

# The Road to the American Revolution

Mr. Zindman's Class

Please do not forget to study your class notes and slides!

## ★ **British Policies in the Colonies**

- ⇒ *Salutary neglect* was a British policy of avoiding strict enforcement of parliamentary laws, meant to keep the American colonies obedient to Great Britain (from 1607-1763)
- ⇒ The British believed that the purpose of the colonies was to benefit England, the mother country. This concept of colonies supporting the mother country is known as *mercantilism*.
- ⇒ The trial of John Peter Zenger, legal proceeding during the 1730s that helped form the political belief in the United States that citizens have the right to freely criticize their government. The case also fostered the idea of *freedom of the press*.

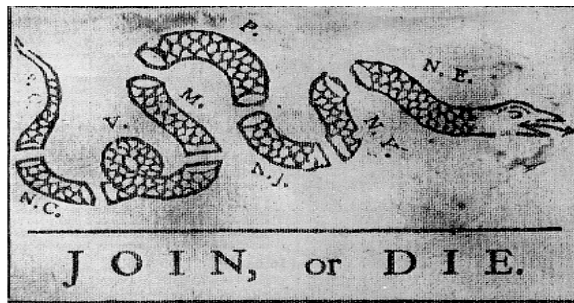
## ★ **Trouble on the Frontier**

- ⇒ England decided to tax the colonies in the Americas to pay for debts from previous wars. The colonists were outraged.
- ⇒ *The Sugar Act* was a tax on molasses.
- ⇒ *Stamp Act* taxed colonists on legal documents, wills, diplomas, newspapers, almanacs, and playing cards.

## ★ **The French and Indian War 1753-1754**

- ⇒ The French sent a group of men to hang signs claiming the Ohio Valley as French territory. This set the stage for a battle between England and France over the territory called the Ohio Valley. The French claimed the northern lands, we call Canada today. The English and French did not take into account the Native Americans that lived on these lands for centuries.
- ⇒ Native Americans had to choose sides, English or French. They could not defeat either side.
- ⇒ George Washington delivers a letter to the French forces. The letter told the French to leave the Ohio Valley. The French refused to leave. This led to a conflict, *The French and Indian War*. A battle between the English and French.
- ⇒ George Washington worked as a surveyor and owned, *William Lee*, a slave and personal servant. Lee was trusted with Washington's military plans.
- ⇒ Washington surrendered at *Fort Necessity* and was released by the French.

⇒ In 1754, Benjamin Franklin drew the first political cartoon, a broken snake that said, “*Join or Die*” in his newspaper, the Pennsylvania Gazette.



Benjamin Franklin, a delegate from Pennsylvania, proposed the *Albany Plan of Union*. The plan called for a grand council with representatives from of the 13 colonies to unite against the British laws. The Albany Plan of Union was influenced from the Enlightenment. The scholars from the *Enlightenment* said, people should determine their own government.

#### ★ The Colonists Resist Tighter Control

- ⇒ The French and Indian War drove the British deeply into debt. The British Parliament decides to tax the colonists to pay for the war.
- ⇒ *Townshend Acts* were taxes on goods such as glass, paper, paint, tea, and lead on the colonists.
- ⇒ Colonists declared. “*No taxation without representation.*” The colonists wanted to have a voice in the determination of fair taxes on the colonists.
- ⇒ The *Sons and Daughters of Liberty* a group of colonists that protested the British policies.
- ⇒ *Patrick Henry* gave speeches that attacked British *policies*. He said, “*Give me liberty or give me death!*”
- ⇒ The *Quartering Act* forced the colonists to house British soldiers in their homes. This was a way for the British to spy on the colonists.
- ⇒ In the *Boston Massacre* five colonists were shot and killed by British soldiers after throwing ice, rock and calling them names, such as “lobster backs.” A British regular private was hit and discharged his gun into the crowd. The British regulars then shot into the crowd killing four more civilians. The first person shot was a black man, *Crispus Attucks*. A seventeen year old boy was also killed. John Adams represented the British regulars on trial and got the acquitted of charges of killing 5 colonists by gunfire. The soldiers were given light sentences. The colonists used this event to rally the colonists against the British, Colonists called the event the Boston Massacre.
- ⇒ *The Tea Act* was a tax on tea in the colonies by the British.
- ⇒ *In the Boston Tea Party* The Son’s of Liberty colonists dressed as Indians threw tea barrels in the Boston Harbor in protest of the Tea Act.

- ⇒ The ***Proclamation of 1763*** stated that, King George III forbid colonists to settle further out west. Many colonists already settled in the west. The Proclamation of 1763 proposed that they should give up their land. This proclamation outraged the colonists!
- ⇒ The ***Shot heard 'round the world*** was the start of the American Revolution.
- ⇒ The ***Green Mountain Boys***, led by Ethan Allen, was a band of rebels that took ***Fort Ticonderoga*** from the British.
- ⇒ The ***Quebec Act*** set up a government for Canada and gave complete religious freedom to French Catholics; it also extended the borders of Quebec to include the land between the Ohio and Missouri rivers. While it pleased the French Canadians, it angered American colonists because some of the colonies claimed control over these lands.
- ⇒ ***The Olive Branch Petition*** was sent to the King George III. It declared loyalty to Britain if the British retracted the ***Intolerable Acts***. It was a failure.
- ⇒ Washington was chosen as the commander of the ***Continental Army***.
- ⇒ The Continental and British army met at ***Bunker Hill***. The Continental Army, lost the encounter, but they proved that their army was a hard army to beat. In this battle soldiers said, "***do not shoot until you see the whites of their eyes.***"
- ⇒ In the ***Battle of Lexington*** and the ***Battle of Concord*** were the first major battles of the American Revolution. In the Battle of Lexington in a Village near Boston, minutemen met British soldiers on the village green; Shots rang out and colonists were killed. At the ***Battle of Concord***, in Boston, minutemen met British soldiers on the Concord Bridge. The Colonists forced the British to retreat.
- ⇒ ***Bunker Hill, Battle of Concord and Lexington showed the British that American Revolution be a long war. The battles also demonstrated that the colonists militia would be tough for the British to beat!***
- ⇒ The British called in ***mercenaries*** to conquer the colonists. Mercenaries were soldiers that fought for money.
- ⇒ King George III ordered a blockade of all colonial ports. Nothing could move out or into these ports.

### Helpful Terms

- ***Petition:*** Formal written request to someone in authority signed by a group of people
- ***Boycott:*** To refuse to buy certain goods and services
- ***Repeal:*** To cancel
- ***Militia:*** An army of citizens who serve as soldiers in times of emergency
- ***Blockade:*** Is shutting down a port
- ***Minutemen:*** Volunteers who trained for the militia; they were prepared to fight at a minute's notice
- ***Redcoats:*** the British soldiers or Regulars
- ***The colonials:*** The colonial soldiers

- *Loyalists*: supported the British policies
- *Patriots*: supported the colonial revolt

## Colonial Leaders

- **Samuel Adams** of Massachusetts was a talented organizer. He arranged protests and stirred public support. Sam Adams was a leader in the Son's of Liberty.
- **John Adams** of Massachusetts had a knowledge of British law that earned him respect. He represented the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre.
- **Abigail Adams** of Massachusetts wrote to spur colonists to action.
- **George Washington** of Virginia joined in protesting the Townshend Acts.
- **Patrick Henry** of Virginia gave speeches that stirred others to action.

## Crisis on the Frontier

