



Chapter 7: The Road to Revolution (1763—1775)

Topic:

After winning the Seven Years' War, Britain had control of more land in North America. Britain also had a huge pile of debt.

The Deep Roots of Revolution

Recall	Notes
How were the colonists different than the British?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">people born the New World shared ideas of society, citizenship, and government while those born in the Old World never questioned their social statusAmerican colonists shared the idea of republicanism; where all citizens willingly give up their selfish concerns for the common good of the group
What did the colonists value?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">society depends on virtue, selflessness, self-sufficiency, courage, <i>civic involvement</i>a group of British politicians known as radical Whigs berated politicians for being corrupt spread their ideas in colonial America
Who were the political leaders of the colonists?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">republican and Whig ideas taught colonists to be alert against anything that could threaten their rightscolonial Americans grew accustomed to running their own affairs; shops, property ownership, political participation<ul style="list-style-type: none">untouched by London officials"<i>distance weakens authority; great distance weakens authority greatly</i>"

People born into the New World had different ideas about society than those of the Old World. Colonial Americans were constantly attentive of their rights, so they grew frustrated when Britain started trying to control them.

Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

Recall	Notes
How much of America did Britain own?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">only one of the 13 colonies was officially established by Britain (Georgia)<ul style="list-style-type: none">the others were founded by trading companies, religious groups, or land speculatorsthe British embraced the idea of mercantilism; that a country's economic wealth was measured by their treasury
What is mercantilism ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the military and political power was only as strong as how much gold or silver a country hadto gain gold/silver, a country needed to sell more than buy<ul style="list-style-type: none">colonies provided both material to buy and a market to sell todid not want colonies to make their own goods and sell them<ul style="list-style-type: none">Navigation Law of 1650 stated that all goods must be transported in British vessels

How did the British try to gain wealth?

- other laws included vessels being required to land in Britain first, certain products (tobacco) could only be shipped to Britain
- colonists regularly bought more than they sold
 - ran out of gold/silver and used butter, feathers, nails, pitch
 - paper money had zero value
 - Parliament prohibited paper money after merchants and creditors complained

What effect did mercantilism have on the colonies?



Under the British idea of mercantilism, the Navigation Laws of 1650 were implemented and the colonists started losing money quickly. They tried to write laws to offset their economic situation but Parliament had the ability to veto any legislation they wanted.

The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

Recall

Was the outrage against the mercantile system justified?

Notes

- although the mercantile system was oppressive, it never bothered the colonists because it was loosely enforced
- colonists reaped benefits from Britain
 - London paid more for tobacco
 - Virginia snuffed out the British tobacco industry
 - colonies were protected by the best navy at the time
- even with benefits, colonists felt like they were perpetually under Britain's control and never allowed to "come of age"
- *"We have an old mother that peevish is grown;
She snubs us likes children that scarce walk alone;
She forgets we're grown up and have sense of our own."*
-Benjamin Franklin



The mercantile system seemed oppressive on the outside, but it was never strictly enforced in the colonies. Although the colonists benefited plenty off of Britain, they felt like they deserved more freedom and that Britain was failing to recognize an emerging nation.

The Stamp Tax Uproar

Recall

How did the Seven Years' War affect Britain?

What did Britain do to pay off their debt?

Notes

- after the Seven Years' War, Britain had £140 million worth of debt
 - half of it came from defending the colonies
- Prime Minister George Grenville ordered heavy enforcement of the Navigation Laws in 1763, angering colonists
 - he passed the **Sugar Act** of 1764 that was aimed at **taxing sugar imports from the West Indies** but it died quickly after protest from colonists

What was Britain's intent of the taxes?

What was **admiralty court** and how did it work?

Why were the colonists unhappy with the taxes?

What did the colonists think Parliament should be in charge of?

Did the colonists want representation in Parliament?

- colonists still weren't happy because of the **Quartering Act** that required them to **provide food and shelter for British troops**
- in 1765, Grenville imposed the **stamp tax**, aimed to **raise taxes on any stamped paper**
 - included commercial or legal documents, playing cards, pamphlets, newspapers, diplomas, marriage licenses
- Grenville thought he was just asking the colonists to pay their fair share after the war
 - the British had already endured a stamp tax that was worse than the one in the colonies
 - colonists viewed taxing as a threat to their local liberties and refused to comply
- violation of the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act meant going to **admiralty court**, **a court where juries were not allowed**
 - the defendant was assumed guilty unless they could prove themselves innocent
 - went against the "innocent until proven guilty" value
- colonists claimed that an army was no longer needed since the French and Indians were gone
- many colonial Americans started to gain Whig ideas and theorize that the authority was trying to strip them of their liberties
- *"No taxation without representation"*
- colonial Americans stated the difference between "taxation" and "legislation"
 - Parliament could dictate legislation that affected the whole country, but not just the colonies
 - the colonies' own smaller governments decided on taxes
- Grenville claimed colonists were being absurd
- colonists did not want representation in Parliament
 - someone could suggest an oppressive tax bill and easily outvote the Americans
- when Parliament said that there was no difference between "legislative" and "taxation", the Americans denied their power and started looking at political independence



Britain had £140 million of debt after fighting for the colonies in the Seven Years' War. Prime Minister George Grenville started to enforce the Navigation Laws, which upset the colonists. Furthermore, he passed the Sugar Act, Quartering Act, and stamp tax, which angered the colonists even more. The colonists shouted "*taxation without representation*" and demanded Parliament recognize the difference between "legislation" and "taxation". When Parliament refused, colonists started to move away from British rule.

Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act

Recall

What was the **Stamp Act Congress** and why was it important?

What were the **nonimportation**

Notes

- **27 delegates from 9 colonies** made up the **Stamp Act Congress** where they drew up a statement of their rights and asked Parliament to repeal the act
 - largely ignored in both England and colonial America
 - a significant step towards intercolonial unity
- colonies adopted **nonimportation agreements**; where **colonists started making their own British goods**

agreements?

- eating lamb chops was discouraged so sheep could grow out their wool and spin woolen clothes which became fashionable
- spontaneously united the American people
- gave men and women ability to participate in colonial protests
- groups such as the **Sons of Liberty**, and the **Daughters of Liberty** started to tar and feather tax collectors and other authoritative figures who got in their way
 - "*Liberty, Property, and No Stamps*"
 - tax collection system started to break down
- stamp act repealed in 1766
- right after the stamp act was repealed, Parliament passed the **Declaratory Act**; stating that the government would not yield to the colonists under any circumstances

How were tax collectors treated by the colonists?

When was the stamp act repealed, and what happened afterwards?



After Parliament ignored a call to repeal the stamp tax, colonies adopted nonimportation agreements to replace buying British goods. Participating members of freedom groups attacked tax collectors, tarring and feathering them. After much pressure from the colonies, Parliament repealed the stamp act in 1766.

The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston "Massacre"

Recall

After William Pitt got sick and had to leave the ministry, who took over?

How did the colonists react to the **Townshend Acts**?

What was the **Boston Massacre**?

Notes

- British ministry was seized by Charles "Champagne Charley" Townshend
 - persuaded Parliament to pass the **Townshend Acts**; taxing glass, white lead, paper, paint, and tea
 - Townshend thought he was being clever, but the colonists still saw this as "taxation without representation"
- tax on tea was "irksome"
- colonists saw the Townshend Acts as another attempt to chain them down
- started to worry after Parliament suspended the legislature of New York after not complying with the Quartering Act
- colonists saw this new tax as lighter and more indirect
 - smuggled cheaper tea
 - nonimportation agreements revived, but less effective
- British deployed two regiments of troops in Boston in 1768
 - soldiers were too drunk and called "ruffians", "bloody backs"
- **Boston Massacre**, evening of March 5, 1770
 - a group of 60 protestors were throwing snowballs at a group of 10 redcoats, angry over an 11 year old boy shot to death ten days earlier in another protest
 - the troops, nervous and provoked by the protestors, fired into the crowd and killed or wounded eleven citizens
 - first killed was Crispus Attucks, a "mulatto" and leader of the mob group
 - two soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter and branded on the hand before being released



The British ministry was seized by a man named Charles Townshend, who drunkenly managed to convince Parliament to pass the Townshend Acts. Although the taxes were light, the colonists still disliked them. The night of March 5, 1770, redcoats shot into a crowd of protestors and killed five, which the event would later be known as the Boston Massacre.

The Seditious Committees of Correspondence

Recall

How effective were the Townshend Acts?

Who were key contributors to the idea of revolution?

What did the **local committees of correspondence** do?

Notes

- net proceeds from the Townshend Acts were £295 while Britain's military costs had shot up to £170,000
- Parliament repealed Townshend Acts, but kept the three-pence toll on tea
- master propagandist and engineer of rebellion, Samuel Adams of Boston, and his cousin John Adams, started to contribute to the rising discontent in colonial America
 - Samuel Adams formed the **local committees of correspondence** which **exchanged letters with other committees** and kept alive the spirit of resistance
- Virginia created the House of Burgesses in 1773
 - not long after, every colony had a central committee that could communicate with other colonies



The Townshend Acts did not bring in money like the British had hoped it would. The act was repealed, but Samuel Adams and his cousin John Adams had already started to engineer the ideas of rebellion throughout the colonies. Samuel Adams formed committees which trade letters amongst each other and fueled the idea of resistance.

Tea Brewing in Boston

Recall

What happened when London allowed the British East India company to take control of the tea business?

What happened in Boston with their tea?

Notes

- by 1773, nonimportation was weakening
- legal tea was cheaper than smuggled tea
- the British East India Company was about to go bankrupt when London gave it full control of the American tea business
 - the cost of the tea was lowered even with the three-pence tax
 - Americans cried foul as they thought it was an attempt to trick them into accepting the tax
- not a single chest of several thousand chests of tea ever reached their receivers
 - protestors in Philadelphia and New York forced the ships to return to England without releasing their cargo
 - Marylanders burned cargo and vessel
 - "*liberty and Independence or death in pursuit of it*"
- in Boston, Massachusetts governor Thomas Hutchinson ordered tea ships not to clean until they had been unloaded
- **Boston Tea Party**, December 16, 1773
 - about a hundred Bostonians, disguised as Indians, smashed 342 crates of tea on the ship and dumped it into the Atlantic

- tea was the perfect symbol to rally as everyone consumed it
- some referred to tea as a "badge of slavery"
- conservatives complained that destruction of private property violated the law and threatened anarchy
- Hutchinson returned to Britain



By 1773, it was easier to buy legal tea than to smuggle it. When the British East India Company took over the tea business, they lowered the cost of the tea so much that it was cheaper even with the three-pence tax. The Americans thought this was a chance to trick them into accepting taxes, and destroyed as much tea as they could. Notably, Bostonians dumped tea into the harbor as protest.

Parliament Passes the "Intolerable Acts"

Recall

How did the British react to the Boston Tea Party?

How were offending officers treated?

How did the British treat the remaining French colonists?

Notes

- in 1774, Parliament passed the Boston Port Act which closed the harbor until the tea was paid for
 - they also removed charter rights for Massachusetts
 - restricted town meetings
- officers who killed colonists in line of duty were sent to Britain for trial
 - colonists assumed they were being let off without consequence
- the Quartering Act was updated so that people had to open their houses to soldiers, even privately owned homes
- the **Quebec Act** accompanied the other "Intolerable Acts" in 1774
 - allowed the 60,000 French subjects to retain their religion and culture, which did not include a representative assembly or trial by jury
 - American colonists disliked this
 - gave the French way too much territory
 - allowed them into land that was marked for Protestantism



After witnessing their tea being dumped into the harbor, Britain passes the Boston Port Act which closed the harbor until they paid for the tea. They also specifically targeted Massachusetts and removed their charter rights. Colonists were unhappy with the way offending officers and the French colonists were being treated by Parliament.

Bloodshed

Recall

How did other colonies react to the Boston Port Act?

What was the **First Continental Congress**?

Notes

- flags were half-mast the day the Boston Port Act went into effect
- other colonies rallied to send food to Boston
- summoned the **First Continental Congress** in 1774 to discuss the unfair treatment of the colonies
 - consisted of 55 men, among them Samuel Adams, John Adams, George Washington, Patrick Henry

- Georgia did not send a representative
- deliberated from September 5 to October 26
 - convention rather than congress
- John Adams planted the revolutionary idea
- collectively drew up Declaration of Rights
- created **The Association**; an **official nonimportation agreement**
 - called for complete boycott of British goods
 - nonimportation, nonexportation, and nonconsumption
 - violators were tarred and feathered

What were the colonists looking for?

What was Britain doing to stop the colonists?

How did the colonists react?

- the colonists had not yet wanted independence, they wanted to repeal the acts so they could go back to the good old days
- Parliament rejected the Congress's petitions
- in April 1775, a British commander sent a detachment of troops to **Lexington and Concord**, to seize gunpowder and bring back Samuel Adams and John Hancock
 - the colonial "Minute Men" refused to leave and 8 Americans were killed
 - this became known as the "Lexington Massacre"
 - *"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world."*
 - soldiers advanced to Concord after Lexington but had to retreat
 - militiamen were firing from behind thick stone walls
 - about 70 British soldiers were killed, 230 more wounded



After hearing about Boston's situation, other colonies rushed to send aid. The First Continental Congress was summoned and consisted of 55 delegates from every colony except Georgia. They drew up an official agreement on nonimportation and said that violators would be tarred and feathered. At this point, the colonists had not yet wanted independence. They wanted things to go back to how they were before. In April of 1775, a detachment of troops was sent to Lexington and Concord, who fought against colonial militiamen, firing the first shot of the Revolutionary War.

Imperial Strength and Weakness

Notes

What were some of America's weaknesses at the time of rebellion?


How did some British react?

Recall

- at the time Americans started to rebel, they were outnumbered 3:1 in the colonies
 - money and navel power both heavily in favor of Britain
- Britain had a professionally trained army of about 50,000 men and also hired around 30,000 Germans, 50,000 American Loyalists, and various Indians who took over the frontier
 - London government was confused and unorganized
- English Whigs cheered on American efforts because they hated Lord North
 - they believed British freedom was being fought for in America

What were Britain's weaknesses?

- if the British won, George III would become a more tyrannical ruler
- greatly cheered on Americans
- Britain's army was hard to operate in America
 - second-hand generals
 - soldiers brutally treated
 - food was scarce, rancid, and wormy
 - Britain controlled the army from 3,000 miles away
 - any military orders wouldn't be received until months later
- America's geographical expanse was enormous
 - no specific stronghold city to defeat

 **By the time Americans were starting to rebel, they were still outnumbered 3:1 in the colonies. Everything seemed to heavily favor Britain in terms of military, however, they were going to fight a war on a land they had never been to before.**

American Pluses and Minuses

Recall

What were strengths of the American army?

How did fighting for freedom match up to fighting for a king?

What were some issues with starting the war?

What was the colonies' monetary situation?

Notes

- outstanding leadership by George Washington and Benjamin Franklin
- open foreign aid came from France, eager to get back at Britain
- wealthy French nobleman Marquis de Lafayette became a major general in the colonial army by age 19
- Americans fighting defensively and their odds favored the defender
 - agriculture was self-sustaining
 - moral advantage in believing as historical odds were not impossible
- rebels were badly organized at first
 - lacking in unity
 - *"Their Congress now is quite disjoint'd,"*
- rebels didn't have an actual thing they were fighting for
 - the Articles of Confederation were written near the war's end
- jealousy boiled among the colonists
 - states resented Congress's flimsy attempts of control
 - appointment of military leaders
 - New Englanders preferred British officers to Americans
- lacked metallic money and was forced to print "Continental" paper money
 - was so worthless it formed the phrase *"not worth a Continental"*
 - some states tried to issue their own money
- inflation skyrocketed
 - soldiers deserted
 - debtors acquired worthless money and paid off debts "without mercy"



Although the colonial army severely lacked the professionalism of the British army, they had gained an upper hand through allying with France and having incredibly talented generals like George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette. Even with this leadership, the colonists were still extremely disorganized and lacked the funds to properly start a war.

A Thin Line of Heroes

Recall

What was the colonies' military fund situation?

What role did women play during the war?

Who trained the colonial army?

How did African Americans contribute to the war?

How did some Americans fail to help the war cause?

Notes

- basic military supplies in the colonies were always low
 - France eventually helped with stable supplies
 - at **Valley Forge**, Pennsylvania, soldiers went without bread for three days
 - one night, nearly 2,800 men were barefoot or naked
- militiamen were numerous but highly unreliable
- smallpox broke out
- women maintained farms and businesses while men fought
 - female **camp followers** following into the army, cooking and sewing for returns of money and food
 - served in the army dressed as men
- (salty) German Baron von Steuben spoke no English when he reached America but still trained his troops
- blacks fought and died too, after initially being barred from enlisting as soldiers
 - most came from Northern states where there were plenty of free blacks
 - served as cooks, guides, spies, drivers, and road builders
- African Americans also served on the British side under the promise of freedom from slavery
- American profiteers sold to England because they could pay high prices
 - sold army equipment at 50-200% higher price while American men froze at Valley Forge
- only a select minority of Americans truly devoted themselves fully to the American cause



The colonies were always low on military supplies but France eventually helped them stabilize. Both women and African Americans contributed to the war through fighting and serving as spies, cooks, or guides. Some American profiteers still sold military supplies to England because they were willing to pay a higher price than the colonists. Only a select few Americans were truly dedicated to supporting the American cause.