

The Road to Revolution

1763-1755

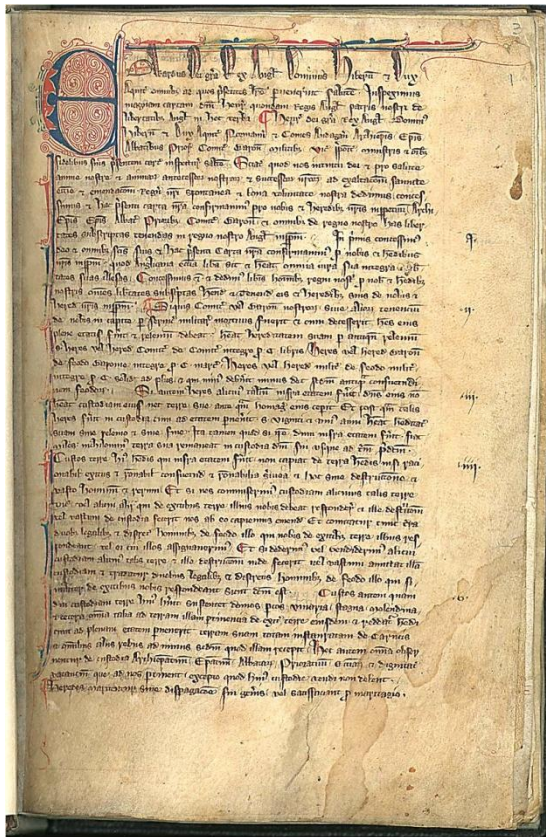
“The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people.”

John Adams, 1818

Background to Revolution

- After the French and Indian War, Britain is the master of an imperial domain—10,000 troops needed along American frontier to control Native Americans and former French subjects
- London government compels colonists to shoulder some of the financial costs of empire
- This change in British colonial policy reinforced an emerging sense of American political identity and helped to precipitate the American Revolution.

The Deep Roots of Revolution



MS 1390
Magna Carta as reprinted by Edward I in 1297, England, ca. 1299

- No feudal tradition
- Republicanism
 - Self-sacrificing
 - Economic
 - Egalitarian
- Individual Rights
 - Real Whigs ideology

Mercantilism

- Colonies exist for the benefit of mother country
- Navigation Laws (1650)- aimed at Dutch shippers trying to elbow their way into the carrying trade
 1. All commerce flowing to and from the colonies could be transported only in British (colonial) vessels
 2. European goods destined for America first had to land in Britain, where tariff duties could be collected
 3. American merchants must ship “enumerated” goods exclusively to Britain—Tobacco
- ◆ Salutary neglect

Colonial Benefits and Costs of Mercantilism

Benefits

1. Loosely enforced
2. Smuggling-Hancock
3. Generous bounties
4. Monopoly on tobacco
5. Protection of navy

Costs

1. Stifled economic initiative
2. Dependency on British agents and creditors
3. Perpetual economic dependency

Events Leading to Revolution

1. Proclamation of 1763
2. Sugar Act (1764)
3. Quartering Act (1765)
4. Stamp Act (1765)
5. Declaratory Act (1766)
6. Townshend Acts (1767)
7. Boston Massacre (1770)
8. Gaspee Incident (1772)
9. Tea Act (1773)
10. Intolerable/Coercive Acts (1774)
11. Lexington and Concord (1775)

Pontiac's Rebellion



- Native Americans feared that the growing number of British settlers crossing the Appalachian mountains would soon drive away the game they depended on for survival
- Native Americans angered by the refusal of the British to offer gifts as the French had done
- Native Americans led by Ottawa chief Pontiac captured eight British forts in the Ohio valley and laid siege to two others

British Response to Pontiac



Col. Henry
Boquet

Perpetrators
of biological
warfare



Gen. Jeffrey
Amherst

- Britain sends regular troops to deal with the rebellion
- Smallpox infestation forces negotiations
- Proclamation of 1763 banned all settlement west of the Appalachians
- Colonists ignored weak enforcement
- Convinces colonists that the British did not care about their needs

Background to Sugar Act

- During the French and Indian War, the British cracked down on smuggling
- The royal governor of Massachusetts authorized the use of writs of assistance, which allowed British customs officials to search any ship or building
- Many merchants worked out of their homes, which entitled officials to search merchants' residences

King George III chooses George Grenville

- Hoping to lower the debt, King George III chose a financial expert (exchequer) to serve as prime minister, Lord George Grenville
- Grenville unsympathetic to colonists
- He abhors smuggling which denies England tax revenue
- He told an aide that smugglers should be “prosecuted and punished as severely as the law will allow.”

The Sugar Act (1764)

- Halves the duty on foreign-made molasses (pay a lower tax rather than smuggle) from West Indies
- Places duties on certain imports (luxuries)
- Vice-admiralty courts established
- Goal: First ever tax imposed by the Crown in the colonies to raise revenue
- Colonial Reaction: Uncoordinated protests eventually led to lowered duties

Quartering Act (1765)

- Requires that the colonial legislatures provision and quarter British soldiers
- Colonial response: Refusal to comply—only supply a fraction of the cost

Stamp Act (1765)

- A direct tax intended to raise revenue for a military force in the colonies
- Mandated use of stamped paper to certify payment of tax on required bills of sale for 50 trade items including commercial and legal documents, playing cards, newspapers, dice and marriage licenses
- British citizens had endured the tax for two generations—no sympathy for colonists

Colonial Reaction to the Stamp Act

- Patrick Henry & the Va Resolves- It strikes at local liberties
- It jeopardizes the basic rights of Englishmen
 1. Vice-admiralty courts
- The colonists question why was a British army needed at all after the French defeat and Pontiac's warriors crushed?
- Samuel Otis: The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved

“No taxation without representation”

- Colonists concede the right of Parliament to legislate about matters that affected the entire empire, including the regulation of trade
- Yet steadfastly deny the right to impose taxes without Americans seated in Parliament—assault on sacred rights of property

Grenville Dismisses these American protests

- The power of Parliament was supreme and undivided
- Americans were represented in Parliament through “virtual representation”
 1. Parliament represented all British subjects who had never voted for a member of Parliament

Colonial Actions

1. No taxation without representation: distinguishes between virtual and direct representation
2. Stamp Act Congress (1765)—NYC, 27 delegates from 9 colonies
 - Declaration of Rights and Grievances
 - Petition Parliament; ignored
 - **Erodes sectional suspicions and builds inter-colonial unity**
3. Sons and Daughters of Liberty- Samuel Adams
 - Enforce nonimportation agreements
 - Effigies of stamp agents on liberty poles
 - Harass and ramsack distributors' homes
4. Groups of women held public spinning bees and made homespun cloth

Results of Colonial Actions

1. Merchants and manufacturers, and suppliers suffer devastating losses from nonimportation
 - Americans bought about $\frac{1}{4}$ of all British exports and about $\frac{1}{2}$ of British shipping was devoted to American trade
2. London businesses put pressure on Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act
3. 7.5 million Britons don't understand why 2 million colonists refuse to pay for only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost of their own defense

Declaratory Act (1766)

- Reaffirms Parliament's right "to bind" the colonies "in all cases whatsoever"

Townshend Acts (1767)

- British ministry seized by “Champagne Charley” Townshend
- An indirect tax on glass, lead, paint, and paper and a 3-pence tax on tea
 - Most popular drink—2 million drink tea twice a day
 - Intended to raise money to pay the salaries of the royal governors

Townshend Acts-Continued

- The acts also provided for the search of private homes for smuggled goods
 - Writs of assistance
- The act suspended New York's assembly for the colony's defiance of the Quartering Act

Colonial Reaction

1. At first, the colonists did not strongly protest the taxes because they were indirect taxes paid by merchants at ports
2. John Dickinson's Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania argued Parliament could regulate commerce but argued that because duties were a form of taxation, that could not be levied on the colonies without the consent of their representative assemblies

Colonial Reaction-Continued

3. Non-importation agreements-less effective

- Spinning bees of colonial cloth
- Recipes for tea made from birch bark and sage

4. Massachusetts Circular Letter-James Otis and Samuel Adams, 1768

- Urges colonies to petition Parliament to repeal Acts
- British officials in Boston order the letter retracted, threatens to dissolve the legislature and increase the number of troops

Colonial Reaction-Continued

- 5. June 1768—After British agents seized the Liberty, a local merchant ship, rioting broke out in Boston
 - The British action triggers riots against customs agents
 - Britain stationed 2,000 redcoats in Boston
 - Soldiers are profane and drunk—meet colonial resistance

Townshend Acts repealed 1770

- Lord Frederick North-new prime minister urged Parliament to repeal
 - Damaged trade
 - Generated little revenue—a paltry 295 pounds at a time when annual military costs of the colonies had mounted to 170,000 pounds!
 - Three-pence tea tax stays alive

Boston Massacre 1770

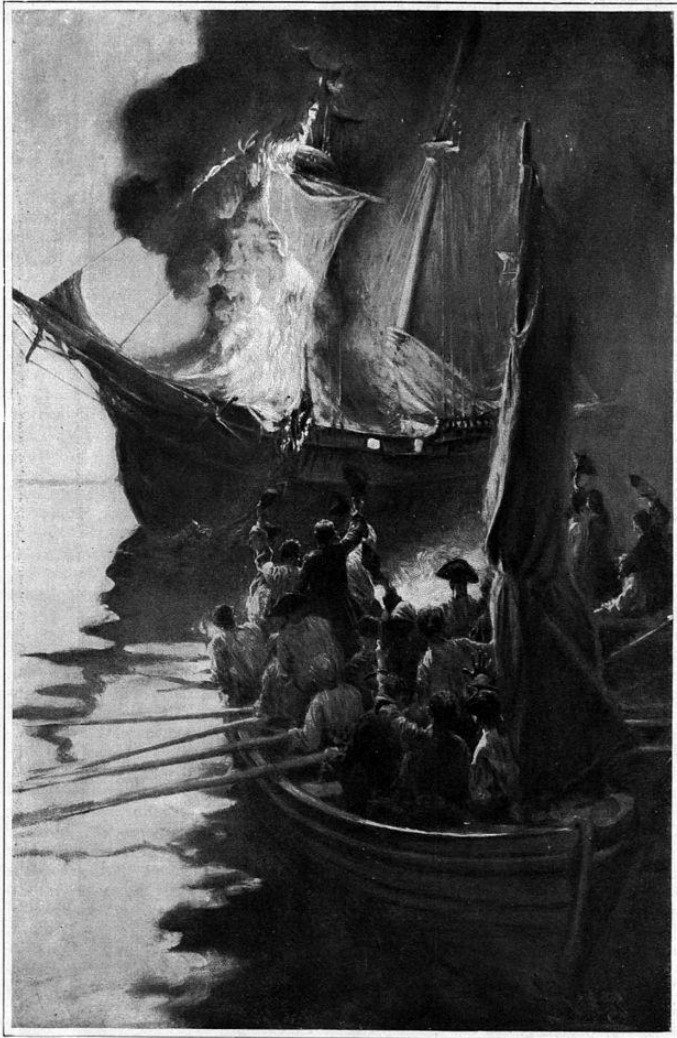


- March 5, 1770: Bostonians resent British troops who been quartered in the city to protect custom officials
- A crowd of colonists harassed guards near customs house
- Guards fired into crowd, killing five people, including Crispus Attucks
- Propaganda, Paul Revere
- John Adams defends redcoats

Committees of Correspondence

- 1772-Samuel Adams organizes in Boston
- Eighty towns set up similar organizations
- Chief function: spread the spirit of resistance by spreading letters and thus keep alive opposition to British policy
- Intercolonial committees were the next step and evolved into first congresses

The Gaspee Incident (1772)



THE BURNING OF THE "GASPEE"

- The British customs ship had been successful in capturing smugglers
- Ship ran aground off the shore of Rhode Island
- Colonists set fire to ship

The Tea Act (1773)



- Britain hopes to help the British East India Co. out of its financial problems
- Makes tea cheaper than Dutch smuggled tea, even with the tax
- Colonists refuse to comply

Boston Tea Party



- Shipment arrives in Boston—Dec.16, 1773
- A group of Bostonians disguise selves as Native Americans, board British ship and dumped 342 chests into the harbor, 18,000 pounds of tea
- Colonial reaction to the incident is mixed—private property

The Intolerable Acts (1774)

1. Port Bill-closed port of Boston, prohibiting trade in and out of harbor until the destroyed tea was paid for.
2. The Massachusetts Government Act reduced the power of the Massachusetts legislature while increasing the power of the royal governor.
3. The Administration of Justice Act allowed royal officials accused of crimes to be tried in England instead of in the colonies.
4. A fourth law expanded the Quartering Act to enable British troops to be quartered in private homes. It applied to all colonies.

Colonial Response to the Intolerable Acts

- First Continental Congress
 - 12 of 13 colonial representatives meet in Philadelphia—GA not present
 - 55 men, including Samuel Adams, John Adams, George Washington, Joseph Galloway and Patrick Henry
 - Radicals, moderates and conservatives in attendance—loyalists not represented
- Purpose: to determine how the colonies should react to the alarming threat to their cherished liberties

The First Continental Congress

- Most Americans had no desire for independence—want to protest parliamentary intrusions on their rights and to restore the relations that had existed prior to the French and Indian War!

Actions of the Congress

1. Call for repeal of the Intolerable Acts
2. The Declaration of Rights and Grievances
3. The Association
4. Meeting of second congress in May 1775 if colonial rights not recognized

Quebec Act (1774)



1. Established Roman Catholicism as the official religion of Quebec
2. Set up gov't without a representative assembly
3. Extended Quebec's boundary to Ohio River

American Reaction to the Quebec Act

- Americans see the act as a direct attack on the American colonies because it took away lands that they claimed along the Ohio River.
- They feared the British would attempt to enact similar laws in America to take away representative government.
- Protestants resented the recognition given to Roman Catholicism.

Lexington and Concord (1775)

- General Gage orders troops to march to Concord, Massachusetts and seize colonial weapons and gunpowder
- British agents returned with maps detailing where arms were rumored to be stored in barns, empty buildings and private homes
- The agents also revealed that John Hancock and Samuel Adams were staying in Lexington, 5 miles east of Concord

Lexington and Concord continued

- Minutemen watched as General Gage began to ready his troops quartered in Boston
- Rumors were that a strike by British troops was imminent
- With Hancock and Adams in hiding, much of the leadership of resistance fell to physician Joseph Warren

Lexington and Concord

- Warren consulted a confidential source close to the British high command
- The source informed him of Gage's plans
- Warren sent for Paul Revere, a member of the Sons of Liberty, who organized a network of riders to sound the alarm

Paul Revere

- On April 18, Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott rode out to spread word that 700 British regulars were headed for Concord
- Church bells and gunshots—prearranged signals—warned the population
- Revere burst into the house where Adams and Hancock were staying to warn them to flee to the backwoods
- Dawes was detained by British troops

Shots are Fired

- Revere is retained for questioning
- Shots rang out and the British officer realized the element of surprise had been lost
- When more shots rang out, the officer ordered the prisoners released so he could travel with greater speed to other British troops marching to Lexington

A Glorious Day for America

- By the morning of April 19, 1775, the king's troops reached Lexington
- They saw 70 minutemen drawn up in lines on the village green
- The British commander order the minutemen to leave
- The colonists began to move out without laying down their muskets
- Then someone fired! Eight minutemen killed and 10 wounded—15 minute battle.

On to Concord

- The Americans were forced to retreat at Lexington
- The British entered Concord and destroyed some military supplies
- On the return to Boston, the long column of British soldiers endured attacks by hundreds of minutemen firing from behind stone walls
- The British suffer 250 casualties and humiliation

British Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages

- Monetary wealth
- 7.5 million Britons
- Strong navy
- Hire mercenaries (Hessians) 30,000
- Professional army of 50,000
- 50,000 loyalists and Native Americans

Disadvantages

- Ireland is a distraction
- French revenge
- Britons don't want to kill American cousins
- Whigs might deal generously with rebels
- Provisions scarce and rancid
- Operate 3,000 miles away
- America is large
- No urban nerve center

America's Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages

- Outstanding leadership
- Foreign aid
- Agriculturally self-sustaining
- Just and moral cause
- History on side

Disadvantages

- Poorly organized
- No government until 1781
- State sovereignty
- Continentals
- Military supplies scarce

Blacks and the Revolution

- Many states initially barred their service
- More than 1,000 serve by war's end
- Largest contingents came from the North
- Some fought; others serve as spies, guides, cooks, drivers and road builders
- Lord Dunmore of VA offers freedom to any slave that joined British
 - 14,000 flee to Nova Scotia, Jamaica and England at war's end