

## CHAPTER 7

# The Road to Revolution, 1763–1775

### PART I: REVIEWING THE CHAPTER

#### A. CHECKLIST OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to

1. explain the deeply rooted historical factors that moved America toward independence from Britain.
2. describe the theory and practice of mercantilism and explain why Americans resented it.
3. explain why Britain attempted tighter control and taxation of Americans after 1763 and why Americans resisted these efforts.
4. describe the major British efforts to impose taxes and tighten control of the colonies.
5. describe the methods of colonial resistance that forced repeal of all taxes except the tax on tea.
6. explain how sustained agitation and resistance to the tea tax led to the Intolerable Acts and the outbreak of war.
7. assess the balance of forces between the British and the American rebels as the two sides prepared for war.

#### B. GLOSSARY

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms:

1. **patronage** A system in which benefits, including jobs, money, or protection are granted in exchange for political support. “The Whigs mounted withering attacks on the use of patronage and bribes by the king’s ministers. . . .” (p. 123)
2. **mercantilism** The economic theory that all parts of an economy should be coordinated for the good of the whole state; hence, that colonial economics should be subordinated for the benefit of an empire. “The British authorities nevertheless embraced a theory called mercantilism. . . .” (p. 123)
3. **depreciate** To decrease in value, as in the decline of the purchasing power of money. “. . . dire financial need forced many of the colonies to issue paper money, which swiftly depreciated.” (p. 124)
4. **veto** The constitutional right of a ruler or executive to block legislation passed by another unit of government. “This royal veto was used rather sparingly. . . .” (p. 124)
5. **monopoly** The complete control of a product or sphere of economic activity by a single producer or business. “Virginia tobacco planters enjoyed a monopoly in the British market. . . .” (p. 125)
6. **admiralty courts** In British law, special administrative courts designed to handle maritime cases without a jury. “Both the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act provided for trying offenders in the hated admiralty courts. . . .” (p. 126)

7. **virtual representation** The political theory that a class of persons is represented in a lawmaking body without direct vote. “Elaborating the theory of ‘virtual representation,’ Grenville claimed that every member of Parliament represented all British subjects, even . . . Americans. . . .” (p. 127)
8. **nonimportation agreement** Pledges to boycott, or decline to purchase, certain goods from abroad. “More effective than the congress was the widespread adoption of nonimportation agreements. . . .” (p. 127)
9. **mulatto** A person of mixed African and European ancestry. “. . . Crispus Attucks [was] described . . . as a powerfully built runaway ‘mulatto.’ . . .” (p. 130)
10. **duty (duties)** A customs tax on the export or import of goods. “. . . finally persuaded Parliament to repeal the Townshend revenue duties.” (p. 131)
11. **propaganda (propagandist)** A systematic program or particular materials designed to promote certain ideas; sometimes but not always the term is used negatively, implying the use of manipulative or deceptive means. (A propagandist is one who engages in such practices.) “Resistance was further kindled by a master propagandist and engineer of rebellion, Samuel Adams of Boston. . . .” (p. 131)
12. **boycott** An organized refusal to deal with some person, organization, or product. “The Association called for a *complete* boycott of British goods. . . .” (p. 134)
13. **inflation** An increase in the supply of currency relative to the goods available, leading to a decline in the purchasing power of money. “Inflation of the currency inevitably skyrocketed prices.” (p. 137)
14. **desert** To leave official government or military service without permission. “. . . hundreds of anxious husbands and fathers deserted.” (p. 137)

## PART II: CHECKING YOUR PROGRESS

### A. True-False

Where the statement is true, circle T; where it is false, circle F.

1. T F The republican idea of a just society in which selfish interests were subordinated to the common good took deep root in Britain’s North American colonies.
2. T F The theory of mercantilism held that colonies existed primarily to provide the mother country with raw materials as well as a market for exports.
3. T F British mercantilism forbade the importation of any non-British goods into the colonies.
4. T F In practice, British mercantilism provided the colonies with substantial economic benefits such as military protection and guaranteed markets for certain goods.
5. T F The fundamental motive behind the steep new taxes in the 1760s was to repay the large debt that Britain had incurred in defending its North American colonies.
6. T F Americans generally accepted the right of Parliament to tax the colonies to provide money for defense but denied its right to legislate about colonial affairs.
7. T F When Americans first cried “no taxation without representation,” what they wanted was to be represented in the British Parliament.

8. T F The colonies finally forced repeal of the Stamp Act by organizing political protests and enforcing nonimportation agreements against British goods.
9. T F Colonial rebellion against the new Townshend Acts was more highly organized and successful than the earlier Stamp Act protests.
10. T F The Boston Massacre provoked outrage because the British troops had been unprovoked when they opened fire on peaceful Boston citizens.
11. T F Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson provoked a crisis in Boston by enforcing the importation of British tea even though he believed that the tea tax was unjust.
12. T F The colonists considered the Quebec Act especially oppressive because they thought it would extend the domain of Roman Catholicism.
13. T F The First Continental Congress proclaimed that the colonies would declare independence from Britain unless their grievances were redressed.
14. T F One fundamental American asset in the impending war with Britain was an extensive stockpile of military weapons and supplies.
15. T F A key British advantage was that they did not have to defeat all the American forces but only fight to a draw in order to crush the Revolution.

## B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and circle the corresponding letter.

1. The British theory of mercantilism, by which the colonies were governed, held that
  - a. the economy should be shaped by market forces, without government interference.
  - b. the colonies should develop by becoming as economically self-sufficient as possible.
  - c. the colonial economy should be carefully controlled to serve the mother country's needs.
  - d. colonists should promote economic growth by free trade with other countries.
2. One of the ways in which mercantilism harmed the colonial economy was
  - a. by prohibiting colonial merchants from owning and operating their own ships.
  - b. by inhibiting the development of banking and paper currency in the colonies.
  - c. by forcing the colonists to fall into debt through the purchase of goods on credit.
  - d. by forcing Virginia tobacco planters to sell their product only in Britain.
3. The mobilization of "nonimportation" policies against the Stamp Act was politically important because
  - a. it aroused the first French support for the American cause.
  - b. it aroused revolutionary fervor among many ordinary American men and women.
  - c. it reinforced the completely nonviolent character of the anti-British movement.
  - d. it helped stimulate the development of colonial manufacturing.
4. When British officials decided to enforce the East India Company's tea monopoly and the three-pence tax on tea,
  - a. they were successful in landing the tea everywhere except Boston.
  - b. colonists were outraged because their favorite beverage would cost more than ever before.
  - c. the colonists persuaded friendly Indian tribes to dump the tea into Boston harbor.
  - d. colonists were outraged because they saw it as a trick to undermine their principled resistance to the tax.
5. The British reacted to the Boston Tea Party by
  - a. shipping the colonial protestors to Britain for trial.
  - b. closing the Port of Boston until damages were paid and order restored.

- c. passing the Quebec Act prohibiting trial by jury and permitting the practice of Catholicism.
  - d. granting a monopoly on the sale of tea to the British East India Company.
6. American colonists especially resented the Townshend Acts because
- a. they strongly disliked the British minister, “Champagne Charley” Townshend, who proposed them.
  - b. the revenues from the taxation would go to support British officials and judges in America.
  - c. they called for the establishment of the Anglican church throughout the colonies.
  - d. the taxes were to be imposed directly by the king without an act of Parliament.
7. The passage of the Quebec Act aroused intense American fears because
- a. it put the French language on an equal standing with English throughout the colonies.
  - b. it involved stationing British troops throughout the colonies.
  - c. it extended Catholic jurisdiction and a non-jury judicial system into the western Ohio country.
  - d. it threatened to make Canada the dominant British colony in North America.
8. The most important action the Continental Congress took to protest the Intolerable Acts was
- a. forming The Association to impose a complete boycott of all British goods.
  - b. organizing a colonial militia to prepare for military resistance.
  - c. forming Committees of Correspondence to communicate among all the colonies and develop political opposition to British rule.
  - d. sending petitions to the British Parliament demanding repeal of the laws.
9. The event that precipitated the first real shooting between the British and American colonists was
- a. the British attempt to seize Bunker Hill and the Old North Church.
  - b. the British attempt to seize colonial supplies and leaders at Lexington and Concord.
  - c. the Boston Tea Party.
  - d. the Boston Massacre.
10. The British parliamentary government at the time of the American Revolution was headed by
- a. William Pitt.
  - b. “Champagne Charley” Townshend.
  - c. Edmund Burke.
  - d. Lord North.
11. The American rebellion was especially dangerous to the British because they were also worried about
- a. possible revolts in Ireland and war with France.
  - b. labor unrest in British industrial cities.
  - c. maintaining sufficient troops in India.
  - d. their ability to maintain naval control of the oceans.
12. The British political party that was generally more sympathetic to the American cause was
- a. the Tory Party.
  - b. the Labor Party.
  - c. the Country Party.
  - d. the Whig Party.
13. One of the advantages the British enjoyed in the impending conflict with the colonies was
- a. a determined and politically effective government.
  - b. the ability to enlist foreign soldiers, Loyalists, and Native Americans in their military forces.
  - c. a highly motivated and efficiently run military force in America.
  - d. the concentration of colonial resistance in a few urban centers.
14. One of the advantages the colonists enjoyed in the impending conflict with Britain was
- a. fighting defensively on a large, agriculturally self-sufficient continent.
  - b. a well-organized and effective political leadership.

- c. a strong sense of unity among the various colonies.
  - d. the fact that nearly all Americans owned their own firearms.
15. In the Revolutionary War, African Americans
- a. unanimously supported the American patriot cause.
  - b. were generally neutral between the British and American forces.
  - c. fought in both the American patriot and British loyalist military forces.
  - d. took the opportunity to stage substantial slave revolts.

### C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The basic economic and political theory by which seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European powers governed their overseas colonies
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The set of Parliamentary laws, first passed in 1650, that restricted colonial trade and directed it to the benefit of Britain
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The term for products, such as tobacco, that could be shipped only to England and not to foreign markets
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Hated British courts in which juries were not allowed and defendants were assumed guilty until proven innocent
5. \_\_\_\_\_ British governmental theory that Parliament spoke for all British subjects, including Americans, even if they did not vote for its members
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The effective form of organized colonial resistance against the Stamp Act, which made homespun clothing fashionable
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The product taxed under the Townshend Acts that generated the greatest colonial resistance
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Underground networks of communication and propaganda, established by Samuel Adams, that sustained colonial resistance
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Religion that was granted toleration in the trans-Allegheny West by the Quebec Act, arousing deep colonial hostility
10. \_\_\_\_\_ British political party opposed to Lord North's Tories and generally more sympathetic to the colonial cause
11. \_\_\_\_\_ German mercenaries hired by George III to fight the American revolutionaries
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Paper currency authorized by Congress to finance the Revolution depreciated to near worthlessness
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Effective organization created by the First Continental Congress to provide a total, unified boycott of all British goods
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Rapidly mobilized colonial militiamen whose refusal to disperse sparked the first battle of the Revolution
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Popular term for British regular troops, scorned as "lobster backs" and "bloody backs" by Bostonians and other colonials

### D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- |           |                                  |   |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1.    ___ | John Hancock                     | a.    British minister who raised a storm of protest by passing the Stamp Act   |
| 2.    ___ | George Grenville                 | b.    Legislation passed in 1765 but repealed the next year, after colonial resistance made it impossible to enforce        |
| 3.    ___ | Stamp Act                        | c.    Body led by John Adams that issued a Declaration of Rights and organized The Association to boycott all British goods |
| 4.    ___ | Sons and Daughters of Liberty    | d.    Legislation that required colonists to feed and shelter British troops; disobeyed in New York and elsewhere           |
| 5.    ___ | “Champagne Charley”<br>Townshend | e.    Nineteen-year-old major general in the Revolutionary army   |
| 6.    ___ | Crispus Attucks                  | f.    Wealthy president of the Continental Congress and “King of the Smugglers”   |
| 7.    ___ | George III                       | g.    Minister whose clever attempt to impose import taxes nearly succeeded, but eventually brewed trouble for Britain      |
| 8.    ___ | Samuel Adams                     | h.    Zealous defender of the common people’s rights and organizer of underground propaganda committees                     |
| 9.    ___ | Boston Tea Party                 | i.    Harsh measures of retaliation for a tea party, including the Boston Port Act closing that city’s harbor               |
| 10.   ___ | Intolerable Acts                 | j.    Stubborn ruler, lustful for power, who promoted harsh ministers like Lord North                                       |
| 11.   ___ | Thomas Hutchinson                | k.    Alleged leader of radical protesters killed in Boston Massacre  |
| 12.   ___ | First Continental Congress       | l.    Organizational genius who turned raw colonial recruits into tough professional soldiers                               |
| 13.   ___ | Marquis de Lafayette             | m.    Male and female organizations that enforced the nonimportation agreements, sometimes by coercive means                |
| 14.   ___ | Baron von Steuben                | n.    British governor of Massachusetts whose stubborn policies helped  |
| 15.   ___ | Quartering Act                   |   |

provoke the Boston Tea Party

- o. Event organized by disguised “Indians” to sabotage British support of a British East India Company monopoly

## E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 10.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Britain attempts to gain revenue by a tax on papers and documents, creating a colonial uproar.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Britain closes the port of Boston and opens the western frontier to Catholicism.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Crispus Attucks leads a crowd in an attack on British troops, and eleven people are killed.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Colonial Minute Men fire “the shot heard around the world” in the first battle of the Revolution.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A British minister cleverly attempts to gain revenue and dampen colonial protest by imposing an import tax only on certain specialized products.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A British agency is established with broad but generally ineffective power over colonial commerce.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel Adams and others organize revolutionary cells of communication and agitation across the colonies.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Parliament repeals a direct tax in response to colonial protest but declares that it has the right to tax colonies.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A band of “Indians” dumps the rich cargo of the British East India Company into Boston Harbor, provoking a harsh British response.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ First acts are passed by Parliament to regulate colonial trade based on mercantilist principles.

## F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause		Effect	
1. _____	America’s distance from Britain and the growth of colonial self-government	a. _____	Prompted the summoning of the First Continental Congress
2. _____	British mercantilism	b. _____	Led Grenville to propose the Sugar Act, Quartering Act, and Stamp Act
3. _____	The large British debt incurred defending the colonies in the French and Indian War	c. _____	Precipitated the Battle of Lexington and Concord
4. _____	Passage of the Stamp Act	d. _____	Fired on colonial citizens in the Boston Massacre
5. _____	British troops sent to enforce order in Boston	e. _____	Prompted passage of the Intolerable Acts, including the Boston Port Act

6. \_\_\_\_ The British government's attempt to maintain the East India Company's tea monopoly
7. \_\_\_\_ The Boston Tea Party
8. \_\_\_\_ The Intolerable Acts
9. \_\_\_\_ A British attempt to seize the colonial militia's gunpowder supplies
10. \_\_\_\_ The Continental Congress's reluctance to tax Americans for war
- f. Resulted in the printing of large amounts of paper currency and skyrocketing inflation
- g. Enforced restrictions on colonial manufacturing, trade, and paper currency
- h. Led to gradual development of a colonial sense of independence years before the Revolution
- i. Spurred patriots to stage Boston Tea Party
- j. Was greeted in the colonies by the nonimportation agreements, the Stamp Act Congress, and the forced resignation of stamp agents

## G. Developing Historical Skills

### Interpreting Historical Illustrations

Contemporary illustrations of historical events may not only give us information about those events but tell us something about the attitude and intention of those who made the illustrations. The caption to the engraving of the Boston Massacre by Paul Revere (p.130) observes that it is "both art and propaganda." Drawing on the account of the massacre in the text (pp. 129–130) enables you to see the ways in which Revere's engraving combines factual information with a political point of view.

Answer the following questions:

1. What parts of the encounter between the British redcoats and the colonists does the engraving entirely leave out?
2. The text says that the British troops fired "without orders." How does the engraving suggest the opposite?
3. How does Revere's presentation of the colonial victims seem especially designed to inflame the feelings of the viewer?

## PART III: APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

1. Why did the American colonies move from loyalty to protest to rebellion in the twelve years following the end of the French and Indian War?



2. How and why did the Americans and the British differ in their views of taxation and of the relationship of colonies to the empire?
3. What was the theory and practice of mercantilism? What were its actual effects on the colonies, and why did the colonists resent it so much?
4. What methods did the colonists use in their struggle with British authorities, and how did the British try to counteract them?
5. What advantages and disadvantages did the American rebels and the British each possess as the war began? What did each side do to mobilize its resources most effectively?
6. Is it correct to argue that the British possessed an overwhelming military advantage at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, but that the Americans possessed the political advantage in ideology and leadership?
7. Could the American people have won their independence without George Washington and the small, professional Continental Army? Why have the myths of the militiamen and the part-time citizen-soldiers loomed so large in American memories of the Revolutionary War?
8. Was the American Revolution inevitable? Or could the thirteen colonies have remained attached to Britain for many years and then peacefully achieved their independence as the British colonies of Canada and Australia later did? How would the “meaning of America” have been different without this violent revolt from the mother country?