

2.5.3 Essay

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When examining the history of the United States, it is critical to understand how exactly we came to be as a nation. Originally, we were connected to the British empire. The only reason we are not part of the British empire currently is because we decided to separate from them. But why did we do this? Why did we decide to declare ourselves independant from the British? This is a rather complicated question, as there are many reasons for this separation. The main reason was the actions taken by the British that angered the colonists, and the realization by the colonists that they were capable of governing themselves.

The actions taken by Britain after the French and Indian war initially angered the colonists. The French and Indian war had cost the British empire a great deal of money, and they needed some way to pay off the debts. Instead of taxing people in Britain, Parliament decided to tax people in the Colonies. The Colonists did not approve of this taxation, because they felt that they were being unfairly taxed. They did not have any involvement in the French and Indian war, and felt that they did not benefit from it. Being taxed for something that was not beneficial to them made the colonists unhappy with the British government.

The taxes that the British government imposed on various goods even lead to small rebellion, further rallying support for a revolution and new government. One particular example of a tax imposed by the British government was a tax on tea. Tea was a very popular drink at this time, and thus the British government was able to make a lot of money in taxes from the colonists who wanted tea. The colonists were particularly unsatisfied with taxes like this, because they were being taxed without being given representation in the government. Because of this, a group called the Sons of Liberty staged a rebellion which is known as the Boston Tea Party. During this rebellion, the Sons of Liberty threw an entire shipment of tea into the Boston harbor, ruining it in protest of the taxes. This small rebellion caused a huge impact, as it showed that rebellion against the British government is not only possible, but might also be necessary. It helped rally support for a revolution against the British government.

The first and second Continental Congress proved to the colonists that they were capable of creating a new form of government, which further encouraged them to separate from the British. During the first continental congress, delegates for the colonies met and organized an economic boycott of Britain in an effort to convince the British Government to listen to their requests for fairer taxation and government. Though this was all that happened at this meeting, it showed that the colonies were capable of organizing themselves. The second continental congress occurred later, and during that the Declaration of Independence was drafted and the new United States formally declared independence from the British. These meetings showed that the

colonies were capable of being separate from the British, and no longer needed the British to become a successful country.

The American people were unsatisfied with their government, and they were able to organize themselves in order to do something about it. They realized that they were being taxed unfairly, and they were being manipulated for the economic benefit of the British. They were able to organize themselves and declare independence. The next step was to fight for that independence, and truly become free Americans.