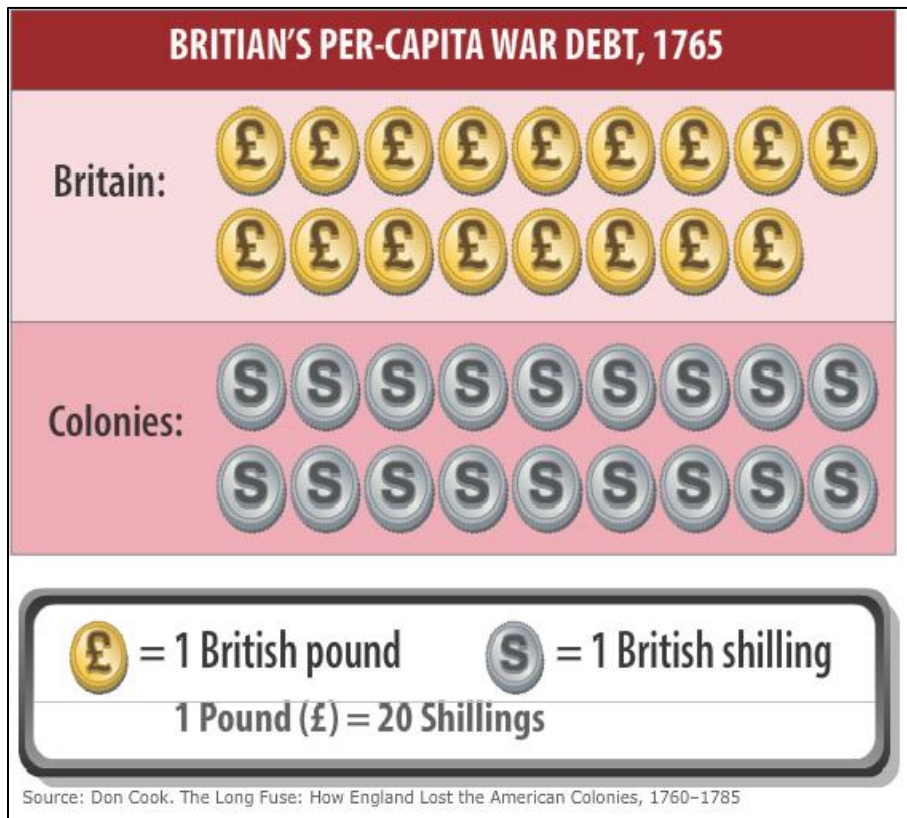


## The French and Indian War Debt, 1765



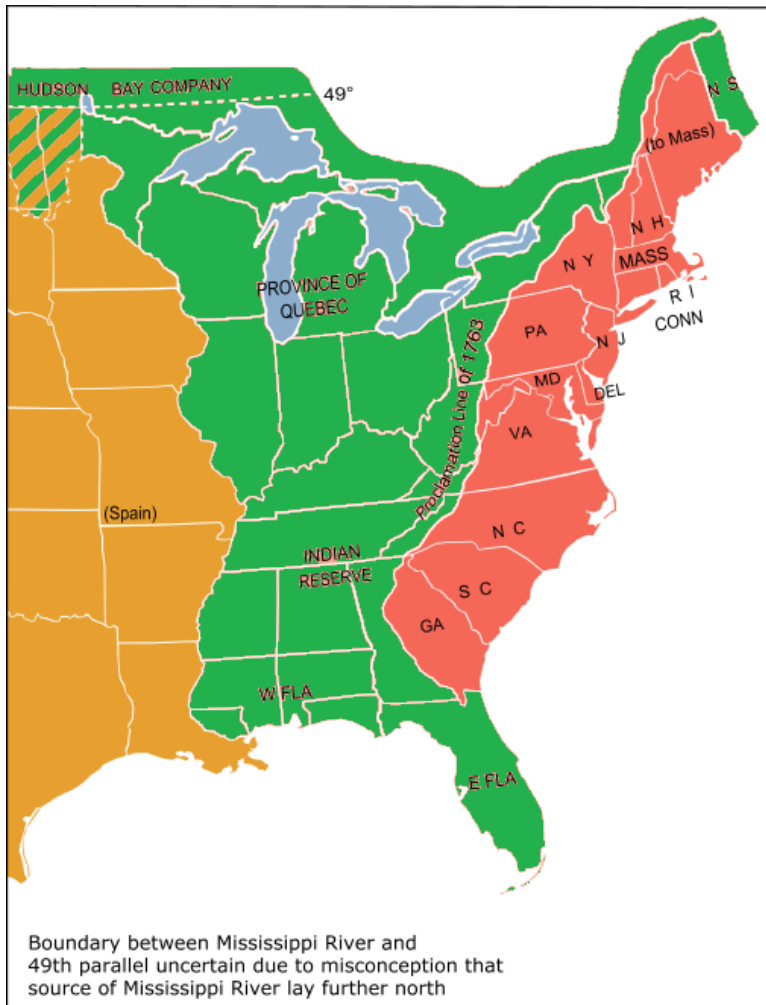
Great Britain's national debt soared as a result of the French and Indian War. Subjects living in Great Britain paid more on this debt per person than people living in the colonies. British efforts to get colonists to pay a bigger share of war-related debt led to sharp conflict.

The British also had large debts from the French and Indian War. The king and Parliament felt the colonists should pay part of these costs, so the British government issued new taxes on the colonies. It also enforced old taxes more strictly. To avoid taxes, some colonists resorted to smuggling. This caused British revenues to fall.

In 1763 Britain's prime minister, George Grenville, set out to stop the smuggling. Parliament passed a law to have accused smugglers tried by royally appointed judges rather than local juries. Grenville knew that American juries often found smugglers innocent. Parliament also empowered customs officers to obtain writs of assistance. These documents allowed the officers to search almost anywhere—shops, warehouses, and even private homes—for smuggled goods.

Source: McGraw Hill

# Proclamation of 1763



After the end of the French and Indian War in America, the British Empire began to tighten control over its rather self-governing colonies. This royal proclamation, which closed down colonial expansion westward, was the first measure to affect all thirteen colonies.

In response to a revolt of Native Americans led by Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, King George III declared all lands west of the Appalachian Divide off-limits to colonial settlers. The announcement banned private citizens and colonial governments alike to buy land from or make any agreements with natives; the empire would conduct all official relations.

Furthermore, only licensed traders would be allowed to travel west or deal with Indians. Supposedly protecting colonists from Indian attacks, the measure was also intended to shield Native Americans from increasingly frequent attacks by white settlers.

Although the proclamation was introduced as a temporary measure, its economic benefits for Britain prompted ministers to keep it until the eve of the Revolution. A desire for good farmland caused many colonists to defy the proclamation; others merely resented the royal restrictions on trade and migration.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/1763-proclamation-of>

## The Sugar Act, 1764

**“...great quantities of foreign molasses and syrups are clandestinely run on shore in the British colonies, to the prejudice of the revenue, and the great detriment of the trade of this kingdom, and it’s American plantations: to remedy which practices for the future, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid...bond and security, in the like penalty, shall also be given to the collector or other principal officer of the customs at any port or place in any of the British American colonies or plantations...”**

In 1764 Parliament passed the Sugar Act, which lowered the tax on the molasses the colonists imported. Grenville hoped this change would convince the colonists to pay the tax instead of smuggling. The act also allowed officers to seize goods from accused smugglers without going to court.

The Sugar Act angered many colonists. They believed this and other new laws violated their rights. As British citizens, colonists argued, they had a right to a trial by jury and to be viewed as innocent until proved guilty, as stated in British law. Colonists also believed they had the right to be secure in their homes—without the threat of officers barging in to search for smuggled goods.

British taxes also alarmed the colonists. James Otis, a lawyer in Boston, argued:

*"No parts of [England's colonies] can be taxed without their consent . . . every part has a right to be represented."*

— from *The Rights of the British Colonies*, 1763

## The Stamp Act, 1765



"An Emblem of the Effects of the STAMP."

American newspapers reacted to the Stamp Act with anger and predictions of the demise of journalism.

In 1765 Parliament passed the Stamp Act. This law taxed almost all printed materials. Newspapers, wills, and even playing cards needed a stamp to show that the tax had been paid.

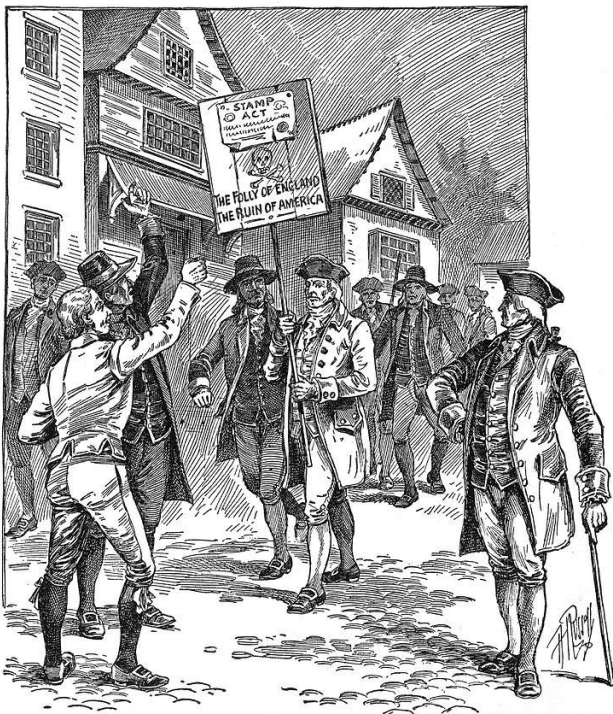
### Opposition to the Stamp Act

The Stamp Act outraged the colonists. They argued that only their own assemblies could tax them. Patrick Henry, a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, got the burgesses to take action. The assembly passed a resolution—a formal expression of opinion—declaring that it had "the only and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes" on its citizens.

In Boston, Samuel Adams helped start the Sons of Liberty. Its members took to the streets to protest the Stamp Act. Protesters burned effigies (EH • fuh • jeez)—stuffed figures—made to look like unpopular tax collectors.

Colonial leaders decided to work together. In October, delegates from nine colonies met in New York at the Stamp Act Congress. They sent a statement to the king and Parliament declaring that only colonial assemblies could tax the colonists.

Source: McGraw Hill



PROCESSION IN NEW YORK IN OPPOSITION TO THE STAMP ACT.



## The Declaratory Act, 1766

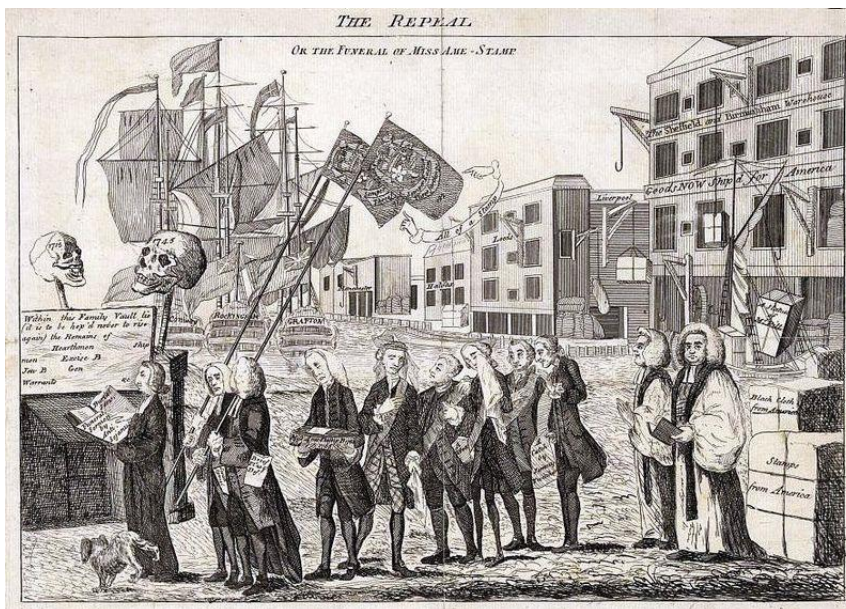
*"That the said colonies and plantations in America have been, are, and of right ought to be subordinate unto, and dependent upon the imperial crown and parliament of Great Britain; and that the King's majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons of Great Britain, in parliament assembled, had, hash, and of right ought to have, full power and authority to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to bind the colonies and people of America, subjects of the crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatsoever."*

- **The American Colonies Act 1766** (6 Geo 3 c 12), commonly known as the **Declaratory Act**

**Long Title:** An Act for the better securing the Dependency of His Majesty's Dominions in America upon the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain

People in colonial cities urged merchants to boycott— refuse to buy—British goods in protest. As the boycott spread, businesses in Britain lost so much money that they demanded Parliament repeal, or cancel, the Stamp Act. In March 1766, Parliament repealed the law. However, it also passed the **Declaratory Act**, stating that it had the right to tax and make decisions for the British colonies *"in all cases."*

Source: McGraw Hill



This cartoon depicts the repeal of the Stamp Act as a funeral, with Grenville carrying a child's coffin marked "born 1765, died 1766".

The caption reads: The Repeal, or the Funeral Procession, of Miss America Stamp. Repeal of the Stamp Act The coffin is carried by George Grenville, who is followed by Bute, the Duke of Bedford, Temple, Halifax, Sandwich, and two bishops.

## The Townshend Acts, 1767

For every hundredweight avoirdupois of crown, plate, flint, and white glass, four shillings and eight pence.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of red lead, two shillings.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of green glass, one shilling and two pence.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of white lead, two shillings.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of painters colours, two shillings.

For every pound weight avoirdupois of tea, three pence.

For every ream of paper, usually called or known by the name of *Atlas fine*, twelve shillings. ...

Townshend Revenue Act  
June 29, 1767

The Stamp Act taught the British that the colonists would resist internal taxes—those paid inside the colonies. As a result, in 1767 Parliament passed the Townshend Acts to tax imported goods, such as glass, tea, and paper. The tax was paid when the goods arrived—before they were brought inside the colonies.

The most influential colonial response to the Townshend Acts was a series of twelve essays by John Dickinson entitled "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania", which began appearing in December 1767. Powerfully saying ideas already widely accepted in the colonies, Dickinson argued that there was no difference between "internal" and "external" taxes, and that any **taxes imposed on the colonies by Parliament for the sake of raising a revenue were unconstitutional**. Dickinson warned colonists not to concede to the taxes just because the rates were low, since this would set a dangerous precedent.

By then, *any* British taxes angered the colonists. Protests of the Townshend Acts began immediately. In towns throughout the colonies, women protested by supporting another boycott of British goods. They also urged colonists to wear homemade fabrics rather than buying fabric made in Britain. Some women's groups called themselves the Daughters of Liberty.

Charles Townshend spearheaded the Townshend Acts, but died before their effects became apparent.



harmful

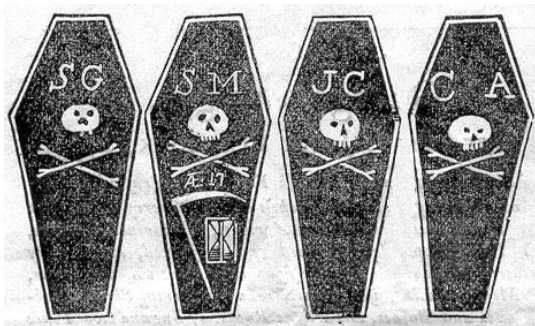
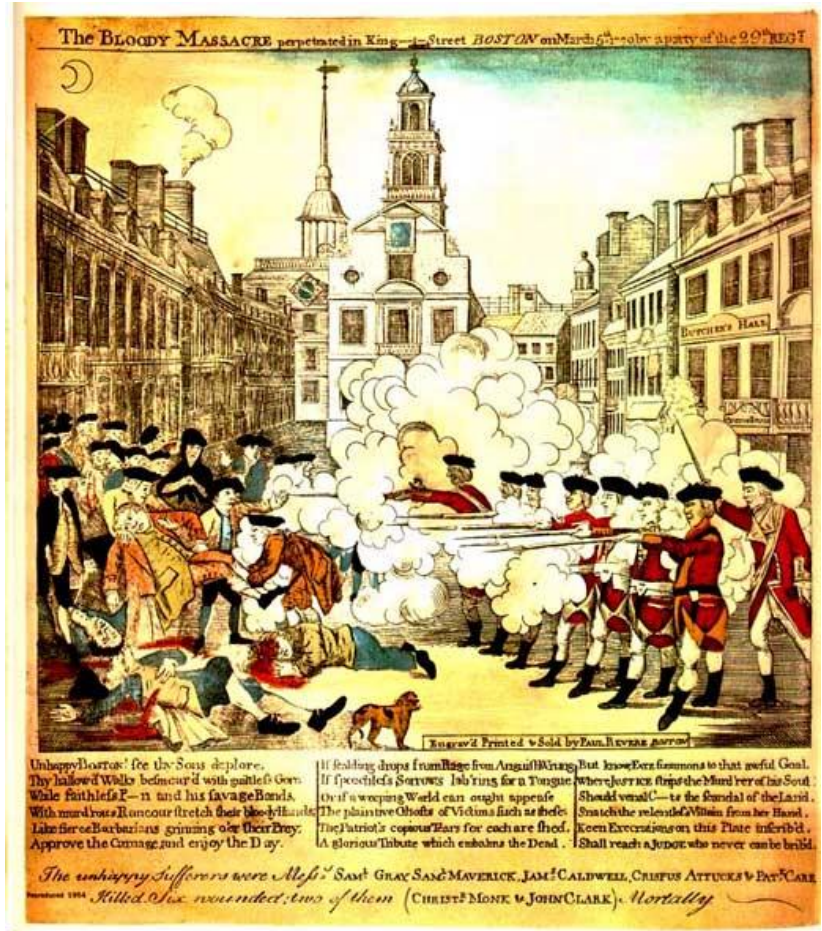


The **Boston Massacre** was the killing of five colonists by British regulars on March 5, 1770. It was the culmination of tensions in the American colonies that had been growing since Royal troops first appeared in Massachusetts in October 1768 to enforce the heavy tax burden imposed by the Townshend Acts.

Colonial leaders used the killings as propaganda—information designed to influence opinion. Samuel Adams put up posters that described the Boston Massacre as a slaughter of innocent Americans by bloodthirsty redcoats. Paul Revere made an engraving that showed a British officer giving the order to open fire on an orderly crowd.

The Boston Massacre led colonists to call for stronger boycotts of British goods. Troubled by the growing opposition in the colonies, Parliament repealed all the Townshend Acts taxes on British imported goods, except the one on tea. In response, the colonists ended their boycotts, except on tea. Trade with Britain resumed.

Source: McGraw Hill



This appeared with the obituary of Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James Coldwell and Crispus Attucks as it appeared in the Boston Gazette and Country Journal on Monday March 12, 1770.

Note that it only shows four coffins. The fifth victim, Patrick Carr, did not die on the day of the Boston Massacre but was wounded and died nine days later on March 14th.

Crispus Attucks, part African, part Native American, was the first colonist killed by the British in the Boston Massacre.

## Sons of Liberty (1765 – Revolutionary War)

*“The Sons of Liberty on the 14th of August 1765, a Day which ought to be for ever remembered in America, animated with a zeal for their country then upon the brink of destruction, and resolved, at once to save her...”*

~ From a 1765 Boston Gazette article written by Samuel Adams referring to the anti-Stamp Act activists for the first time in print as “Sons of Liberty”

The Sons of Liberty were influential in orchestrating effective resistance movements against British rule in colonial America on the eve of the Revolution, primarily against what they perceived as unfair taxation and financial limitations imposed upon them. Through the use of mob rule, tactics of fear, force, intimidation, and violence such as tar and feathering, and the stockpiling of arms, shot, and gun powder, the Sons of Liberty effectively undermined British rule, paving the way to America’s independence.

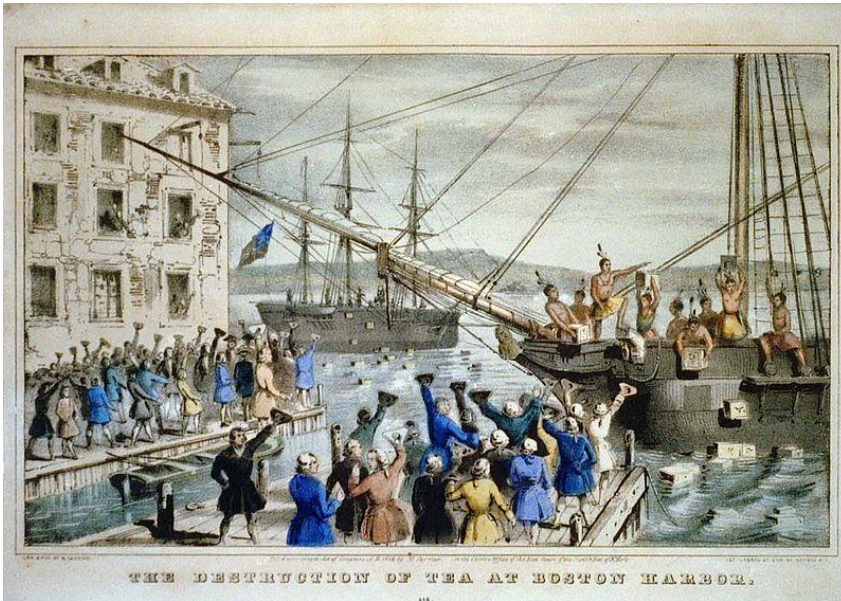
The seminal act and lasting legacy of the Sons of Liberty to the history of the American Revolution was the December 16, 1773 orchestrating of the Boston Tea Party which ultimately led to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. The Boston Tea Party, carried out by the Sons of Liberty and led by Samuel Adams, was a catalyst for the start of war and a principal reason why the Revolutionary War began in Massachusetts.

A 1774 British print depicted the tarring and feathering. Tarring and feathering was a ritual of humiliation and public warning that stopped just short of serious injury. Victims included British officials and American merchants who violated non-importation by importing British goods. This anti-Patriot print showed Customs Commissioner Malcolm being attacked under the Liberty Tree by several Patriots, including a leather-aproned artisan, while the Boston Tea Party occurred in the background. In fact, the Tea Party had taken place four weeks earlier.





## Boston Tea Party, 1773



This iconic 1846 lithograph by Nathaniel Currier was entitled "The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor"; the phrase "Boston Tea Party" had not yet become standard. Contrary to Currier's depiction, few of the men dumping the tea were actually disguised as Indians.

The British East India Company was vital to the British economy. Colonial refusal to import British East India tea had nearly driven the company

out of business. To help save the company and protect the British economy, Parliament passed the **Tea Act**. It gave the company nearly total control of the market for tea in the colonies. The Tea Act also removed some—but not all—of the taxes on tea, making it less expensive for colonists. Yet the colonists remained angry. They did not want to pay any tax, and they did not want to be told what tea they could buy.

Colonial merchants called for a new boycott. Colonists vowed to stop East India Company ships from unloading. The Daughters of Liberty issued a pamphlet declaring that rather than part with freedom, "We'll part with our tea."

Despite warnings of trouble, the East India Company continued shipping tea to the colonies. Colonists in New York and Philadelphia forced the tea ships to turn back. In 1773, three ships loaded with tea arrived in Boston Harbor. The royal governor ordered that they be unloaded. The Boston Sons of Liberty acted swiftly. At midnight on December 16, colonists dressed as Native Americans boarded the ships and threw 342 chests of tea overboard. As word of the "Boston Tea Party" spread, colonists gathered to celebrate the bold act. Yet no one spoke out against British rule itself. Most colonists still saw themselves as loyal British citizens.

Source: McGraw Hill

*"In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found on the ship, while those in the other ships were disposing of the tea in the same way, at the same time. We were surrounded by the British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us...And it was observed at that time that the stillest night ensued that Boston had enjoyed for many months."*

- George Hewes, December 1773

## The Coercive Acts, or the Intolerable Acts, 1774

Passed in response to the Americans' disobedience, the *Coercive Acts* included:

The **Boston Port Act**, which closed the port of Boston until damages from the Boston Tea Party were paid.

The **Massachusetts Government Act**, which restricted Massachusetts; democratic town meetings and turned the governor's council into an appointed body.

The **Administration of Justice Act**, which made British officials immune to criminal prosecution in Massachusetts.

The **Quartering Act**, which required colonists to house and quarter British troops on demand, including in their private homes as a last resort.

Source: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/british-parliament-adopts-the-coercive-acts>

When news of the Boston Tea Party reached London, King George III realized that Britain was losing control of the colonies. He declared, "We must either master them or totally leave them to themselves."

In 1774 Parliament responded by passing a series of laws called the Coercive Acts. *Coercive* (co • UHR • sihv) means to force someone to do something. These laws were meant to punish the colonists for resisting British authority. One Coercive Act applied to all the colonies. It forced the colonies to let British soldiers live among the colonists. Massachusetts, though, received the harshest treatment.

One of the Coercive Acts banned town meetings in Massachusetts. Another closed Boston Harbor until the colonists paid for the ruined tea. This stopped most shipments of food and other supplies to the colony. Parliament was trying to cut Massachusetts off from the other colonies. Instead, the Coercive Acts drew the colonies together. Other colonies sent food and clothing to support Boston.

The colonists believed all of these new laws violated their rights as English citizens. They expressed their feelings about the laws by calling them the Intolerable Acts. *Intolerable* means painful and unbearable.

Source: McGraw Hill

On April 22, 1774, Prime Minister Lord North defended the acts in the House of Commons, saying:

*"The Americans have tarred and feathered your subjects, plundered your merchants, burnt your ships, denied all obedience to your laws and authority; yet so clement and so long forbearing has our conduct been that it is incumbent on us now to take a different course. Whatever may be the consequences, we must risk something; if we do not, all is over."*

## Patrick Henry “Give me liberty or give me death!” - 1775

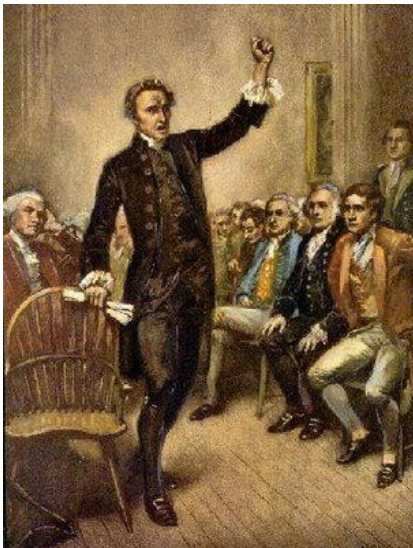
*“Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable<sup>2</sup> and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.*

*It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace<sup>2</sup> but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”*

- Patrick Henry

St. John's Church, Richmond, Virginia

March 23, 1775.



Patrick Henry was Virginia’s first governor. In the years leading up to the American Revolution, Patrick Henry became an influential leader who opposed British rule. He was convinced that war with Britain was inevitable.

Source: <http://www.history.org/almanack/life/politics/giveme.cfm>



## Battles of Lexington and Concord

April 19, 1775

### THE AMERICAN STATEMENT

Salem, April 25, 1775

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

-excerpt from **Concord Hymn** by Ralph Waldo  
Emerson, 1837

*"In Lexington the enemy set fire to Deacon Joseph Loring's house and barn, Mrs. Mullikin's house and shop, and Mr. Joshua Bond's house and shop, which were all consumed... the savage barbarity exercised upon the bodies of our unfortunate brethren who fell, is almost incredible: not contented with shooting down the unarmed, aged, and infirm, they disregarded the cries of the wounded, killing them without mercy, and mangling their bodies in the most shocking manner."*

### THE BRITISH STATEMENT

Whitehall, June 10, 1775

*"On the return of the Troops from Concord, they were very much annoyed, and had several men killed and wounded by the rebels firing from behind walls, ditches, trees, and other ambushes; but the brigade, under the command of Lord Percy, having joined them at Lexington with two pieces of cannon, the rebels were for a while dispersed; but as soon as the troops resumed their march, they began to fire upon them from behind stone walls and houses, and kept up in that manner a scattering fire during the whole of their march of fifteen miles, by which means several were killed and wounded; and such was the cruelty and barbarity of the rebels, that they scalped and cut off the ears of some of the wounded men who fell into their hands."*

**Note:** American troops were referred to as "rebels."

The Battles of Lexington and Concord, fought on April 19, 1775, kicked off the American Revolutionary War (1775-83). Tensions had been building for many years between residents of the 13 American colonies and the British authorities, particularly in Massachusetts. On the night of April 18, 1775, hundreds of British troops marched from Boston to nearby Concord in order to seize an arms supply. Paul Revere and other riders sounded the alarm, and colonial militiamen began mobilizing to intercept the Redcoat column. A confrontation on the Lexington town green started off the fighting, and soon the British were hastily retreating under intense fire.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battles-of-lexington-and-concord>

## The Battle of Bunker Hill

June 17, 1775

*"On Friday night, the 17th Instant, fifteen hundred of the Provincials went to Bunker's-Hill, in order to intrench there, and continued intrenching till Saturday ten o'clock, when 2000 Regulars marched out of Boston, landed in Charlestown, and plundering it of all its valuable effects, set fire to it in ten different places at once; then dividing their army, part of it marched up in the front of the Provincial intrenchment, and began to attack the Provincials at long shot..."*

*The number of Regulars which at first attacked the Provincials on Bunker's-Hill was not less than two thousand, the number of the Provincials was only fifteen hundred, who it is supposed would soon have gained a compleat victory, had it not been for the unhappy mistake already mentioned. The regulars were afterwards reinforced with a thousand men. It is uncertain how great a number of the regulars were killed or wounded; but it was supposed by the spectators, who saw the whole action, that there could not be less than four or five hundred killed..."*

-By An Express Arrived at Philadelphia on Saturday Evening, Last We Have the Following Account of the Battle at Charlestown, on Saturday the 18th of June Instant.... Broadside printed at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, by Francis Bailey, June 26, 1775.

**Note:** British troops were referred to as "Regulars."

Source: <http://www.masshist.org/bh/broadsidep1text.html>

On June 17, 1775, early in the Revolutionary War (1775-83), the British defeated the Americans at the Battle of Bunker Hill in Massachusetts. Despite their loss, the inexperienced colonial forces inflicted significant casualties against the enemy, and the battle provided them with an important confidence boost. Although commonly referred to as the Battle of Bunker Hill, most of the fighting occurred on nearby Breed's Hill.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/battle-of-bunker-hill>



John Trumbull's *The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, 17 June, 1775*. (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

## The Olive Branch Petition – July 5, 1775

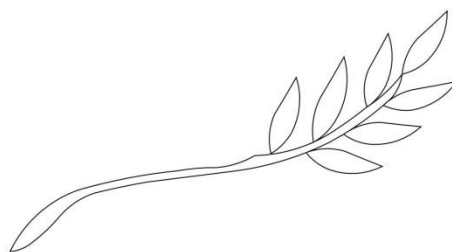
“To the King’s Most Excellent Majesty.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN: We, your Majesty’s faithful subjects of the Colonies... entreat your Majesty’s gracious attention to this our humble petition.”

“We therefore beseech your Majesty, that your royal authority and influence may be graciously interposed to procure us relief from our afflicting fears and jealousies...”

“That your Majesty may enjoy long and prosperous reign, and that your descendants may govern your Dominions with honour to themselves and happiness to their subjects, is our sincere prayer.”

The **Olive Branch Petition** was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 5, 1775, in a final attempt to avoid a full-on war between the Thirteen Colonies that the Congress represented, and Great Britain. The petition acknowledged American loyalty to Great Britain and asked the king to prevent further conflict. In August 1775 the colonies were formally declared to be in rebellion and the petition was rejected.



The **olive branch** is usually a symbol of peace



## Common Sense by Thomas Paine, 1776

“Some, perhaps, will say, that after we have made it up with Britain, she will protect us. Can we be so unwise as to mean, that she shall keep a navy in our harbors for that purpose? **Common sense will tell us, that the power which hath endeavored to subdue us, is of all others the most improper to defend us.** Conquest may be effected under the pretence of friendship; and ourselves, after a long and brave resistance, be at last cheated into slavery. And if her ships are not to be admitted into our harbors, I would ask, how is she to protect us? A navy three or four thousand miles off can be of little use, and on sudden emergencies, none at all. Wherefore, if we must hereafter protect ourselves, why not do it for ourselves? Why do it for another.”

—from *Common Sense*, 1776

Many colonists held on to hope that the colonies could remain part of Great Britain. Still, support for independence was growing. It was inspired in no small part by writer Thomas Paine. Paine arrived in the colonies from England in 1774. He soon caught the revolutionary spirit. In January 1776, he published a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. In bold language, Paine called for a complete break with British rule.

*“Every thing that is right or reasonable pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, ‘TIS TIME TO PART.”*

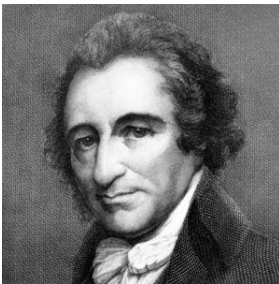
—from *Common Sense*, 1776

*Common Sense* listed powerful reasons why Americans would be better off free from Great Britain. The pamphlet greatly influenced opinions throughout the colonies.

Source: McGraw Hill

*“Until an independence is declared the continent will feel itself like a man who continues putting off some unpleasant business from day to day, yet knows it must be done, hates to set about it, wishes it over, and is continually haunted with the thoughts of its necessity.”*

—from *Common Sense*, 1776

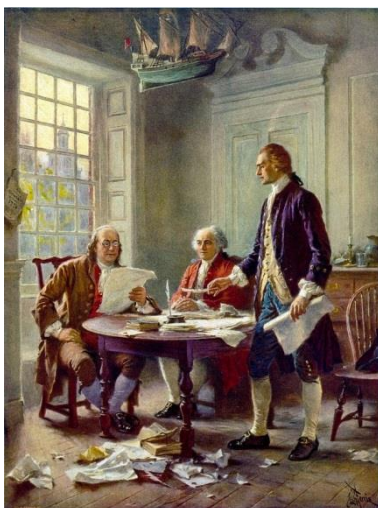
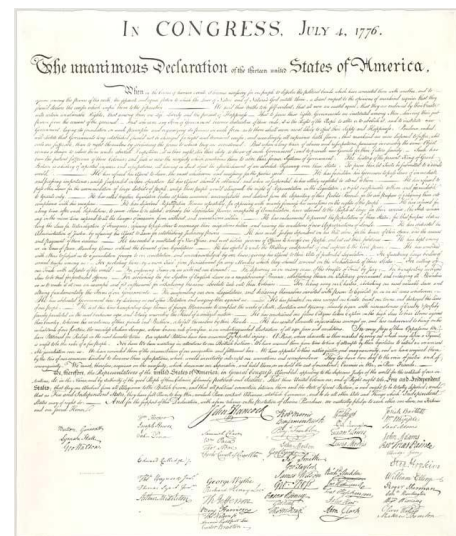


Thomas Paine was an English-American political activist, philosopher, author, political theorist and revolutionary. [Wikipedia](#)

## The Declaration of Independence, 1776

*"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."*

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson between June 11 and June 28, 1776, the Declaration of Independence is at once the nation's most cherished symbol of liberty and Jefferson's most enduring monument. Here, in exalted and unforgettable phrases, Jefferson expressed the convictions in the minds and hearts of the American people. The political philosophy of the Declaration was not new; its ideals of individual liberty had already been expressed by John Locke and the Continental philosophers. What Jefferson did was to summarize this philosophy in "self-evident truths" and set forth a list of grievances against the King in order to justify before the world the breaking of ties between the colonies and the mother country.



This idealized depiction of (left to right) Franklin, Adams, and Jefferson working on the Declaration (Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, 1900) was widely reprinted.