

SONS OF LIBERTY: PATRIOTS OR CRIMINALS?



The Sons of Liberty used many violent tactics in the name of American patriotism. For example, on August 14, 1765, after the Stamp Act, they went to the house of the tax collector Andrew Oliver. They burned down his business and looted his house. When the police arrived, the group threw rocks at them until they left.

They also threatened people who did not follow the boycott of British goods, destroying their property, beating them, and tarring and feathering them.

tarring and feathering: The act of covering someone with hot tar, a dark and thick liquid used in making roads, and then throwing feathers on them. It was used to humiliate people, as covering them in feathers made them look comical. The hot tar was also very painful.

Based on what you've learned so far, do you think the Sons of Liberty were justified in their actions? Why or why not?

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