



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

Chapter 1 USH Honors

From 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!





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.



The Impact of the Proclamation



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>

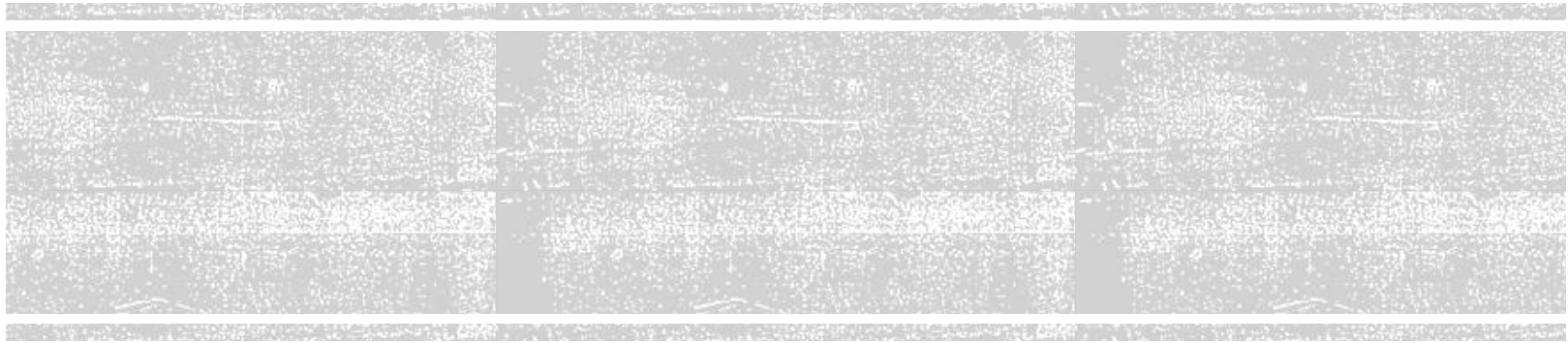




Reaction to the Stamp Act

- **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!

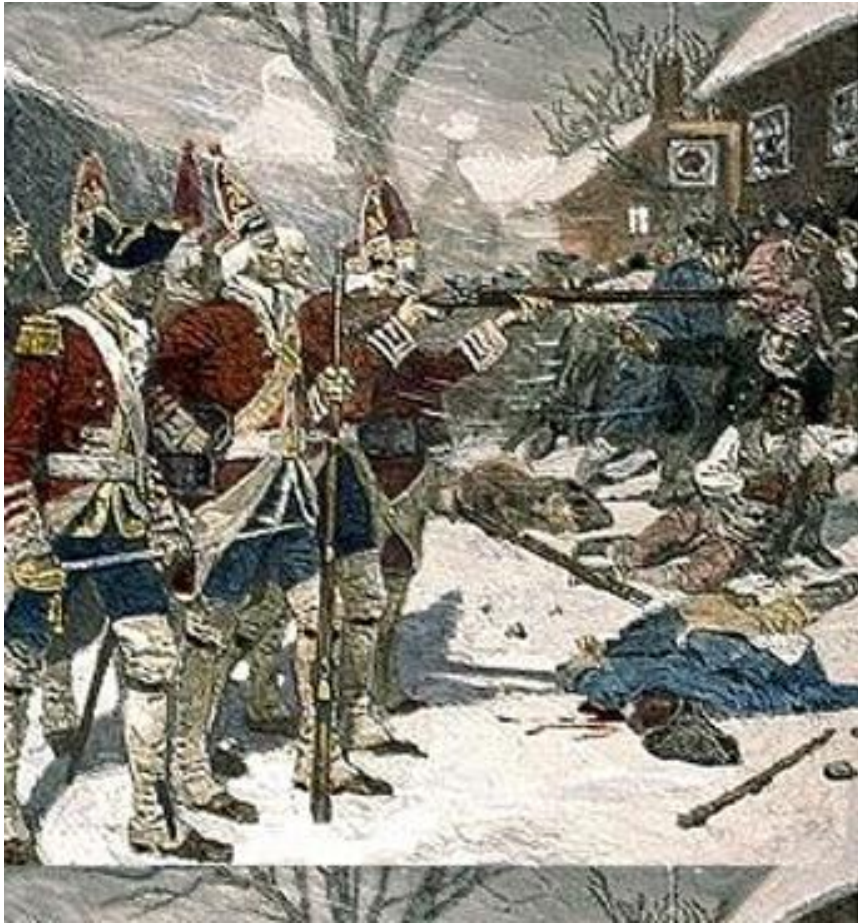
- **Portrait of Mr. & Mrs. Mifflin**
- **She is making lace for her dresses.**
- **Why? To boycott the tax on imported goods from England.**
- **Her gaze is basically saying “Are you going to join the cause?”**



Ideology, Religion, and Resistance

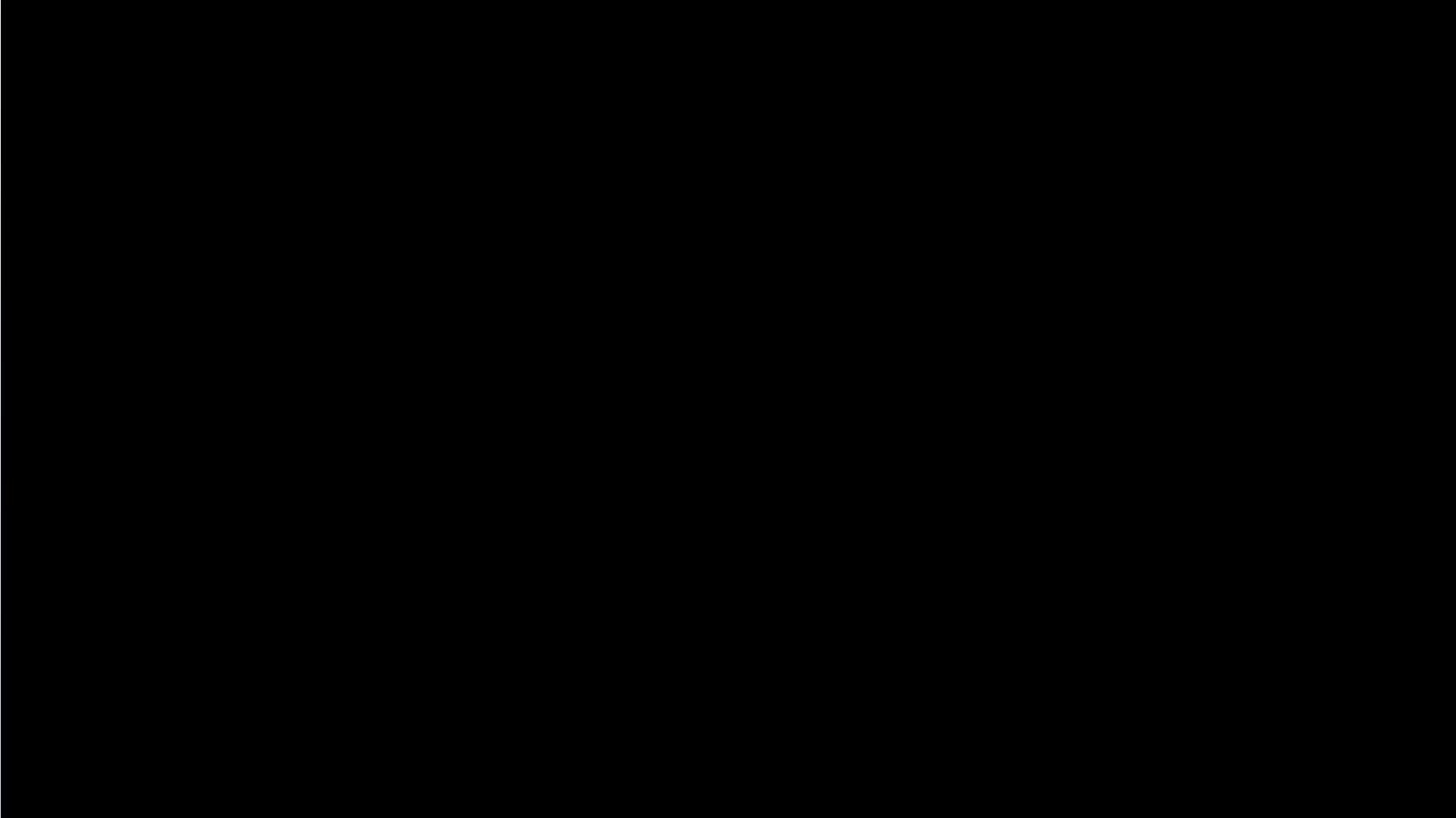
- **Resistance to the Stamp Act revealed a deep split between England and its colonists**
- **Many thought Parliament's actions were a conspiracy of a corrupt government to deny them their natural rights and liberties.**
 - John Locke
 - argued natural rights (life, liberty, property)
 - Should a government 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.**



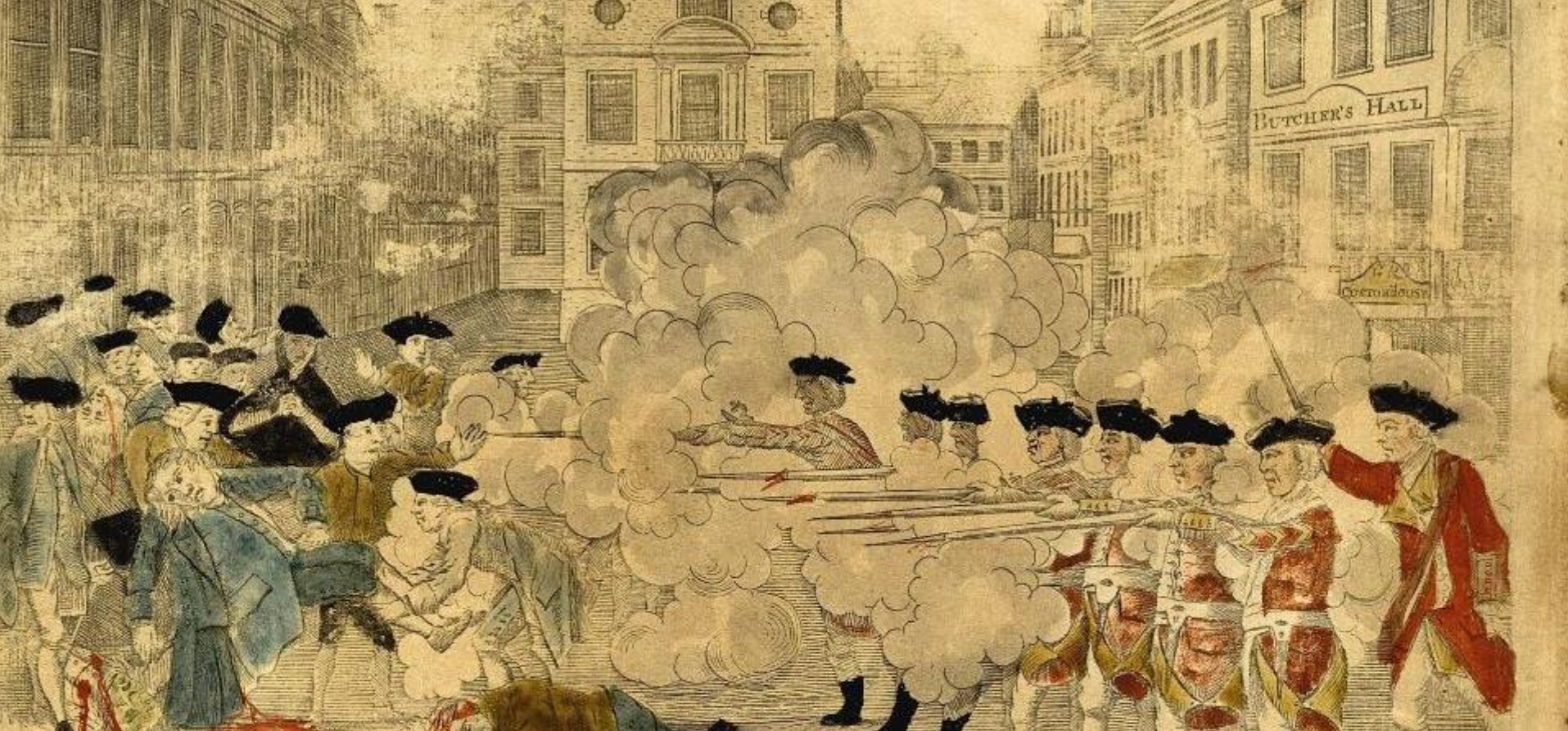
- **What was the Hancock Case, and how did Britain respond to the Hancock case violence?**
 - John Hancock's ship: *Liberty* – accused of smuggling...
 - By sending MORE troops (4,000) to Boston in 1768!

- **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

