* The Stamp Act Crisis
  + Virginia's Patrick Henry declared that the Americans had the same rights as the English
  + In Massachusetts, James Otis convinced the intercolonial assembly that action needed to be taken against the British because of the taxes
  + Sons of Liberty agents burned stamps
  + Bostonians attacked pro-British “aristocrats”
  + England backed down when the massive boycott spread
  + The Stamp Act was repealed on 3/18/1766
  + Parliament passed the Declaratory Act, giving themselves absolute authority over the colonies.
* The Townshend Program
  + English landlords were angry at the king for repealing the Stamp Act
  + The King gave in and dismissed the PM Rockingham's ministry
  + William Pitt was called upon to form a government
  + Pitt was so hobbled by gout and mental illness that he was unable to lead his own government
  + Charles Townshend was forced to be chancellor
  + Townshend put the Quartering Act into place, which required the colonies to provide living quarters and supplies for the British ships
  + The Massachusetts and New York assemblies refused to give the ships the supplies required
  + The Massachusetts Assembly circulated a letter telling the colonial governments to stand up against any tax imposed by Parliament
  + Lord Hillsborough threatened to dissolve any assembly endorsing Massachusetts' letter
  + Merchants began another boycott which was joined by Philadelphia and New York
  + This made American luxury items suddenly very much in style
* The Boston Massacre
  + The British government had placed four regiments of redcoats in Boston
  + The local dockworkers began pelting the British sentries with snowballs and rocks
  + In the midst of the scuffle, a soldier was knocked over, and in the confusion following, the British fired into the crowd, killing five people
  + The event happened almost certainly because of confusion, but it was turned into an event for the Resistance to use as propaganda
  + Paul Revere made a BS engraving of the event
  + The British soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter
  + Samuel Adams led the publicizing of the Boston Massacre as an event planned and premeditated by the British
* The Philosophy of Revolt
  + Many revolutionary ideas came in the years following the Boston Massacre
  + There was a new concept of what government should be
  + Government was considered necessary to to keep the corruptible people from being corrupt
  + However, measures have to be taken to make sure that the government does not become corrupt
  + It became clear that the Constitution of England was coming into danger
  + Americans believed in the principle that you can only be taxed with your own assent
  + “No taxation without representation”
  + England had virtual representation, which meant that certain people represented certain places regardless of whether or not they were actually from that place
  + America thought that that was not the way to do it
  + The British thought that there had to be a single, ultimate authority, which the Americans disagreed with
* The Tea Excitement
  + There was a growing feeling of resentment at the heavy British tax enforcement
  + Colonists kept revolutionary sentiment going strong with pamphlets and letters
  + They also made occasional revolutionary acts
    - A ship was burned and sank in RI
    - A ship was taken over in Delaware
  + Britain's East India Company had a monopoly on the tea trade