

SSUSH3: Analyze the causes of the American Revolution



ELEMENT B: Explain colonial response to the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, and the Intolerable Acts as seen in the Sons and Daughters of Liberty and the Committees of Correspondence.

Colonial Response to Post-French & Indian War Results



- ❑ Following the French and Indian War, the British began trying to re-establish control over the colonies through policies such as the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, and the Intolerable Acts.
 - To pay for years of war, Parliament was determined to enforce pre-existing British trade laws that had been only casually enforced, such as the Navigation Acts.
 - Smuggling goods into America had been lucrative for many businessmen in the colonies.
 - The British government was physically removed from her American colonies and lacked an understanding of a new psychology of self-sufficiency and individualism that had developed in the colonies.
- ❑ British actions to re-establish control over the American colonies, after such a long period of Salutary Neglect, set up a series of responses and counter-responses by the American colonials and the British government, which ultimately led to the American Revolution.
 - The Sons and Daughters of Liberty and the Committees of Correspondence led the colonial responses to what they believed were overbearing British policies.
- ❑ In general, the American colonists reacted to new British laws and policies by either ignoring the law, organizing to inform and plan actions, or take direct action against the British.
 - Several incidents illustrate the response-counter response nature of the struggle between Great Britain and its colonies. These incidents grew in intensity until the British Army and colonial militia exchanged musket fire on Lexington Green.



Native American Response to the Proclamation of 1763



- ❑ American Indians were very concerned about how the outcome of the French and Indian War would impact the land they occupied in the Ohio River Valley, which had been transferred from French to British control under the provisions of the 1763 Treaty of Paris.
- ❑ That same year, the American Indian Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa Nation led a coalition of Native Americans in an attempt to drive the British and American colonial families out of the region.
 - Thousands of British Americans were killed as well as hundreds of British troops. Pontiac's War was concluded with the help of the Iroquois Confederacy and skillful diplomacy.
- ❑ To curtail further American Indian attacks, Parliament passed the Proclamation of 1763 in an attempt to prevent any more American colonists from settling beyond the Appalachian Mountains.
 - The new law angered colonists and wealthy colonial land agents as they believed they were entitled to the land they had helped to secure through fighting with the British in the French and Indian War.
 - Unable to enforce the law due to the vast amount of land in the region and a shortage of troops to patrol there, the Proclamation of 1763 never really stopped migration into the area.
 - The Americans ignored the law and settled in the Ohio River Valley anyway. However, the division between the British government and her colonies was growing as the spirit of independence was starting to spread.

An Act for granting certain Duties in the first Colonies and Plantations in America; for continuing, amending, and making perpetual, an Act passed in the Sixth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, (intituled, *An Act for the better securing and encouraging the Trade of His Majesty's Sugar Colonies in America*); for applying the Produce of such Duties, and of the Duties to arill by virtue of the said Act, towards defraying the Expences of defending, protecting, and securing, the said Colonies and Plantations; for expunging an Act made in the Twenty fifth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, (intituled, *An Act for the Encouragement of the Greenland and Eastland Trade*); and for the better securing the Plantation Trade; and for altering and diminishing several Drawbacks on Exports from the Kingdom, and more effectually preventing the clandestine Conveyance of Goods to and from the said Colonies and Plantations, and improving and securing the Trade between the same and Great Britain.

Britain's Colonial Taxation Policies

- ❑ Shortly after the 1763 Treaty of Paris was negotiated the British government announced that colonies would be taxed to cover the cost of their protection.
 - These taxes included the Sugar Act of 1764.
 - The Sugar Act imposed a tax on the importation of molasses, the key ingredient for making rum.
 - The new law also created Vice-Admiralty courts, which tried suspected smugglers before a military court instead of a civilian court.
 - These new measures angered American colonial importers who chose to ignore the new laws.

- ❑ The inability of the British government to collect the new tax led to the passage of a more widespread tax, the Stamp Act of 1765.
 - The tax was collected on every document or newspaper printed or used in the colonies. Previous taxes had only impacted certain groups, such as molasses importers, but the Stamp Act affected everyone in colonial America.
 - The taxes ranged from one shilling a newspaper to ten pounds for a lawyer's license.
 - The law required that a stamp be affixed to the taxable property to show that the tax had been paid.
 - In addition, the tax was to be paid with hard currency (not colonial paper money) and would be enforced through the Vice-Admiralty courts.
 - Colonial agents warned the British Prime Minister, Lord Grenville, that the passage of the new tax would be met with widespread anger in the colonies. Despite the warning, the Stamp Act was passed by Parliament.



Colonial Reaction to Britain's Taxation Policies



- ❑ The colonial reaction was swift and widespread.
 - Their central argument against the new tax was that the colonies did not have representation in Parliament. Therefore, taxes imposed by Parliament on the colonies represented a violation of English civil liberties.
- ❑ The Massachusetts colonial Assembly created a Committee of Correspondence to efficiently communicate with the other colonies on matters of concern.
- ❑ New York invited the other colonies to send delegates to a meeting and organized the Stamp Act Congress to draft formal petitions of protest to Parliament.
- ❑ In Boston, Samuel Adams organized the Sons of Liberty to protest the law.
 - These protests often turned violent. Tax collectors were hung in effigy and their property destroyed. Ships purportedly carrying stamps were denied entry to colonial ports.
 - Perhaps most significantly, New York merchants organized a boycott of British goods.
 - This boycott spread to other colonies and had a huge impact on British importers. The Committee of Correspondence helped to effectively organize the coordinated boycott.
 - The rising tide of violence in the colonies and the economic effects of the boycotts were instrumental in the repeal of the Stamp Act in March 1766. The hated law was largely ignored and barely lasted a year.

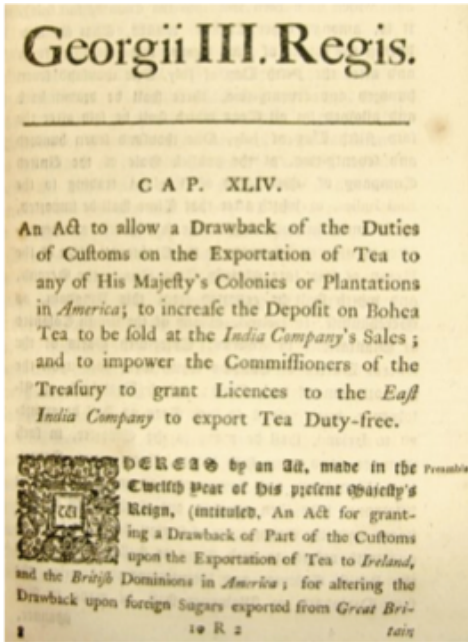
Colonial Protests to Britain's Taxation Policies



- Parliament, under the advice of the Lord Townshend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (similar to the US Secretary of the Treasury), passed in 1767 a new series of tax laws, expanded the Customs Service, and the number of Admiralty Courts.
 - Colonial organization and protests were renewed.
 - To replace boycotted British cloth, the women of Boston organized the Daughters of Liberty. The organization spun yarn into thread, wove cloth on home looms, and was instrumental in maintaining the American boycott of British goods.
- Protests and riots in Boston were so ferocious that customs officials demanded and received military protection.
 - However, the presence of the British Army and Navy in Boston only served to intensify the animosity between the British government and the colonists.
 - As a result of the protests, the Townshend Acts were partially repealed in 1770. However, a tax on tea was left in place by Parliament.



Colonial Protests to Britain's Taxation Policies



- ❑ In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act.
 - The act was designed to expand the British East India Company's tea monopoly by offering British imported tea at a reduced price in all the British colonies.
 - The colonists believed that Parliament was trying to increase tax revenue by getting the colonists to more readily accept cheap tea.
 - In general, colonial ports turned the tea ships away or refused to handle the British tea.
 - In Boston, the Royal Governor insisted that the tea be kept on board ship until it could be landed.
- ❑ On December 16, 1773, members of the Sons of Liberty boarded the three tea ships and destroyed the cargo.
 - British officials had little tolerance for the destruction of British property. Parliament passed a series of laws designed to punish the American colonies, and especially Massachusetts, for the attack on British ships.
 - The Intolerable Acts, as the punishment laws were known in the colonies, were designed to make an example of Massachusetts and hopefully quell the growing resistance to British authority throughout the colonies.



THE DESTRUCTION OF TEA AT BOSTON HARBOR, DECEMBER 16, 1773

Further British Taxation Policies

- ❑ There were five parts to the Intolerable Acts, including:
 1. Boston Port closed until the value of the destroyed tea was repaid.
 2. Massachusetts colonial government suspended and placed directly under the control of the royal governor appointed by the king.
 3. British officials accused of crimes would be tried in England rather than in Massachusetts.
 4. Renewed the Quartering Act of soldiers in the colonies.
 5. Quebec Act expanded the border of Quebec into land claimed by other colonies.
 - Instead of forcing Massachusetts into submission, the Intolerable Acts effectively unified the colonies to work as a group against the British government.
 - The experience of Massachusetts could easily be the experience of other colonies.
 - The colonists believed that Parliament had once again acted outside the English Constitution and violated the civil rights of the British citizens living in America.

