

## Road to Independence

### I. Taxation Without Representation

#### A. Relations with Britain

1. Proclamation of 1763 – Issued by Great Britain to limit settlement of lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. This angered many colonists who had planned to move west.
  - a. Great Britain left 10,000 troops in the colonies after the war to enforce the Proclamation.
2. Great Britain was also broke because of the French & Indian War and expected the colonists to help pay for the war.
3. Writ's of assistance (1764) They allowed customs officers to search homes & warehouses for smuggled goods. Goods were smuggled to avoid paying import taxes. Colonists viewed this as a violation of their privacy and homes.
4. Sugar Act (1764) – lowered taxes on molasses in an effort to stop smuggling between the colonies & the French West Indies.
5. Vice Admiralty Courts – allowed customs agents to send smugglers to these courts where they were tried without a jury. A person was also presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#### B. The Stamp Act

1. Stamp Act (1765) – placed a tax on almost all printed goods in the colonies (Everything from newspapers to wills).
  - a. Many colonists viewed this as taxation without representation
2. Colonial response
  - a. Sons of Liberty – formed by Samuel Adams & others to protest the Stamp Act.
  - b. Stamp Act Congress (October 1765) – nine colonies met to draw up a petition to protest the Stamp Act stating that the colonies could not be taxed except by their own assemblies.

- c. Nonimportation agreements – colonists agreed not to buy or use goods imported from Great Britain. (boycott)
- 3. British Response
  - a. February 1766 – Britain is forced to repeal the Stamp Act, but passes the Declaratory Act which stated that Britain had the right to tax and make decisions for the colonies.
- C. Quartering Acts (1765)
  - 1. A series of acts passed by Parliament beginning in 1765 that required colonists to house British soldiers (Red Coats) and provide them with basic daily necessities.
- D. New Taxes
  - 1. Townshend Acts (1767) – Parliament tried to avoid previous problems by taxing imported goods at the port of entry instead of at the point of sale. Goods taxed included glass, tea, paper, and lead.
  - 2. Colonial response
    - a. Colonists believed only their own legislatures had the right to tax them and once more responded with boycotts.
    - b. Daughters of Liberty – formed by women to support the boycott of British products by manufacturing products that could previously only be bought from Great Britain.

## **II. Building Colonial Unity**

### **A. Trouble in Boston**

- 1. British colonial officials sent word to Great Britain that the colonies were about to rebel. Britain responds by sending more Red Coats (soldiers) to Boston.
- 2. Boston Massacre (March 5, 1770) – after being harassed by colonists nervous British soldiers open fire on the colonists killing five including Crispus Attucks a part African, part Native American dock worker.

### 3. Colonial Response

- a. Colonists leaders spread word (propaganda) of the British attack on Boston colonists using the event as a rallying point for anti-British sentiment calling for new boycotts of British products.
- b. Committees of Correspondence (1722) – organizations formed by colonists to keep each other informed about British activities in the colonies.

### B. A Crisis Over Tea

1. Tea Act (1773) – Gave the British East India Company the exclusive right to ship tea to the colonies without paying taxes. It also allowed the company to sell directly to the colonists at a lower price than anyone else in the colonies.
2. Colonial Response
  - a. Colonial merchants call for a boycott of British goods.
  - b. Boston Tea Party (December 16, 1773) – Boston colonists throw 342 chests of British tea into Boston Harbor.
3. British Response
  - a. Intolerable Acts (Spring 1774) – Called the Coercive Acts by the British they closed Boston Harbor until the tea was paid for, ban town meetings in Massachusetts, permitted royal officers to be tried in other colonies or Britain for their crimes, and forced Bostonians to keep British soldiers in their own homes.