



The Road to Revolution

1763 – 1775

Events Leading to the Revolution

- Victory in the Seven Years' War made Britain the master of North America
 - Britain had to also send 10,000 costly troops to frontier
 - After 1763, Britain would try to get America's to help pay for the costs of empire
 - However, the Revolution was not inevitable
 - After Seven Years' War, colonies and England had grown together
 - Disputes over economic policies exposed irreconcilable differences over political principles, leading to revolution
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Britain's American Empire in 1763



The Deep Roots of Revolution

- America's very existence was revolutionary
 - Colonists' ancestors in Europe had lived in the same area for generations; they were very reluctant to question their social status
 - The colonists moved 3,000 miles across an ocean; the new world led to new social customs being made
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The Deep Roots of Revolution

- By the mid 1700s 2 revolutionary ideas took hold in the colonies, leading to revolution
 - Republicanism
 - Ideas of the “radical Whigs”
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The Deep Roots of Revolution

■ Republicanism

- Modeled on ancient Greek and Roman republics
 - A just society was one in which all citizens willingly subordinated (subdued) their private (selfish) interests to the common good
 - Society and government depended on the virtue of their citizens – selflessness, self-sufficiency, courage, civic involvement
 - Opposed to hierarchical and authoritarian institutions like monarchy and aristocracy
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The Deep Roots of Revolution

- Ideas of “radical Whigs”
 - Group of British political commentators
 - Feared threat to liberty posed by arbitrary monarchs (and their ministers) relative to the power of elected representatives in Parliament
 - Attacked patronage (granting favors or giving contracts or making appointments to office in return for political support) and bribes used by king’s ministers as symptoms of “corruption” (rot or decay)
 - Warned citizens to be vigilant against conspiracies to take away their liberties
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The Deep Roots of Revolution

- Circumstances in colonial life
 - No titled nobility or bishops in America
 - Property ownership and political participation accessible to most (especially compared to England where both were restricted)
 - Americans were used to running their own affairs without control from London
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Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- Only Georgia had been founded by the British government
 - Others founded by trading companies, religious groups, or land speculators
 - This fact gave the British government less direct control over the colonies
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Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

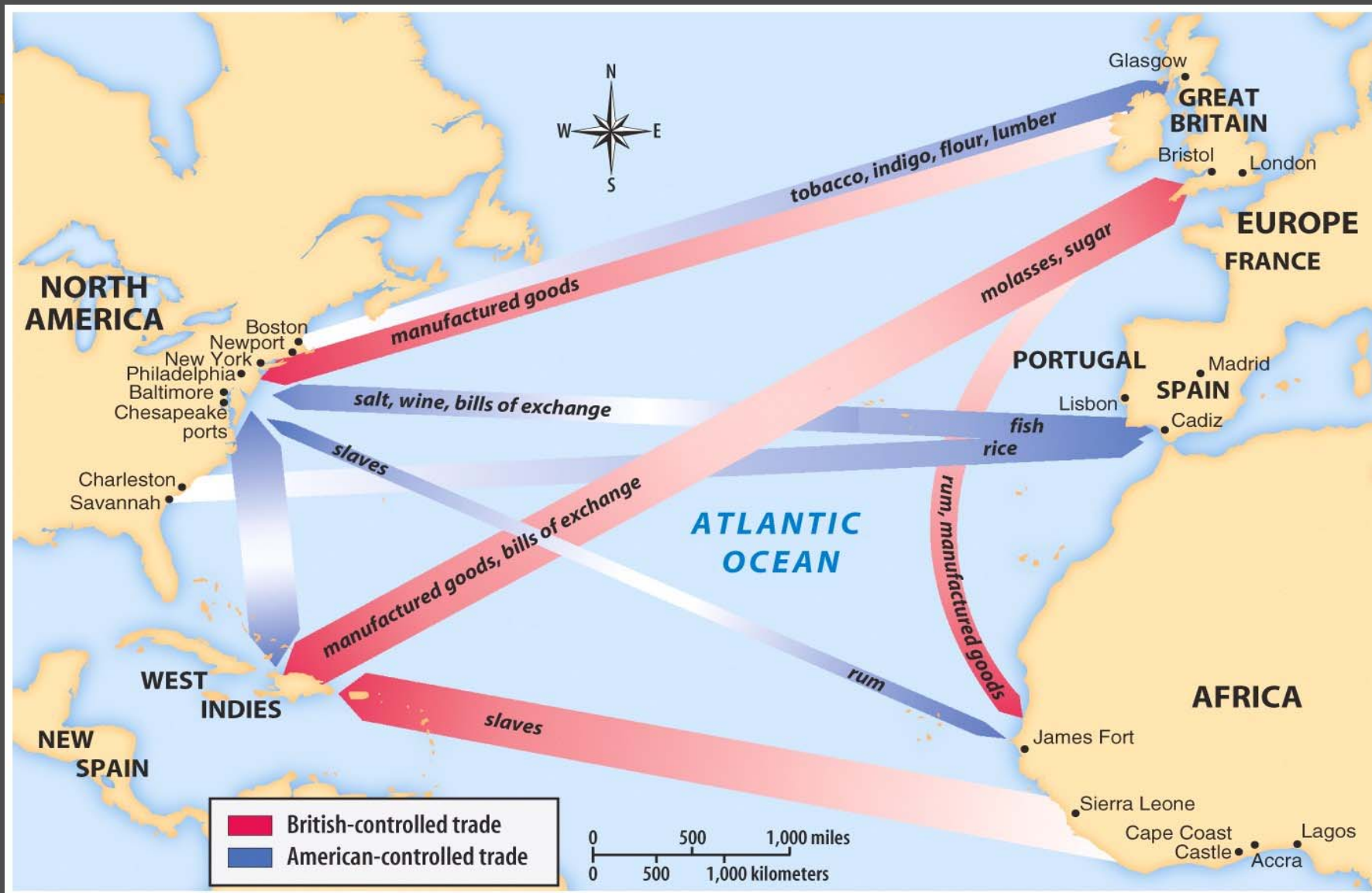
■ Mercantilism

- An economic theory that said that wealth was power and a country's economic wealth (and therefore its military and political power) could be measured by the amount of gold or silver in treasury
- To get more gold and silver, a country needed to export more than it imported
- Foreign countries would then send their gold to that country to buy its exports
- Possession of colonies was seen as an advantage because they supplied raw materials to the mother country (reducing need for foreign imports) and provided a guaranteed market for exports

Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- The British government viewed America as an important part of the mercantilist system; colonies were to
 - Furnish products needed in mother country
 - Not make for export certain products that would compete with British industry
 - Buy imported manufactured goods exclusively from Britain
 - Not to work for self-sufficiency or self-government
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American-European Trade in the 1700s



Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- The Navigation Laws of 1650
 - First of series of laws passed by Parliament to regulate the mercantilist relationship
 - Only British (and also colonists') ships could be used to ship goods from colonies; aimed primarily at competition from Dutch shipping
- A later law said that products shipped to Europe had to be shipped to Britain first (to be taxed and where British middlemen took some of the profits)
- Another law said that certain "enumerated" products be shipped only to Britain (even if prices were better elsewhere)

Dutch Empire and Trade Routes, 1650



Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- Currency shortage in the colonies because of mercantilism
 - Colonists bought more from Britain than British bought from colonies
 - Gold and silver from colonies sent to Britain to pay for British imports
 - Colonists forced to sometimes use butter, nails, pitch, feathers for exchange
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Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- Colonies issued paper money in response to currency shortage
 - This money quickly depreciated
 - British merchants got Parliament to stop colonies from printing paper money or from passing easy bankruptcy laws
 - Colonists complained that their welfare was sacrificed to that of British merchants
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This coin rating table from 1771, shows how coin-rating worked in practice in the late colonial period. For instance, if you tendered a half joe in payment of debt in Pennsylvania, you would be credited with having paid £3 Pennsylvania money. If the same half joe were tendered in payment of a debt in New York, you would be credited with having paid £3 4s. In Connecticut, it would have been £2 8s.

A TABLE of the Value and Weight of COINS, as they now pass in ENGLAND, NEW-YORK, CONNECTICUT, PHILADELPHIA, AND QUEBEC.

	Sterl. l. s. d.	N. York. l. s. d.	Least Weight lwt. gr.	Connectic. l. s. d.	Philad. l. s. d.	Quebec. l. s. d.	Least Weight lwt. gr.
E NGLISH Shilling,	0 01 0	0 01 0		0 01 4	0 01 6	0 01 4	
crown,	0 5 0	8 9		6 8	7 6	6 8	
Guinea,	1 1 0	1 17	5 3	1 8	1 14	1 8	5 5
Spanish Pistreen,	-	1 7		1 2 1-2	1 4	1 2	
Dollars,	-	8	17 6	6	7 6	6	17 12
Pissole,	0 16 6	1 9	1 8	1 2	1 7	1 1	4 4
Portugal Moldore,	1 7 0	2 3	5 18	1 15	2 3 6	1 6	6 18
* Half-Johannes,	1 16 0	3 4	9 0	2 8	3 0 0	2 3	
French Ninapence,	-	-	-	-	-	1	
crown,	0 5 0	8 6	-	6 8	7 6	6 8	17 12
Pissole,	0 16 0	1 8	4 5	-	1 6 6	1 1	4 4
Louis D'or or Guinea,	1 1 0	1 15	5 4	-	1 13	1 8	5 3
German caroline.		1 18	6 8	-	1 14	1 10	5 17

** At a Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, the 7th of August 1770, it was Resolved, That the Members of that Corporation would, in future, pay and receive all HALF JOES, that weigh 9 Penny Weight, at £.3:4:0 and for every Grain they weigh more, allow three Pence per Grain; and every Grain they weigh less, deduct 4d. and all other Gold in like Manner.*

Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- British crown reserved right to nullify any law passed by colonial assemblies if it interfered with mercantilist system
 - Used infrequently
 - Colonists resented its existence; they believed the principle was more important than the practice
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The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

- Until 1763 – Navigation Laws did not impose significant burden on colonies
 - Because they were loosely enforced
 - And because American shippers smuggled or ignored some laws
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The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

- Indirect benefits to America from mercantilist system
 - London paid money to producers of colonial ship parts
 - Virginia tobacco had monopoly on British market
 - Protection of world's strongest navy and strong army (without cost)
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The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

- Costs to America from mercantilist system
 - Stifled economic initiative
 - Imposed dependency on British
 - Americans felt used and taken advantage of
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The Stamp Tax Uproar

- 1763 – Britain held huge empire, but also largest debt
 - 1/2 of the debt had been incurred defending American colonies
 - Britain (under Prime Minister George Grenville) tried to redefine the relationship with America to pay down this debt
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George
Grenville

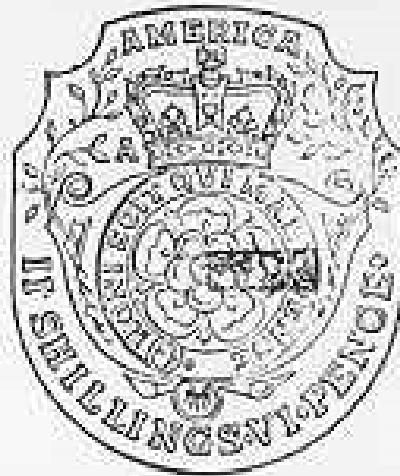
The Stamp Tax Uproar

- In 1763 the British navy was ordered to strictly enforce the Navigation Acts
- 1764 - the Sugar Act
 - First law passed by Parliament to raise tax revenue from colonies
 - Increased duty on imported sugar (molasses) from West Indies
 - Duties lowered after bitter colonial protests
- 1765 – Quartering Act
 - Required some colonies to provide food and living quarters for British troops

The Stamp Tax Uproar

- 1765 – Stamp Act
 - Stamped paper or affixing of stamps to certify payment of the tax
 - Required on bills of sale and on certain commercial and legal documents
 - Playing cards, pamphlets, newspapers, diplomas, marriage licenses, bills of lading (a document issued by a carrier to a shipper, listing and acknowledging receipt of goods for transport and specifying terms of delivery)
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Tax Stamps



The Stamp Tax Uproar

- British view of these new laws
 - They were reasonable requests to have Americans pay their fair share of their own defense, through taxes already familiar to British
 - For example, British citizens had paid a higher stamp tax for 2 generations
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The Stamp Tax Uproar

- Americans saw new laws as a strike against local liberties and against the basic rights that all Englishmen were entitled to
 - Some colonial legislatures did not fully comply with the Quartering Act
 - The Sugar Act and Stamp Act allowed trying of offenders in British military courts, without juries, where defendants were assumed guilty unless they could prove otherwise, violations of principles held dearly by British (and British colonists in America)
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The Stamp Tax Uproar

- Americans saw presence of British army in America as threat, not a blessing
 - Now that French were removed and Indians were defeated (at Pontiac's Rebellion), they believed the British army was not needed
 - Some Americans (influenced by radical Whig suspicion of all authority) suspected a conspiracy to take away their liberties
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British Troop Deployments in the Colonies, 1763



The Stamp Tax Uproar

- In 1765, the Stamp Act became the target of Americans' anger
 - “No taxation without representation” became the Americans' rallying cry
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The Stamp Tax Uproar

- Americans made distinction between “legislation” and “taxation”
 - Parliament was allowed to pass laws affecting the entire empire, including regulation of trade
 - But they denied the right of Parliament to impose taxes on Americans that were designed to raise revenue, not regulate trade, because Americans were not represented in Parliament
 - Only local colonial legislatures could tax the colonists to raise revenue
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The Stamp Tax Uproar

- British dismissed American protests
 - The power of Parliament was supreme
 - Americans were represented in Parliament through “virtual representation”
 - According to the theory of virtual representation, every member of Parliament represented all British subjects (even Americans who were not allowed to vote for members of Parliament)
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The Stamp Tax Uproar

- Americans and representation
 - They did not believe the theory of virtual representation was valid
 - But they did not want direct representation in Parliament
 - If they had representation, Parliament could pass large taxes on the colonies and the small American representation could not stop it
 - Instead, Americans wanted a return to the policy of salutary neglect
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The Stamp Tax Uproar

- Eventually the British government said the power of government could not be divided between “legislative” and “taxing” authority
 - Americans were forced to deny the authority of Parliament and began to consider political independence
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Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- 1765 – Stamp Act Congress
 - 27 delegates from 9 colonies gathered in New York City
 - Drew up statement of grievances and asked for the repeal of the Stamp Act
 - Their statement was ignored in England, but brought colonists together toward unity
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Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- Nonimportation agreements against British goods carried out to put economic pressure on Britain to repeal the Stamp Act
 - Homespun (homemade) garments became fashionable so that it was not necessary to import British wool
 - Was an important movement toward colonial unity
 - Mobilized commoners to participate by signing petitions and carrying out the boycott
 - Women held spinning bees to make homespun cloth
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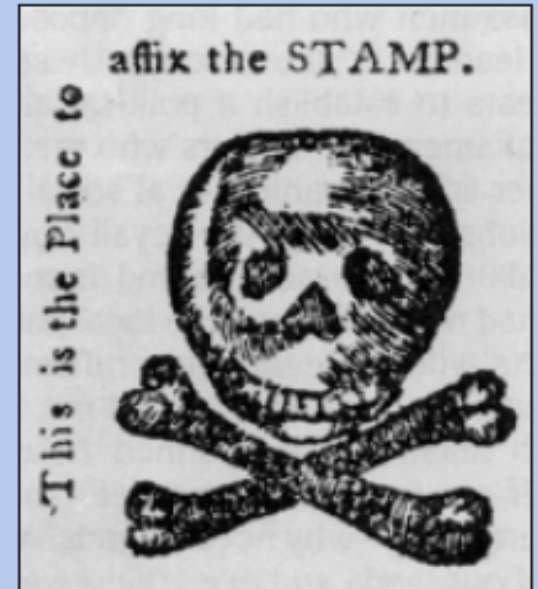
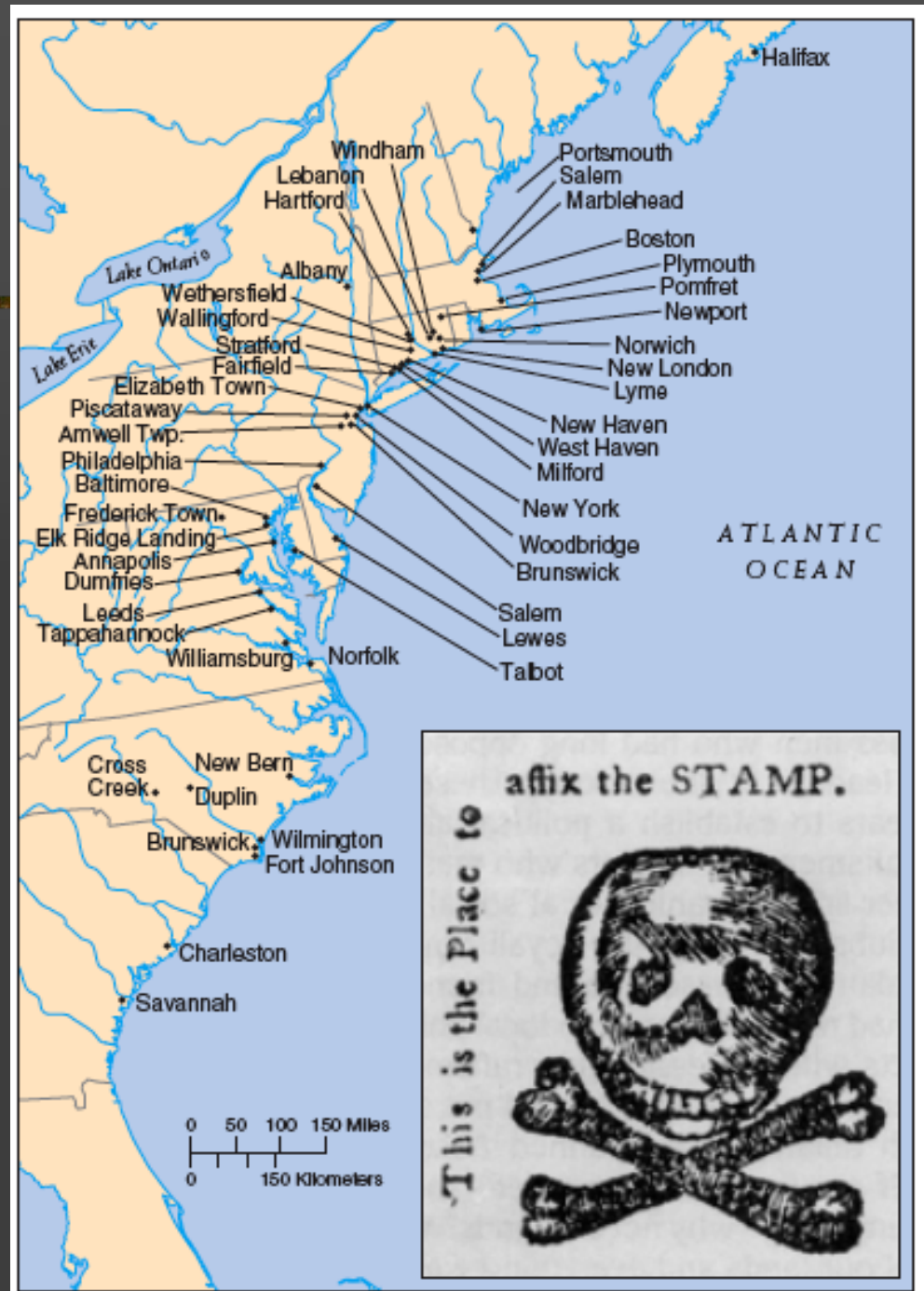


Colonial Women Sign a Nonimportation Agreement

Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- Violent colonial protests against the Stamp Act
 - Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty groups were formed to enforce nonimportation, using tar and feathers on violators
 - Mobs ransacked houses of British officials and hanged effigies (a roughly made model of a particular person, made in order to be damaged or destroyed as a protest or expression of anger) of stamp agents
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Demonstrations Against the Stamp Act Across the Colonies



American colonials rioting in protest against the unpopular Stamp Act



Tar and Feathers and the Threat of Hanging Used During a Stamp Act Protest



Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- 1765 – on day Stamp Act was to go into effect, all the stamp agents forced to resign
 - No one to sell the stamps meant the Stamp Act had been nullified by colonists
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Paying the Excise (Tax) Man

Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- English hard-hit by nonimportation
 - America purchased 1/4 of British exports; about 1/2 of British shipping was used for colonial trade
 - Merchants, manufacturers, shippers, and laborers all suffered and demanded that Parliament repeal the Stamp Act
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Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- Parliament could not understand why the British had to pay taxes to protect colonies, but the colonists would not pay 1/3 of the cost of their own protection
 - 1766 – after debate, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act
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Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

- 1766 – Declaratory Act
 - Was passed at the same time as the repeal of the Stamp Act
 - Reaffirmed Parliament's right to pass laws for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever"
 - Colonists wanted some sovereignty; Britain wanted control over colonies
 - The issue was not resolved, setting the stage for further (future) conflict
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The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston “Massacre”

- 1767 – Townshend Acts passed
 - Named for Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer (an office similar to the US Secretary of the Treasury)
 - Light import duties on glass, white lead, paper, paint, tea
 - Colonists had objected to Stamp Act because it was an internal (direct) tax (collected inside the colonies, paid directly by the colonists themselves)
 - In contrast, the Townshend duties were external (indirect) taxes (paid by the shippers of the goods, not by the consumers)
 - The revenue from these duties was to be used to pay the salaries of royal governors

Charles Townshend



The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston “Massacre”

- Colonial reaction against the Townshend duties
 - Distinction between internal and external taxes unimportant – the real issue was paying taxes at all without representation
 - Royal governors had been controlled by colonial assemblies by threatening to cut off their pay
 - Townshend duties threatened to take away that control
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The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston “Massacre”

- In 1767, during the controversy over the Townshend duties, Britain suspended New York’s assembly for failing to carry out the Quartering Act regulations; suspicions of royal hostility to colonial assemblies seemed confirmed
 - Nonimportation agreements were revived, but less effective than against the Stamp Act
 - Smuggling became common way to get around taxes (especially in Massachusetts)
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The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston “Massacre”

- 1768 – British sent 2 regiments (about 1,000 men) of troops to Boston
 - Colonists don't like the influence of profane troops in their city, and taunt and persecute the soldiers frequently
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The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston “Massacre”

- On the evening of March 5, 1770 the Boston Massacre took place
 - 60 townspeople taunted and threw snowballs at 10 British redcoats
 - The Bostonians angry over killing of 11-year-old boy 10 days earlier during protest against a merchant who had defied the boycott of British goods
 - Troops fired and killed 5 and wounded 6
 - Acted without orders but were provoked by the angry crowd
 - Crispus Attucks was first to die, a “mulatto” (mix of European and African ancestry) leader of the mob
 - At trial, only 2 were found guilty of manslaughter; they were branded on the hand and released

“The
Bloody
Massacre”
by Paul
Revere

The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King—j—Street BOSTON on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th REG^t



The Seditious Committees of Correspondence

■ King George III

- Ruled 1760 – 1801
 - 1770 – began attempting to reassert power of monarchy
 - He was a good man, but a bad ruler, stubborn and power-hungry
 - Surrounded himself with “yes-men” – especially prime minister Lord North
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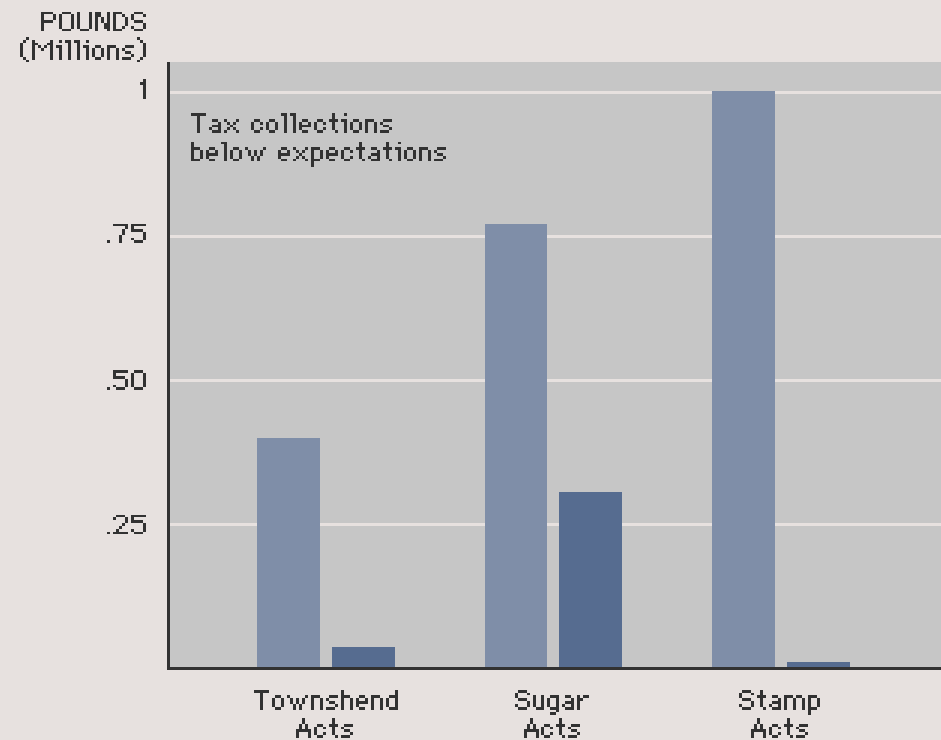
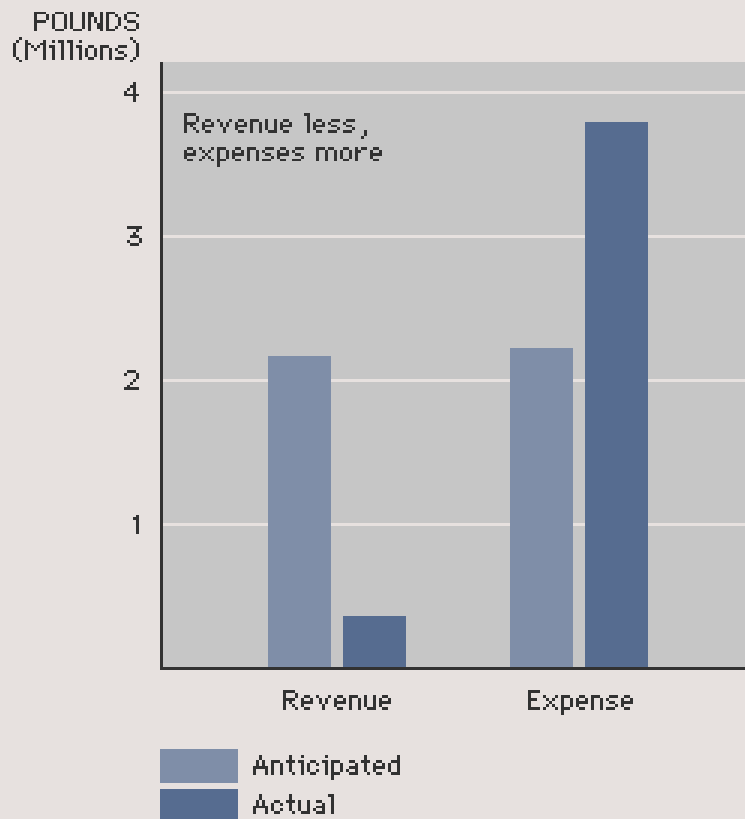
King George III



The Seditious Committees of Correspondence

- Failure of the Townshend Acts
 - Net revenues in the first year were 295 pounds
 - However, Britain spent 170,000 pounds on the military in the colonies that year
 - Nonimportation agreements (weakly enforced) still hurt British manufacturers
 - Parliament finally repealed Townshend Acts
 - However, a 3-pence tax on tea (the most offensive tax to the colonists because so many drank it) left to keep the principle of parliamentary taxation alive
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Effects of Colonial Resistance to British Taxation



Sources: Historical Statistics of the US, Bureau of the Census; Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies; The Blackwell Encyclopedia of the American Revolution

Trade Between England and the Colonies

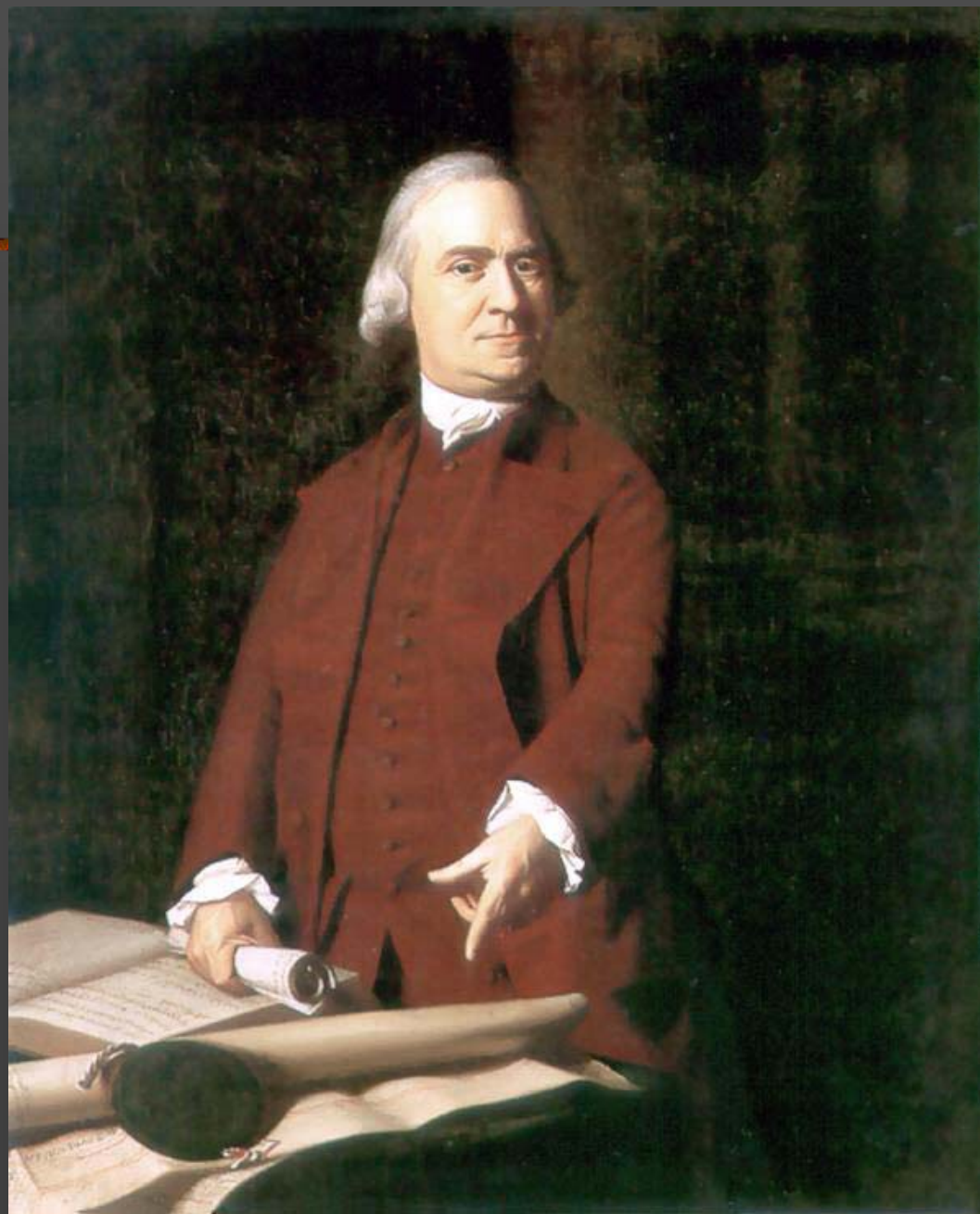
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The Seditious Committees of Correspondence

- Samuel Adams
 - Cousin of John Adams
 - Strong defender of colonial rights and common people
 - 1772 – organized Massachusetts local committees of correspondence which spread across Massachusetts
 - These committees exchanged letters to keep spirit of resistance alive
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Sam Adams



The Seditious Committees of Correspondence

- Committees of correspondence then spread across the colonies
 - Exchanged ideas and information with other colonies
 - Important for spreading discontent and uniting colonies together for unified action
 - Evolved directly into first the Continental Congresses (1774)
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Tea Brewing in Boston

- The British continued to increase enforcement of the Navigation Laws
 - But by 1773, nothing had happened to make revolution inevitable
 - The nonimportation movement was weakening
 - More colonists were reluctantly paying the tea tax because legal tea was cheaper than smuggled tea (and even cheaper than tea in England)
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Tea Brewing in Boston

- 1773 – the British East India Company had 17 million pounds of unsold tea and was facing bankruptcy
 - If the company failed, Britain would lose huge amounts of tax revenue
 - Britain awarded the company a monopoly to sell tea in America which meant cheaper tea for America (even with the tax)
 - Americans believed government was trying to get them to accept taxation by tricking them, which angered them even more
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Broadside against the East India Company, 1773

T O T H E
Tradesmen, Mechanics, &c.
OF THE PROVINCE OF
Pennsylvania.

MY DEAR AND MUCH RESPECTED BRETHREN,

AT a Time when a corrupt and profligate Ministry are pointing their destructive Machines against the sacred Liberties of the *Americans*, the Eyes of all *Europe* are upon us; and much is expected from the known Resolution and Conduct of the *Pennsylvanians*, amongst whom the industrious and respectable Body of *Tradesmen* and *Mechanics* bear a very large Proportion. The Point in Question is, Whether we have Property of our own, or not? whether our Property, and the dear-earned Fruits of our Labour, are at our own Disposal, or shall be wantonly wrested from us, by a Set of luxurious, abandoned and piratical Hielings, to be appropriated by them to increase the Number of such infamous Pensioners, and support their unlimited Extravagance? The Result depends on our determined Virtue and Integrity, at so important a Crisis.

THE Nature of the detestable TEA-SCHEME, and the pernicious Consequences of submitting to receive it amongst us, subject to a Duty payable here, and levied on us without our Consent, have been so judiciously set forth, and demonstrated by abler Pens, as to leave no Room for one of my Capacity to undertake it; and, if the trifling Duty of *Three Pence* were only to be considered, it would not be worth our while to oppose it; nor worth while for the Ministry to strenuously insist on, and take off, in Lieu thereof, a much greater Sum payable in *London*: But, that by this Breach (though small) they will enter the Bulwark of our sacred Liberties, and will never desist, till they have made a Conquest of the Whole.

THESE arbitrary Measures we have virtuously opposed hitherto: Let us for our own Sakes, for our Posterity's Sake, for our Country's Sake, Resolutely persevere in opposing to the End. Corruption, Extravagance, and Luxury, are seldom found in the Habitations of Tradesmen. Industry, Economy, Prudence, and Fortitude, generally inhabit there; and I expect to see these commendable Virtues shine forth upon the present Occasion, with more than brilliant Lustre.

LET not the artful Insinuation of our Enemies, That the Duty will be paid in *England*, by the *East-India Company*, and not in *America*, have any Weight amongst us: This is one of their Tricils to ensnare us. The Act of 11th of *Geo. 3.* expressly lays the aforesaid Duty, on all Teas imported in *America* from *England*, payable on its landing here: And no private Contract between the *East India Company* and the Lords of the Treasury, no Power under the Crown, nor even the King himself, can dispense with, set aside, disannul, or make void such a Clause, or any other in any Act of Parliament, but the same Power and Authority by which it was enacted. The grand Point in View is, by every Artifice to enslave the *American Colonies*, and to plunder them of their Property, and, what is more, their Birth-Right, LIBERTY. It is therefore highly incumbent on us unitedly, with Heart and Soul, to resist the diabolical Delusions, and desist the infamous Projectors.

BUT supposing the Act was repealed, and the Tea could be imported free of any Duty, Import, or Custom; yet, is it not a most gross and daring Infult to pilfer the Trade from the *Americans*, and lodge it in the Hands of the *East India Company*? Let us not be prevailed upon to suppose that this will affect the Merchants only:—We need not concern ourselves with it:—It will first most sensibly affect the Merchants; but it will also very materially affect you, ME, and every Member of the Community. The *East India Company* at present have shipped their desperate Adventure in chartered Bottoms; it was prudent so to do, or else possibly their obnoxious Vessels and Cargoes might become a Sacrifice to the Resentment of a much injured and exasperated People. The same Consideration might probably have induced them to appoint our Merchants their Agents to support the first heat of Action, rightly judging that if we would chastise our Friends with Whips, we should chastise their Factors with Scorpions. But if they can once open the Channel of Trade to themselves, they will hereafter ship their Teas in their own Bottoms. They have passed a gross Assent upon our Merchants in appointing such, whom we respect, Commissioners. Hereafter, if they succeed, they will send their own Factors and Creatures, establish Houses amongst US. Ship US all other *East-India Goods*; and in order to full freight their Ships, take in other Kind of Goods at under Freight, or (more probably) ship them on their own Accounts to their own Factors, and under-sell our Merchants, till they monopolize the whole Trade. Thus our Merchants are ruined, Ship Building ceases. They will then sell Goods at any exorbitant Price. Our Artificers will be unemployed, and every Tradesman will groan under the dire Oppression.

THE *East India Company*, if once they get Footing in this (ONCE) happy Country, will leave no Stone unturned to become your Masters. They are an opulent Body, and Money or Credit is not wanting amongst them. They have a designing, depraved, and despotic Ministry to assist and support them. They themselves are well versed in TYRANNY, PLUNDER, OPPRESSION, and BLOODSHED. Whole Provinces labouring under the Distresses of Oppression, Slavery, Famine, and the Sword, are familiar to them. Thus they have enriched themselves,—thus they are become the most powerful Trading Company in the Universe. Be, therefore, my dear Fellow-Tradesmen, prudent,—be watchful,—be determined to let no Motive induce you to favour the accused Scheme. Reject every Proposal, but a repealing Act. Let not their baneful Commodity enter your City. Treat every Aidor or Abettor with Ignominy, Contempt, &c. and let your whole Department prove to the World, "THAT WE WILL BE FREE INDEED."

A MECHANIC.

Philadelphia, December 4, 1773.

Tea Brewing in Boston

- British officials decided to enforce the law (and collect the tax)
 - Because of colonial protests, not a single chest of tea shipped ever reached buyers in America
 - New York and Philadelphia – mass demonstrations forced ships to return to England
 - Maryland – ship and cargo burned
 - South Carolina – officials seized the cargo for non-payment of duties (after local merchants refused to accept delivery)
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Tea Brewing in Boston

- Thomas Hutchinson, governor of Massachusetts was not intimidated by the mob; he had earlier been attacked during the Stamp Act riots
 - Hutchinson agreed tax was unjust but felt colonists had no right to ignore the law
 - He ordered the ships to not leave Boston Harbor without unloading their cargo
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Rioters
Vandalizing
Hutchinson's
House During
the Stamp
Act Protests



Tea Brewing in Boston

- During the uproar over the tea, an American newspaper published a private letter of Hutchinson
 - He wrote “an abridgement of what are called English liberties” was necessary in colonies to established law and order
 - This seemed to confirm American radicals’ fears of a conspiracy to take away American liberty
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Thomas
Hutchison,
A Wicked
Statesman,
or the
Traitor to
His
Country, at
the Hour of
Death

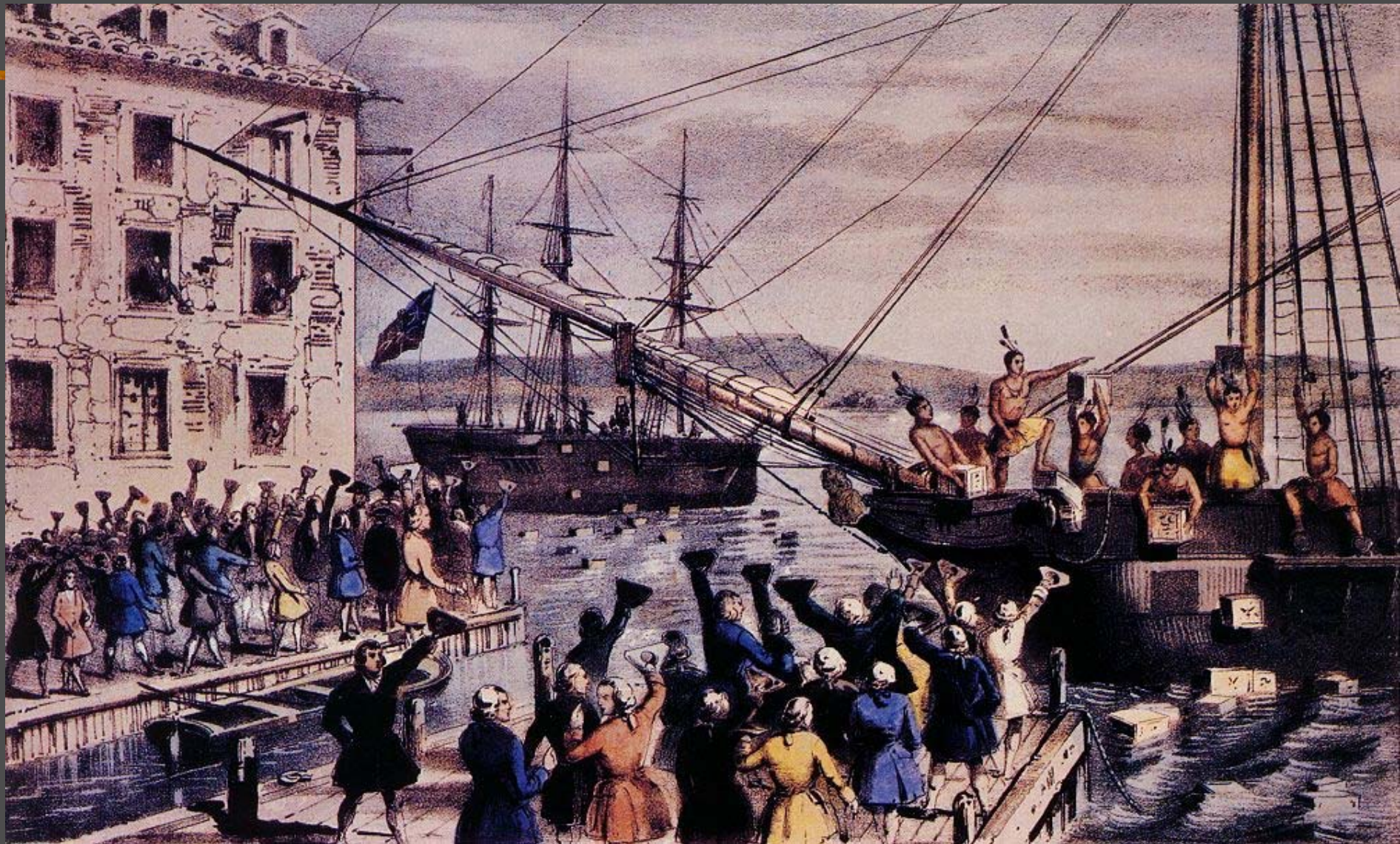


The wicked Statesman, or the Traitor to his Country, at the Hour of DEATH.

Tea Brewing in Boston

- December 16, 1773 – about 100 Bostonians, disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into the ocean
 - While a crowd of several hundred colonists watched approvingly from the shore
-

The Boston Tea Party



Tea Brewing in Boston

- Reactions to the Boston Tea Party
 - Radical colonists supported action
 - Conservatives complained of the destruction of private property and anarchy
 - Hutchinson returned to England, disgusted with the colonies
 - British chose to punish the colonists
 - No British politicians wanted to grant the colonies some self-rule (which might have prevented revolution)
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Parliament Passes the “Intolerable Acts”

- 1774 – Parliament (by overwhelming majorities) passed laws to punish Massachusetts - especially Boston
 - Known as the Coercive Acts in Britain, but labeled the Intolerable Acts in America
 - Boston Port Act closed Boston Harbor until the tea was paid for and order restored
 - New Quartering Act gave local authorities power to lodge soldiers anywhere – even private homes
 - Many chartered rights of colony taken away
 - Restrictions on town meetings
 - Royal officials who killed colonist in line of duty would be tried in Britain, not America

A British Cartoon, Showing the Intolerable Acts as Assaults upon an Anthropomorphic Boston



The able Doctor, or America swallowing the Bitter Draught.

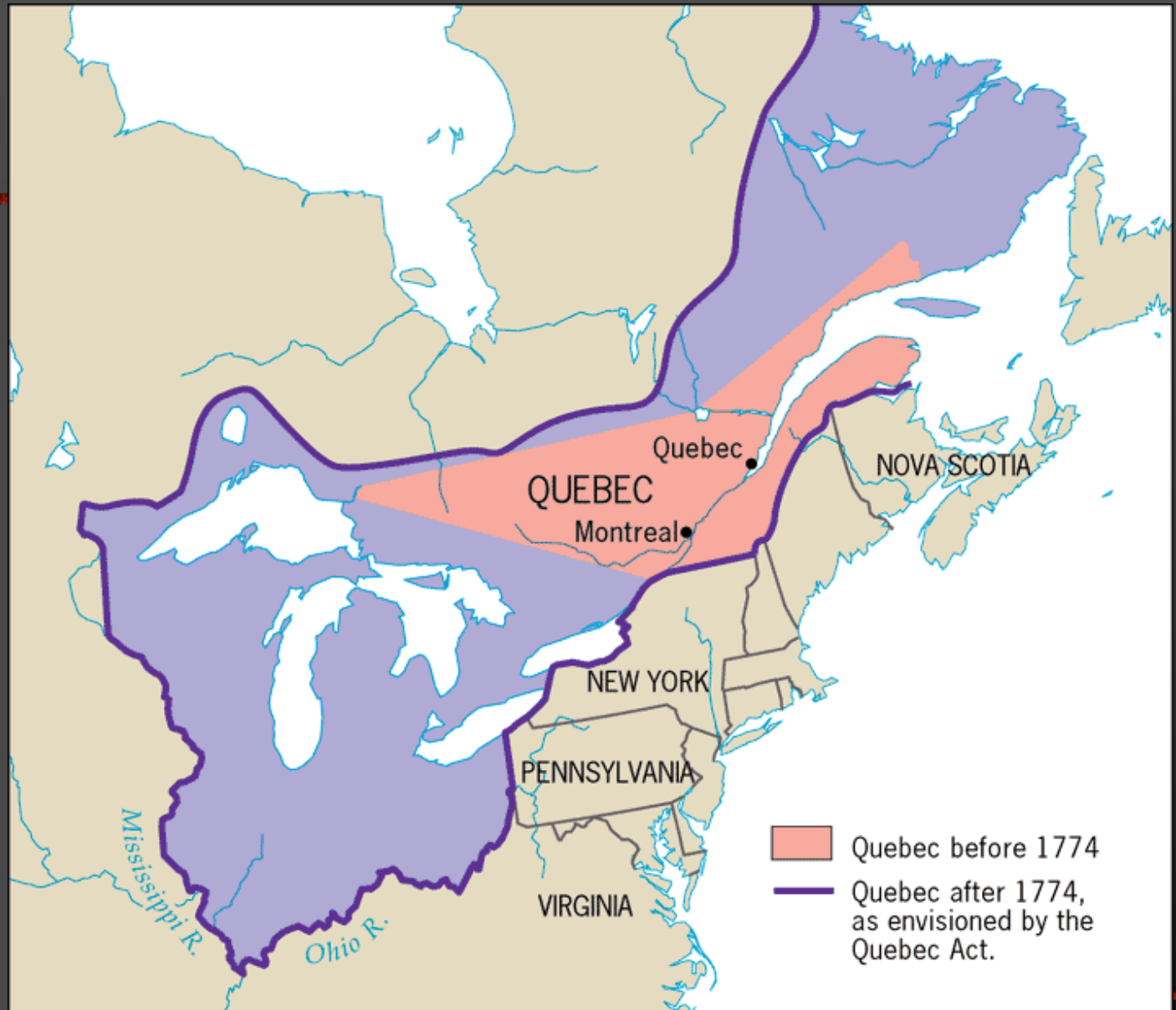
Boston After the Coercive Acts



Parliament Passes the “Intolerable Acts”

- 1774 – Quebec Act passed
 - Coincidence that it was passed at the same time as the Intolerable Acts
 - Incorrectly seen by Americans as part of the British reaction to Boston Tea Party
 - Dealt with problem of 60,000 French in Canada
 - French in Quebec were guaranteed the Catholic religion, allowed to keep old customs (such as no representative assembly, no right to trial by jury in civil cases), and the boundaries of Quebec were extended to the Ohio River
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Quebec Before and After 1774



Parliament Passes the “Intolerable Acts”

- French reaction to the Quebec Act
 - Seen as a wise measure designed to keep the loyalty of the French population in Quebec
 - American reaction to Quebec Act
 - The law had a wider range than the Intolerable Acts (which punished just Massachusetts)
 - Denial of representative assemblies and jury trials was dangerous precedent for the colonies
 - Land speculators and anti-Catholics angered
-

Bloodshed

- Colonies rallied around Massachusetts
 - Even if they didn't support the Boston Tea Party, most felt Intolerable Acts were too harsh
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Bloodshed

- September 5 - October 26, 1774 – First Continental Congress called as a response to the Intolerable Acts
 - Met in Philadelphia to find ways to fix disputes with Britain
 - 12 of 13 colonies (Georgia absent) sent 55 well-respected men
 - Not a legislative congress but a consultative convention
-

Bloodshed

- John Adams at the Continental Congress
 - Steered Americans to Revolution; helped defeat (by a narrow margin) a proposal for American home rule under the British
 - Important documents of Continental Congress
 - Declaration of Rights
 - Solemn appeals to other colonies, king, and British people
-

Patrick Henry at the First Continental Congress



First Continental Congress, 1774

First Continental Congress

Expressed loyalty to Britain.

Demanded repeal of all British laws taxing colonists.

Banned all trade with Britain.
Organized Continental Association to enforce the ban.

Advised each colony to form a militia.

Pledged to meet again if demands were not met.

Bloodshed

- The Association
 - Created by Continental Congress
 - Called for complete boycott of British goods: nonimportation, nonexportation, nonconsumption
 - Continental Congress did not call for independence
 - Wanted to get rid of unacceptable laws and a return to the British policies of salutary neglect
 - If a solution could not be arrived at, they would meet again in May 1775
-

Bloodshed

- Meanwhile the drift to war continued
 - Parliament rejected Congress's petitions
 - Violators of the Association were tarred and feathered
 - Colonists began to gather weapons and drill openly
-

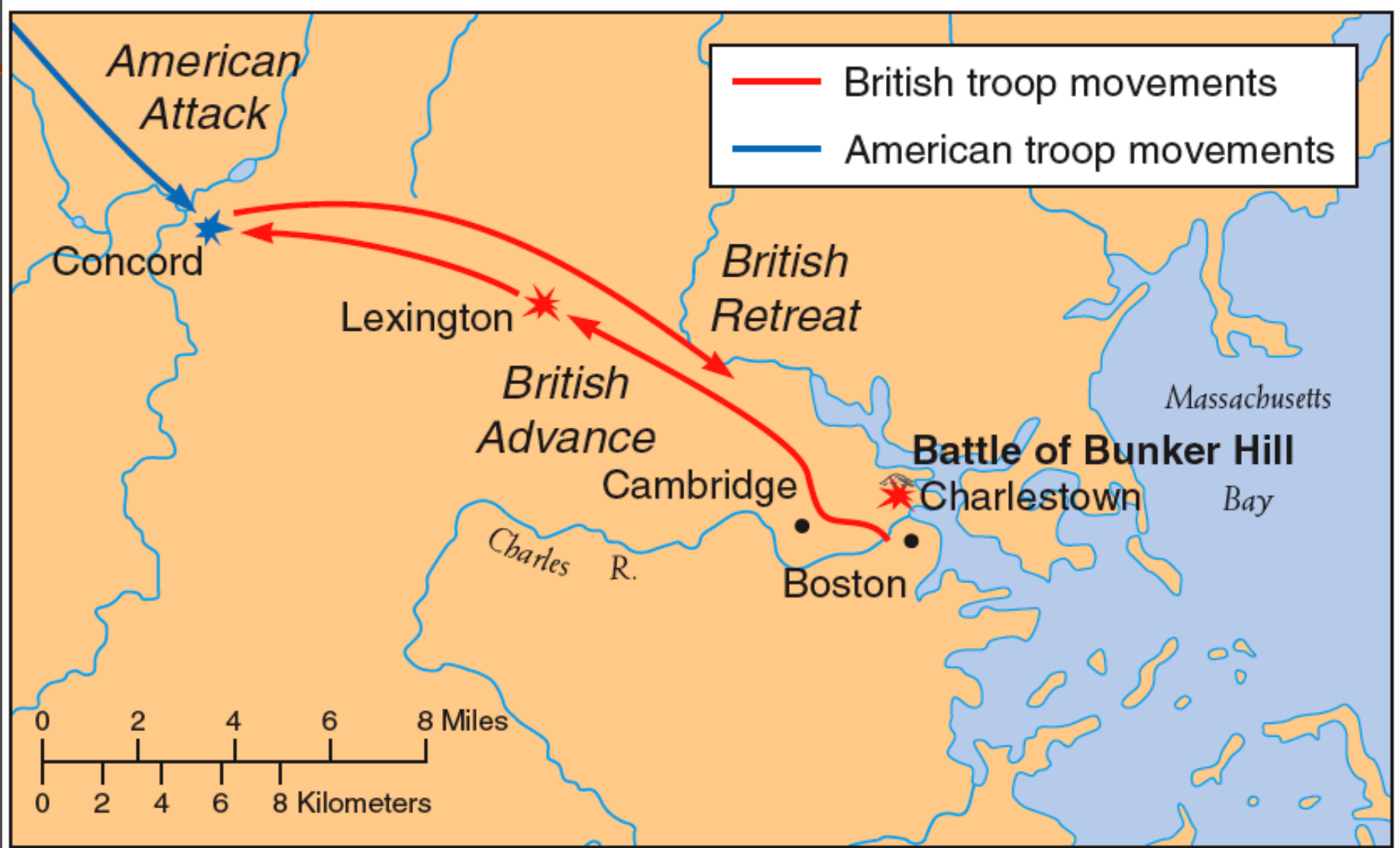
Enforcement of Nonimportation



Bloodshed

- April 1775 – first shots of the Revolution were fired
 - British troops in Boston were sent to Lexington and Concord to seize colonist weapons stores and capture rebel leaders (Sam Adams and John Hancock)
 - At Lexington colonial militiamen refused to disperse fast enough
 - British shot, killing 8 and wounding several more
 - At Concord the British were driven back by Americans
 - Militiamen fired from behind stone walls
 - British had 70 killed, 230 wounded
-

Lexington and Concord, April 1775



British Troops and American Militia Exchange Gunfire at Lexington



Colonial Militia Chase British Soldiers Across a Bridge at Concord



Imperial Strength and Weakness

- British advantages going into the war:
 - England was a mighty empire
 - Population advantage of 3 to 1 (7.5 to 2.5 million)
 - Strongest naval power in the world
 - Professional army of 50,000
 - Money to hire professional soldiers (30,000 Hessians served)
 - 50,000 Loyalists and some Indians fought with British
-

Imperial Strength and Weakness

- Britain was weaker than its advantages seemed to show
 - Many British troops had to be kept in Ireland to prevent rebellion
 - France was waiting for a chance to avenge Seven Years' War defeat
 - Weak and inept government under George III and Tory prime minister Lord North
-

Imperial Strength and Weakness

- Many British did not want to fight Americans
 - English Whigs (opposed to North's Tories) openly cheered American victories
 - Whigs feared if George III won in America he would become a tyrant in Britain
 - Minority, but encouraged Americans to fight
-

Imperial Strength and Weakness

- British army difficulties in America
 - Second-rate generals, soldiers brutally treated, provided with scarce or rotten provisions
 - British had to conquer Americans
 - Restoring situation to pre-1763 (without Parliamentary taxes) would be victory for Americans
 - British fought 3,000 miles away from home
 - Problems in supplying and running war
-

Imperial Strength and Weakness

- America's geography was enormous
 - Cities spread out across country; no main city (like Paris or London) that would cripple entire country
-

American Pluses and Minuses

- Advantages of the Americans
 - Great leaders
 - Washington, Franklin
 - Foreign aid – eventually from France
 - Foreign fighters
 - Marquis de Lafayette helped get France to help colonists
 - Baron von Steuben helped train American troops
-

American Pluses and Minuses

- Fighting defensively (with odds in their favor)
 - The colonies were agriculturally self-sustaining
 - Moral advantage of believing in a just cause
 - Historical odds not impossible – other weaker powers had defeated stronger ones against the odds
-

American Pluses and Minuses

- American disadvantages
 - Badly organized and disunited
 - Weak leadership from Continental Congress
 - No written constitution (Articles of Confederation) until almost the end of the war (1781)
-

American Pluses and Minuses

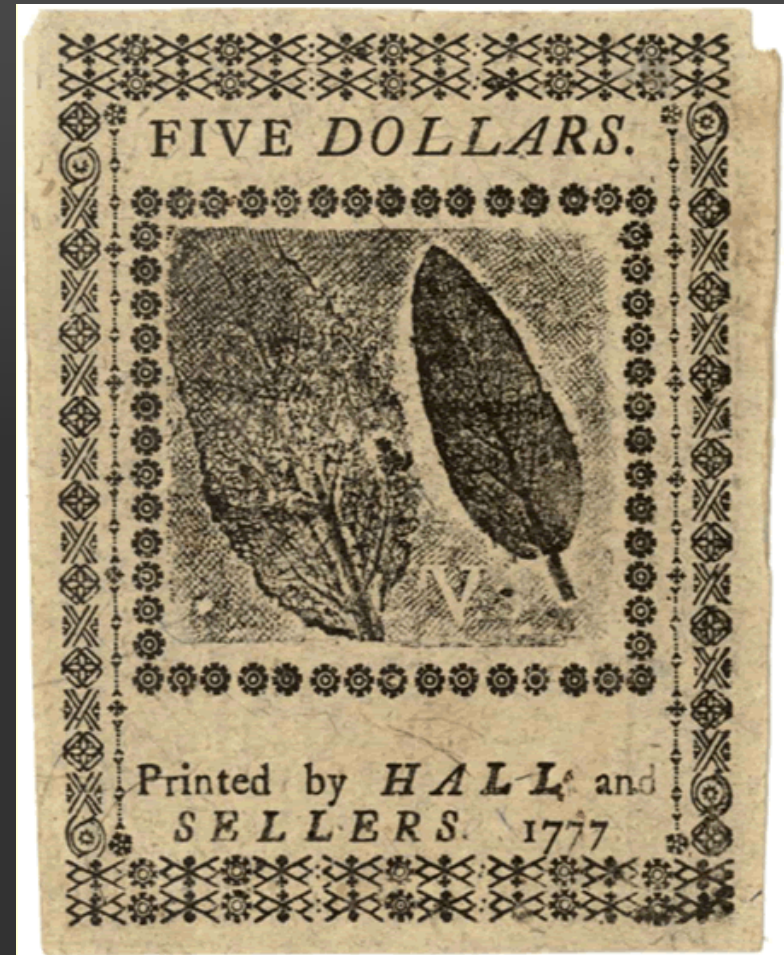
- Jealousy between states led to them resisting attempts of Congress to control them
 - There were also sectional differences over the appointment of military leaders
-

American Pluses and Minuses

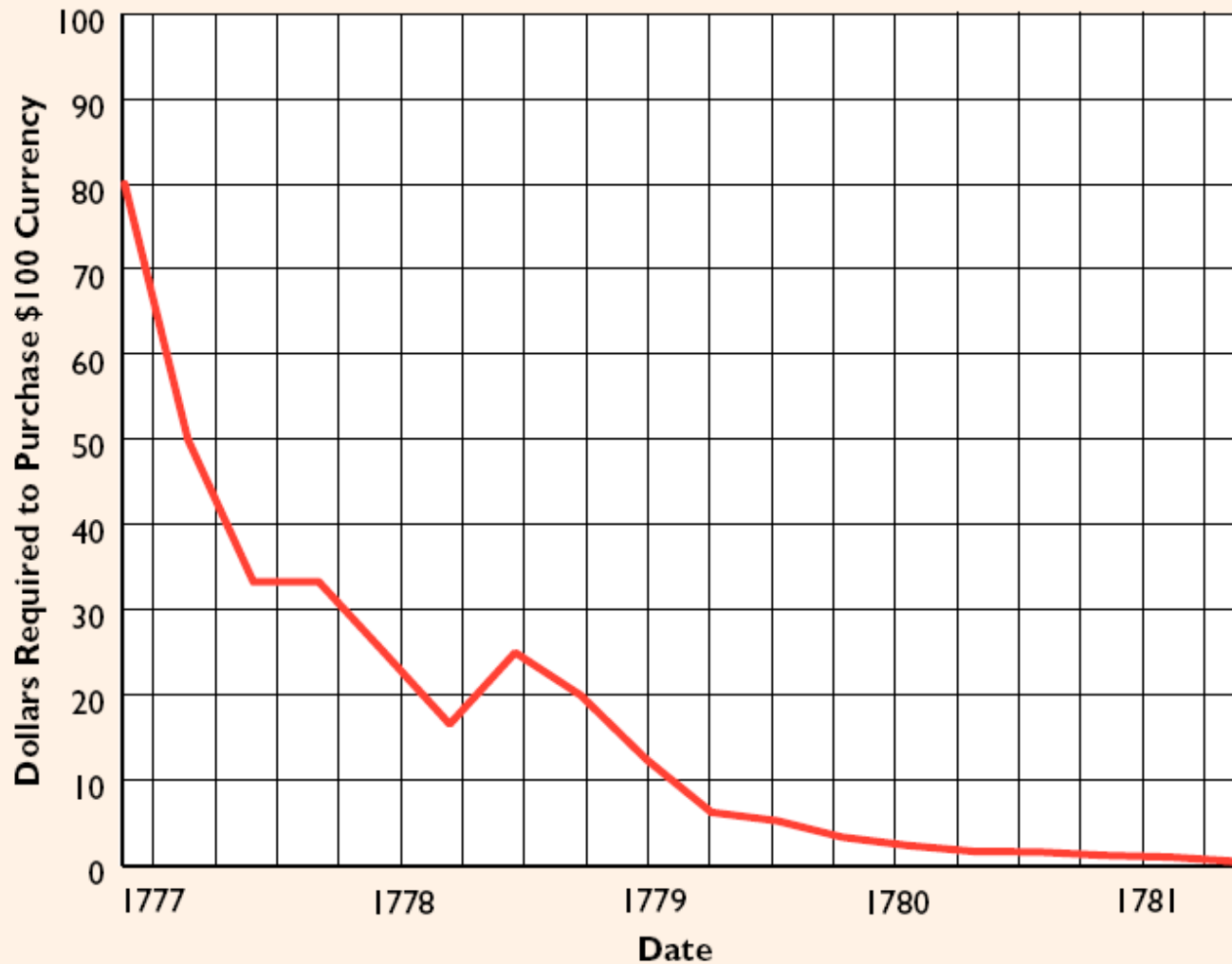
■ Economic difficulties

- Metallic money drained by England (mercantilism)
 - Congress was not willing to pass taxes, instead they printed paper money (“Continental”) that quickly depreciated (“not worth a Continental”)
 - States also issued their own worthless paper money
 - Inflation of currency led to higher prices, causing problems in the economy
-

1777 Continental, Front and Back



Depreciation of Continental Currency, 1777 - 1781



A Thin Line of Heroes

- Military supplies scarce in the colonies
 - Colonial militias had basic supplies
 - But colonists relied on Britain for troops, armaments, and military subsidies
 - At the moment they lost access to British supplies, their cost of defense increased (because of war) and the colonists could not get supplies
 - Eventually, the American alliance with France was most beneficial to the colonists because of access to France's supplies
-

A Thin Line of Heroes

- Lack of food for soldiers led to starvation
 - Manufactured goods, clothing, shoes were all in short supply
-

A Thin Line of Heroes

- Militiamen were numerous but unreliable
 - Several hundred thousand American farmers had militia training, but could not stand against well-trained British soldiers
 - Eventually 7,000 – 8,000 regular troops were trained by Baron von Steuben (a German officer who came to train American troops)
-

Baron Friederich Von Steuben



A Thin Line of Heroes

- Some blacks fought on the American side
 - Some states barred them from fighting
 - 5,000 eventually served in American army
 - Most came from northern colonies with free black population
 - Some fought; others supported white soldiers as cooks, guides, spies, drivers, road builders
-

African American Peter Salem Shooting Major Pitcairn at Bunker Hill



A Thin Line of Heroes

- Blacks fighting for the British
 - Lord Dunmore (royal governor of Virginia) issued a proclamation promising freedom to any blacks who fought for the British
 - Thousands of blacks fled to British side for emancipation
 - At the end of the war the British evacuated 14,000 blacks to Nova Scotia, Jamaica and England
-

A Thin Line of Heroes

- American profiteers undermined troop morale
 - Profiteers sold to the British because they paid in gold
 - Speculators jacked up prices and made huge amounts of money on army supplies
-

A Thin Line of Heroes

- Washington only had 20,000 men at any one time
 - If rebels would have united with more zeal, many times that number could have been raised
 - Only a minority of colonists actually fought for independence
-