

**Theme:** The American Revolution occurred because the American colonists, who had long been developing a strong sense of autonomy and self-government, furiously resisted British attempts to impose tighter imperial controls and higher taxes after the end of the French and Indian War in 1763. The sustained conflict over political authority and taxation, enhanced by American agitators and British bungling, gradually moved Americans from asserting rights within the British Empire to openly warring with the mother country.

**Summary:** The American War of Independence was a military conflict fought from 1775 to 1783, but the American Revolution was a deeper transformation of thought and loyalty that began when the first settlers arrived in America and finally led to the colonies' political separation from Britain.

One source of long-term conflict was the tension between the considerable freedom and self-government the colonists enjoyed in the American wilderness and their participation in the British Empire's mercantile system. While British mercantilism provided considerable economic benefits to the colonies, it limited their freedom and kept them in a state of perpetual economic adolescence.

The short-term movement toward the War of Independence began with British attempts to impose higher taxes and tighter imperial controls after the French and Indian War. To the British these were reasonable measures, under which colonists would simply bear a fair share of the costs of the empire. To the colonists, however, the measures constituted attacks on fundamental rights.

Through well-orchestrated agitation and boycotts, the colonists forced repeal of the Stamp Act as well as the Townshend Acts, except for the symbolic tax on tea. A temporary lull in conflict between 1770 and 1773 ended with the Boston Tea Party. In response to the tea party, the British imposed the harsh Intolerable Acts, coincidentally passing the Quebec Act at the same time. These actions aroused ferocious American resistance and led directly to the calling of the Continental Congress and the clash of arms at Lexington and Concord.

As the two sides prepared for war, the British enjoyed the advantages of a larger population, a professionally trained militia, and much greater economic strength. The greatest American asset was the deep commitment of those Patriots who were ready to sacrifice their **lives**.

**B. KEY TERMS** *Identify and give the significance of each of the following:*

mercantilism	nonimportation agreements	"Intolerable Acts"
Navigation Laws	Sons of Liberty and	Quebec Act
Privy Council	Daughters of Liberty	The First Continental
smuggling	Declaratory Act	Congress
George Granville	Townshend Acts	The Association
Sugar Act of 1764	Crispus Attucks	Lexington and Concord
Quartering Act of 1765	Samuel Adams	Marquis de Lafayette
Stamp Act	committees of	"Black Loyalists"
admiralty courts	correspondence	profiteers
Stamp Act Congress	The Boston Tea Party	

**C. Thought Provokers**

1. Britain's **mercantilist system** is remembered as being "deliberately oppressive" to the colonists yet had much to do with their prosperity. Identify the benefits and burdens of mercantilism for the colonists and discuss the impact this system had on the "revolutionary spirit" in the colonies.
2. How and why did the Americans and the British differ in their views of taxation ("**No taxation without representation**") and of the relationship of the colonies to the empire ("**virtual representation**")?
3. What **advantages and disadvantages** did the American rebels and the British each possess as the war began? What did each side do to mobilize its resources most effectively?

**Identification** *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The basic economic and political theory by which seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European powers governed their overseas colonies
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The set of Parliamentary laws, first passed in 1650, that restricted colonial trade and directed it to the benefit of Britain
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The term for products, such as tobacco, that could be shipped only to England and not to foreign markets
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Hated British courts in which juries were not allowed and defendants were assumed guilty until proven innocent
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. British governmental theory that Parliament spoke for all British subjects, including Americans, even if they did not vote for its members
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The effective form of organized resistance against the Stamp Act, which made homespun clothing fashionable
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The item taxed under the Townshend Acts that generated the greatest colonial resistance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Underground networks of communication and propaganda, established by Samuel Adams that sustained colonial resistance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Religion that was granted toleration in the Trans-Allegheny West by the Quebec Act, arousing deep colonial hostility
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. British political party opposed to Lord North's Tories and generally more sympathetic to the colonial cause
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. German mercenaries hired by George III to fight the American revolutionaries
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Currency authorized by Congress to finance the Revolution and depreciated to near worthlessness
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Effective organization created by the First Continental Congress to provide a total, unified boycott of all British goods
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Rapidly mobilized colonial militiamen whose refusal to disperse sparked the first battle of the Revolution
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Term for British regular troops, scorned as "lobster backs" and "bloody backs" by Bostonians and other colonials

### **Putting Things in Order**

*Put the following events in correct order by numbering them 1 to 10*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Britain attempts to gain revenue by a tax on papers and documents, creating a colonial uproar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Britain closes the port of Boston and opens the Western frontier to Catholicism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crispus Attucks leads a crowd in an attack on British troops, and eleven people are killed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Colonial Minute Men fire "the shot heard around the world" in the first battle of the Revolution
- \_\_\_\_\_ A British minister cleverly attempts to gain revenue and dampen colonial protest by imposing an import tax only on certain specialized goods
- \_\_\_\_\_ A British agency is established with broad but generally ineffective power over colonial commerce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel Adams and others organize revolutionary cells of communication and agitation across the colonies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parliament repeals a direct tax in response to colonial protest but declares that it has the right to tax colonies
- \_\_\_\_\_ A band of "Indians" dumps the rich cargo of the British East India Company into Boston Harbor, provoking a harsh British response
- \_\_\_\_\_ First acts are passed by Parliament to regulate colonial trade based on mercantilist principles

### Matching People, Places and Events

Match the person, place or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ____1. John Hancock                  | <b>A.</b> British minister who raised a storm of protest by passing the Stamp Act   |
| ____2. George Grenville              | <b>B.</b> Legislation passed in 1765 but repealed the next year, after colonial resistance made it impossible to enforce                                    |
| ____3. Stamp Act                     | <b>C.</b> Body, led by John Adams, that issued a Declaration of Rights and ordered The Association to boycott all British goods                             |
| ____4. Sons and Daughters of Liberty | <b>D.</b> Legislation that required colonists to feed and shelter British troops and led to suspension of the New York legislature upon its refusal to obey |
| ____5. “Champagne Charley” Townshend | <b>E.</b> Nineteen-year-old major general in the Revolutionary army   |
| ____6. Crispus Attucks               | <b>F.</b> Wealthy president of the Continental Congress and “King of Smugglers”   |
| ____7. George III                    | <b>G.</b> Minister whose clever attempt to impose import taxes nearly succeeded but eventually brewed trouble for Britain                                   |
| ____8. Samuel Adams                  | <b>H.</b> Zealous defender of the common people’s rights and organizer of underground propaganda committees   |
| ____9. Boston Tea Party              | <b>I.</b> Harsh measures of retaliation for a tea party, including the Boston Port act  |
| ____10. Intolerable Acts             | <b>J.</b> Stubborn ruler, lustful for power; served by compliant ministers like Lord North  |
| ____11. Lord Dunmore                 | <b>K.</b> Alleged leader of radical protesters killed in Boston Massacre  |
| ____12. First Continental Congress   | <b>L.</b> Organizational genius who turned raw colonial recruits into tough military soldiers   |
| ____13. Marquis de Lafayette         | <b>M.</b> Women and men who enforced the non-importation agreements, sometimes by coercive means  |
| ____14. Baron von Steuben            | <b>N.</b> British royal governor who encouraged runaway slaves to join his army   |
| ____15. Quartering Act               | <b>O.</b> Event organized by disguised “Indians” to sabotage British support of British East India Company monopoly   |

### Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

#### Cause

\_\_\_\_ 1. American distance from England and the growth of colonial self-government

\_\_\_\_ 2. British mercantilism

\_\_\_\_ 3. The large British debt incurred from defending the colonies in the French and Indian War

\_\_\_\_ 4. The passage of the Stamp Act

\_\_\_\_ 5. British troops sent to enforce order in Boston

\_\_\_\_ 6. The British government's attempt to maintain the East India Company's tea monopoly

\_\_\_\_ 7. The Boston Tea Party

\_\_\_\_ 8. The Intolerable Acts

\_\_\_\_ 9. A British attempt to seize the colonial militias' gunpowder supplies

\_\_\_\_ 10. Continental Congress's reluctance to tax Americans for war

#### Effect

**A.** Prompted the summoning of the First Continental Congress

**B.** Led Grenville to propose the Sugar Act, Quartering Act, and Stamp Act

**C.** Precipitated the Battle of Lexington and Concord

**D.** Were responsible for the Boston Massacre

**E.** Prompted passage of the Intolerable Acts, including the Boston Port Act

**F.** Resulted in the printing of large amounts of paper currency and skyrocketing inflation

**G.** Fostered restrictions on colonial manufacturing, trade, and paper currency

**H.** Led to gradual developments of a colonial sense of independence years before the Revolution

**I.** Spurred patriots to stage Boston Tea Party

**J.** Was greeted in the colonies by the non-import agreements, the Stamp Act Congress, and the forced resignation of stamp agents

#### Answers:

**Identification:** 1. mercantilism 2. Navigation Laws 3. enumerated 4. admiralty courts 5. virtual representation 6. nonimportation agreements 7. tea 8. committees of correspondence 9. Roman Catholicism 10. Whigs 11. Hessians 12. continentals 13. The Association 14. Minute Men 15. redcoats

#### People, Places, Events:

1. F 2. A 3. B 4. M 5. G 6. K 7. J 8. H 9. O 10. I 11. N 12. C 13. E 14. L 15. D

**Putting things in order:** 3 9 6 10 5 2 7 4 8 1

**Matching Cause and Effect:** 1. H 2. G 3. B 4. J 5. D 6. I 7. E 8. A 9. C 10. F