



***The American
Revolution:
The Crisis Begins
1763-1783***

Chapter 5 AP US History

Give Me Liberty by Eric Foner

- ***“The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people.”***

- ***~John Adams, 1818***



The Crisis Begins



- **Who is king when the colonies rebel?**
 - King George III – assumed the crown in 1760!
- **The Seven Years' War was a truly GLOBAL conflict!**
 - Britain was left with enormous debt
 - Massive amounts of lands to defend
- **How do you support such holdings?**
 - TAXES! Successive parliaments would seek taxes to pay off debt and fund the empire
- **How did this impact the colonial leadership?**
 - Opposition writings (encroachment on liberty) cause colonists to see taxation as undermining FREEDOM!



A political cartoon depicting a snake with four distinct segments. The segments are labeled with initials: 'P.' at the top, 'M.' in the middle, 'N.E.' on the right side, and 'N.C.' on the left side. The snake is coiled, with its head on the right and tail on the left. The entire illustration is enclosed in a rectangular border.

Consolidating the Empire

J O I N, or D I E.

Impact of the Seven Years' War

- British victory DID make them the controlling government in North America.
- What is the COST of this victory?
 - Garrisons for 10,000 troops were needed (costing money)
 - Approximately one million people died worldwide as a result of this war - costing workers (and money)
 - Protecting the empire from future attacks - cost money!
 - Paying for the war itself - cost money...
- England wanted the colonies to shoulder some of the cost of this war.



Where did rebellion emerge?

- **America has had an independent spirit from the foundation of the colonial governments.**
- **Two ideas influenced their thoughts:**
 - **Republicanism:** the political theory of representative government, based on the principle of popular sovereignty, with a strong emphasis on liberty and civic virtue (think GREECE & ROME).
 - **Radical Whigs:** feared the monarch and his ministers.
- **Royalty was relatively unknown in the colonies.**
- **Property ownership and political participation were common...**





Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances



Writs of Assistance: 1760-1761

- **What were ‘Writs of Assistance’?**
 - Open search warrants
- **How did they work?**
 - These permitted officials to enter any ship or building to search for smuggled goods and seize them.
 - British customs officers used the writs of assistance to crack down on smuggling (mostly of French goods).
- **Were these effective?**
 - Very effective, particularly against smuggling.
- **Did the Colonists protest?**
 - YES! Colonists hired James Otis to argue that writs violated traditional English guarantees against unreasonable search and seizure
 - And that Parliament had violated their rights as Englishmen



The Sugar Act: 1764

- **What was the Sugar Act?**

- This law imposed import duties on sugar and other items to raise funds for the British treasury.

- **How did this tax affect the colonies?**

- These taxes and restrictions burdened Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania (merchants were particularly affected)
- Some merchants were accused of smuggling!
 - Accused smugglers were to be tried in vice-admiralty courts
 - No juries were used and defendants were guilty unless proven innocent.
 - Judges who had a financial stake in finding the defendants guilty were often trying these cases
 - Judges would receive 5% of the confiscated cargo!
 - Violated long-standing guarantee to a fair trial



Remember this political statement from the French and Indian War



The Stamp Act Crisis: 1765-1766

- **Did the Sugar Act ease British financial burdens?**
NO
 - National debt continued to increase at a **RAPID** rate
- **What did the British do next?**
 - George Grenville (Prime Minister of Britain) proposed a new tax on the colonies
 - In 1765, proposed the Stamp Act (in an effort to have colonists support the Americas more equitably).
 - Parliament passed the Stamp Act in 1765
- **How does this act tax the colonists?**
 - Colonists were required to purchase, from government revenue agents, special stamped paper
- **What did each stamp tax?**
 - Periodicals, customs documents, licenses, diplomas, deeds, other legal forms
- **What if you did NOT purchase the Stamped papers?**
 - Violators would be tried in vice-admiralty courts
- **Basically this was an internal tax**
 - Affected more colonials than the Sugar Act
 - <http://www.history.org/history/teaching/tchcrsta.c>

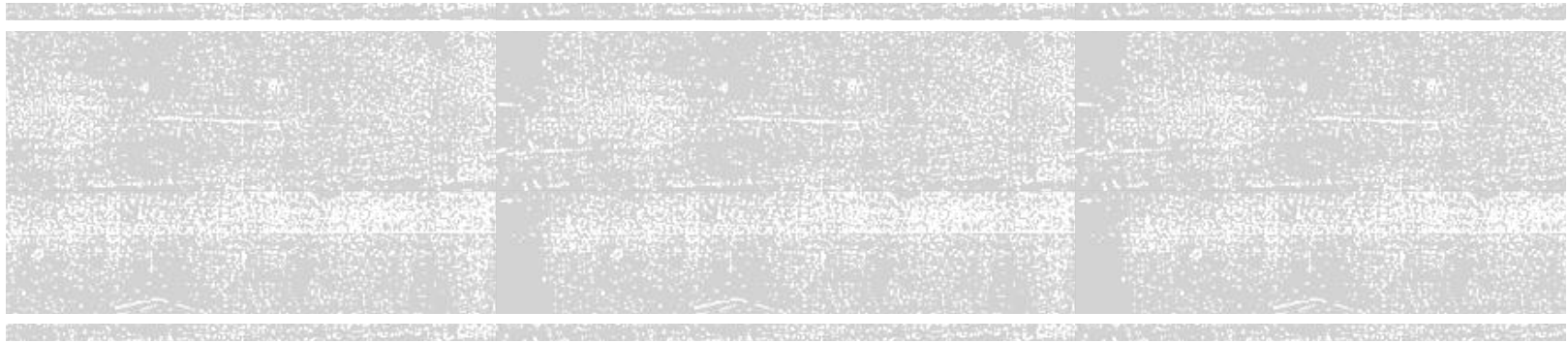




Reaction to the Stamp Act

- **Colonial arguments AGAINST the Stamp Act:**
 - Colonists objected to Parliament's ability to impose internal or external taxes WITHOUT a voice!
 - ***NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!!!***
 - Colonists argued that only colonial legislatures had the authority to tax the colonies.
 - Colonial assemblies passed resolutions against Parliament
- **The Loyal Nine**
 - (Boston) group of artisans, shopkeepers, and businessmen
 - Fight the Stamp Act
- **Sons of Liberty**
 - Similar to Loyal Nine
 - Rose up in other cities





- **How did the Loyal Nine and the Sons of Liberty operate?**
 - Directed outraged mobs in attacks on the homes/property of stamp distributors.
 - After an exceptionally violent uprising, the Sons of Liberty FORBADE members from carrying weapons – the object was to protest NOT kill!
- **The Stamp Act Congress**
 - October 1765 – representatives of 9 colonies met in New York City
 - This group reiterated several principles:
 - *no taxation without representation*
 - no parliamentary denial of trial by jury and other English liberties
- **American merchants boycotted all English merchants**
 - Most influential action of colonists
- **Did these protests work?**
 - Yes! A decrease in their sales led British businessmen to plead for repeal of the Stamp Act
- **March 1766:** Parliament revoked the Stamp Act & adopted the Declaratory Act (Parliament’s right to tax and legislate for the colonies “in all cases whatsoever”)





Symbols of Resistance are EVERYWHERE!

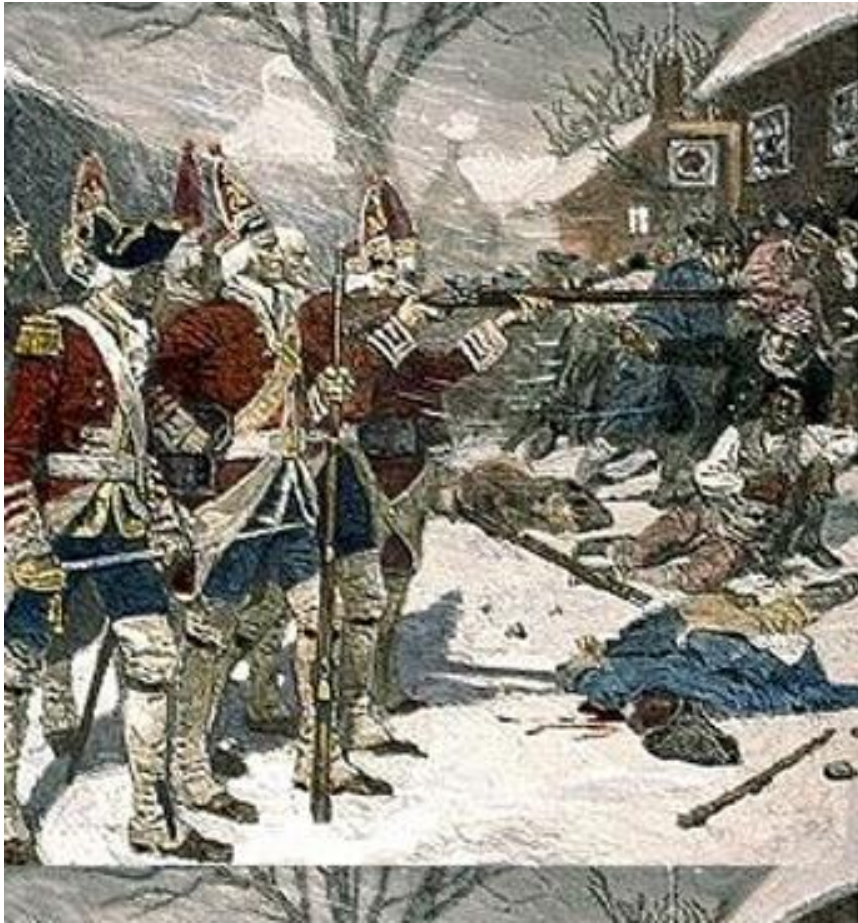
- **Portrait of Mr. & Mrs. Mifflin**
- **She is making lace for her dresses.**
- **Why? To boycott the tax on imported goods from England.**
- **Her gaze is basically saying “Are you going to join the cause?”**



Ideology, Religion, and Resistance

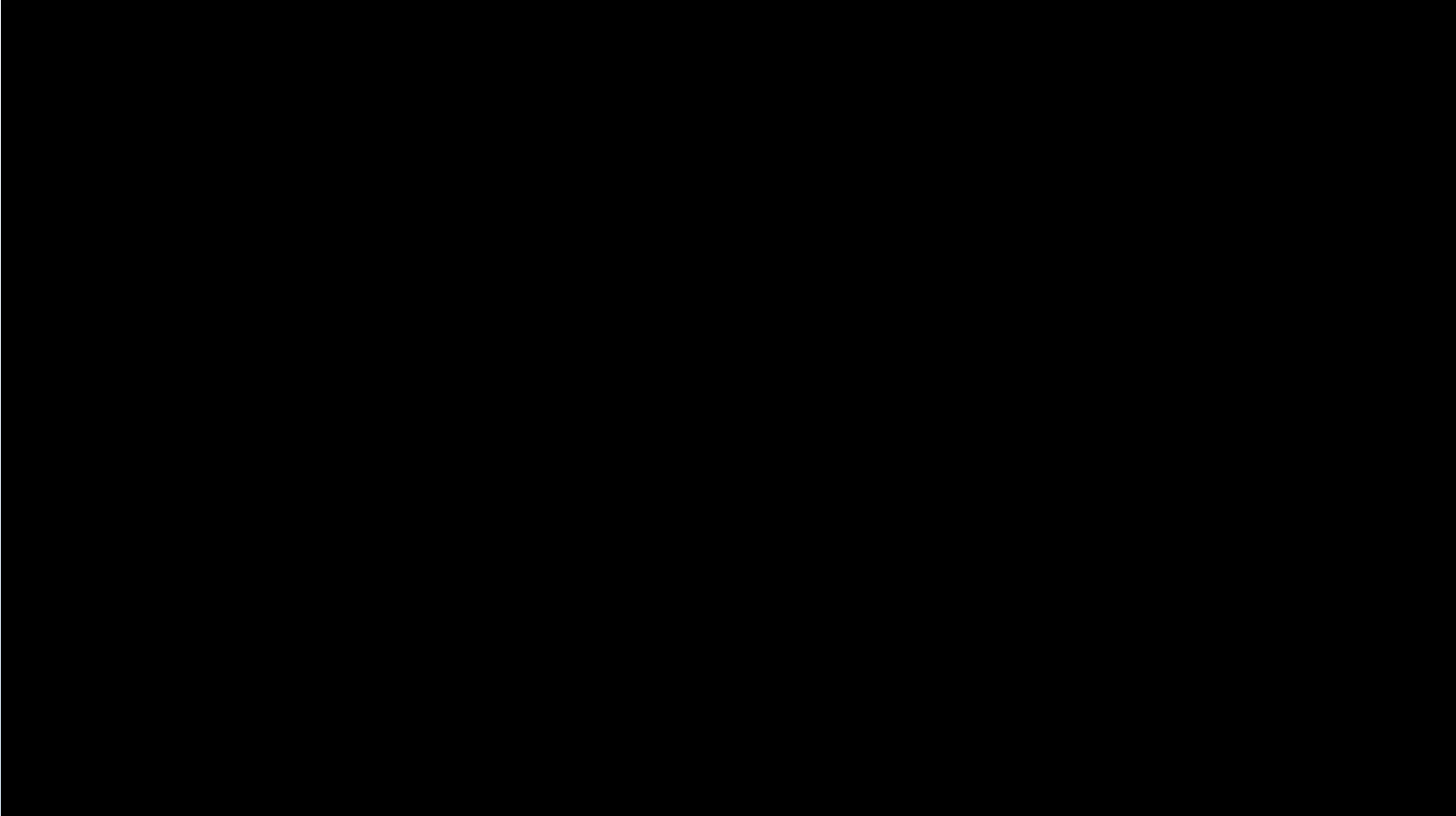
- **Resistance to the Stamp Act revealed a deep split between England and its colonists**
- **Many thought Parliament's actions were a conspiracy of a corrupt government to deny them their natural rights and liberties.**
 - John Locke
 - argued natural rights (life, liberty, property)
 - Should a government fail to protect the natural rights of citizens, it was the duty of the free people to resist
 - Protestant clergymen (except Anglicans and pacifist Quakers) preached sermons to all classes of colonists backing the views of resistance to Britain
 - These clergymen declared that “solidarity against British tyranny and ‘corruption’ meant rejecting sin and obeying God.”





The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston Massacre, 1770





- **What were the Townshend Acts?**
 - Led by Charles Townshend – this was a series of acts on glass, white lead, paper, paint, and tea.
 - This is an indirect customs duty payable at American ports.

- **How did the colonists respond?**
 - The colonists are in a rebellious mood!
 - Tea was consumed twice daily by the American colonists (who were accustomed to British social norms).
 - Paying the salaries of royal governors was NOT something they would support.

- **Following the passage of these acts, Parliament suspended the legislature of New York for failing to comply with the Quartering Act.**



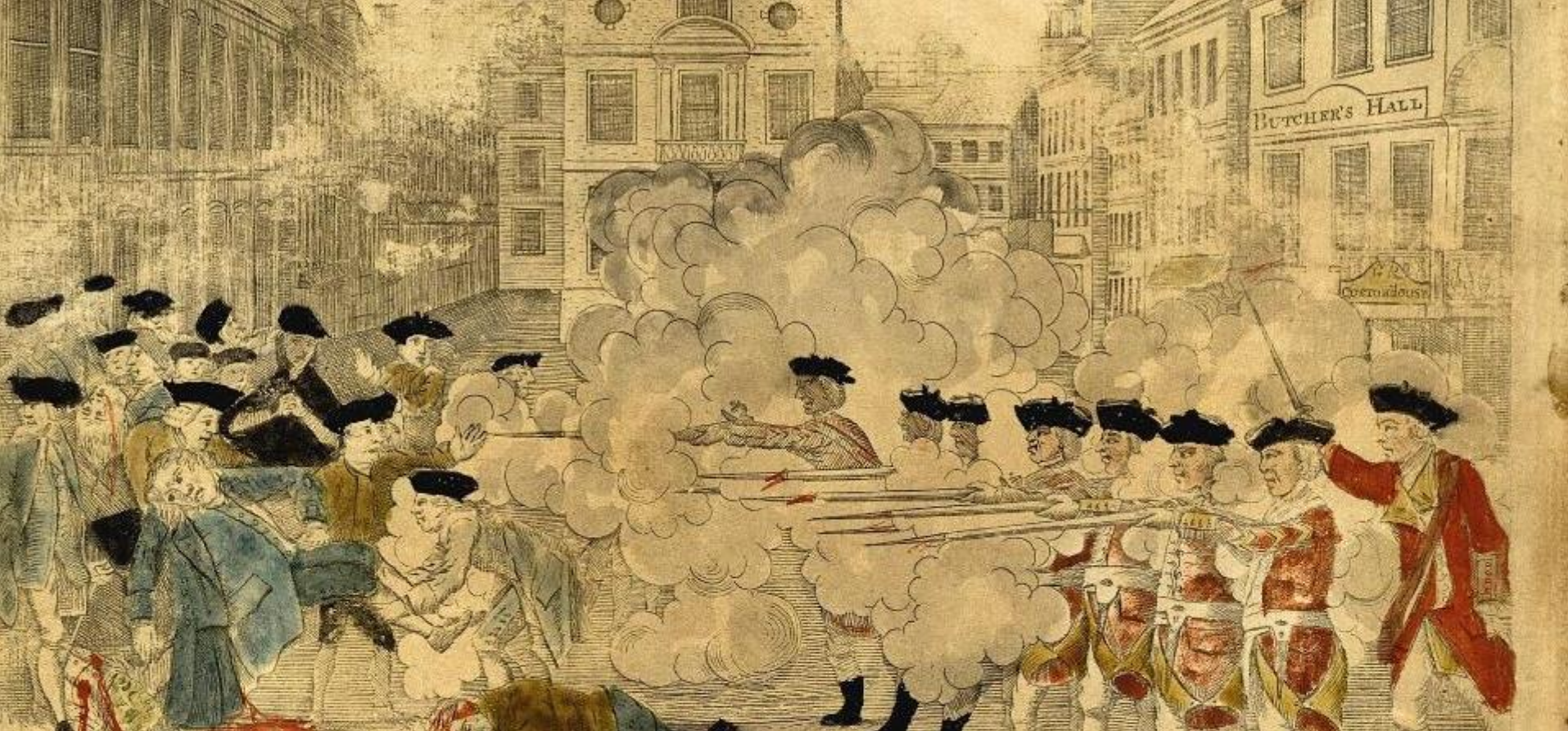
- **What was the Hancock Case, and how did Britain respond to the Hancock case violence?**
 - John Hancock's ship: *Liberty* – accused of smuggling...
 - By sending MORE troops (4,000) to Boston in 1768!

- **What was the colonial response/reaction?**
 - Colonists felt that the redcoats were threatening their liberties!
 - Boston became an “occupied” city (or at least felt like one).

 - **EXTREME TENSION**
 - The British soldiers and the Bostonians insulted each other on a regular basis (picking a fight).
 - Colonists were especially angry that:
 - The majority of soldiers were Irish Catholic (in a Protestant area).
 - The poorly paid soldiers were taking their jobs.

- **What happened to fuel this fight?**
 - Feb. 22, 1770 – customs officer fired into a crowd killing a child!
 - This event unites the Bostonians AGAINST the British!!!





The Boston Massacre



The Committees of Correspondence, 1772-1773

- **1772: Lord North prepared to implement Townshend's plan to pay royal governor's salaries out of customs revenue.**
- **Colonial Reaction:**
 - Sam Adams and others organized committees of correspondence in each New England town.
- **What was the purpose of these committees?**
 - to exchange information and coordinate activities in defense of colonial rights
 - The colonies (except Pennsylvania) were now linked in a communication web!



Conflicts in the Backcountry

- **Clashes happened in the West between**
 - Native Americans
 - various groups of colonists
 - colonial governments
 - imperial authorities
- **Why are these clashes occurring?**
 - Rapid population growth because of settlers moving into the Appalachian backcountry
- **The British government COULD NOT enforce the Proclamation of 1763**
 - Colonial speculators took any land they could
 - Settlers, traders, hunters all trespassed on Indian land
 - British forts were not strong to enforce laws and treaties



- **What does Britain do?**
 - Britain and the Six Nations of Iroquois agreed to the Treaty of Fort Stanwix (1768)
- **What is significant about the Treaty of Fort Stanwix?**
 - Granted land on the Ohio River to Pennsylvania and Virginia (remember they BOTH claimed parts of this territory).
- **Why would this land grant cause issues?**
 - The land was claimed by multiple Native Tribes
 - Shawnee, Delaware, Cherokee
 - This treaty clearly INCREASED tensions in Ohio Valley
- **Was there another issue developing here?**
 - YES! Settlers began pushing for the establishment of Kentucky
 - 1774=Violence breaks out
 - colonists killed 13 Mingo and Shawnee natives
 - The natives retaliated and killed 13 settlers (equitable numbers)



- **Would PEACE ever emerge in this region?**
 - NOT LIKELY for a time
- **What happens next?**
 - The Natives offer peace – Virginia (where the colonists were killed) mobilized for WAR!
- **What sort of conflict emerges here?**
 - Lord Dunmore's War (1774)
 - *Virginians fight (actual warfare) with Logan (Leader of the Mingo)*
 - The colonial fighters defeated the Natives at Point Pleasant, VA
 - Virginia gained uncontested rights to the lands south of the Ohio in exchange for its claims in the northern regions
- **Was conflict only between natives and settlers? NO**
 - Conflicts also occurred between the colonists
 - *Massachusetts disagrees with New York*
 - *New Hampshire disagrees with New York*
 - *Connecticut settlers disagrees with Pennsylvania*
- **Tensions generated by an increasing land-hungry colonial population and its willingness to resort to violence against Native Americans, other colonists, and British officials**



Will REVOLUTION actually happen?





The Tea Act (1773)

- **Why is TEA such a big deal?**
 - Consumed more than 1 million pounds annually
 - Purchased only $\frac{1}{4}$ of their tea from the British East India Company
 - Smuggled the rest!
- **Why does England issue the Tea Act (1773)?**
 - The Tea Act eliminated all remaining import duties on tea entering England
- **How does this impact the East India Company's trade?**
 - The East India Company was allowed to sell its tea directly to consumers
 - Lowered cost of tea (impacting smugglers)
- **How did the colonies respond?**
 - Colonists saw this action as a threat that would corrupt Americans
 - Colonists MIGHT be more receptive of British taxation without representation
- **Initially, the Committees of Correspondence decided to resist the importation of tea... without violence or destruction of property!**

- **What tactics were used initially?**
 - Pressuring East India Company agents to refuse acceptance
 - By intercepting the ships at sea and ordering them home
- **Where is this concept successful?**
 - Philadelphia
- **Where are problems going to occur?**
 - Boston
- **What happens in Boston?**
 - Nov. 28, 1773 – 1st Tea import arrives in harbor
 - Duties would have to be paid within 20 days of arrival
 - Thomas Hutchinson refused to release the ship to leave harbor
- **Dec. 16, 1773 – Old South Church (Boston Tea Party)**
 - Samuel Adams informs members of Boston of Hutchinson's decision
 - About 50 young men (including George Robert Twelves Hewes) dress as Mohawk natives
 - *This was a symbol of pride and defiance!*
 - The group assaulted no one and damaged nothing more than the tea aboard the vessel
 - The event was witnessed by other Bostonians – who silently watched as 45 tons of tea was sent overboard





The Boston Tea Party





The Boston Tea Party: Sound Smart

