
Events Leading to the American Revolution

Colonization

- Main Reason was for Mercantilism: Making money for the mother country
- Joint-stock company: investors share ownership and profits
 - Charters: grants of land and permission to set up colonial governments
- Proprietary colony: owner owns the land and the government
- Royal colony: owned and ruled by the King

History of Religious Freedom

- Puritans wanted religious freedom but became intolerant
- Maryland Toleration act gave all Christians freedom
- 1st Great Awakening: religious movement. Was the first time colonists saw themselves as Americans rather than British subjects

History of economic freedom



- Free Land
- Cash crops in the South (rice, tobacco, Indigo) created the Plantation system
- Indentured servants: poor could work off debt then get land
- Creation of triangle trade

History of Self Government

- Mayflower Compact: Direct democracy
 - Town meetings
 - Majority rule
- Virginia House of Burgesses: Representative Democracy
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut: First colonial constitution



Salutary Neglect

BEING LEFT ALONE IN A NICE WAY:
BRITAIN'S RELAXATION OF LAWS REGULATING COLONIAL COMMERCE
WHICH LED TO SELF GOVERNMENT



Colonies Elected representatives and started to
make their own laws.

Mercantilism

- Theory that a country's power depends on its wealth
- Led England to force the colonies to trade with them

French and Indian War

French and Indians

- Trading allies
- French didn't try and convert Indians to Christianity
- French tolerant of how Indians lived

British colonists

- Wanted to move West of the Appalachian Mountains
- Considered Indians heathens

Results:

England won, all land WEST of the Appalachian Mountains

Put England in debt, ending Salutary Neglect

England needs money so the taxing starts

Proclamation of 1763

- Colonists won the French and Indian War but...
- Weren't allowed to settle past the Appalachian Mountains.
- Increased conflict occurred after the French and Indian War



Navigation Acts

Effects of the Navigation Acts



- Colonists became angry when England began to enforce the Navigation Acts.

- There was an increase in smuggling in the colonies.



Started in the 1660s to limit Dutch trading in the colonies, but weren't enforced until after the French and Indian War.

Could only use British Ports, Crews and trade British Goods

Molasses Act (1733) was another part of the Navigation acts to close loopholes.

Led to...

Stamp Act 1765

- Tax on Paper Products
- Colonists decided to boycott British goods
- First direct tax on ALL colonists
- Passed without colonial involvement
- No trial by jury if colonist didn't pay it
- Hit the lawyers and college students hardest which was designed to limit the growth of a professional class
- Seen as a form of censorship



Townsend Acts 1767

- Tax on all imported British goods
- Paint, paper, lead, glass and tea
- Led to the cry “No taxation without representation!”



Quartering Act

- Colonists had to provide quarters (living spaces) to British soldiers



Boston Massacre 1770

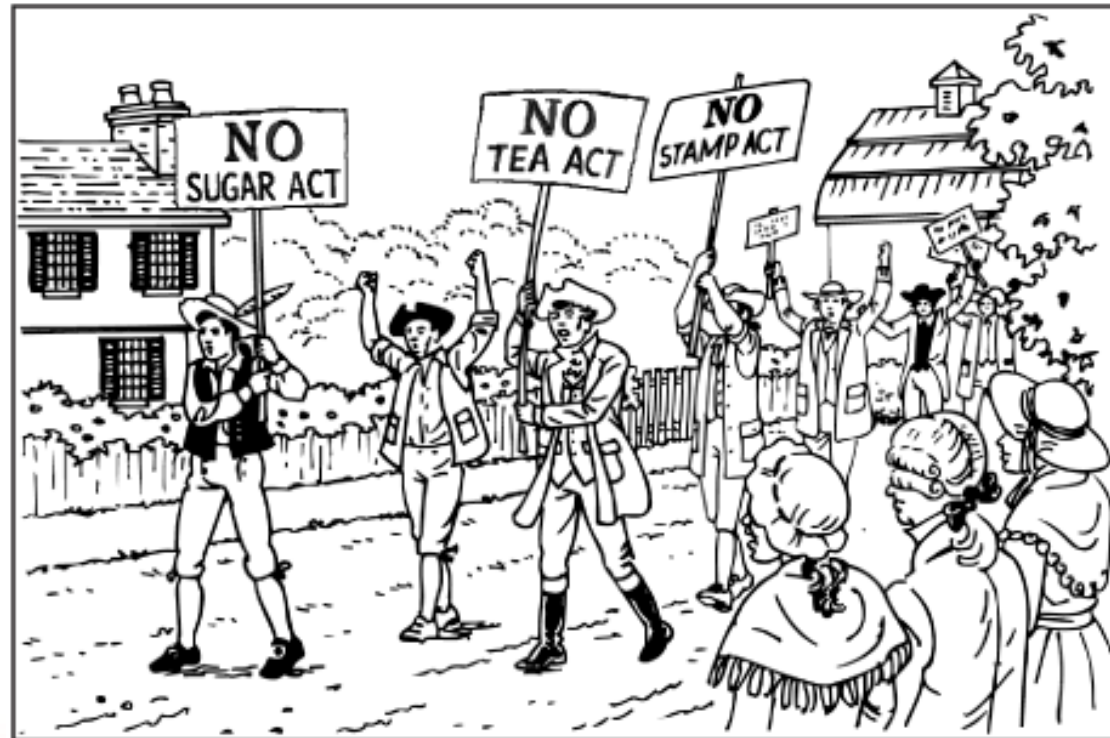
- Started with a snowball
- 200 colonists harassing 8 British Soldiers
- 5 colonists died
- John Adams defended the soldiers at trial (6 found innocent)
- Was used as a propaganda tool

Conflict and Rebellion



“No taxation without representation”

- Phrase used by colonists to protest their lack of a direct vote in Parliament



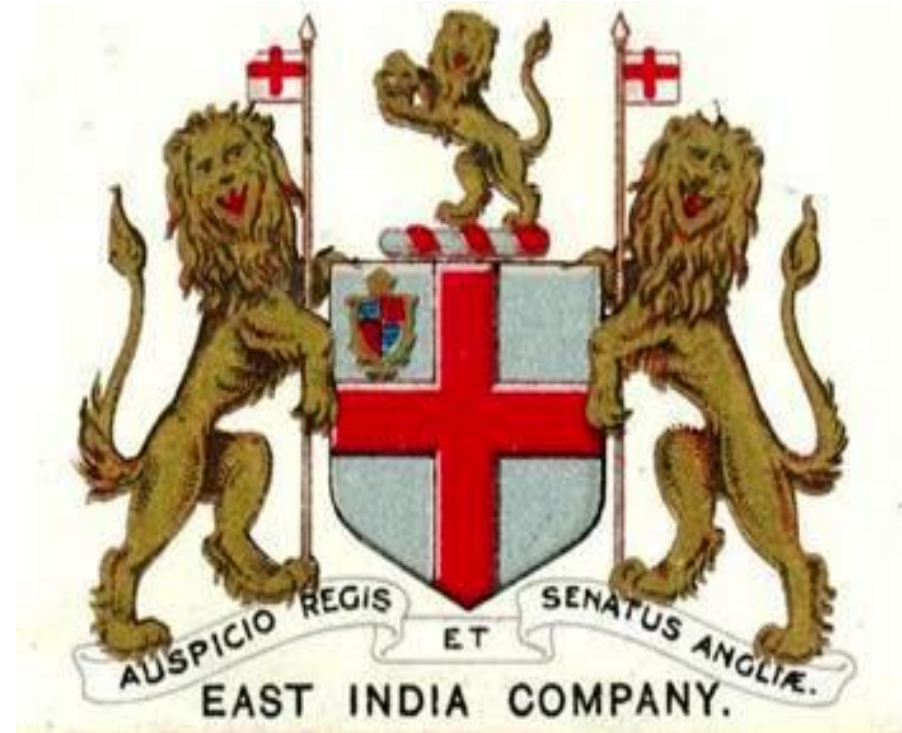
Boston Massacre

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- 5 Americans are killed
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Tea Act 1773

- The Tea Act imposed no new taxes
- It gave a tea monopoly in the American colonies to the British East India Company
- The Tea Act allowed the East India company to sell its large tea surplus below the prices charged by colonial competitors
- This led to...



Boston Tea Party 1773

- Organized by the Sons of Liberty
- Dressed up like Mohawk tribe because act would be seen as treason
- It was a large mob that was loud, but there was no interference
- Hundreds of witnesses but no cooperation with the British so no one was punished.
- Led to the...



Intolerable Acts (aka Coercive Acts) 1774

- Punishment for the Boston Tea Party
- Closed Boston Harbor, limited Massachusetts' right to self-govern
- Ended the Massachusetts' Constitution and revoked charter
- All trials sent to England
- Colonists had to feed and shelter British Troops (Quartering Act)
- Rest of colonies thought that if the British could do that to Massachusetts they could do it to any colony.

First Continental Congress

- Meeting of 12/13 colonies
- Petitioned (asked) King George III to repeal the Intolerable Acts'
 - He didn't

Lexington and Concord 1775

- First battles of the Revolutionary War
- “Shot heard ‘round the world”
- Colonists lost at Lexington but slowed down British
- Colonist won Concord (because they were slowed at Lexington) which had a weapons depot

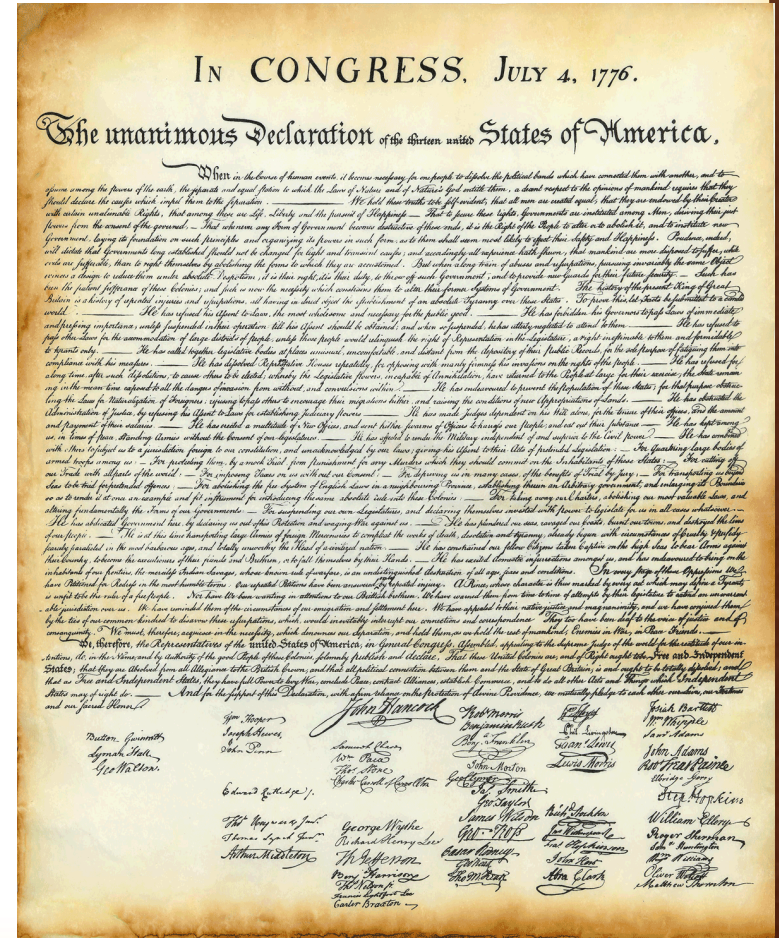
Second Continental Congress (1775)

- 1. Created the Olive Branch Petition which was the last attempt by colonists to avoid war
- It was Letter of Peace to the King but also to assert their rights
- King didn't read it



Second Continental Congress Cont.

- 2. Drafted the Declaration of Independence
 - Listed the complaints the colonists had
 - Told the world what they were planning
- 3. Served as our countries first president



Common Sense and Declaration of Independence

- Common Sense: summarized why colonies should be independent of Great Britain
- Popular and persuasive. It convinced previously undecided people to support independence.

- The second Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776, and put Jefferson in charge of announcing the decision in writing
- Document: Declaration of Independence; July 4, 1776

- The Declaration of Independence includes three main parts:
- 1. A declaration that the U.S. is a sovereign nation
- 2. A declaration of human rights
- 3. a long list of grievances