

## Causes American Revolution:

Colonists different:	<p>We saw the creation of the "<b>American</b>" a new national type that separated the colonists from their countrymen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Previous <b>social position or wealth counted for less</b></li><li>- The colonies gave opportunities for <b>any ambitious person</b> that wanted to <b>better his/her situation</b></li><li>- The availability of <b>cheap land</b> enabled almost anybody to own some <b>property</b></li><li>- The colonists became <b>more self-sufficient</b> (out of necessity)</li><li>- The colonists were <b>less inclined to follow traditions</b></li><li>- The colonists represented a <b>variety of nations</b>; England, Ireland, Scotland, France, German States, Netherlands, etc...</li></ul>
Democratic ideals	<p>Growth of <b>more democratic ideals</b> (many of the new settlers had been persecuted in their mother countries – the Puritans brought along ideas of <b>John Locke</b>...)</p>
Self-government	<p>The colonists enjoyed <b>more self-government</b> than any other colonists in the world (every colony had a Governor who had been installed by the English government – and they also had their own representative assembly. Just like in England they (the assembly) exerted pressure on the royal Governor by threatening to withhold funds...)</p>
Economy – Mercantilism	<p>England was a follower of the economic doctrine called "<b>Mercantilism</b>". According to the doctrine the colonies should supply the mother country with raw material and England would let the colonists buy the finished goods</p> <p><b>Navigation Acts</b> – In 1650 England passed a series of laws to control colonial trade. They did not enforce these laws very strict – especially since some of the illegal trade was very profitable. Smuggling of "enumerated commodities" (products that the colonies were forbidden to export to any country except England) was common. The duties (import taxes) were light and carelessly collected – and few merchants bothered to pay them (smuggling was easy!). When anybody in the English Parliament asked why the country did not enforce trade laws the reply was "<b>Let sleeping dogs lie</b>".</p>
War	<p>The <b>French-Indian War</b> broke out in <b>1754</b> (In Europe – the "<b>Seven Years War</b>"). France lost several of its colonies; French trading posts in India, Canada and most of Louisiana</p>
Population growth	<p>In <b>1750</b> the Europeans had started to emigrate in masses and by this time over 1 500 000 colonists lived in New England and more came every month. These colonists wanted land...</p>
Land restriction	<p>Before the final defeat of the French colonists in search of better land began to move over the Appalachian Mountains into the Ohio Valley. To prevent war with the native tribes the English king George III issued a proclamation <b>1763</b> that forbade colonists to settle west of the Appalachians until proper treaties with the native tribes had been made. This proclamation upset the new settlers...</p>

English budget deficit	<p>In <b>1764</b> the English Parliament discussed <b>new taxes</b> for the colonies – the war had doubled the English budget deficit and new expenses added to the deficit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English soldiers for protection against native tribes</li> <li>- English administration in the new (and old) territories</li> </ul>
Taxes!	<p>In 1764 the English Parliament awoke the “sleeping dogs” by imposing a series of taxes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>American Revenue Act</b> (often just referred to as the “<b>Sugar Act</b>”). This increased the duties on sugar, textiles, coffee, wines and indigo (dye)</li> <li>- England <b>doubled the duties</b> on foreign goods reshipped from England</li> <li>- England <b>forbade the import</b> of foreign rum and French wines</li> <li>- England put lots greater efforts into <b>enforce the existing tariffs</b></li> </ul>
Reaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colonial Merchants believed that the new import taxes would affect the possibility to trade at a profit</li> <li>- The colonists in general believed that the new taxes would increase their costs of living</li> <li>- The colonists also feared that the increasing amount of English soldiers in New England could be used to force them to obey the English government – this would seriously affect their sense of independence</li> <li>- The colonists felt that the previous tradition where they elected members to a colony assembly that cooperated with the appointed Governor was threatened and side stepped. They insisted that as “freeborn Englishmen” they could be taxed only by their own colonial assemblies</li> </ul>
Representation	<p>Another reason for the last claim was the fact that the colonies had no representatives in the English Parliament – so why should England have the right to tax them: “<b>No taxation without representation</b>”</p>
More taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>1765</b> Quartering Act</li> <li>- <b>1765</b> The Stamp Act</li> </ul>
Sons of Liberty	<p>Sons of Liberty was organized <b>1765</b>. This was a secret organization, one of several throughout the colonies. It was led by prominent citizens, they resorted to coercion to force stamp agents to resign their posts.</p>
Townshend Acts	<p>Charles Townshend responsible for colonial affairs (replaced the more skilled diplomat William Pitt who had become sick), wanted to strengthen the power of the British parliament which would simultaneously strengthen the power of royal officials. He convinced the Parliament to pass a series of laws imposing new taxes on the colonists. These laws <b>1767</b> included special taxes on lead, paint, paper, glass and tea imported by colonists. In addition, the New York legislature was suspended until it agreed to quarter British soldiers. The Acts also insured that colonial officials, including governors and judges, would receive their salaries directly from the Crown.</p>
Boycott and tension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colonists agreed to not import British goods, especially luxury products. The <b>Non-importation agreement</b> slowly grew to include</li> </ul>

merchants in all of the colonies, with the exception of New Hampshire. Within a year importation from Britain dropped almost in half

- In **1768** British Troops Land in Boston to Maintain Order...
- **1770 - Boston Massacre**. An armed clash between the British and the colonists led to the shooting of 11 colonists. Five died - including Crispus Attucks, a former slave

#### Concessions

- **Townshend Acts repealed 1770**. The British parliament repealed the Townshend duties on all but tea. Falling colonial imports and raising opposition convinced the British government that its policies were not working.

Also, the **Quartering Act is not renewed**

#### More tension

- Colonists **burn** the British customs schooner the **Gaspee 1772**
- **Right to self-rule 1772**. In November a Boston town meeting assembles called by Sam Adams. During the meeting, a 21 member committee of correspondence is appointed to communicate with other towns and colonies. A few weeks later, the town meeting endorses three radical proclamations asserting the rights of the colonies to self-rule

#### Tea Act + Boston Tea Party

In **1773** the Parliament granted the British East India Company monopoly on the right to sell tea directly to local retailers in the colonies (surpassing the American importers). Boycott against tea + the "**Boston Tea Party**" - colonial activists disguise themselves as Mohawk Indians then board three ships belonging to the British East India Company and dump all 342 containers of tea (90,000 pounds) into the water

#### Coercive (Intolerable) Acts

- **The Boston Port Bill** effectively shuts down all commercial shipping in Boston harbor until Massachusetts pays the taxes owed on the tea dumped in the harbor and also reimburses the East India Company for the loss of the tea
- **The Massachusetts Regulating Act** and the **Government Act** virtually ending any self-rule by the colonists there
- **The Administration of Justice Act** which protects royal officials in Massachusetts from being sued in colonial courts
- **The Quebec Act** establishing a centralized government in Canada controlled by the Crown and English Parliament. The Quebec Act greatly upsets American colonists by extending the southern boundary of Canada into territories claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia.
- In June 1774 a new version of the 1765 **Quartering Act** is enacted by the English Parliament requiring all of the American colonies to provide housing for British troops in occupied houses and taverns and in unoccupied buildings

#### 1st Continental Congress

First Continental Congress meets **1774** September 5 to October 26 in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants include Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock. On September 17, the Congress declares its **opposition to the Coercive Acts**, saying they are "not to be obeyed,"

and also promotes the formation of local **militia units**. On October 14, a **Declaration and Resolves** is adopted that **opposes the Coercive Acts, the Quebec Act, and other measures** taken by the British that undermine self-rule. The rights of the colonists are asserted, including **the rights to "life, liberty and property"**. On October 20, the Congress adopts the Continental Association in which delegates agree to a boycott of English imports, affect an embargo of exports to Britain, and discontinue the slave trade

The war starts **Lexington & Concord 1775**. At dawn on April 19 about 70 armed Massachusetts militiamen stand face to face on Lexington Green with the British advance guard. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' begins the American Revolution

2nd Continental Congress On May 15, 1775, the Second Continental Congress places the colonies in a state of defense. On June 15, the Congress unanimously votes to appoint **George Washington general and commander-in-chief** of the **new Continental Army**. The first major fight between British and American troops occurs at Boston, 17 June 1775, in the **Battle of Bunker Hill**

Petition for Peace. The Continental Congress adopts the **Olive Branch Petition** July 5, 1775, which expresses hope for a reconciliation with Britain, appealing directly to the King for help in achieving this. In August, King George III refuses even to look at the petition and instead issues a proclamation declaring the Americans to be in a state of open rebellion.

Foreign support French support 1776. The American revolutionaries get the much needed foreign support they had been hoping for. King Louis XVI of France commits one million dollars in arms and munitions. Spain then also promises support. The Continental Congress authorizes each of the 13 colonies to form local (provincial) governments at May 10, 1776.

#### **July 4, 1776 - United States Declaration of Independence.**

#### **OTHER CAUSES:**

English Revolution Influence???

Enlightenment John Locke's real influence was on the American Revolution. The American Revolution was the only one that fought for the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and property. He promoted the idea of a representative government—in his book *Two Treatises of Government* (1690).

Propaganda One of the important ingredients in the colonial struggle against England was propaganda like Paul Reveres engraving about the "Boston Massacre". It was sent out to all colonies after the Boston incident. The colonists got to show their view and opinion on what happened... In the newspaper the "Massachusetts Spy" 1774 you could see a serpent (representing different colonial "states") fighting the English lion(?) on

top of the first page. Books were also important: Common Sense by Thomas Paine 1776. It was published in Philadelphia January 9, 1776. The 50 page pamphlet was highly critical of King George III and attacked allegiance to Monarchy in principle while providing strong arguments for American independence. It became an instant best-seller in America. "We have it in our power to begin the world anew...American shall make a stand, not for herself alone, but for the world," Paine stated

# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Action of Second Continental Congress, July 4, 1776  
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America

*WHEN in the Course of human Events*, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

**WE** hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness -- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

**HE** has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

**HE** has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

**HE** has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

**HE** has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

**HE** has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

**HE** has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of the Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and the Convulsions within.

**HE** has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

**HE** has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

**HE** has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

**HE** has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harrass our People, and eat out their Substance.

**HE** has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.  
**HE** has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.  
**HE** has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:  
**FOR** quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;  
**FOR** protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:  
**FOR** cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:  
**FOR** imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:  
**FOR** depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:  
**FOR** transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:  
**FOR** abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rules into these Colonies:  
**FOR** taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:  
**FOR** suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.  
**HE** has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.  
**HE** has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.  
**HE** is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.  
**HE** has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.  
**HE** has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.  
**IN** every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.  
**NOR** have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.  
**WE**, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor