Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

9/28/2020

Chapter 4 Test

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Since the foundation of the American colonies in the seventeenth century, the Colonists have had a lot of free reign and self-governance from the English Government. The few acts that the English did pass onto the colonies, such as the Navigation Acts, were loosely enforced and weak. However, this British neglect began to change during and after the French and Indian War. After a series of failures by the colonies and weak British command, the British parliament and the British Secretary of War, William Pitt, would finally take control of the battle, creating military strategy, sending commanders, and orders to colonies. They used impressment to raise a colonial army and seized money and equipment from locals. The colonists were not used to such control by the British, and many resisted and rioted for freedom from the impressment, causing the British to loosen restrictions. The colonies, very divided culturally and politically at the start, united to front the British oppression and the enemies of France and the Natives.

The war’s consequences did not end that that however, as the British were now in deep debt. They had expected the colonies to do more and had been forced to pick up the slack. They realized that they need to take more control of the colonies, and that they would start by forcing them to help reduce the war debt, with the Sugar, Currency, and Stamp Acts of 1764-1765. The British revenue increased tenfold, but they managed to anger every group in the colonies. The northern merchants had to pay extra commerce taxes and were limited by manufacturing laws, the southern plantation owners and small farmers couldn’t use their paper money to pay off debts, and the professional colonists, who got money from merchants and plantation owners, were also enraged. The British also, in hopes to avoid war with Natives, blocked western territory for colonists to take. In their hopes to gain money, the British ended up uniting the colonies against their taxes and were forced to repeal them.

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The British, still trying to make up for war debt, and now armed with a declaration of complete power over the colonies, enacted the Townsend Acts. This included the Mutiny Act of 1765, which forced the colonists to quarter soldiers in their cities. The MA Assembly and NY Assembly, home of large cities and rising rebellious attitudes, rejected this wholeheartedly, and in response, Parliament restricted the NY Assembly, home of the British Army Headquarters. They also ended smuggling in Boston, and strictly began to enforce custom regulations. They began duties on English imports, which many colonists during earlier taxes. The results of these acts were drastic in the colonies, who rallied after the shutting of the New York Assembly, showing dissent to Parliament. In response to the import taxes, the colonies began to boycott all British goods, instead opting for American-made products. The British ended these Acts in March 1770, but before the colonists got the message, tension in northern cities led to the Boston Massacre.

The Boston Massacre was an important moment in the escalation of tensions between Britain and America, as the Stirrings of Revolt began to spread farther than extreme northerners. The publicity that the Boston Massacre received led to people across the colonies meeting in taverns about new ideas behind revolt and to express their discontentment with the English government. When the English passed the Tea Act, which gave the East India Company a monopoly over the Tea trade, they lit the fuse for revolution. Colonists began the most widespread boycott yet on tea, mobilizing a huge percent of the population and largely led by women. The Boston Tea Party, where Massachusetts colonists burned three tea ships, was the final catalyst for the British to act. They shut down the Massachusetts Assembly and the port of Boston to squashing resistance. Massachusetts became a martyr for the rest of the colonies, who showed support and renewed resistance. The Continental Congress met soon after this and demanded autonomy, which wasn’t granted before war.

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