

Growing Rebelliousness

Main Idea Unpopular British laws and taxes led to colonial protests and violence.

Reading Connection Have you ever read letters to the editor of your local newspaper protesting some local policies? Read on to learn how the colonists began to protest against unpopular taxes.

Britain and France struggled for dominance on the North American continent. Whenever the two countries were at war, their colonies went to war as well. In 1754 such a conflict began in America.

The French and Indian War In the 1740s, Great Britain became interested in the Ohio River valley. So did their long-standing rivals, the French. Before long, fighting broke out, and the French, with help from their Native American allies, took temporary control of the region.

From 1754 to 1759, the so-called French and Indian War raged along the North American frontier. The fighting between Great Britain and France also spread to Europe, where it was known as the Seven Years' War. In the end, the British triumphed. The Treaty of Paris of 1763 made Great Britain the dominant power in North America. Its empire now included New France and all of Louisiana east of the Mississippi, except New Orleans. Britain also gained Florida from Spain, which had allied itself with France. However, to make up for Spain's loss, France gave the Spanish western Louisiana and New Orleans.

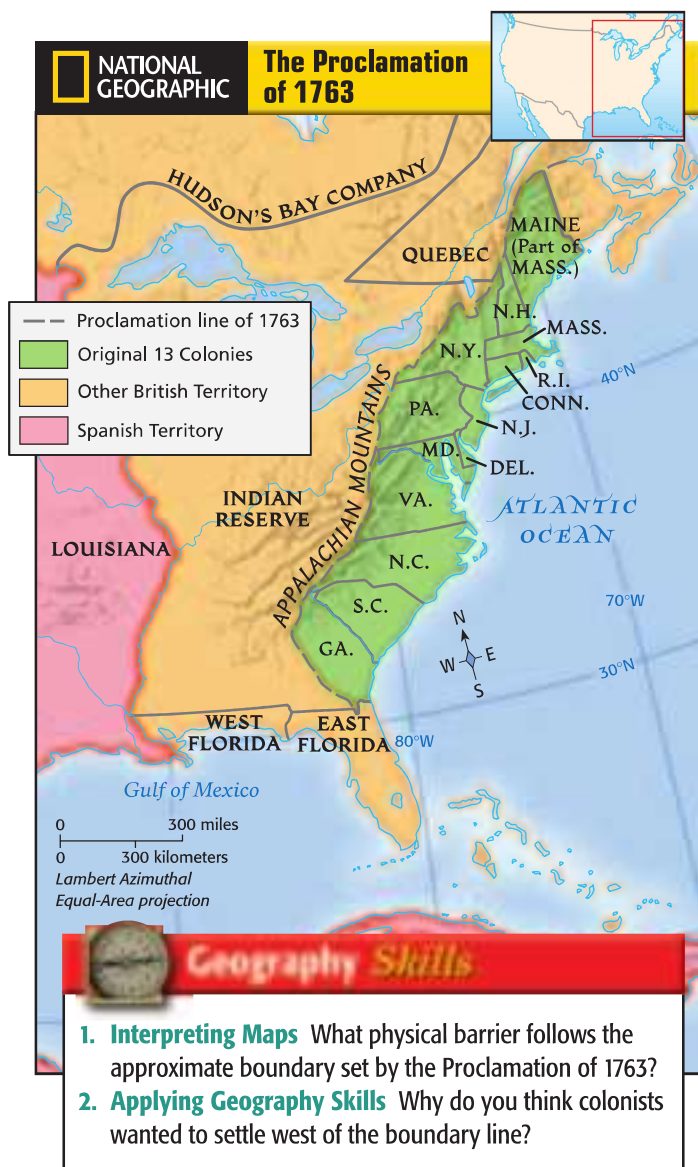
Unpopular Regulations Great Britain's victory left it with steep debts to repay and new territories to govern and defend. Many British leaders thought that the colonies should share in these costs. The American colonists did not like the policies Britain adopted to solve its financial problems.

The first troubles came with passage of the Proclamation Act of 1763. This act tried to halt colonial expansion into Native American lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. King George III wanted to avoid another costly war with the Native Americans, but the colonists who had fought the French and Indian War to secure access to the Ohio River valley were enraged.

While western farmers denounced the Proclamation Act, eastern merchants objected to new tax policies. The British government had discovered that

the colonists were smuggling goods without paying **customs duties**—taxes on imports and exports. Britain tightened customs control and began introducing other unpopular measures. To bring in new revenue, the Sugar Act of 1764 raised taxes on imports of raw sugar and molasses. It also placed new taxes on silk, wine, coffee, and indigo. To make the colonists contribute to their own defense, the Quartering Act of 1765 obligated them to provide shelter for British troops.

Nothing, however, outraged the colonists more than the **Stamp Act** of 1765. The act required stamps to be bought and placed on most printed materials, from newspapers and legal documents to diplomas and playing cards. Unlike taxes on trade, this was a direct tax—the first Britain had ever placed on the colonists. Opposition was swift. Editorials, pamphlets, and speeches poured out against the tax. Groups calling



themselves the Sons of Liberty organized outdoor meetings and protests and tried to intimidate stamp distributors. In October 1765, representatives from nine colonies met for what became known as the Stamp Act Congress. Together, they issued the Declaration of Rights and Grievances, arguing that only the colonists' political representatives, and not Parliament, had the right to tax them. "No taxation without representation" became a popular catch-phrase.

On November 1, when the Stamp Act took effect, the colonists ignored it. They began to boycott all goods made in Britain, refusing to drink British tea or buy British cloth. Their strategy paid off. Merchants in England saw sales plunge, and thousands of workers lost their jobs. Under pressure, British lawmakers repealed the Stamp Act in 1766.

The Townshend Acts During the Stamp Act crisis, Britain's financial problems worsened. To raise more money from the colonies, Parliament passed new measures in 1767. These came to be called the **Townshend Acts**, after Charles Townshend, the head

of Britain's treasury. The Townshend Acts put new customs duties on glass, lead, paper, paint, and tea imported into the colonies. They also gave customs officers new powers to help them arrest smugglers.

The Townshend Acts stirred a heated outcry. In Massachusetts, Sam Adams and James Otis led the resistance; in Virginia, the leading protestors included George Washington, Patrick Henry, and Thomas Jefferson. When the assemblies of both colonies passed statements challenging Britain's right to tax them, Parliament dissolved their assemblies. The colonists remained undeterred. Merchants in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia united in a boycott against British goods. In 1769 colonial imports from Britain declined sharply from what they had been in 1768.

On March 5, 1770, anger turned to violence in Boston. A crowd of colonists began taunting and throwing snowballs at a British soldier guarding a customs house. He called for help, and as jostling and shoving ensued, the British fired shots and five colonists lay dead. The Boston Massacre, as the incident became known, might well have initiated more violence. Within weeks, though, tensions were calmed by news that the British had repealed almost all of the Townshend Acts. Parliament kept one tax—on tea—to uphold its right to tax the colonies. At the same time, it allowed the colonial assemblies to resume meeting. Peace and stability returned to the colonies, at least temporarily.

Reading Check **Summarizing** What disagreements arose between Britain and the colonies in the 1700s?

The Road to War

Main Idea When Britain introduced new laws to assert its authority, the colonists decided to declare their independence. **TURNING POINT**

Reading Connection Have you ever wondered how the colonists must have felt as they decided to defy Parliament? Read on to learn about the growing discontent of the colonists.

The repeal of the Townshend Acts in 1770 brought calm to the colonies for a time. Soon, however, new British policies again enraged American colonists and led them to declare their independence.

The Colonists Defy Britain After trade with England had resumed, so had smuggling. When some 150 colonists seized and burned the stranded


Causes and Effects of Tensions With Britain

Causes

- 1764, Sugar Act
- 1765, Stamp Act
- 1767, Townshend Acts
- 1773, Tea Act
- 1774, Coercive Acts

Effects

- Colonists protest that their rights have been violated.
- Nine colonies hold Stamp Act Congress.
- Colonists boycott British goods.
- Sons and Daughters of Liberty formed.
- Tea dumped into Boston Harbor during the "Boston Tea Party."
- Twelve colonies attend the Continental Congress.



Graphic Organizer Skills

Parliament's efforts to tax the colonists led to growing protests in the colonies.

Analyzing Information If you had been a colonist, how would you have reacted to these taxes? Why?

customs ship *Gaspee*, the British gave investigators the authority to bring suspects back to England for trial. Colonists thought this denied them the right to a trial by a jury of their peers. Following a suggestion by Thomas Jefferson, they created **committees of correspondence** to communicate with the other colonies about British activities. The committees of correspondence helped unify the colonies and shape public opinion. They also helped colonial leaders coordinate strategies for resisting the British.

In May 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act, further igniting the flames of rebellion. The Tea Act created favorable business terms for the struggling British East India Company. American merchants, who feared they would be squeezed out of business, were outraged. That fall, when new shipments of British tea arrived in American harbors, colonists in New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston blocked its delivery. Bostonians went one step further. On the night before the tea was to be unloaded, approximately 150 men boarded the ships. They dumped 342 chests of tea overboard as several thousand people on shore cheered. The raid came to be called the Boston Tea Party.

The Boston Tea Party outraged the British. In the spring of 1774, Parliament passed new laws that came to be known as the Coercive Acts to punish Massachusetts and dissuade other colonies from challenging British authority. One law shut down Boston's port until the city paid for the destroyed tea. Other laws banned most town meetings and expanded the powers of the royally appointed governor, General Thomas Gage. To enforce the acts, the king stationed 2,000 troops in New England.

A few months later the British introduced the Quebec Act, which extended Quebec's boundaries to include much of what is today Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin. If colonists moved west into that territory, they would have no elected assembly. The Quebec Act, coming so soon after the Coercive Acts, seemed to signal Britain's desire to seize control of colonial governments.

Colonists wasted no time in protesting the **Intolerable Acts**, as they came to be known. In June 1774, after the Virginia governor had suspended the House of Burgesses, the Massachusetts assembly suggested that representatives from all the colonies gather to discuss how to proceed. The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia on September 5. The 55 delegates, who came from each of the 12 colonies except Georgia, debated a variety of ideas. Finally they approved a plan to boycott British goods. They also agreed to hold a second Continental Congress in May 1775 if the crisis remained unresolved.



Picturing History

Tea Tantrum In December 1773, colonists in Boston took matters into their own hands and dumped hated British tea into Boston Harbor. [Why did Boston tea merchants object so strongly to the Tea Act?](#)

The Revolution Begins Meanwhile, Great Britain had suspended the Massachusetts assembly. Massachusetts lawmakers responded by regrouping and naming John Hancock as their leader. He became, in effect, a rival governor to General Gage. A full-scale rebellion was now under way. The Massachusetts militia began to drill and practice shooting. The town of Concord created a special unit of **minutemen** who were trained and ready to “stand at a minute’s warning in case of alarm.” Through the summer and fall of 1774, colonists prepared for a fight.

Not everyone favored resistance. Although many colonists disagreed with Parliament’s policies, they still felt a strong sense of loyalty to the king and believed British law should be upheld. Americans who backed Britain came to be known as Loyalists, or Tories. On the other side were the Patriots, or Whigs, who believed the British had become tyrants. The Patriots dominated in New England and Virginia, while the Loyalists had a strong following in Georgia, the Carolinas, and New York.

In April 1775, General Gage decided to seize Patriot arms and ammunition being stored in

What If...

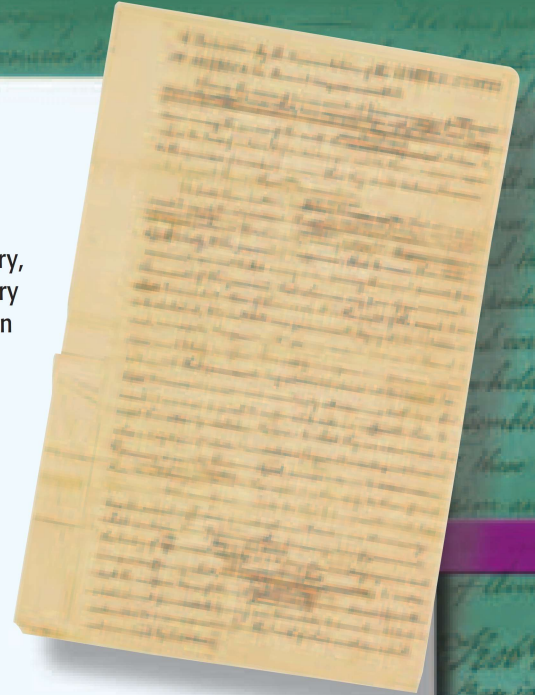
The Declaration of Independence Had Condemned Slavery?

In 1776 the Continental Congress chose a committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, and Robert Livingston. Jefferson later recalled the following in his memoirs: “[The committee members] unanimously pressed on myself alone to undertake the draught. I consented; I drew it; but before I reported it to the committee I communicated it separately to Dr. Franklin and Mr. Adams requesting their corrections. . . .”

Franklin and Adams urged Jefferson to delete his condemnation of King George’s support of slavery. The two realized that the revolution needed support from all the colonies to succeed, and condemning slavery would alienate pro-slavery colonists and force them to support the king. Jefferson modified the draft accordingly. If the Declaration of Independence had included

Jefferson’s condemnation of slavery, which is excerpted below, the history of the United States might have been very different.

“He [King George] has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. . . . He has [stopped] every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce determining to keep open a market where [people] should be bought and sold. . . .”



Concord. On the night of April 18, about 700 British troops secretly set out from nearby Boston. Patriot leaders heard about the plan and sent messengers, including Paul Revere, to spread the alarm. When the British reached **Lexington**, a town on the way to Concord, they found 70 minutemen lined up waiting for them. No one knows who fired the first shot, but when the smoke cleared, 8 minutemen lay dead and 10 more were wounded.

The British then headed to **Concord**, only to find most of the military supplies already removed. When they were forced to retreat by 400 colonial militiamen, militia members and farmers in the area fired at them from behind trees, stone walls, barns, and houses on their way back to Boston. As news spread of the fighting at Lexington and Concord, militia raced from all over New England to help. By May 1775, militia troops had surrounded Boston, trapping the British inside.

Three weeks after the battles, the Second Continental Congress met again and voted to “adopt” the militia surrounding Boston. **George Washington** became general and commander in chief of this

Continental Army. Before Washington could reach his troops, though, the militia was tested again. In the Battle of Bunker Hill it turned back two British advances before running out of ammunition. The situation returned to a stalemate, with Boston still under siege. Yet the battle helped to build American confidence. It showed that the largely untrained colonial militia could stand up to one of the world’s most feared armies.

The Decision for Independence Despite the onset of fighting, many colonists were still not prepared to break away from Great Britain. In July 1775, the Continental Congress sent King George III a document known as the Olive Branch Petition. The petition asserted the colonists’ loyalty to the king and urged him to resolve their grievances peacefully. King George not only rejected the petition, but he declared the colonies to be “open and avowed enemies.”

With no compromise likely, the fighting spread. The Continental Congress established a navy and began seizing British merchant ships. Patriots invaded Canada and faced off against British and



What might have happened?

1. Why do you think Thomas Jefferson, who was a slaveholder, wanted to include this paragraph?
2. **Historical Analysis** Would the course of American history have changed significantly if the Declaration of Independence had included Jefferson's statement? If so, how? If not, why not? **CA H12, H13, H14**

Loyalist troops in Virginia and the Carolinas. As the conflict dragged on, more and more colonists began to favor a break with Britain.

Thomas Paine helped sway public opinion with his pamphlet called *Common Sense*, published in January 1776. Paine persuasively argued that King George III, and not Parliament, was responsible for British actions against the colonies. In his view, monarchies had been established by seizing power from the people. George III was a tyrant, he proclaimed, and it was time to declare independence:

“Everything that is right or reasonable pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'Tis Time To Part. . . Every spot of the old world is overrun with oppression. Freedom hath been hunted round the globe. . . [and] England hath given her warning to depart.”

—from *Common Sense*

In early July, a committee of the Continental Congress approved a document that Thomas Jefferson

had drafted in which the colonies dissolved ties with Britain. On July 4, 1776, the full Congress issued this **Declaration of Independence**. The colonies now proclaimed themselves the United States of America, and the American Revolution formally began.

Reading Check Explaining Why did the colonies declare their independence?

Fighting for Independence

Main Idea With the help of their allies, the Americans defeated the British in the Revolutionary War.

Reading Connection Do you remember trying something new without having time for practice? Read on to learn how the Americans fought a war without proper training or equipment.

The Continental Army could not match the British Army in size, funding, discipline, or experience. American soldiers often were poorly equipped and went without food, pay, or adequate clothing. The Americans did have several advantages. The Continental Army was fighting on home ground. In every state it also had help from local militias that used unconventional tactics. Moreover, British support for the war was only half-hearted. Britain already faced threats to other parts of its empire from the French, Spanish, and Dutch, and it could not afford a long and costly struggle in America.

The Northern Campaign The British under the command of General William Howe were quickly able to seize New York City. Then, in October, Howe led his troops south toward Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress was meeting. George Washington raced to meet him, but both armies were surprised by the early onset of winter weather and set up camp. Nevertheless, Washington decided to try a surprise attack. On the night of December 25, 1776, he led some 2,400 men across the icy Delaware River from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. There they achieved two small victories before they camped for the winter.

By the spring of 1777, both sides were on the move again. General Howe revived his plan to capture Philadelphia and the Continental Congress. On September 11, 1777, he defeated Washington at the Battle of Brandywine Creek. Howe captured Philadelphia but the Continental Congress escaped before the city fell.



- ← British forces
- ← American and allied forces
- ★ British victory
- ★ American victory
- ★ Indecisive battle



Geography Skills

1. **Interpreting Maps** Name two sites of colonial victories in New Jersey.
2. **Applying Geography Skills** Approximately how far apart were the northernmost and southernmost battles shown on the map?

While General Howe remained in Philadelphia, another British force, led by General John Burgoyne, was marching south from Quebec. Burgoyne expected to link up with Howe in New York but failed to coordinate with him. When he and his 5,000 men reached Saratoga in upstate New York, they were surrounded by a far bigger American army. On October 17, 1777, they surrendered—a stunning victory for the Americans. Not only did it improve morale dramatically, but it also convinced the French to commit troops to the American cause.

While both Spain and France had been secretly aiding the Americans, the French now agreed to fight openly. On February 6, 1778, France signed an

alliance, becoming the first country to recognize the United States as an independent nation. In 1779 Spain entered the war as an ally of France.

Fighting on Other Fronts After losing the Battle of Saratoga, the British changed their strategy. Instead of campaigning in the North, they decided to attack in the South, where they expected to find more Loyalist support. They certainly weren't doing well on the western frontier. In 1779 George Rogers Clark secured American control of the Ohio River valley.



History Through Art

A Savage Winter William B.T. Trego's painting, *The March to Valley Forge*, depicts the difficult conditions that led to almost 2,500 deaths during the winter encampment of 1777 to 1778. **Where did the Americans and the British fight the last battle of the war?**

American troops also took control of western Pennsylvania, western New York, and Cherokee lands in western Virginia and North Carolina.

In the South, though, the British at first held the upper hand. In December 1778, they captured Savannah, Georgia, and seized control of Georgia's backcountry. Then a massive British force led by General Charles Cornwallis moved on to Charles Town, South Carolina. On May 8, 1780, they forced the surrender of nearly 5,500 American troops, the greatest American defeat in the war. The tide finally turned on October 7, 1780, at the Battle of Kings Mountain. Patriot forces crushed Loyalists there and then drove the British out of most of the South.

The Americans also fought the British at sea. Since they did not have the resources to assemble a large navy, Congress issued letters of marque, or licenses, to about 2,000 privately owned ships. In addition to winning some naval battles, the Americans were able to seriously harm British trade by attacking merchant ships.

The American Victory The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was fought in **Yorktown**, Virginia, in the fall of 1781. General Cornwallis became

trapped there, with George Washington closing in on land and the French navy blocking the possibility for escape by sea. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis and approximately 8,000 British troops surrendered.

After learning of the American victory at Yorktown, Parliament voted to end the war. Peace talks began in early April 1782, and the final settlement, the Treaty of Paris, was signed on September 3, 1783. In this treaty, Britain recognized the United States of America as an independent nation with the Mississippi River as its western border. The British kept Canada, but they gave Florida back to Spain and made other concessions to France. On November 24, 1783, the last British troops left New York City. The Revolutionary War was over, and a new nation began to take shape.

Reading Check Analyzing Which major battle during the war was a turning point for the Americans?

HISTORY Online Study Central

For help with the concepts in this section of *American Vision: Modern Times* go to tav.mt.glencoe.com and click on **Study Central**.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Vocabulary** Define: mercantilism, Enlightenment, logic, Great Awakening, customs duty, exports, committee of correspondence, communicate, minuteman.
- People and Terms** Identify: John Locke, Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Intolerable Acts, George Washington, Declaration of Independence.
- Places** Locate: Lexington, Concord, Yorktown.

Reviewing Big Ideas

- Analyzing** Which ways did the Great Awakening contribute to the independent spirit of American colonists?

Critical Thinking

- Evaluating** What effect did the Glorious Revolution have on the American colonies?
- Organizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to indicate ways in which colonists defied Britain's attempts at regulation and taxation.



Analyzing Visuals

- Analyzing Charts** Study the chart on page 114 of causes and effects of tensions with Britain. Then make your own similar chart.

Writing About History

- Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are a colonist in 1767, unhappy about Britain's policies toward the colonies. Write a pamphlet explaining your position and urging other colonists to support resistance efforts.

CA 11WS1.1; 11WA2.1; 11WA2.4