
 - Originated idea for the lottery
- Enlightenment values created new forms of community



Franklin

REPERCUSSIONS OF DISTANT WARS

- Imperial powers fought amongst themselves all over the world, including in the colonies, who often contributed to the animosity
- **FISHERIES:** caused trouble between Canadian and New England colonists who fought over harbors in Maine, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland

REPERCUSSIONS OF DISTANT WARS

- FUR TRADE: Over-hunting caused a decrease in animal population and increased contests over hunting grounds
 - French in Canada were allied with Huron and Algonquian, long time enemies of the Five Nations Iroquois of upper New York who traded with Dutch
 - Iroquois preyed upon and eventually destroyed Huron
- When English took over New Amsterdam they took on the Iroquois as allies
- Over next 125 years series of wars between England and France, the two major imperial contenders, were waged



REPERCUSSIONS OF DISTANT WARS

KING WILLIAM'S WAR (1689-1697)

- American phase of the War of the League of Augsburg
- French raided Schenectady, New York, and frontier settlements in New England
- English colonists captured Port Royal, Nova Scotia
- Peace of Ryswick, 1697, restored all captured territory in America to original owners

REPERCUSSIONS OF DISTANT WARS

QUEEN ANNE'S WAR (1702-1713)

- American phase of the War of Spanish Succession, which was fought to prevent the union of France and Spain under the Bourbons
- French inspired Indians razed Deerfield, Massachusetts
- A party of Carolinians burned St. Augustine in Spanish Florida
- New Englanders retook Port Royal
- Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, France yielded Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and the Hudson Bay region to Great Britain

REPERCUSSIONS OF DISTANT WARS

- Colonial battle casualties were proportionately high
- Civilian population of New England and Canada also heavily affected
- Massachusetts taxes went up resulting in the printing of paper money and inflation

REPERCUSSIONS OF DISTANT WARS

KING GEORGE'S WAR (1740-1748)

- American phase of the War of Austrian Succession
- Indian raids on both sides in area of St. Lawrence
- New England force captured the fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island
- Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748 required return of Louisbourg

REPERCUSSIONS OF DISTANT WARS

- Increased friction between colonies and Mother country
- Increased ill will between English and French settlers, especially as colonists blamed the French for all Indian raids
- There were also conflicting colonial land claims:
 - Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Virginia had competing claims in Ohio Valley
 - Pennsylvania and New York also claimed the area
 - French said Ohio Valley was theirs

THE GREAT WAR FOR EMPIRE

- French had forts running from Mackinac Island in northern Michigan to Kaskasia on the Mississippi and Vincennes on the Wabash, and from Niagara in the east to the Bourbon River, near Lake Winnipeg, in the west
- Americans were moving into the Ohio country
 - Fur trader George Croghan built a fort at Pickawillany in 1748 to aid his trade in furs with the Indians
 - Speculators from Virginia who had organized the Ohio Company had also reached the area

THE GREAT WAR FOR EMPIRE

- 1752: French wiped out Croghan's fort and drove the traders back to Pennsylvania
- Then built chain of forts along Pennsylvania border: Fort Presque Isle, Fort Le Boeuf, Fort Venango
- While Pennsylvania ignored it, the Virginia lieutenant governor, heavily invested in the Ohio Company, sent George Washington to warn French they were trespassing
- 1753: French ignore Washington
- 1754: Washington sent back with 150 men to seize a strategic junction
- Disaster that resulted in the start of war with the French

THE GREAT WAR FOR EMPIRE

ENGLISH

- 1.5 million
- Disorganized and divided
- Mismanaged the war
- Failed to make use of local resources
- Continually lost in first years of the war

FRENCH

- 90,000
- Disciplined and united
- Controlled the disputed territory
- Most Indians sided with them
- Indians, especially displaced Delaware, decimated frontier settlements

THE GREAT WAR FOR EMPIRE

- 1756 war spread to Europe and became Seven Years' War
 - Prussia sided with Great Britain
 - Austria sided with France
- 1758: King George II allowed William Pitt to take leadership of the war effort, and Pitt:
 - poured troops into America
 - used the British navy to bottle up enemy fleet and hamper French communications with Canada
 - promoted talented young officers

THE GREAT WAR FOR EMPIRE

- Winter 1758: Fort Duquesne fell and was renamed Fort Pitt
- A string of victories followed including the capture of Quebec (where both British General Wolfe and French General Montcalm were killed)
- 1760 Montréal fell and the French abandoned all of Canada to British
- British also won against Spanish forces in Cuba and Manila, and against French in West Indies and India



★ British Successes, 1758-1763

BRITAIN VICTORIOUS: The Peace of Paris

- Treaty of Paris 1763:
 - France abandoned all claim to North America except for two small islands near Newfoundland
 - Great Britain took over Canada and eastern half of Mississippi Valley
 - Spain got back both Philippine Islands and Cuba but ceded East and West Florida to Great Britain
- In a separate treaty, Spain got New Orleans and the huge area of North America west of the Mississippi River

BRITAIN VICTORIOUS: The Peace of Paris

- Colonial militiamen fought well in defense of home, and when some highly prized objective was the goal
- Lacked discipline and determination when required to fight far from home and under commanders they did not know
- Colonials were happy to let British troops bear brunt of fighting and let Britain pay £82 million
- Result was burst of praise for king and mother country at end of war

BURDENS OF AN EXPANDED EMPIRE

- Great Britain's national debt doubled between 1754 and 1763
- Day-to-day cost of administering empire had increased at least 5 times
- American empire was more complex
- Conflicting colonial claims to Ohio Valley threatened to lead to conflict
- Indians remained un-pacified



★ European Claims in All of North America, 1763

BURDENS OF AN EXPANDED EMPIRE

- English leaders were more concerned with local offices and personal advantages than with large questions of policy
 - King George III was an inept politician and subject to frequent bouts of illness
- English leaders insisted colonials were uncouth and inferior beings
- Colonial troops were viewed as worthless
- Many English people resented Americans because colonies were becoming rich and powerful
 - Between 1750 and 1770 the population of British America increased from 1 million to more than 2 million

TIGHTENING IMPERIAL CONTROL

- British decided after war to intervene more actively in American affairs
- American colonies continued to be a drain on British Treasury, mostly due to cost of fighting Indians, who were treated increasingly badly
- Ottawa Chief Pontiac led the Indians of the Ohio Valley in a rebellion that failed by 1764
 - Indians accepted peace terms and British government placed 15 regiments (6,000 men) in posts along frontier as much to protect Indians as settlers

TIGHTENING IMPERIAL CONTROL

- Proclaimed new western policy:
 - no settlers were to cross the Appalachian divide
 - Only licensed traders could do business beyond the line
 - Purchase of Indian land was forbidden
 - Three new colonies were created: Québec, East Florida and West Florida (they were not allowed local assemblies)



★ Proclamation of 1763

TIGHTENING IMPERIAL CONTROL

- Colonists were not happy
- Policy frustrated dozens of land schemes of wealthy colonials
- Originally British had envisioned policy as temporary
- As time passed, seemed like a good way
 - to save money
 - to prevent trouble with Indians
 - to keep colonies closely tied to mother country

THE SUGAR ACT

- George Grenville became Prime Minister in 1763, and had Parliament pass the Sugar Act in 1764
- Sugar Act
 - Placed tariffs on sugar, coffee, wines and other things imported into America in substantial amounts
 - Those accused of violating act were to be tried before British naval officers in vice admiralty courts
- Customs service was soon collecting 15 times as much in duties as it had before war

THE SUGAR ACT

- Previous Navigation Acts had been intended to regulate commerce—essentially instruments of foreign policy (area colonists willing to concede to London)
- Sugar Act was seen by Americans as a tax
- Colonists felt they were being taxed without representation

AMERICAN COLONISTS DEMAND RIGHTS

- British did not believe colonists had a point:
 - Distinction between tax laws and other types of legislation was artificial; either Parliament was sovereign or it was not
 - Colonists were virtually represented in Parliament
- Americans did not believe in “virtual” representation and resented supporting imperial administration
- Colonists could not agree on common action

THE STAMP ACT: The Pot Set to Boiling

- Stamp Act 1765
 - Excise taxes on all kinds of printed matter
 - Intended to be relatively painless to pay and cheap to collect
 - Grenville hoped would provide £60,000 a year which was supposed to be used to defray cost of defending colonies
- Very little money was collected

THE STAMP ACT: The Pot Set to Boiling

- While Sugar Act had been about Parliament's control of colonial trade, the Stamp Act was a direct tax
- Parliament ignored protests and colonists escalated actions
- May 1765: Patrick Henry introduced resolutions to the Virginia House of Burgesses asserting Parliament had no power to tax the colonies
- June 6: Massachusetts assembly proposed an inter-colonial Stamp Act Congress to meet in New York in October

THE STAMP ACT: The Pot Set to Boiling

- October 1765: Stamp Act Congress met and passed a series of resolutions stating that taxes should not be imposed without colonial consent
- Summer: Sons of Liberty began to agitate against the act—first time for extralegal organization
 - Led by men of character and position
 - Frequently resorted to violence
- The stamps, printed in England and shipped to America for November 1 start date, were often seized and destroyed
- Eventually colonists simply ignored the law and there was nothing the British could do

RIOTERS OR REBELS?

- Many of the poor resented the colonial elite who, in turn, viewed the poor as easy to corrupt and influence
- Mass of people were not social revolutionaries
- British were surprised at adamant reaction of Americans who were so upset for many reasons:
 - Business poor in 1765
 - Taxes would hurt the business of lawyers, merchants, newspaper editors and tavern keepers
 - Colonists distressed by Britain's rejection of no taxation without representation

RIOTERS OR REBELS?

- **Objections:**
 - As Americans they objected to being taxed by a legislative body they did not elect
 - As British subjects they valued “rights of Englishmen” and viewed Stamp Act as arbitrary invasion of this right
- **Quartering Act: local legislatures to house and feed new British troops sent to colonies**
 - Colonists saw standing army as a threat to liberty
 - Underpaid soldiers often took odd jobs taking employment away from colonists

TAXATION OR TYRANNY?

- In 18th Century, English were the freest people in the world
- Colonists, like English, attributed freedom to balanced government where power was shared between the Crown, House of Lords (aristocracy), and House of Commons (rest of the realm)
 - Analogous role was played in colonies by governors, councils, and assemblies
- Reality: balance was result of lack of divisive issues

TAXATION OR TYRANNY?

- Americans saw new laws as conspiracy to undermine the balance
- British believed they were acting in best interests of colonists
 - Believed it was time to assert royal authority and centralize imperial power at the expense of colonial autonomy
 - Need to keep substantial army to deal with Indians led to temptation to use army vs. colonists
- Americans disliked being treated as children
- Refused to buy British goods
- Stamp Act was repealed March 1766

THE DECLARATORY ACT

- Declaratory Act (passed same day Stamp Act repealed)
 - Stated colonists were subordinate
 - Parliament could enact any law it wished
- Americans saw this as unconstitutional assertion of authority
- “Constitution”
 - British: totality of laws, customs, and institutions which had developed over time
 - Americans: specific document or contract spelling out and limiting the powers of government

THE DECLARATORY ACT

- “Sovereignty”
 - English: not divisible and based ultimately on force; rested in Parliament
 - If colonies had passed laws, they did so at sufferance of Parliament



THE TOWNSHEND DUTIES

- June 1767: Townshend Duties
 - Indirect taxes on glass, lead, paints, paper and tea imported into colonies
- Colonists responded with boycott of British goods and efforts to stimulate American manufactures
 - End of 1769, imports had halved
- Board of Customs Commissioners took charge of enforcing trade laws and new vice admiralty courts were established
 - Courts operated without juries and commissioners were seen as rapacious racketeers

THE TOWNSHEND DUTIES

- 1768 Massachusetts General Court sent letter to other colonies stating that Townshend Acts were “Infringements of their natural & constitutional Rights”
- Samuel Adams believed Parliament had no right to legislate for the colonies
- When British learned about letter
 - Ordered governor to dissolve the legislature
 - Transferred British troops from the frontier to Boston

THE BOSTON MASSACRE

- Boston: postwar depression had come on top of two decades of economic stagnation and now 4,000 British soldiers were added to a town of 16,000
- January 1770: scuffles between Liberty Boys and Redcoats in NYC resulted in a number of injuries
- March 5, 1770: Boston Massacre resulted in death of five Bostonians
- John Adams volunteered services to ensure soldiers got fair trial; most were acquitted and rest were treated leniently
- April 1770 all Townshend duties except tax on tea were repealed
- Importation of British goods was 50% higher than during boycott

THE POT SPILLS OVER

- June 1772: British patrol boat *Gaspee* ran aground in Narragansett Bay while pursuing smugglers
 - That night local people torched the ship
 - No one would testify against them and British were further convinced colonists were lawless
- Governor Thomas Hutchinson of Massachusetts announced Crown, not assembly, would now pay salary
- Committees of Correspondence were formed and planned joint action in case of trouble

THE TEA ACT CRISIS

- Spring 1773: British East India Company, which had monopoly on all trade between India and rest of empire, was bankrupt
 - Had 17 million pounds of tea in storage
- Would usually sell to English wholesalers who would sell to American wholesalers who distributed to local merchants for sale to consumers after substantial British tax as well as threepenny Townshend Duty
- Lord North, new British Prime Minister, decided to remit the British tax and allow the company to sell directly in America through its own agents



THE TEA ACT CRISIS

- Result would be reduced retail price and increased company profits
- Townshend tax retained
- In New York and Philadelphia authorities ordered the tea ships back to England
- In Boston, Governor Hutchinson was determined tea would land and tax would be collected
 - December 16: band of colonists disguised as Indians dumped the tea overboard
 - Actions were clearly supported by most of the colonists
 - British were furious

FROM RESISTANCE TO REVOLUTION

- 1774: Coercive Acts
 - Boston Port Act closed the harbor of Boston to all commerce until citizens paid for tea
 - Administration of Justice Act provided for the transfer of cases to courts outside Massachusetts when governor felt that an impartial jury could not be had within colony
 - Massachusetts Government Act strengthened power of the governor, weakening that of local town meetings, making the council appointive rather than elective, and changing the method by which juries were selected
- Marked shift to treating colonists as criminals

FROM RESISTANCE TO REVOLUTION

- Americans called them the Intolerable Acts
- Over course of a decade, a group of different political bodies had been forced to take political power into their own hands and unite together to exercise power effectively
 - Ordinary working people increasingly played prominent roles in public life
- British assumed other colonies would not intervene
- June 1774 Massachusetts called for meeting of all colonies
- September 1774: First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia (only Georgia did not attend)

FROM RESISTANCE TO REVOLUTION

- First Continental Congress believed Parliament had no right to legislate for the colonies
 - Condemned all Britain's acts since 1763
 - Organized "Continental Association" to boycott British goods and to stop all exports to the empire
 - Local committees were appointed to enforce the boycott

MILESTONES

Milestones

1650–1696	Parliament enacts Navigation Acts
1689–1697	King William's War (War of the League of Augsburg)
1699–1750	Parliament enacts laws regulating colonial manufacturing
1702–1713	Queen Anne's War (War of the Spanish Succession): France loses Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Hudson Bay to Britain
1733	Molasses Act's duty leads to smuggling
1738–1742	Religious enthusiasm surges during Great Awakening
1740–1748	King George's War (War of the Austrian Succession).
1743	Benjamin Franklin founds American Philosophical Society
1752	Franklin discovers nature of lightning
1754	Albany Congress paves way for Stamp Act Congress and Continental Congress
1754–1763	British and American Colonists fight French and Indians in French and Indian War (Seven Years' War)
1760	George III becomes king of England
1763	George III's Proclamation forbids settlement beyond Appalachians
1764	Sugar Act places tariffs on sugar, coffee, wines, and other imports
1765	Stamp Act places excise taxes on all printed matter; leads to Stamp Tax Congress
1766	Stamp Act is repealed; Declaratory Act asserts parliamentary authority over colonies
1767	Townshend Duties lead to Massachusetts Circular Letter
1770	Five American colonists die in Boston Massacre
1772	Colonists burn Gaspee
1773	Tea Act leads to Boston Tea Party
1774	Coercive Acts lead to First Continental Congress

WEBSITES

- The History Place: English Colonial Era
<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/revolution/rev-col.htm>
- The Avalon Project: Eighteenth Century Documents
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/18th.htm>
- Jonathan Edwards Center
<http://edwards.yale.edu/>
- The French and Indian War
<http://web.syr.edu/~laroux>
- Archiving Early America
<http://earlyamerica.com>
- White Oak Fur Post
<http://www.whiteoak.org>