

The Move to Independence

1754-1774

What was shaping the *Americans* before rebellion?

1. Salutary Neglect from 1607-1763 created an environment where **self-rule** was possible.
2. Enlightenment thinkers/ideas spread to colonies. **People were reading more (newspapers, libraries, colleges) and talking more (travel, taverns)**
3. **Religious toleration** and **freedom to choose one's religion** became important to colonists and clashed with Britain's "official" church.
4. Successful economics lead to **Social mobility/economic opportunity** (except slaves)

How did Mercantilism impact colonial life before 1763?

1. Britain viewed the colonies as resources to fuel their manufacturing and markets to sell their product. They were part of an empire and were to follow the rules in order to secure power of British empire. **Colonists tended to do things their own way based on profit motive and under the protection of weak enforcement.**
2. Trading with non-British colonies/countries was prohibited.

NAVAGATION ACTS

- 1651-1673, only English ships could transport goods
- enumerated goods such as tobacco, sugar, cotton could only be sold to Britain
- all goods bound for the colonies had to go to England first where they were unloaded, taxed (import duty), reloaded, and shipped

Colonists were successful smugglers and avoided much of the inflated prices the Acts caused.

1673: Britain appoints customs officials to collect taxes (custom duties) on goods being imported into colonies. **Colonists bribed them.**

How did Mercantilism impact colonial life before 1763?

3. Mercantilism increased tensions among European nations, especially France.
 - British and France conflicted over land claims, fur trade, and Indian policies in North America
 - British were allied with the Iroquois who were increasing their claim to lands in the Ohio valley and clashing with French and Huron claims... Forts were built to defend claims... French and Indian War ensued.
 - British colonists were also moving west into the colonial frontier and challenging Indian and French claims to that region
 - the Treaty of Paris in 1763 officially ended the French and Indian War (Seven Years War)
 - France lost Louisiana to Spain to repay debts
 - France lost Canada and land east of Mississippi to England
 - Spain lost Florida to England
 - France lost hold on North America and only Spain and England remained

What is the significance of the Albany Plan of Union 1754?

1. When conflicts began (French and Indian War), **Benjamin Franklin** organized a meeting in Albany New York, calling on the colonies to send delegates. The goal was to ask the Iroquois for help.
2. **Albany Plan of Union** was based on democratic principals created by the Iroquois in the **Iroquois League of Six Nations**.
 - Grand Council of representatives chosen by legislatures in each colony
 - President-General named by the British crown
3. The plan never worked.
 - colonies rejected it because they felt they were being asked to give up too much power
 - was an important step... just as the New England Confederation or the House of Burgesses, and other *practice* in democracy

How did the colonists benefit from the French and Indian War?

1. Militias gained experience
2. British were not invincible
3. Blacks served in military
4. Fear of Indians decreased once French weren't arming them
5. Colonists communicated with each other more, learned from each other, became more united and losing some of the judgmental superstitions and stereotyping

How did Pontiac's War impact colonial life?

1. Britain's response to war was the **Proclamation Line of 1763** which limited westward expansion in order to keep the peace with the natives. Colonists didn't like this... they moved west anyway... especially trappers, traders, settlers looking for land, land speculators.
2. Britain decided that a permanent army was needed in the colonies to protect them against future attacks. Colonists resented this.

How did Great Britain deal with the enormous cost of the French and Indian War?

They taxed colonists, expecting them to help pay for the war. Their rationales were:

- colonists benefited from having the French threat removed and Indian threat reduced
- colonists benefited from the British army staying in the colonies to protect them
- such benefits cost money

How did British policy toward the colonies change after 1763?

1. Salutary Neglect was replaced with Strict Enforcement
 - George Grenville becomes Prime Minister, he leads enforcement
 - **Navigations Acts enforced**, custom officials in colonies
 - **Writs of assistance** issued allowing British officials to search for smuggled goods
 - British warships patrolled coastline
 - colonists could no longer smuggle easily or easily bribe custom deputies**
 - smugglers no longer tried in front of peers but in front of **admiralty courts**
Resisted by declaring the Magna Carta was being violated.

The Magna Carta, or the Great Charter, 1215

- first set down the principal we know as limited government
- King John signed it
- contained the idea that a monarch, or any form of government, was limited, not absolute
- nobility would be protected against unjust punishment, loss of life, and certain taxes
- the ideas of the Magna Carta were expanded to include other members of British society
- 1607 & 1620, both Jamestown and Massachusetts charters included guarantees that colonists would retain all the rights of Englishmen
- 1689, English Bill of Rights prohibited a standing army during peacetime without the consent of Parliament; required that all parliamentary elections be free; and prevented lawmaking without the consent of parliament. It also provided for the right to a fair and speedy trial, and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment.
- American colonists expected those rights to be observed in the American Colonies

Sugar Act, 1764 Stamp Act, 1765

→ **Patrick Henry** declares “no taxation without representation” in **Virginia Resolves**

The argument

- each colonial charter guarantees citizens the same rights as Englishmen
- the House of Commons levies taxes, but colonists had no representatives
- therefore, they could not be taxed
- therefore, only colonial assemblies could tax

→ **Stamp Act Congress** meets in New York, 9 colonies send delegates

Petition is written to King George III

- declared loyalty
- agreed with government right to regulate trade
- argued the Sugar and Stamp Acts were taxation without representation

→ Colonial merchants signed **nonimportation agreements** & organized **boycotts**

→ **Daughters of Liberty** participate in boycotts

→ **Sons of Liberty** attack merchants using stamps and tax collectors; tar and feathering

Stamp Act repealed 1766

Daughters of the Revolution



Abigail Adams



“Sally” Sarah Franklin Bache

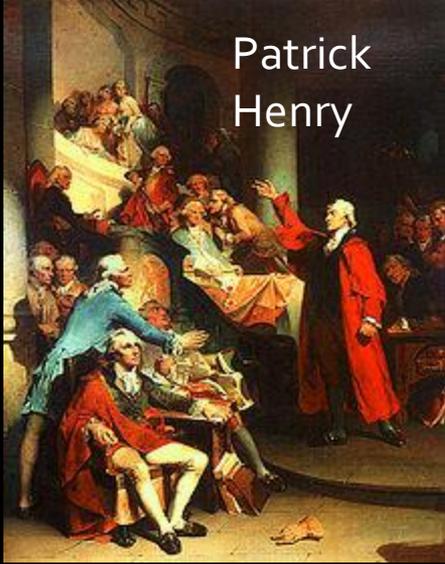
Women supported the rebellion by:

participating in boycotts

creating goods to replace those lost through boycotts

putting political pressure on emerging democratic principals to include women

SONS OF LIBERTY



Patrick Henry

This was a somewhat underground collection of men working to protest the Stamp Act (and others). They participated in boycotts and actively participated in colonial assemblies... urging them to resist and rebel.



Crispus Attucks

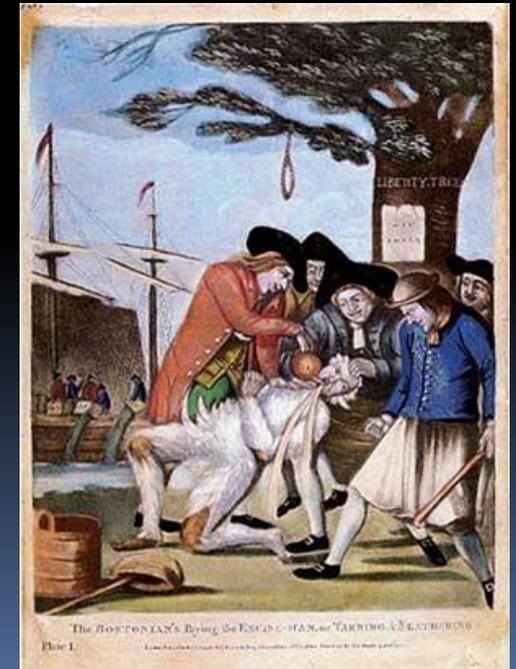


Paul Revere

Tar and feathering tax collectors. Destroying businesses of British sympathizers, burning British ships, intimidating colonists who paid taxes or bought British goods, harassing British soldiers

Meetings were held under the Liberty Tree.

Many towns had a Liberty Tree or Liberty Pole for resistance gatherings.



As Britain repealed the Stamp Act in 1766, they also passed the **Declaratory Act...**

- Parliament reserved power to make laws for colonies in “all cases whatsoever”
 - rationale - virtual representation was as good as actual representation
 - clearly responding to the colonists cries of “no taxation without representation (House of Commons was sworn to represent ALL)

Colonists were used to (during years of salutary neglect, 1607-1763) direct representation and had been electing their representatives for generations... virtual representation didn't fly with the Patriots

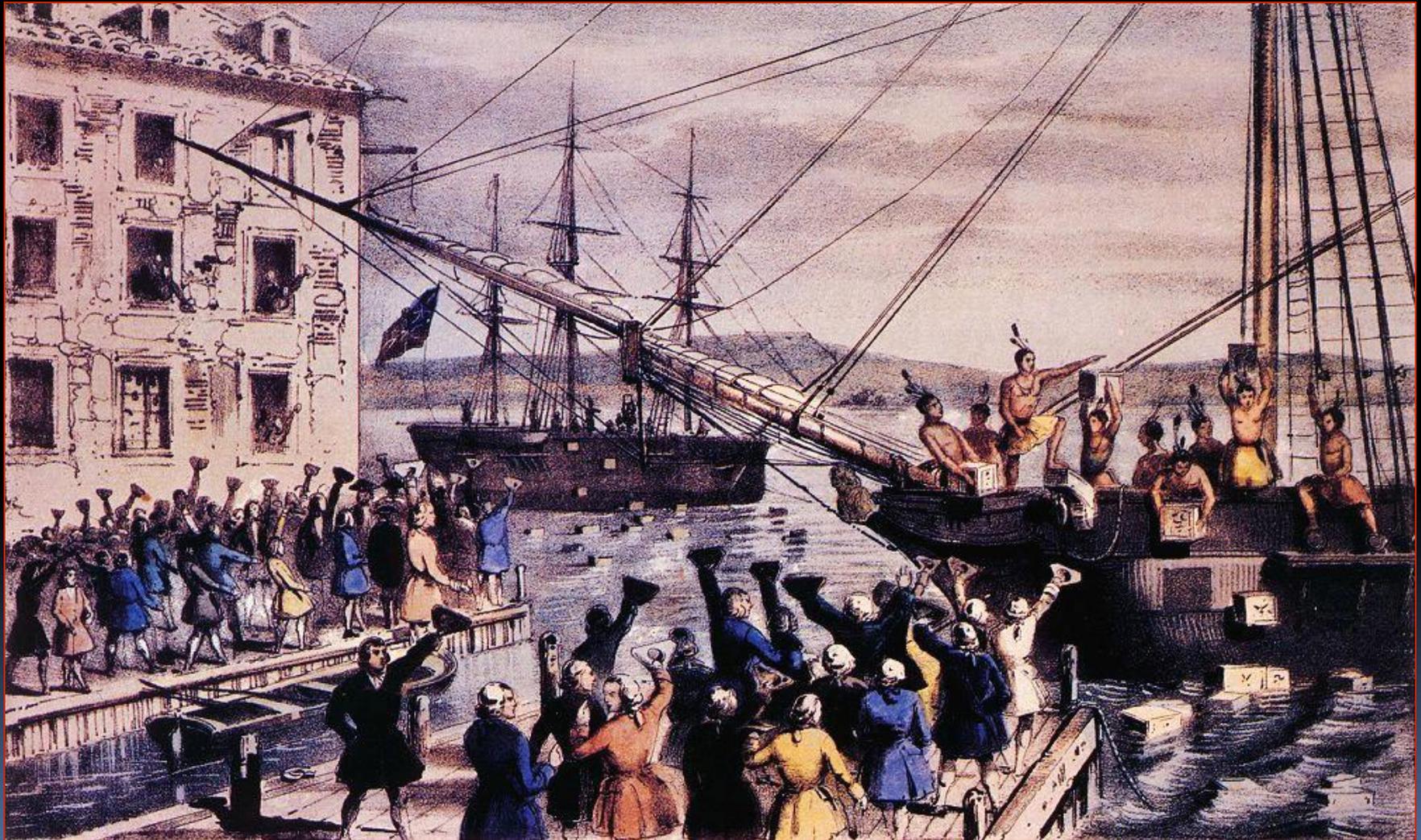
Townsend Acts, 1767

- John Dickenson wrote **Letters from a Pennsylvania Farmer**
- Sam Adams writes the **Massachusetts Circular Letter** urged other colonies to resist (VA, MD, GE supported it, which led the British to close down their meetings)
- Boston Massacre, British troops opened fire and killed 5 colonists after the colonists began throwing rock filled snowballs at them

Townsend Acts Repealed, 1770

- New Prime Minister, Lord Frederick North, repealed them
- boycotts were causing loss of money from business and increase cost for enforcing
- all but the TEA TAX were repealed → **Boston Tea Party**

December 16, 1773 - About 8000 Bostonians gathered to hear Sam Adams tell them Royal Governor Hutchinson has repeated his command not to allow the ships out of the harbor until the tea taxes are paid. That night, the **Boston Tea Party** occurred as colonial activists disguise themselves as Mohawk Indians then board the ships and dump all 342 containers of tea into the harbor.



How did Britain respond to Massachusetts' Circular Letter and efforts to encourage rebellion?

Intolerable Acts, 1774

- **General Thomas Gage**, royal governor of Massachusetts, enforced Act (they were a punishment against "lawless" and an effort to restore order and "lawfulness")
 - Aggression against Tories/Loyalists increased
 - Patriots didn't respect the law as Britain expected

First “step” taken by the Founding Fathers and Patriots to carry the colonies from rebellion to independence...

1. 1774 – First Continental Congress, Philadelphia

- 12 colonies represented (Georgia royal governor prevented delegates from attending)
- 56 men
- Patrick Henry, “I am not a Virginian but an American”
- 1/3 Patriots, 1/3 Loyalist, 1/3 indifferent
- Suffolk Resolves were passed (previously written in MA)
- Declaration of Rights and Grievances (previously written in MA)
- set up second meeting for the following year

Suffolk Resolves were delivered to the Continental Congress by Paul Revere

- Denounced the Intolerable Acts (also known as Coercive Acts)

-Resolved to:

-boycott British imports, curtail exports, and refuse to use British products; pay "no obedience" to the MA Gov. Act (Boston Port Bill),demand resignations from those appointed to positions under the Massachusetts Government Act; refuse payment of taxes until the Act was repealed; support a colonial government in Massachusetts free of royal authority until the Intolerable Acts were repealed; urge the colonies to raise militia of their own people

The Declaration of Rights raised fourteen points of colonial protest, also written in MA. Points included:

- Only the colonial assemblies had a right to tax the colonies, trial by jury was a right, and the use of Admiralty courts was abusive, colonists possessed all the rights of Englishmen, and without voting rights Parliament could not represent the colonists.