

UNIT One:

Why a revolution?



What did Britain do to anger the colonies?

What methods of protest did the Americans use?

What caused the Revolution?

Who were the “founding fathers” and what role did they play in revolutionary America?

Use the Following readings to help you understand why the American Colonies decided to separate from Great Britain.

Reading one: America Adventure Stories p2-17 EASY

Reading two: Idiots guide to American History 18-28 Medium

Reading three: A Cartoon History of United States 29-54 Easy

46 → CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: AN OVERVIEW →

"When a certain great king, whose initial is G,
Shall force stamps upon paper, and folks to drink tea;
When these folks burn his tea and stamp paper, like stubble,
You may guess that this king is then coming to trouble."—Philip Freneau

POLITICAL CAUSES FOR BREAKING WITH BRITAIN.

1. England's neglect of the colonies



2. Taxation without representation



3. Limitation of Individual rights



ECONOMIC CAUSES FOR BREAKING WITH BRITAIN

4. Taxation



5. Mercantilism



ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC POLICY

- 1) Gold in the treasury makes a nation strong.
- 2) So a nation must have a favorable balance of trade: more gold coming in than going out.
- 3) Therefore, a nation must regulate its trade to sell more than it buys.
- 4) Colonies exist for the trade benefits of the mother country.

6. Trade restrictions

Britain regulated trade with the colonies for her own benefit through navigation, or shipping, laws that forced the colonists to trade mainly with Britain.



7. Economic power



But England failed to enforce the navigation laws, and the colonists traded with whomever they pleased—and made money doing so.

8. Free enterprise

The colonists grew accustomed to free enterprise (free, unrestricted trade). When Britain finally began enforcing the navigation laws, it was too late!



47 — STRUGGLE FOR NORTH AMERICA: THE FRENCH & INDIAN WAR

1492

1754-63

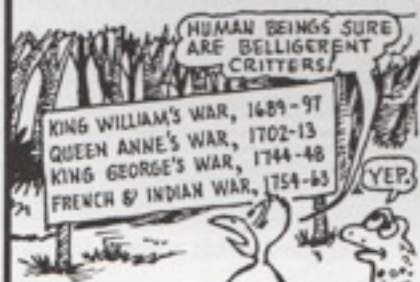
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Remember the 3-way race for North America among Spain, France, and England? One contestant, France, now loses.

North America in 1754



Between 1689 and 1763 England and France fought four wars to win control of the eastern half of North America and extend their global empires. They battled in Europe and India and America, engaging various allies.



The French and Indian War erupted in 1754 over disputed claims by England and France to the Ohio River Valley. France built forts there to protect her fur trade—and her claims. Most Indian tribes, except the Iroquois, sided with the French.



In 1754 the Virginia governor sent George Washington, a 22-year-old lieutenant colonel in the Virginia militia, to western Pennsylvania with 150 militiamen to force French withdrawal from land Virginia claimed from her 1609 charter.



The French attacked and defeated them near Fort Duquesne (present-day Pittsburgh) in the first battle of the French and Indian War.

Meanwhile, in Albany, New York, delegates from seven colonies discussed colonial defense and Benjamin Franklin's Albany Plan for uniting the colonies under a royally appointed president general and an elected council. Despite his cartoon advice, the colonies said, "No." (And so did the British.)



1755—British General Edward Braddock, accompanied by George Washington, led British troops against the French at Fort Duquesne. Defeated, he lost half his troops and his life by fighting in column formation (against Washington's advice), instead of behind trees as the French and Indians did. Washington rallied the troops and emerged a hero.



GOOD NEWS, DEAR. WE'VE WON THE WAR. GOOD. NOW THE FRENCH WON'T BLOCK OUR WESTWARD EXPANSION.



1763—BRITISH VICTORY!
Quebec's fall in 1759 led to Britain's victory in 1763. France lost not only the war but also her race for North America.

The 1763 Peace Treaty changed the map of North America.

PEACE TREATY SAYS (1) FRANCE GIVES TO ENGLAND: CANADA AND ALL LAND EAST OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER, EXCEPT NEW ORLEANS. (2) FRANCE GIVES TO SPAIN (HER ALLY): FRENCH LAND WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, PLUS NEW ORLEANS. (3) SPAIN GIVES TO ENGLAND: FLORIDA.



North America in 1763



48 — BRITANNIA RULES! AMERICA REBELS!

What do we mean by the Revolution? The war? That was no part of the Revolution: it was only an effect and consequence of it. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people, and this was effected from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen years, before a drop of blood was shed...."—John Adams 1763-74

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THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR CHANGED EVERYTHING.

Until 1763 Britain had paid little attention to her colonies, 3,000 miles distant. Taking advantage of this salutary (beneficial) neglect, the colonists had exercised the liberties of Englishmen and become increasingly autonomous (self-governing), while remaining proud, loyal British subjects.



After 1763 victorious Britain tightened control of her vast North American empire (almost doubled in size) in a series of actions that seemed fair to Britain, unfair to the colonists, and that led directly to the American Revolution.

As you read what happened, analyse the cause and effect relationships in the sequence of events, and then use your decision-making skills to judge what you would have done 1) as a colonial leader and 2) as Parliament.

In 1760 George III (age 22) became king of Great Britain. Although not a tyrant, he took his mother's advice to rule as well as reign (unlike easy-going George I and George II).



Insecure, vain, headstrong, and eventually insane, George III and his King's Friends faction in Parliament were ill-equipped to deal with British-American problems following the French & Indian War.



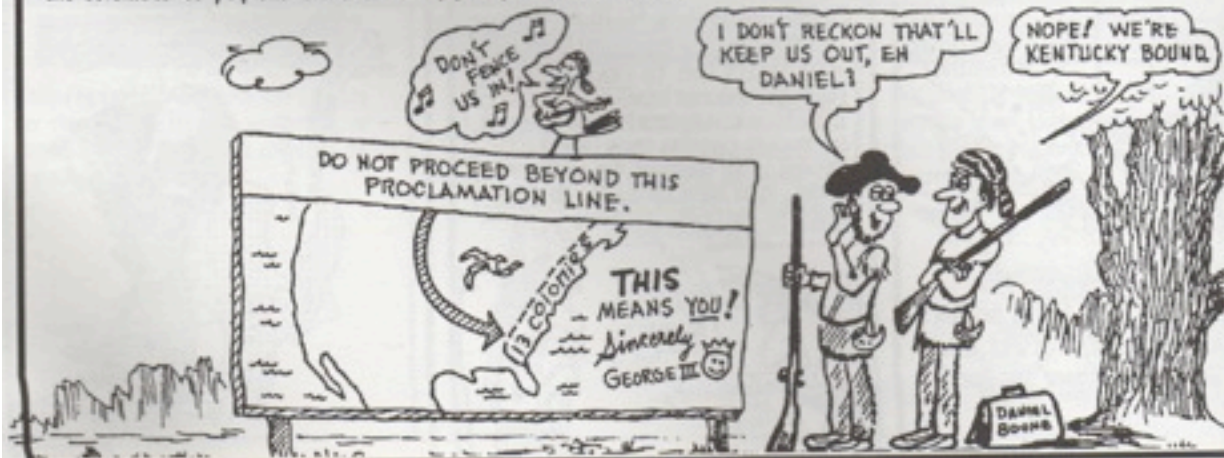
PROBLEM #1: FRONTIER DEFENSE—How could England keep peace along the colonial frontier with Americans raring to cross it and settle Indian lands? In 1763 Chief Pontiac led Indians in the Great Lakes area in a year-long war against such land-hungry colonists.

BRITISH ACTION

1. **PROCLAMATION LINE OF 1763:** would bar westward settlement on Indian lands and, in turn, protect the colonists from invading Indians;
2. **10,000 BRITISH TROOPS:** would protect this frontier line, with the colonists to pay one-third of the \$1,000,000 annual cost.

AMERICAN REACTION

"UNFAIR! Our original charters included land west of that line. And we don't want a standing army during peace time!"



PROBLEM #2: TAXES...and then one thing led to another!

THE COST OF BEATING THE FRENCH HAS DOUBLED OUR NATIONAL DEBT!! WHO'S GOING TO PAY THIS BILL? ENGLISHMEN ARE ALREADY PAYING HUGE TAXES: 20%.

King George



LET'S MAKE THOSE UNGRATEFUL COLONISTS PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE. WE FOUGHT THE WAR TO FREE THEM FROM THE FRENCH MENACE, AND THEY SMUGGLED GOODS TO THE FRENCH THE WHOLE TIME! AND THEY STILL SMUGGLE TO AVOID PAYING DUTIES. LET'S TAX THEM! IT'S ONLY FAIR.

Prime Minister George Grenville



CAN WE DO THIS? PARLIAMENT HAS ALWAYS LIMITED ITS TAXING OF THE COLONIES TO EXTERNAL TAXES—ON IMPORTED GOODS. IT HAS NEVER PASSED INTERNAL TAXES. THESE ARE LEFT TO THE COLONIAL ASSEMBLIES, AS A BASIC LIBERTY OF ENGLISHMEN.

House of Commons member Edmund Burke



BRITISH ACTION

COLONIAL REACTION

1764—SUGAR ACT

Taxed sugar and molasses—not just to regulate trade (as before) but to produce revenue for Britain. Smugglers would be tried in admiralty courts without juries.



1765—STAMP ACT

Required revenue stamps for all publications and official documents.

Englishman Isaac Barre warned his fellow Parliamentarians, "Americans are sons of liberty and won't surrender their rights without a fight." He was right!

SONS OF LIBERTY

This organization of patriots (colonists for independence) persuaded through intimidation.



VIRGINIA RESOLVES

In the Virginia Assembly, Patrick Henry helped write the Virginia Resolves, denying Parliament's right to tax Virginia. He warned:

LET KING GEORGE REMEMBER THE FATE OF CAESAR AND CHARLES I!



STAMP ACT CONGRESS

IN THEIR FIRST SHOW OF UNITY 9 COLONIES SENT DELEGATES TO NEW YORK TO PROTEST. THEY ALSO AGREED TO BOYCOTT ALL BRITISH GOODS.

DID THEY CATCH ANY METS GAMES IN NEW YORK?



1765—QUARTERING ACT

Required the colonists to quarter (house and feed) British troops in America.



DON'T LOOK NOW, DEAR BUT WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY.



1766—Repealed STAMP ACT but passed DECLARATORY ACT: Parliament could make laws binding colonies "in all cases whatsoever."

Happy over repeal, the colonists ignored the meaning of the Declaratory Act.

I SAY - WHAT NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN COLONISTS?

THEY'RE JOLLY WELL ECSTATIC OVER REPEAL OF THE STAMP TAX.

HA! I WONDER IF THEY READ THE FINE PRINT?



BRITISH ACTION

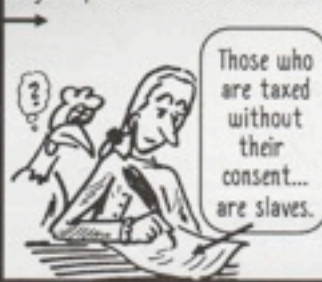
1767—TOWNSHEND ACTS

1. Revenue duties on tea, glass, lead, paper, paints
2. Strict customs enforcement, including Writs of Assistance (non-specific search warrants)

Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Treasury), boasted he could raise revenue through duties, because Americans accepted these external taxes to regulate trade as legal.

AMERICAN REACTION

"Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania," by John Dickinson, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, argued that external taxes to regulate trade were illegal if used to raise revenue. This influential pamphlet urged repeal of the Townshend Acts.



Sam Adams and fellow radicals in the Massachusetts legislature circulated letters to all the colonies, urging them to boycott (refuse to buy) British goods.



Colonists revived James Otis' 1761 claim that Writs of Assistance violated their English rights to sanctity of the home: not to have their homes searched without a warrant.

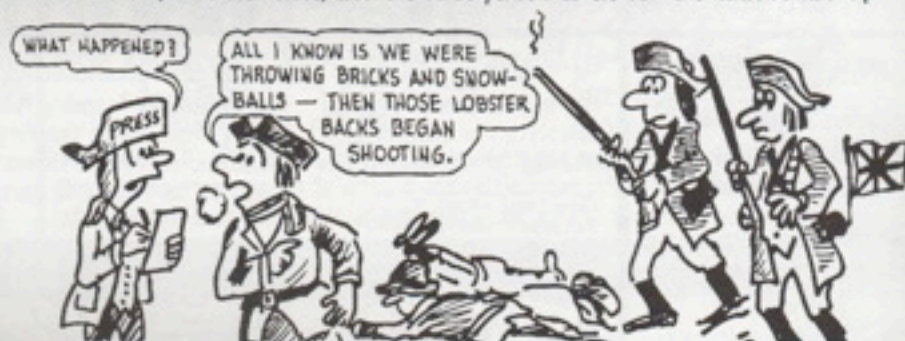


1768—BRITISH TROOPS

(4,000) were assigned to Boston to ensure orderly customs collections.

1770: THE BOSTON MASSACRE

Bostonians resented the British troops and often taunted them. On March 5 a rowdy gang of men and boys threw snowballs and rocks at a British soldier guarding the Boston customhouse across from the Statehouse. Captain Thomas Preston and a few soldiers came to his aid. An unknown person shouted "Fire!"—and the soldiers did, killing 5 colonists including Crispus Attucks, an African-American. Attucks, a former slave, was the first person to die for the nation's liberty.



1770—TOWNSHEND DUTIES

repealed—on all items except tea

On March 5 (the same day as the Boston Massacre) Lord Frederick North, the new Prime Minister, recommended this action because of pressure from British merchants who had suffered a 38 percent cut in exports from the colonial boycott.

The tea duty was retained to show that Parliament and King George III were still boss.

Two Boston Sons of Liberty used the shooting incident as propaganda to stir revolutionary fervor: 1) Sam Adams, by publicizing it as a massacre of innocent victims, and 2) Paul Revere, with his engraving of British soldiers firing on unarmed men and women, entitled "The Bloody Massacre." Prints were sent to all the colonies.



Boston lawyer John Adams (Sam Adams' cousin) courageously defended Preston and his men in their murder trial, for he believed they fired in self defense. (John Adams later became the second president of the U.S.) All were acquitted except two who were convicted of manslaughter, branded on the thumb, and released.



BRITISH ACTION

1770-73—A calm period as King George III and Lord North avoided further provocation of the colonists

1773—TEA ACT

In a costly blunder, Parliament tried to bail out the (British) East India Company—near bankruptcy because of 17,000,000 lbs. of surplus tea—by giving it a monopoly of the American market.

Parliament hoped the colonists would start buying British tea again (instead of smuggling Dutch tea) when they saw the new bargain prices.

AMERICAN REACTION

1772 — COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE

Meanwhile, patriot Sam Adams helped Boston and 80 other Massachusetts towns organize Committees of Correspondence to spread word of any new British aggression. Other colonies followed suit, and by 1774 an intercolonial information network existed that would unite the colonies in fighting for their liberties. If trouble arose—and it soon did—they would be ready.



1773 — THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

The Tea Act united America's conservative merchants (outraged by the monopoly) and radical patriots (angered by the tea tax) in resisting Great Britain. In New York and Philadelphia, tea ships were forced back to England.

Then, on December 16, about 60 Bostonians disguised as Mohawk Indians (believed to be Sons of Liberty, led by Sam Adams) war-hooped onto three tea ships in Boston Harbor and threw overboard all 342 chests of East India Company tea.



1774—COERCIVE ACTS (called "INTOLERABLE ACTS" by the colonists)

An angry King and Parliament decided to teach all the colonies a lesson by punishing Massachusetts through four acts, which:

1. closed Boston's port until the city paid for the tea,
2. deprived Massachusetts of self-government and placed it under the military rule of British General Thomas Gage,
3. allowed British officials to be tried in England if charged with crimes while enforcing British laws,
4. issued a stronger Quartering Act for all the colonies.

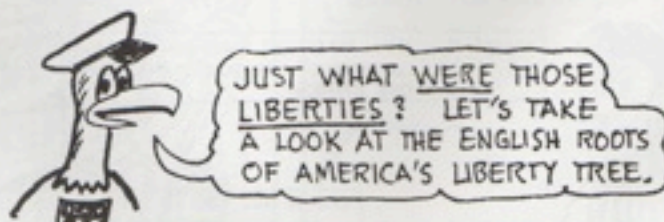
1774—QUEBEC ACT

1. extended Quebec's boundaries to Ohio and Mississippi rivers —land claimed by Mass., Conn., N.Y., and Va.,
2. gave Quebec's Catholic Church preferred status and sanctioned Quebec's French law of trial without jury. (Would America be next? Some colonists feared so.)

FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, Sept. 5-Oct. 26, 1774

Blasting the Intolerable Acts as tyrannical, Committees of Correspondence rallied support in all the colonies for beleaguered Massachusetts and arranged for an unprecedented gathering: a Continental Congress. Fifty-six delegates, from every colony except Georgia, met in Philadelphia to chart a unified response to Britain. The results:

1. an Association, pledged to boycott British trade,
2. adoption of Suffolk Resolves, declaring the Coercive Acts unconstitutional and urging Massachusetts to form its own government and collect its own taxes and to form and arm a militia,
3. a Declaration of Rights and Grievances, stating that the colonists were defying Britain because their LIBERTIES AS ENGLISHMEN had been violated.



49 → THE AMERICAN TREE OF LIBERTY: ENGLISH ROOTS, 1215-1689 →

*** A FLASHBACK IN TIME: THE LIBERTIES OF ENGLISHMEN ***

MAGNA CARTA

Way back in 1215, merrie old England was not so merrie. Why? Tyrannical King John ruled just as he pleased and made the English barons support him—and his wars—with high taxes. Then one day...

SIRE, WE'VE DRAWN UP A CHARTER LISTING 63 RIGHTS WE DESERVE AS FREEMEN, INCLUDING NO TAXATION WITHOUT OUR COUNSEL. SIGN RIGHT HERE, OR THERE WILL BE TROUBLE!

WHY NOT ASK FOR MY KINGDOM?

On June 15, 1215, in Runnymede Meadow, King John signed the barons' charter. Later called the MAGNA CARTA, it was the first English document to limit absolute power of the king and grant rights to freemen.

THE MAGNA CARTA CREATED "RULE BY LAW" RATHER THAN "RULE BY MEN," MEANING THERE WERE LAWS THAT EVEN THE KING COULD NOT BREAK.

KEEP OFF GRASS. KING, THIS INCLUDES YOU!

THE TAP ROOT

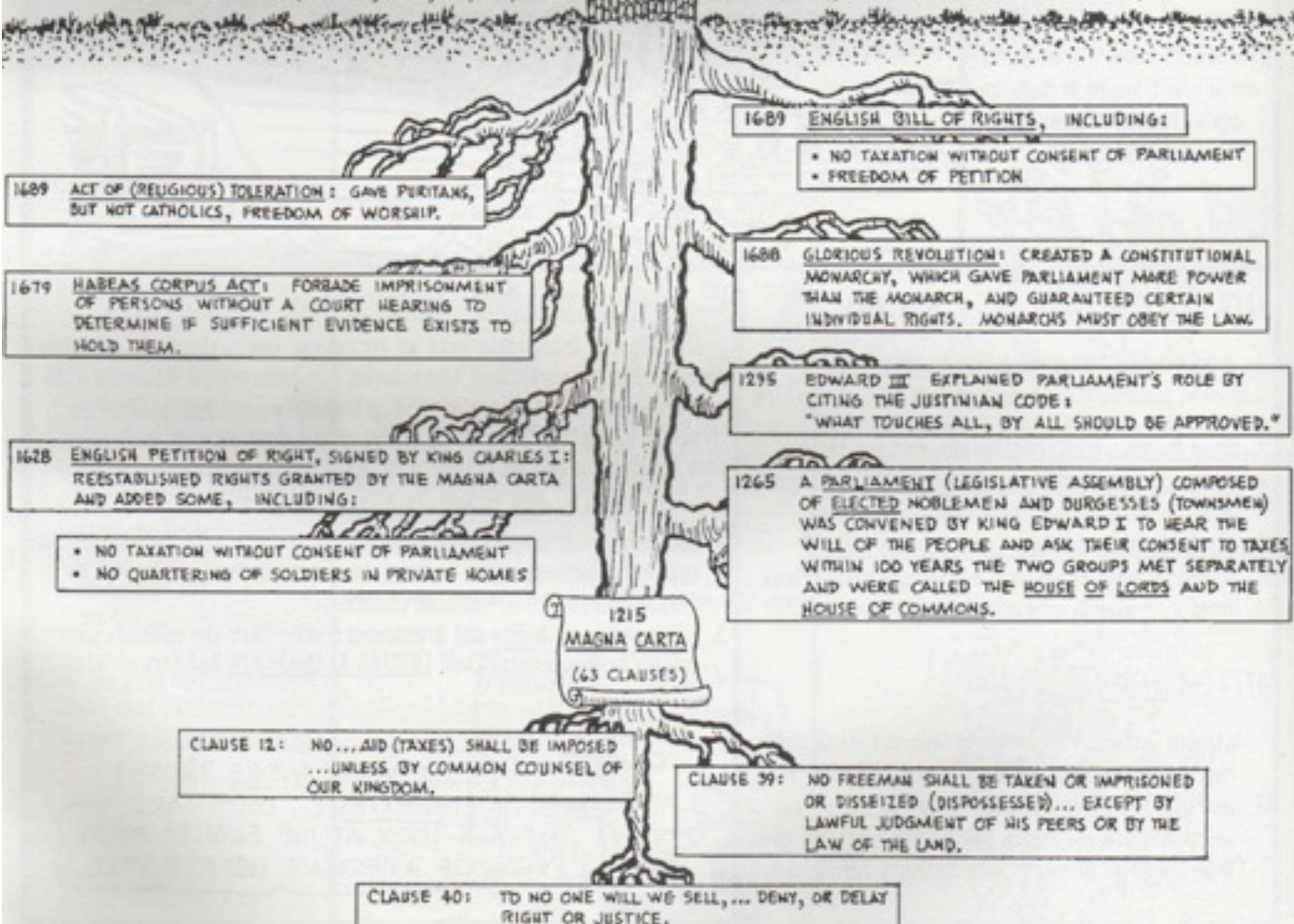
A tap root is a main root from which smaller, lateral roots grow.

THE TAP ROOT OF ENGLISH LIBERTY, THE MAGNA CARTA GROUNDLED ENGLISH COMMON LAW IN SUCH RIGHTS AS NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION AND NO ILLEGAL IMPRISONMENT, AND IT SET A PRECEDENT FOR RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

FROM THE TAP ROOT OF THE MAGNA CARTA THERE GREW OTHER ROOTS STRENGTHENING THE TREE OF LIBERTY.

"In this character of the Americans a love of freedom is the predominating feature...They are not only devoted to liberty, but to liberty according to English principles."

Edmund Burke, member of British House of Commons, 1775



50 — "ON THE BRINK OF A PRECIPICE," 1774 — 1775 —

1492

"From all these causes a fierce spirit of liberty has grown up."—Edmund Burke

1774-75

2000

Now, back to Congress in Philadelphia.

On October 26, 1774, the Continental Congress adjourned, agreeing to reconvene May 10, 1775, if King George did not respond to their grievances.

Congressman Charles Thomson wrote to Benjamin Franklin in London:

EVEN YET THE WOUND MAY BE HEALED AND PEACE AND LOVE RESTORED. BUT WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF A PRECIPICE.



The Continental Congressmen did not seek war or independence, only their rights as Englishmen, which they felt Parliament had violated.

PARLIAMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO LEGISLATE FOR US AT ALL, BECAUSE WE HAVE NO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT.



In Parliament, William Pitt and Edmund Burke agreed with the colonists' view of their liberties as Englishmen. They argued for repealing the Coercive Acts.

English merchants suffering from the boycott also urged repeal.

I'M GOING TO LOBBY FOR REPEAL OF THE COERCIVE ACTS—BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN LIBERTY.



But King George III, Lord North, and the "kings' friends" faction refused to yield. In November 1774 the king declared:

THE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNMENTS ARE IN A STATE OF REBELLION. BLOWS MUST DECIDE WHETHER THEY ARE TO BE SUBJECT TO THIS COUNTRY OR INDEPENDENT.



Blows seemed not too distant. General Gage and his British troops were fortifying Boston, while Massachusetts colonists formed a provisional government under John Hancock and signed up men for the militia.

BY GOLLY, I'M READY!



Minutemen were militiamen trained for action at a minute's notice.

Meanwhile, fiery orator Patrick Henry urged the Virginia House of Burgesses to act.



Let us not... deceive ourselves longer. We have done everything that could be done, to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne.... Our petitions have been slighted...and we have been spurned.

GENTLEMEN, WE MAY CRY PEACE, PEACE—BUT THERE IS NO PEACE. THE WAR IS ACTUALLY BEGUN! THE NEXT GALE THAT SWEEPS FROM THE NORTH WILL BRING TO OUR EARS THE CLASH OF RESOUNDING ARMS! OUR BROTHERN ARE ALREADY IN THE FIELD! WHY STAND WE HERE IDLE?... IS LIFE SO DEAR, OR PEACE SO SWEET, AS TO BE PURCHASED AT THE PRICE OF CHAINS AND SLAVERY? FORBID IT, ALMIGHTY GOD! I KNOW NOT WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE, BUT AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!



A WAR FOR LIBERTY? PERHAPS—IF THEIR RIGHTS WERE NOT RESTORED. A WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE? FEW HAD ANY DESIRE TO SEPARATE FROM THE MOTHER COUNTRY, ANY MORE THAN YOU OR I WOULD WANT TO SEPARATE FROM OUR COUNTRY. MOST WERE STILL PROUD TO BE SUBJECTS OF THE MIGHTY BRITISH EMPIRE. IT WAS A FAMILY QUARREL—OR WAS IT?



51 → THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION: LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, April 19, 1775

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood, Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world."—Ralph Waldo Emerson

1492

1775

2000

April 18, 1775: BOSTON—British General Gage never intended a war—only a raid to seize the gunpowder patriots were stashing away in Concord, Massachusetts.

AND MAJOR PITCAIRN, WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH LEXINGTON, ARREST THOSE REBELS, SAM ADAMS AND JOHN HANCOCK. SAY, YOU GUYS ARE KEEPING THIS MISSION A SECRET, AREN'T YOU?



10 p.m. April 18—Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith and Major John Pitcairn signaled 700 British soldiers to begin their secret mission. Marching confidently to Concord (about 20 miles from Boston) in the bright red uniforms of the British army—mightiest army in the world, the redcoats sang a song ridiculing their backward frontier cousins, the American Yankees.



"Listen my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere."

—Henry W. Longfellow

Silversmith Paul Revere, a member of the Sons of Liberty, and William Dawes galloped by separate routes from Boston to Lexington to warn the patriots.

THE BRITISH ARE COMING!!

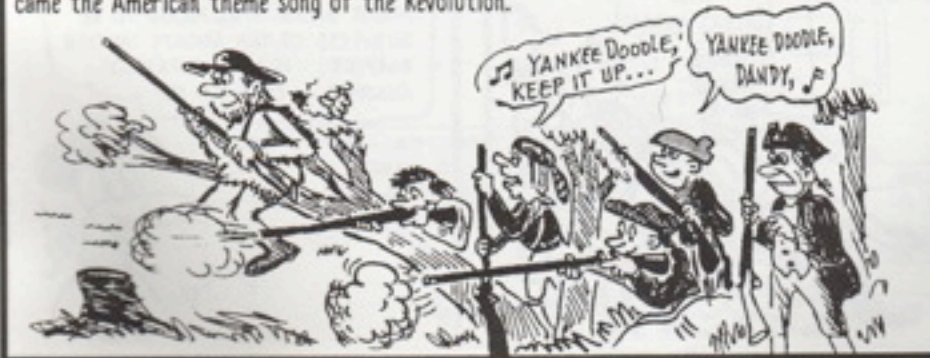
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE BRITISH.



Dawn, April 19, 1775: LEXINGTON—Warned by Paul Revere, 70 brave Minutemen, under Captain John Parker, met the British redcoats on Lexington green at sunrise. A shot rang out, then a volley. No one knows who fired first, but the redcoats counted eight Americans dead and ten wounded before marching on to Concord. Sam Adams and John Hancock, both at Lexington, escaped capture—thanks to Paul Revere.



Afternoon, April 19: TO CONCORD AND BACK—Dazed by a skirmish with Minutemen at Concord's North Bridge, the British fled back to Boston—via Lexington—through a gantlet of 4,000 angry militiamen (farmers, artisans, teachers, ministers) shooting Indian-style from behind trees and rocks. The Yankees taunted the redcoats with a familiar tune, having adopted "Yankee Doodle" as their own. This song became the American theme song of the Revolution.



News of the British rout spread throughout the colonies. Soon 16,000 New England militiamen surrounded Boston, trapping General Gage's redcoats in an eleven-month siege, from April 1775 to March 1776.



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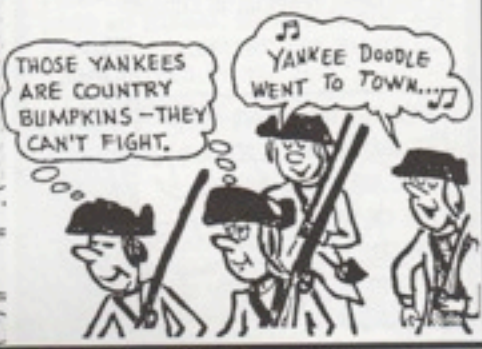
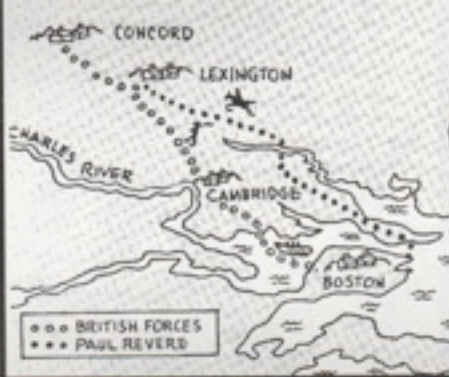
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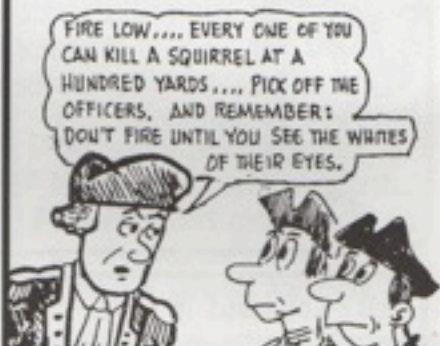
May 1775—Realizing the patriots meant business, England sent three new generals to help General Gage and the besieged redcoats in Boston. They soon took action.



June 17, 1775—BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL
General Howe led 2,400 British troops (each with 100 pounds of equipment) in a frontal attack on 1,600 Americans defending Breed's Hill (near Bunker Hill), overlooking Boston.



Israel Putnam, a farmer/officer, had the patriots hold their fire until the redcoats were 20 yards away. Then they fired, reloaded and fired again—killing or wounding 1,000 men (40% of Howe's troops and 12% of all British officers who would fight in the war). Out of ammunition, they retreated.



The Americans lost the battle (with fewer than 500 casualties), but won a strategic victory of confidence and pride. The British never again underestimated the patriots' bravery and marksmanship.



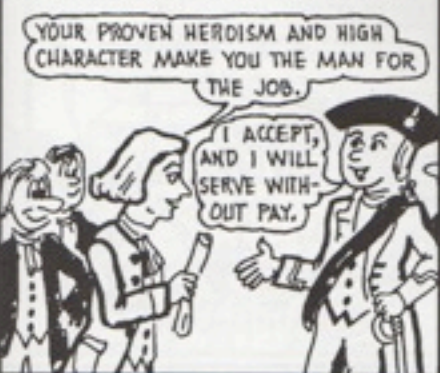
And General Howe never seemed to recover his confidence. Throughout the war he avoided frontal attacks, as well as final pursuit of the enemy.



May 10, 1775—Meanwhile, the Second Continental Congress met as scheduled at the Philadelphia Statehouse and began to deal with the unscheduled war—while continuing to seek peace. (All states except Georgia sent delegates.)



June 15, 1775—Congress adopted the New England militia as the new Continental Army. John Adams, seeking colonial unity with a Virginia leader, nominated George Washington commander in chief of the armed forces of the United Colonies.



ON JULY 8, 1775, CONGRESS DREW UP THE "OLIVE BRANCH PETITION," ONE LAST ATTEMPT TO GET GEORGE III TO RESTORE ENGLISH LIBERTIES IN AMERICA....



August 1775—King George III responded by declaring the colonies to be in a state of rebellion. He said:



52— GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON TAKES COMMAND, 1775—

"I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles) the character of an honest man."—George Washington
1775-76

1492

2000



General George Washington (1732-99), a giant of a man in physique and character, held the Continental Army together for eight years through sheer force of character. He became the symbol of the American cause. Patriots trusted and followed him because of his honesty, courage, dignity, and spirited sense of duty.

Thomas Jefferson said of him in 1814: "His integrity was most pure, his justice was the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives of interest, of friendships, or hate, being able to bias his decision. He was, indeed...a wise, a good, and a great man."

Like Columbus in 1492, George Washington, in June 1775, prepared to venture into the unknown—as commander in chief of the Continental Army. Did he think of Columbus as he wrote his brother John?

I AM EMBARKED ON A WIDE OCEAN, BOUNDLESS IN ITS PROSPECT, AND FROM WHENCE PERHAPS, NO SAFE HARBOR IS TO BE FOUND.



June 1775—As Washington journeyed to Massachusetts to take command of the Continental Army (which still held the British redcoats trapped in Boston), we can imagine that he reflected on his life...



"My great grandfather John Washington, an English sailor, came to Virginia in 1657—with no money. Within twenty years, he owned 5,000 acres, including the land that became my plantation, Mount Vernon.



"I was born in 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia, into a family of 12 children. Four were my half-siblings. In 1738 we moved to the 260-acre Ferry Farm near Fredericksburg to be near my father's ironworks.

"To develop my character, I copied rules of behavior on pages my mother sewed into a notebook. I still live by them.



"I went to school seven years in Fredericksburg but did not go to college, to my regret. Excelling in geometry (though a poor speller), I became a land surveyor at age 16. I learned about the frontier wilderness by surveying it for settlers.



"I loved to fish and fox hunt, ride horses, and go to plantation parties (where I became an expert dancer).

"My father died when I was 11. At age 21, I inherited Ferry Farm and twenty slaves from him.

"At age 28 (1760), I inherited Mount Vernon from my brother Lawrence. By 1773 I had acquired 40,000 acres of land. I enjoy the land and my life as a planter."

MOUNT VERNON



Potomac River

"At age 21, I joined the Virginia militia for five years (1753-58). Fighting with the British during the French and Indian War gave me a knowledge of British war tactics that should come in handy with my new job.



"In 1759 I married Martha Custis, a wealthy Virginia widow, and Mount Vernon became our plantation home. I adopted and loved her two children, Jack and Patsy. We had none of our own.



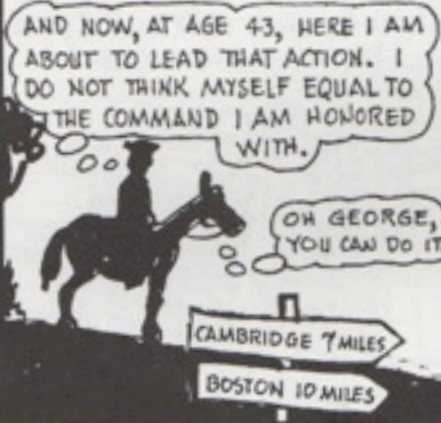
"In 1760 my friend George Mercer described me at age 28 as:

'straight as an Indian,...6 feet 2 inches...175 pounds...[with] A large and straight... nose; blue-gray penetrating eyes....a clear though rather colorless pale skin which burns with the sun....His mouth is large and generally firmly closed, but which from time to time discloses some defective teeth.... His movements and gestures are graceful, his walk majestic, and he is a splendid horseman.'

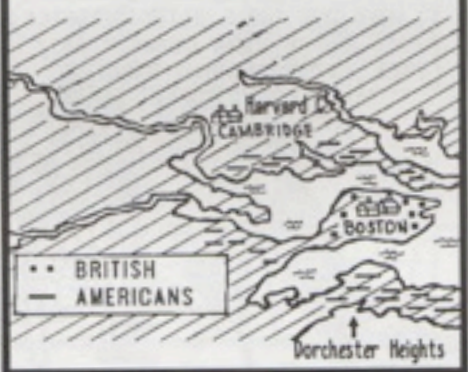
"I served in the Virginia legislature 15 years (1758-73). There I learned the process of representative government and became friends with Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, James Madison, and other outstanding Virginia leaders.



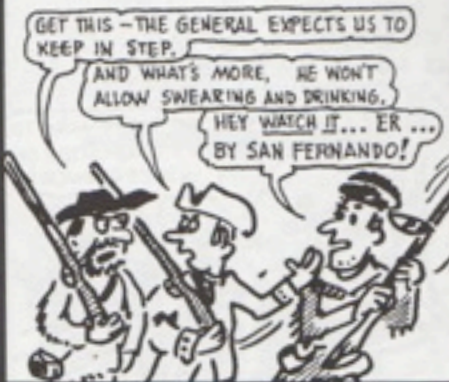
"As a Virginia delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses, I called for action to maintain the liberty that we have derived from our ancestors."



On July 3, 1775, Washington arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and took command of the Continental Army (about 15,000 men, encamped at Harvard College) still laying siege to the British army trapped in Boston.



Dismayed at the "imperfect obedience" of troops who couldn't even march in step, Washington set stern measures, including 20 lashes for swearing, to make soldiers of them and develop their character.



Success came eight months later on March 17, 1776, when Washington's soldiers positioned cannon on Dorchester Heights and forced General Howe, who had replaced General Gage, to evacuate Boston.



The British sailed to Nova Scotia to plan their next move. They took 1,000 loyalists with them. (Eventually 100,000 loyalists left America.)

In April 1776, Washington marched his army to New York City, guessing that Howe would soon attack New York.



53 — THE PATH TO INDEPENDENCE: COMMON SENSE AND REASON —

"The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of mankind."—Thomas Paine

1492

1776

2000

Meanwhile, in January 1776, COMMON SENSE, Thomas Paine's radical pamphlet questioning monarchy, tipped the scales of public opinion toward independence.

TOM PAINE SAYS: IT'S KING GEORGE, NOT PARLIAMENT, THAT ABUSES OUR FREEDOM; HE IS A TYRANT, A ROYAL BRUTE! WHY SHOULD A KING RULE OTHER MEN? BESIDES, DOES IT MAKE SENSE FOR AN ISLAND TO RULE A CONTINENT?



"O ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose not only the tyranny but the tyrant, stand forth! Freedom hath been hunted round the globe. Asia and Africa have long expelled her. Europe regards her like a stranger, and England hath given her warning to depart. O receive the fugitive [freedom], and prepare in time an asylum for mankind!"



Soon the Second Continental Congress, meeting at the Philadelphia Statehouse, was swamped with colonists' demands for independence.

Delegate John Adams wrote his wife:

Dear Abigail, Every Post and every Day rolls in upon us Independence like a Torrent. On May 15 Congress advised the colonies to establish independent state governments.



On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a daring resolution to Congress:

I MOVE THAT THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE, AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES.



Deferring a vote for three weeks, Congress appointed a committee of five to write a declaration, "setting forth the causes which impelled us to take this mighty resolution."



When asked to write the Declaration, Jefferson said Adams should do it—but Adams explained why Jefferson should.

MR. JEFFERSON, YOU MUST WRITE THE DECLARATION.... YOU'RE A VIRGINIAN, YOU ARE POPULAR, AND YOU WRITE TEN TIMES BETTER THAN I.

ALL RIGHT, IF YOU INSIST, MR. ADAMS!



A great choice! Tall, red-haired Thomas Jefferson (age 33 in 1776), gentleman farmer of Monticello near Charlottesville, Virginia, was a genius of the 1st order: lawyer, legislator, scholar, scientist, architect, musician, linguist. Later he served as Virginia governor and U.S. president. Like John Locke, he believed mankind had the ability to reason and the natural rights to freedom, property, and self-government.

HE WAS LIKED AND RESPECTED FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE, ELOQUENCE, AND GOOD WILL.

WE PLAYED THE VIOLIN—AND KNEW GREEK, LATIN, FRENCH AND ITALIAN.

HE'D READ ABOUT ANCIENT AND MODERN GOVERNMENTS, SO HE KNEW THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM VERSUS TYRANNY, AND HE WAS ESPECIALLY AGAINST "EVERY FORM OF TYRANNY."

AND HE SURE LOVED TO LEARN. HE'D STUDY 15 HOURS A DAY AT WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE IN WILLIAMSBURG—THEN JOE A MILE.

YEP, HE WAS THE RIGHT MAN TO WRITE AMERICA'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!



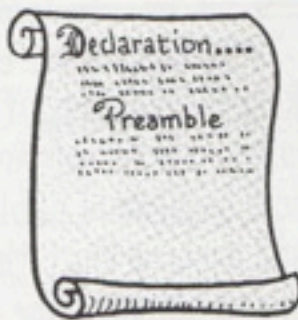
54 — THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, In Congress, July 4, 1776 —

"Neither aiming at originality of principle or sentiment, nor yet copied from any particular and previous writing, it was intended to be an expression of the American mind...."—Thomas Jefferson

1492

1776

2000



"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;



THOMAS JEFFERSON

"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....



"...when a long train of abuses and usurpations...evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right...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 form of government."



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"I hope and firmly believe that the whole world will, sooner or later, feel benefit from...our assertion of the rights of man."—Thomas Jefferson

"The history of the 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 which are just and equitable.
He has forbidden his governors to pass such laws as he should think proper to pass.
He has refused to assent to laws which are just and equitable.
He has called together legislatures, judges, and juries, to pass laws which he should think proper to pass.
He has dissolved the legislatures and refused to accept new ones.
He has endeavored to keep us from the sea by forbidding us to have ships.
He has refused to assent to laws which are just and equitable.
He has called together legislatures, judges, and juries, to pass laws which he should think proper to pass.
He has dissolved the legislatures and refused to accept new ones.
He has endeavored to keep us from the sea by forbidding us to have ships.

JEFFERSON INCLUDED ONE IMPORTANT GRIEVANCE WHICH FEW RECALL, BECAUSE—UNFORTUNATELY—CONGRESS REJECTED IT: A PROTEST OF KING GEORGE'S SUPPORT OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND A CALL FOR ITS END.



Jefferson listed 27 grievances.

Citing repeated petitions for redress, met by repeated injury—Jefferson concluded:

"We, Therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America... solemnly publish and declare that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be Free and Independent States...."

"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."

July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence was unanimously adopted by the Second Continental Congress—two days after it approved Richard Henry Lee's resolution for Independence.



By August 2, 1776, 56 courageous men, led by John Hancock, president of Congress, had signed "The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America."



William Ellery of Rhode Island positioned himself "to see how my fellow delegates looked as they signed what might be their death warrants.... Un-daunted resolution was displayed on every countenance." Only old Stephen Hopkins' hand shook—with palsy. He explained:

MY HAND TREMBLES, BUT MY HEART DOES NOT.



Who were these 56 brave men, many of whom lost lives and fortunes in the War of Independence?

NATIONALITY: 48 American born;
8 Great Britain born
AGE: 26 to 70; most in 30s and 40s
OCCUPATION: 23 lawyers; 12 merchants;
6 planters; 4 landowners; 4 doctors;
2 farmers; 2 manufacturers;
1 minister; 1 printer; 1 politician
EDUCATION: 32, college; 9, tutors at home;
8, self-taught; 6, common schools;
1, no information
RELIGION: 55 Protestants; 1 Catholic

The Declaration of Independence launched America—and the world—on the greatest adventure since Columbus:
THE ADVENTURE OF FREEDOM FOR MANKIND!

But Jefferson warned, "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Will you pledge your life, fortune and sacred honor toward this great adventure?



Chapter

9

Invitation to a Tea Party (1763–1775)

In This Chapter

- ◆ Proclamation Line of 1763
- ◆ Taxation without representation
- ◆ The Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party
- ◆ The First Continental Congress
- ◆ The Battles of Lexington and Concord
- ◆ The misnamed “Battle of Bunker Hill”
- ◆ Common Sense and The Declaration of Independence

Britain finally won the French and Indian War, but in the process started losing its North American colonies. The colonists had seen two very different sides of the mother country during the conflict. On the one hand, they had experienced the incompetence and arrogance of some British officers and administrators. On the other hand, late in the conflict, the colonists had witnessed some examples of inspiring British political and military leadership. Those latter impressions were more recent and left a stronger mark, so that at the start of the 1760s, except in the frontier

regions, Americans' loyalty to Great Britain was at its height. Yet it was not a passive loyalty. Participation in the successful war against France and Spain had boosted American self-confidence, and the colonists now felt they deserved to play a more assertive role within the British Empire. The colonies, traditionally competitive with one another, emerged from the crucible of war feeling stronger bonds among themselves than with an increasingly aloof and unfeeling government across the sea.

King George Draws a Line

The Treaty of Easton, concluded in 1758, had helped turn the tide toward the British in the French and Indian War. By formally agreeing to prohibit white settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains, British authorities persuaded the war-weary Indian allies of the French that they no longer needed to fear invasion by the English. But another product of the French and Indian War, the road that General John Forbes had hacked through the Pennsylvania wilderness to transport his unwieldy army to battle at Fort Duquesne, ensured that the treaty would be violated almost immediately. The Forbes Road was the first great avenue into the North American interior. It led to the confluence of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela rivers—the site of present-day Pittsburgh and the gateway to the trans-Allegheny West. Even before the war was over, settlers began to use the road, and the Easton agreement was breached scarcely before the ink was dry.

With the French neutralized in North America, the British crown saw the next and continuing threat of war to be conflict with the Indians. But as long as a buffer zone existed between the Indians and the colonists, peace could be maintained. Accordingly, a royal proclamation was issued forbidding whites from settling beyond the Appalachians. This "Proclamation Line" was not a permanent prohibition of western settlement, but a temporary measure designed to restore stability. Having fought a costly war to gain the trans-Appalachian region, the British were not going to abandon the idea of colonizing it. Nevertheless, many frontiersmen were impatient even of temporary rules. They defied the proclamation, crossed the mountains, and seized land. The Indian response was violent.

British administrators rushed to negotiate more treaties demarcating Indian and white territory. Sir William Johnson, a New Yorker married to Mary Brant, an Iroquois woman of high rank, was appointed chief negotiator. Knowledgeable of Indian culture, he managed to pacify one tribe after another, finally bringing Pontiac's Rebellion to an end in 1766. Almost immediately afterward, he negotiated further treaties to open up limited sections of the trans-Appalachian West to settlers. From 1768 onward, orderly, treaty-driven settlement began.

This did not please everyone. Wealthy colonists from the well-established coastal regions enthusiastically approved of the policy, but many struggling frontier folk either could not or would not submit to law and pay for land. These men continued to seize land illegally, often provoking Indian attacks as a result. When the illegal settlers appealed to royal authorities for aid, they were rebuffed, and their alienation from the mother country increased. As the frontier regions became more populous and powerful, the allegiance of many authorities in the Tidewater (as the coastal region was known) turned westward rather than back toward Europe.

Taxation Without Representation

Fighting any war is expensive, and no war is more costly than one fought far away. During the French and Indian War, the English treasury had incurred a huge debt. The English government, led by Chancellor of the Exchequer George Grenville, decided that it was fitting and proper for the colonies to pay their fair share. Grenville pushed through Parliament heavy duties on numerous commodities imported into the colonies, most notably molasses and sugar, and the laws became known collectively as the Sugar Act. Passed in 1764, this was the first act the English Parliament passed for the specific purpose of raising tax revenues in the colonies.

At the same time, Parliament passed the Currency Act, which forbade the colonies from issuing paper money and required the use of gold in all business transactions. This act thereby guaranteed that the colonies would be forever economically dependent on England. Parliament also decided to enforce the Acts of Trade and Navigation, which had been passed during the 1650s but had never been put into effect. England used these acts to raise additional duty revenue.

Reeling from a business recession caused by the French and Indian War, the colonists were stunned and outraged by being taxed without the benefit of parliamentary representation. After a Boston town meeting denounced “taxation without representation,” the phrase evolved into a battle cry that spread from that city to the other colonies. Thus the resentment already strong in parts of the frontier began to grow in the villages and towns of the coast as well.

The action Boston proposed was nonviolent. The colonies made a Non-Importation Agreement, pledging to boycott a wide variety of English goods. Parliament, taking little heed of this protest, passed the Quartering Act in 1765, requiring colonial governments to furnish barracks and other provisions for royal troops. The next year, the act was extended to require the billeting of soldiers in taverns and inns at the expense of the colonists. Not only were these measures a further financial hardship on the colonies, they rankled in a way that reached beyond economics. The Quartering Act

was seen as an invasion of privacy and an affront to personal liberty. Even colonists who were not directly affected by the revenue acts were enraged by the Quartering Act.

Stamps of Tyranny

Parliament had an even more offensive measure in store. In 1765, it passed the Stamp Act, which required that every paper document—from newspapers, to deeds, to playing cards—bear a revenue stamp purchased from royally appointed colonial stamp agents. Worse, violations of the act were to be tried summarily by vice-admiralty courts, in which there were no juries. Not only did the colonists see the stamps as evil, but denial of trial by jury attacked a right as old as the Magna Carta.

The Stamp Act united the colonies in opposition to the “tyranny” of the mother country. Subversive secret societies, most notably the Sons of Liberty, were formed in many towns, the boycott of English goods was stepped up, and a Stamp Act Congress was called in New York in October of 1765 (eight colonies sent delegates). The congress drafted a “Declaration of Rights and Grievances,” claiming that the colonists had the rights of British subjects and that taxation without parliamentary representation was a violation of those rights. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in March of 1766, but simultaneously delivered a political slap in the face by passing the Declaratory Act, which affirmed Parliament’s authority to create laws for the colonies “in all cases whatever.”

Act II

Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend (1725–1767) next pushed through Parliament a bundle of acts intended to raise revenue, tighten customs enforcement, and assert imperial authority in America. Enacted on June 29, 1767, the so-called Townshend Acts levied import duties on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea. Additional bills in the package authorized “writs of assistance” (blanket search warrants), created additional juryless vice-admiralty courts, established a board of customs commissioners with headquarters in Boston, and suspended the New York assembly for its defiance of the Quartering Act of 1765.

Samuel Adams, of the Massachusetts Sons of Liberty, sent a “circular letter” to the other 12 colonies calling for renewal of the nonimportation agreements. Royal customs officials in Boston were attacked after they seized a ship belonging to the merchant—and political troublemaker—John Hancock. The beleaguered officials requested a contingent of English troops to occupy Boston.

During 1768 and 1769, all the colonies except New Hampshire boycotted English goods, and the Virginia House of Burgesses, led by Patrick Henry, created the Virginia Association to enforce the boycott. At this, the royal governor of Virginia dissolved the House of Burgesses, thereby further inflaming anti-British passions. However, in April 1770, Parliament again bowed to the pressure and repealed all the Townshend duties—except for a tax on tea.



Remember This

Samuel Adams (1722–1803) inherited a one-third interest in his father's prosperous brewery, but lost most of his fortune through mismanagement. If he was not very adept at handling money, Adams was highly skilled at politics; after attending Harvard, he attracted a wide following among members of Boston's many political clubs. Adams was instrumental in creating the most influential and radical of the clubs, the Sons of Liberty. In 1765, Adams organized the protest against the Stamp Act.

Elected to the lower house of the Massachusetts legislature, Adams served from 1765 to 1774 and composed the great protest documents of the era, including the Circular Letter (1768) against the Townshend Acts. He fanned the flames of resistance and rebellion in the popular press, and after 1770, was chief architect of intercolonial "committees of correspondence," which coordinated the developing revolution. Adams was a prime instigator of the Boston Tea Party of 1773.

A principal member of the First Continental Congress, Samuel Adams participated in drafting the 1781 Articles of Confederation, precursor of the Constitution.

Bloody Boston

The British troops sent to Boston at the request of the beleaguered customs officials were, to put it mildly, not popular. On March 5, 1770, a British redcoat, looking to supplement his meager soldier's pay with a part-time job, got into a brawl with Bostonians out of work in the hard economic times. The brawl touched off an evening of protests by bands of colonists who roamed the streets. Finally, a squad of redcoats, led by Captain Thomas Preston, fired into a small mob in front of the hated Customs House who were menacing the soldier whose job hunting had started it all. Three colonists died instantly, and two others were mortally wounded.



Remember This

First to die in the cause of American liberty was the leader of the Boston mob, Crispus Attucks (born about 1723). He was almost certainly a black man, perhaps of partly Indian descent.

Preston had given no order to fire, and only with difficulty was he able to regain control of his men. Prudently, British authorities immediately withdrew the troops from town. But the “Boston Massacre” became the focal point of anti-British propaganda and heightened American fears about standing armies established in the colonies. Committees of correspondence, which had formed during the Stamp Act protest to coordinate action among the colonies, got very busy, and the colonies drew closer together in opposition to the crown.

Despite the efforts of Sam Adams and other Sons of Liberty to fan the flames of the Boston Massacre into a full revolutionary conflagration, cooler heads prevailed. Some of the redcoats and their captain were put on trial in a colonial court and, thanks to the principled defense of attorneys John Adams and Josiah Quincy, they were either acquitted of murder or punished for lesser offenses. Anglo-American relations actually improved—briefly.

Tearing Apart and Coming Together

By 1773, the only duty remaining from the Townshend Acts was the tax on tea. To modern ears, this sounds rather trivial. Don’t want to pay a tax on tea? Well, then stop drinking tea!

But going without tea was never a viable option for *English* men and women. Moreover, in the eighteenth century, tea was an extremely valuable trade commodity—practically a second currency. The East India Company, England’s chief tea producer, was vital to British government interests because it had extensive influence in India. Expenses, however, were high, and by the 1770s, the company was close to bankruptcy. To bail out the firm, Parliament suspended the tax paid on tea in England but retained the import tax on tea sold in the colonies. Worse, the government ruled that the East India Company could sell the tea directly to agents at a set price rather than through colonial merchants at public auction. Not only was the tax unfair, but colonial merchants, cut out of the profit loop, resented the crown’s intrusion into free enterprise.



Vital Statistics

The protesters dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. The cargo was valued at £9,000—a tremendous amount of money in a day when a man earning £100 a year was considered moderately wealthy.

The committees of correspondence worked overtime to spread the word of opposition to the tea duty and to impose an absolute boycott of English tea. On one occasion, the royal governor of Massachusetts refused demands to send recently arrived tea ships back to England. So, on the night of December 16, 1773, a band of Bostonians—rather lamely disguised as Indians—boarded three ships in Boston harbor

and dumped a cargo of tea chests overboard. The act triggered similar “tea parties” in ports up and down the coast.

Some Intolerable Acts

King George III of England (1738–1820) has always gotten a bad rap in American schoolbooks, which traditionally paint him as a tyrant seeking to squeeze out of the colonies not only their cash, but their liberty as well. In truth, George was a popular monarch, as earnest as he was mediocre and incapable of thinking on his own. During the period immediately preceding the American Revolution, he depended entirely on the advice of his prime minister, Lord North, an aggressive autocrat. Following the Tea Party, it was North who sponsored what the colonists called the Intolerable Acts.

The first of these acts, the Boston Port Act (March 31, 1774), closed the harbor to commerce until such time as Boston paid for the destroyed tea. Next, the Massachusetts Government Act (May 20) reserved for the crown the power to appoint members of the upper house of the legislature. The Government Act also increased the royal governor’s patronage powers and provided that juries be summoned by royally appointed sheriffs rather than elected by colonists. Most onerous of all, the Government Act banned town meetings not explicitly authorized by law or by the royal governor. At the same time, the Impartial Administration of Justice Act authorized a change of venue to another colony or even to England for crown officers charged with capital crimes while performing official duties.

Intended to restore order to Massachusetts, the Intolerable Acts boomeranged, leading the colonies to recognize their common cause and to convene the First Continental Congress.

Continental Congress

The Congress met in Philadelphia during September 1774, and only Georgia failed to send delegates. The 56 delegates who convened represented the full spectrum of colonial thought, from radicals who wanted instantly to sever all ties with England, to conservatives who wanted to find a way to heal the breach. The Massachusetts delegation produced the Suffolk Resolves, which the radicals supported, calling for the people to arm, to disobey the Intolerable Acts, and to collect their own colonial taxes. The conservatives countered with a plan of union between England and the colonies. With modifications, the Suffolk Resolves were adopted by a margin of six to five. The Intolerable Acts were declared unconstitutional, and the nonimportation boycott was given teeth by the creation of a colonial association to enforce it.

Following the Continental Congress, Thomas Jefferson (in his pamphlet, *Summary View of the Rights of British America*) and John Adams (in a series of published letters he signed “Novanglus”—New Englander) proposed dominion status for the colonies, whereby the colonies would entirely govern themselves, but acknowledge the crown as the head of state. At the time, Parliament rejected this idea as too radical, but liberals in the English government did formulate a plan of conciliation in 1775, which would have granted a considerable degree of self-government to the colonies. The ultra-conservative House of Lords rejected the plan, however, and Parliament as a whole declared Massachusetts to be in rebellion. In a sense, then, it was the British Parliament, not the American rebels, that declared the American Revolution.

The Shot Heard 'Round the World

Massachusetts responded to the Parliamentary declaration by organizing special militia units that could be ready for battle on a minute's notice. They were called—what else?—the Minutemen.

General Thomas Gage, commander of British regulars, ordered to use force against the defiant colonials, dispatched Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith with a column from Boston to seize the gunpowder stored at the Massachusetts Provincial Congress in the town of Concord. On the morning of April 19, 1775, Smith's troops dispersed a company of Minutemen at Lexington, unintentionally killing several in an unauthorized burst of musket fire. Smith reached Concord, but found only a small portion of the gunpowder. He had not reckoned on the resourcefulness of a small band of swift riders.



American Echo

“By the rude bridge that
arched the flood, / Their flag to
April's breeze unfurled, / Here
once the embattled farmers
stood, / And fired the shot heard
round the world.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Hymn
Sung at the Completion of the
Concord Monument, April 19,
1836”

Paul Revere (1735–1818) was a prosperous and highly skilled Charlestown, Massachusetts, silversmith, who was a leader of the Sons of Liberty and had been a participant in the Boston Tea Party. A courier for the Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence, Revere rode, on the night of April 18, from Charlestown to Lexington, alerting the populace to the approach of British troops. In Lexington, he also warned John Hancock and Samuel Adams, the chief leaders of the Massachusetts rebels, to escape. Accompanied by two other riders, Charles Dawes and Samuel Prescott, Revere rode on to Concord, but was intercepted by a British patrol. Although Prescott was the one who actually managed to reach Concord, it was Revere

whom Henry Wadsworth Longfellow celebrated in his famous, if fanciful, poem of 1863, “Paul Revere’s Ride.”

At Concord, colonial resistance to the redcoats was far more effective than at Lexington. Not only did the British find few arms to capture, they were driven out of town and sent on their way back to Boston. All along the march, the redcoat column was harassed by Patriot gunfire, resulting in the deaths of 73 British soldiers and the wounding of an additional 200. The pattern would prove typical of the war. British forces, trained to fight European-style open-field battles, would often win such engagements, only to be cut up piecemeal by colonial guerrilla groups using concealed ambush tactics. Had the Patriots been led in a more orderly and aggressive manner, they could have dealt an even harsher blow to the British troops.

Washington Signs On

Soon after the battles at Lexington and Concord, colonial militia forces from all over New England converged on Boston and laid siege to the city. In May 1775, a Vermont landowner named Ethan Allen led a militia outfit he had organized—the Green Mountain Boys—against Fort Ticonderoga between Lake Champlain and Lake George in New York and seized it from British regulars. Next, Crown Point, on the western shore of Lake Champlain, fell to rebel forces. Despite these early triumphs, anyone who assessed the situation with a cold eye would have put their money on the Brits. Britain was an established imperial power, with deep pockets, a tested army, and the most powerful navy in the world. Moreover, while the *colonies* had acted in unity, the *colonists* were hardly unanimous in the desire to rebel. Each colony contained a large “Loyalist” population.

Then there was the matter of leadership. The English had a king and a prime minister, while the colonies had no king or any other chief executive. In fact, the colonies had no government at all, no treasury, and no regular army. True, a Continental Congress had convened, but 13 separate colonial assemblies vied with it for power and authority.

Forty-three-year-old George Washington, now a prosperous Virginia planter, was accustomed to long odds. He had played them during his militia service in the French and Indian War. Sometimes he had won. Mostly, he had lost. On June 15, 1775, at the suggestion of John Adams of Massachusetts, the Second Continental Congress asked Washington to lead the as-yet nonexistent Continental Army. Washington accepted.

A Misnamed Battle Near Bunker Hill

The colonies' new commander set off for New England to lead the Minutemen. Before Washington arrived, however, British General Thomas Gage (who had been reinforced on May 25 by fresh troops from Britain and additional generals, John Burgoyne, William Howe, and Henry Clinton) offered to call the Revolution quits—no harm, no foul. General Gage would grant an amnesty to everyone except Sam Adams and John Hancock, the two chief troublemakers. In response to the offer, the Massachusetts Committee of Public Safety ordered General Artemus Ward to fortify Bunker Hill on Charlestown Heights, overlooking Boston harbor. Ward instead sent Colonel William Prescott with 1,200 men to occupy nearby Breed's Hill, which was lower, flatter, and easier to fortify—but also more vulnerable to attack.

Gage opened up on Breed's Hill with a naval bombardment at dawn on June 17, 1775. Then, he launched an amphibious attack with 2,500 men under General Howe. Twice,

the superior British force attempted to take the hill, and twice they were repelled. A third assault, with fixed bayonets, succeeded only after the colonials had run out of ammunition. Misnamed for Bunker Hill (the superior position that *should* have been defended), the battle was a tactical defeat for the colonists, but it was a tremendous psychological victory for them. They had been defeated only because of a shortage of ammunition and had inflicted severe casualties on the British.



Vital Statistics

Of the 2,500 British troops engaged at Bunker Hill, 1,000 perished, a devastating casualty rate of 42 percent—the heaviest loss the British would suffer during the long war.

The Olive Branch Spurned, a Declaration Written

The Second Continental Congress made its own final attempt to stop the revolution by sending to King George III and Parliament the so-called Olive Branch Petition. Meanwhile, Washington formed the first parade of the Continental Army on Cambridge Common in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on July 3, 1775. In September, Britain contemptuously rejected the Olive Branch Petition. Georgia, final holdout from the Second Continental Congress, joined that assembly and the Revolution. Congress next moved to organize a post office department, a commission for negotiating with Indians, and a navy. By December 1775, Virginia and North Carolina militia defeated the forces of the royal governor of Virginia and destroyed his base at Norfolk.

With the rebellion in full swing, it was time to create a feeling of historical purpose to catch up with the rush of events. In January 1776, Thomas Paine, a Philadelphia patriot and orator, anonymously published a modest pamphlet called *Common Sense*. In brilliant, even melodramatic prose, Paine outlined the reasons for breaking free from

England, portraying the American Revolution as a *world* event, an epoch-making step in the history of humankind.

With the colonies united as never before, the next great document to emerge from the gathering storm was a formal declaration of independence. On July 1, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, one of Virginia's delegates to the Continental Congress, presented a draft proposal for a document asserting that "these United Colonies are, and of a right ought to be, free and independent States." Congress passed the draft document, but sent it to a committee for discussion, debate, and amendment. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, who had a fine reputation as a writer, was selected to revise the committee's draft. He ended up wholly rewriting it.



American Echo

"O ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose, not only the tyranny, but the tyrant, stand forth! Every spot of the old world is overrun with oppression. Freedom hath been hunted round the globe. Asia, and Africa, have long expelled her ... Europe regards her like a stranger, and England hath given her warning to depart. O! receive the fugitive, and prepare in time an asylum for mankind."

—Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776

The Declaration of Independence, like Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, cast the American struggle for independence in a noble light as a profound gesture "in the course of human events." Inspired by the great English political philosopher John Locke (1632–1704), Jefferson listed the "inalienable rights" of humankind. These included life and liberty, but where Locke had listed *property* as the third right, Jefferson specified "the pursuit of happiness." The purpose of government, Jefferson declared, was "to secure these rights," and the authority of government to do so derived "from the consent of the governed." When a government ceased to serve its just purpose, it was the right and duty of "the governed" to withdraw their allegiance. And that is precisely what the colonies had done. Jefferson's document was adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776.

The Least You Need to Know

- ◆ Unfair taxation, limits on westward settlement, and the involuntary quartering of British soldiers united the colonies in rebellion.
- ◆ Thomas Paine (*Common Sense*) and Thomas Jefferson (The Declaration of Independence) helped elevate a colonial revolution to the status of a momentous world event.
- ◆ American troops were citizen soldiers, fighting at home and committed to their cause. The British soldiers were a professional army doing a grim job in a distant land.

CHAPTER 4

MIGHTY BEEFS FROM LITTLE BEAVERS GROW

IN APRIL, 1754, A VIRGINIA MILITIA COMPANY MARCHED WESTWARD. THEIR MISSION: TO PROTECT ENGLISH TRAPPERS AND LAND SPECULATORS FROM THE FRENCH COMPETITION. THEIR LEADER: THE VERY YOUNG (22 YEARS, 2 MONTHS), VERY TALL (6 FEET AND CHANGE), AND VERY HONEST (99 ON A SCALE OF 100) COLONEL **GEORGE WASHINGTON.**





THE VIRGINIANS QUICKLY HEAPED UP SOME MUD WALLS AND CHRISTENED THEM "FORT NECESSITY."



WHEN THE REST OF THE FRENCH ARRIVED, WASHINGTON BARGAINED HIS PRISONERS FOR A SAFE MARCH HOME. THIS WON HIM A REPUTATION AS A VERY TOUGH NEGOTIATOR. (HIS MEN WERE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED.)



IF HE EVER LEARNS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE, HE WILL BE TRULY FORMIDABLE!

THIS INCIDENT IGNITED THE

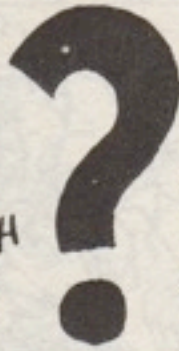
FRENCH & INDIAN WAR

(WHICH WAS A WAR OF BRITAIN AGAINST THE FRENCH AND INDIANS, NOT A WAR OF THE FRENCH AND INDIANS AGAINST EACH OTHER).

WHEN HOSTILITIES BROKE OUT, WASHINGTON HOPED FOR A MILITARY PROMOTION. BUT BRITAIN WANTED REGULAR ARMY OFFICERS, NOT 22-YEAR-OLD COLONIALS, IN COMMAND OF THE TROOPS. DEMOTED TO MAJOR, WASHINGTON RAN FOR THE HOUSE OF BURGESSSES, CARRYING A GREAT GRUDGE AGAINST LONDON.

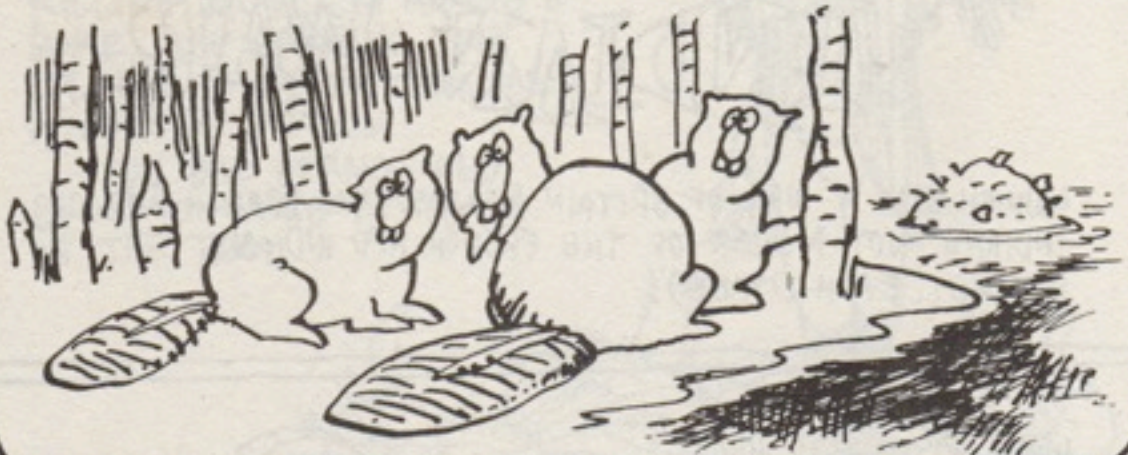


AT THIS
POINT WE
MIGHT
WONDER:
WHERE DID
THOSE FRENCH
SOLDIERS
COME FROM?

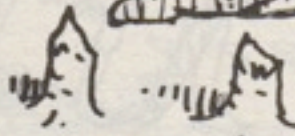


FRANCE,
NATURELLEMENT!

WELL, IT ALL GOES BACK TO THE BEAVERS, YOU SEE...
FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS, THESE BUSY ANIMALS HAD BEEN
EAGERLY GNAWING DOWN TREES, BUILDING DAMS, AND
GOING TO LODGE MEETINGS. THEN CAME THE WHITE
MAN, AND THE BEAVER STOPPED BEING A CUDDLY
RODENT AND BECAME A **N**ATURAL **R**ESOURCE...



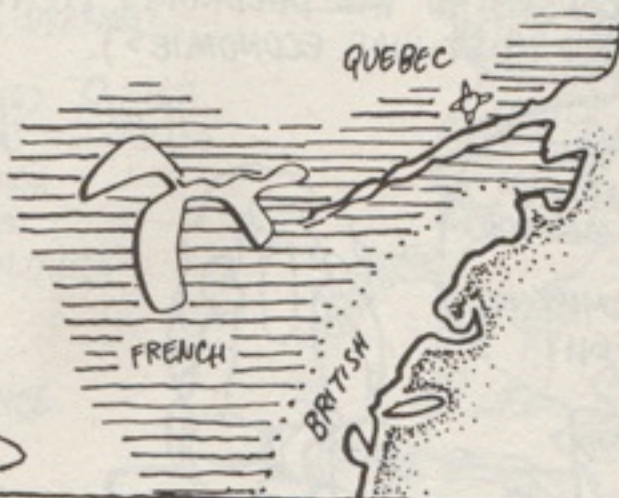
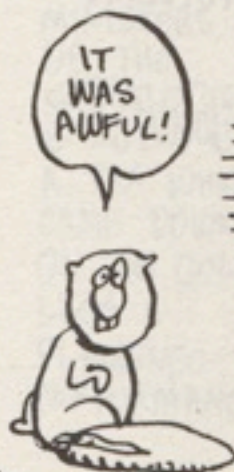
WE ARE
SUCH STUFF
AS HATS
ARE MADE
OF!



YES, IT GOT
SO THAT
EUROPEANS
COULDN'T LIVE
WITHOUT
THEIR
BEAVER HATS
(NOT UNLIKE
THE BEAVERS
THEMSELVES).



STARTING IN QUEBEC IN 1608, THE FRENCH HAD BUILT A SIZEABLE AMERICAN EMPIRE BASED ON THE FUR TRADE.



BY 1754, THE BRITISH AND FRENCH EMPIRES WERE RUBBING AGAINST EACH OTHER, CAUSING A RASH ACT.

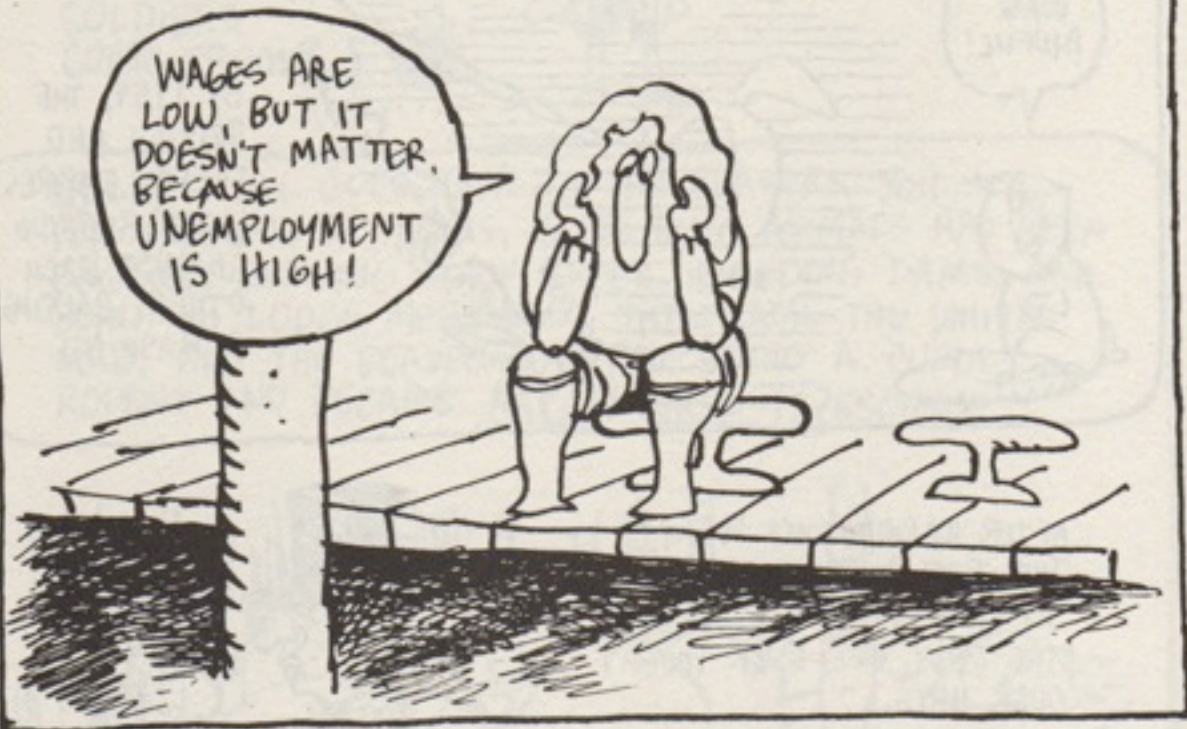
AFTER WASHINGTON'S FORAY, THE TWO POWERS DECIDED TO FIGHT IT OUT - POSSIBLY THE ONLY WAR EVER FOUGHT OVER HATS.



WHEN IT WAS OVER, IN 1763, BRITAIN HAD WON CANADA AND ITS BEAVERS, AND THE FRENCH WERE OUT OF NORTH AMERICA.



THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, LIKE OTHER WARS, HAD A BEGINNING, A MIDDLE, AND AN AFTERMATH. IT DOUBLED BRITAIN'S NATIONAL DEBT AND LEFT THE COLONIAL ECONOMY IN THE DOLDRUMS (A POPULAR REST STOP FOR POST-WAR ECONOMIES).



BUT NOT TO WORRY! BRITAIN HAD A NEW (AS OF 1760), YOUNG (BORN 1738) KING, WITH PLENTY OF FRESH IDEAS AND ONLY OCCASIONAL FITS OF INSANITY: **GEORGE III.**



TO REPLENISH
THE TREASURY,
THE KING'S
MINISTERS DREAMED
UP THE
STAMP ACT,
A TAX WHICH
CAME DOWN
ON THE COLONIES
LIKE A
FLAMENCO
PERFORMANCE.



EVERY CONTRACT, NEWSPAPER,
AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT
IN THE COLONIES WAS TO
CARRY A GOVERNMENT-ISSUE
STAMP.

ALTHOUGH THE STAMP ACT WAS ONLY A NICKEL-AND-
DIME SORT OF TAX, AMERICA COULD HARDLY AFFORD IT.



BUT THAT WASN'T THE WORST THING ABOUT THE STAMP ACT. THE WORST PART WAS THAT PARLIAMENT HAD PASSED IT WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE POTENTIAL TAXEES.* THIS MADE THE STAMP ACT **TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION**, WHICH WOULD HAVE UPSET THE AMERICANS EVEN IF THEIR ECONOMY WASN'T DEPRESSED.



TAXATION
WITH
REPRESENTATION
IS THE
BRITISH
WAY!



TAXES IN
ENGLAND
ARE
VOTED
BY
PARLIAMENT!



TAXES HERE
IN VIRGINIA
ARE VOTED
BY THE
HOUSE OF
BURGESSES!



IF THE
CROWN
NEEDS
MONEY,
ALL IT
NEEDS
TO DO IS
ASK!



THEN, IF
THE
BURGESSES
APPROVE,
I'D
GLADLY
PAY...



BUT THIS
TAXATION
WITHOUT
REPRESENTATION
IS
TYRANNY!

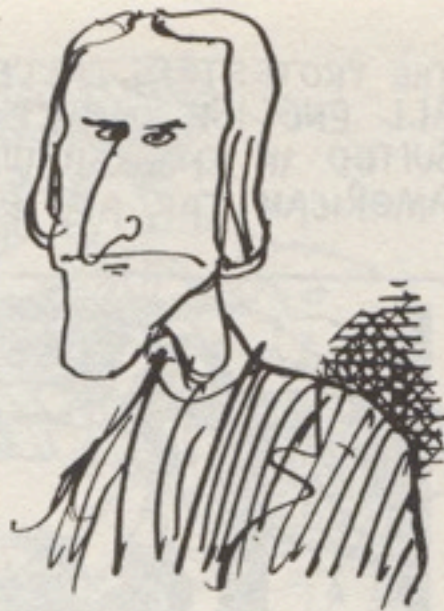
BUT YOU DON'T
MEET THE PROPERTY
QUALIFICATION TO
VOTE IN VIRGINIA!



AS I WAS
SAYING,
THE ISSUE
IS JOBS...

*AS PART OF AN OMNIBUS BILL, PROBABLY

THE COLONISTS, HAVING LITTLE ELSE TO DO, PROTESTED AGAINST THE STAMP ACT. THE VIRGINIA BURGESSSES PASSED RINGING RESOLUTIONS (THE KIND THAT ALARM PEOPLE), INTRODUCED BY **PATRICK HENRY**, A FRESHMAN MEMBER WHO DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE HIS RIGHTS BEFORE SOPHOMORE YEAR.



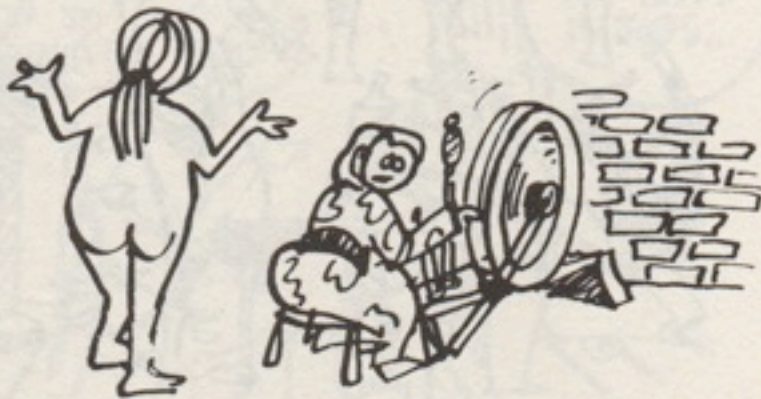
MEANWHILE, THROUGHOUT THE COLONIES, CITIZENS CHANTING "LIBERTY AND PROPERTY" TOOK LIBERTIES WITH THE KING'S PROPERTY. (THESE RIOTS STARTED IN BOSTON, NATURALLY.)

THE PROTESTERS CALLED FOR A TOTAL BOYCOTT OF ALL ENGLISH IMPORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, ANYONE FOUND SUITED IN ENGLISH WOOLENS WOULD BE COATED IN AMERICAN TAR AND FEATHERS.



COLONIAL WOMEN SPUN LIKE MAD - THEIR WHEELS, THAT IS - TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIES IN HOMESPUN, AND OUT OF TAR.

HURRY UP...
I'M LATE
FOR THE
DEMONSTRATION...



JUST
EXACTLY AS
PLANNED,
THE BOYCOTT
HIT ENGLISH
BUSINESS
RIGHT IN THE
POCKETBOOK.

SOON,
THOUSANDS
OF
SQUEALING,
WOUNDED
POCKETBOOKS
WERE
BEGGING
PARLIAMENT
FOR RELIEF.

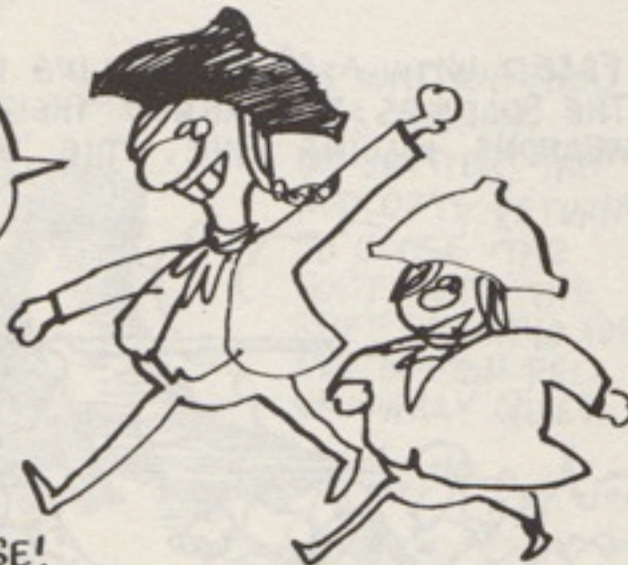


LET'S
BAG
IT!

IN 1766, THE STAMP ACT WAS REPEALED.

A LITTLE
RIOTING IN
A GOOD CAUSE
ISN'T A
BAD THING!

AMERICA CELEBRATED
WITH BELLS,
FIREWORKS,
PARADES, AND
REVOLUTIONARY
THOUGHTS LIKE THESE!



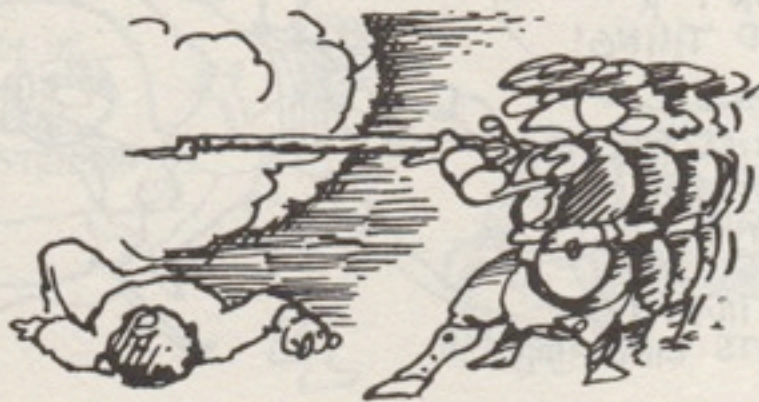
SOMEHOW FAILING TO GET THE MESSAGE, PARLIAMENT IN 1767 PASSED A NEW TAX, THE "TOWNSHEND DUTIES," ON VARIOUS IMPORTS INTO THE COLONIES. THE HEAD CUSTOMS HOUSE WAS INTELLIGENTLY LOCATED IN BOSTON, WHERE IT WOULD BE SURE TO PROVOKE THE MOST VIOLENCE.



AFTER THE INEVITABLE RIOTS, BRITAIN SENT IN THE TROOPS, CALLED "LOBSTERBACKS" AFTER THEIR RED COATS, OR POSSIBLY THEIR CHITINOUS CARAPACES.



FACED WITH A CROWD HURLING ICEBALLS AND EPITHETS, THE SOLDIERS DISCHARGED THEIR DUTY AND THEIR WEAPONS, KILLING FIVE: THE "BOSTON MASSACRE."



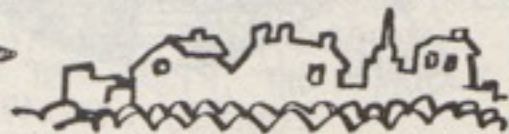
THE AUTHORITIES
NERVOUSLY REMOVED
THE TROOPS... AND
SCRAPPED THE TAXES—
AGAIN. BUT THEY
KEPT ONE LITTLE
TAX—ON TEA—JUST
TO PROVE THE
POINT.



SO THE
BOSTONIANS,
DISGUISED AS
INDIANS, DUMPED
A SHIPLOAD OF
TEA INTO THE
DRINK—A
TEA PARTY
FOR THE FISH.



AS WASTING TEA
WAS HIGHLY
UN-BRITISH, THE
REDCOATS RETURNED
TO CLOSE THE
PORT UNTIL THE
STUFF WAS PAID FOR...
AND BOSTON FELL
UNUSUALLY QUIET..

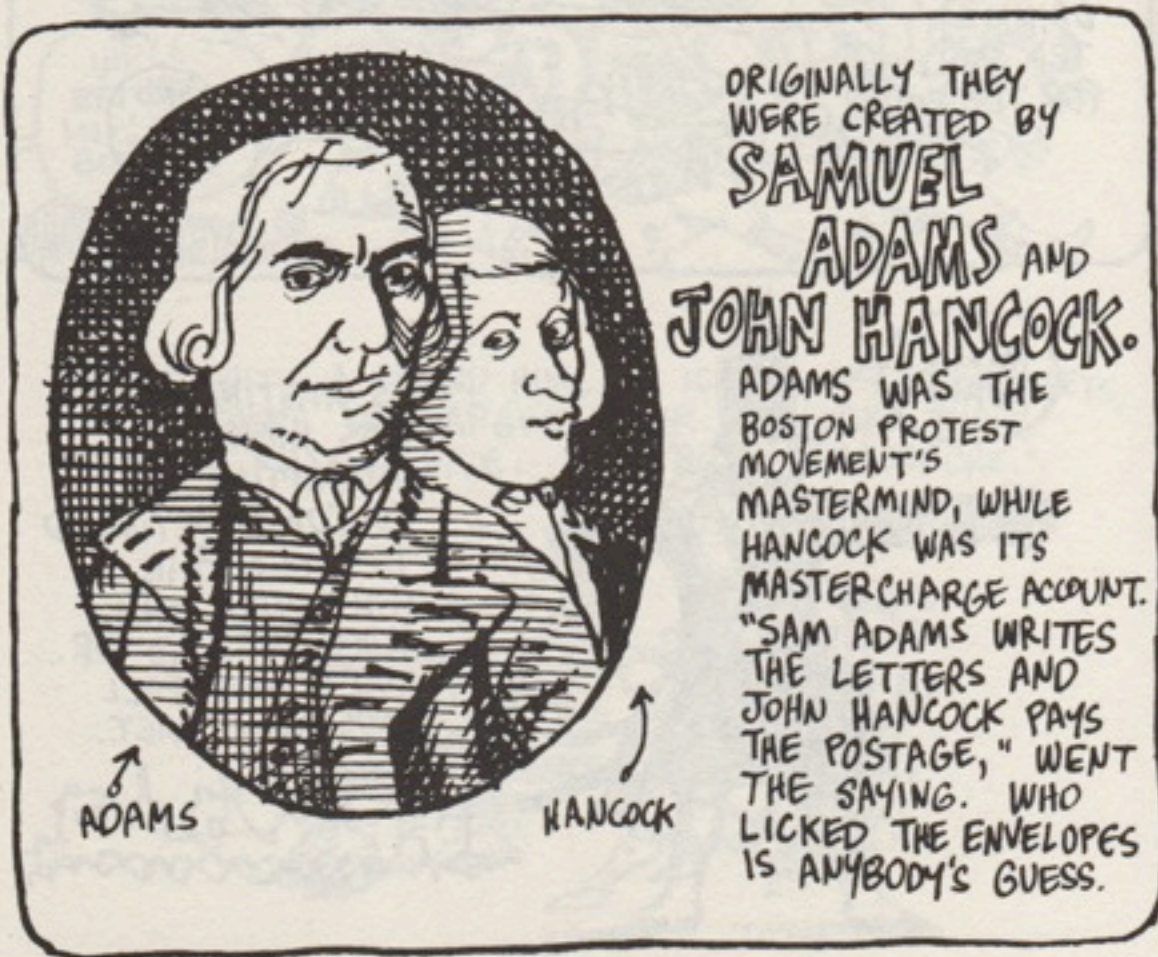


THE ONLY SOUND WAS
THE SCRITCH SCRITCH,
SCRITCH OF A QUILL,
AND THE OCCASIONAL
MUFFLED CURSE AS
IT BLOTTED THE
PAGE... THE SOUND
OF THE —



COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE,

WHICH CORRESPONDED ONLY
WITH EACH OTHER.



ORIGINALLY THEY
WERE CREATED BY
**SAMUEL
ADAMS** AND
JOHN HANCOCK.

ADAMS WAS THE
BOSTON PROTEST
MOVEMENT'S
MASTERMIND, WHILE
HANCOCK WAS ITS
MASTERCHARGE ACCOUNT.
"SAM ADAMS WRITES
THE LETTERS AND
JOHN HANCOCK PAYS
THE POSTAGE," WENT
THE SAYING. WHO
LICKED THE ENVELOPES
IS ANYBODY'S GUESS.

AT FIRST,
THE COMMITTEES
WERE ONLY IN
MASSACHUSETTS,
BUT THE IDEA
SPREAD TO
ALL THE
COLONIES.
SOON, GROUPS
OF CITIZENS
EVERYWHERE
WERE SWAPPING
REVOLUTIONARY
TIPS, LIKE
BRITAIN'S LATEST
HEINOUS DEEDS,
AND HOW TO
WASH BLOOD
OUT OF
YOUR SHIRT.

"SOAK IN COLD
WATER IMMEDIATELY."



CARRIED BY PATRIOT RIDERS
LIKE **PAUL REVERE**, NEWS
OF THE TEA PARTY SPREAD
FAST — AND PROTEST
SWEEPED THE COLONIES.



THE BOSTON TEA PARTY WAS
FOLLOWED BY THE GREENWICH (N.Y.)
TEA PARTY, THE NEW YORK TEA
PARTY, SEVERAL CHARLESTON (S.C.)
TEA PARTIES, THE PROVIDENCE
(R.I.) TEA PARTY, THE ANNAPOLIS
TEA PARTY... SERIOUS
POLLUTION!!

AFTER SOME TIME, THE COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE DEVELOPED WRITER'S CRAMP AND DECIDED TO MEET THEIR PEN PALS FACE TO FACE IN PHILADELPHIA...



AT A

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

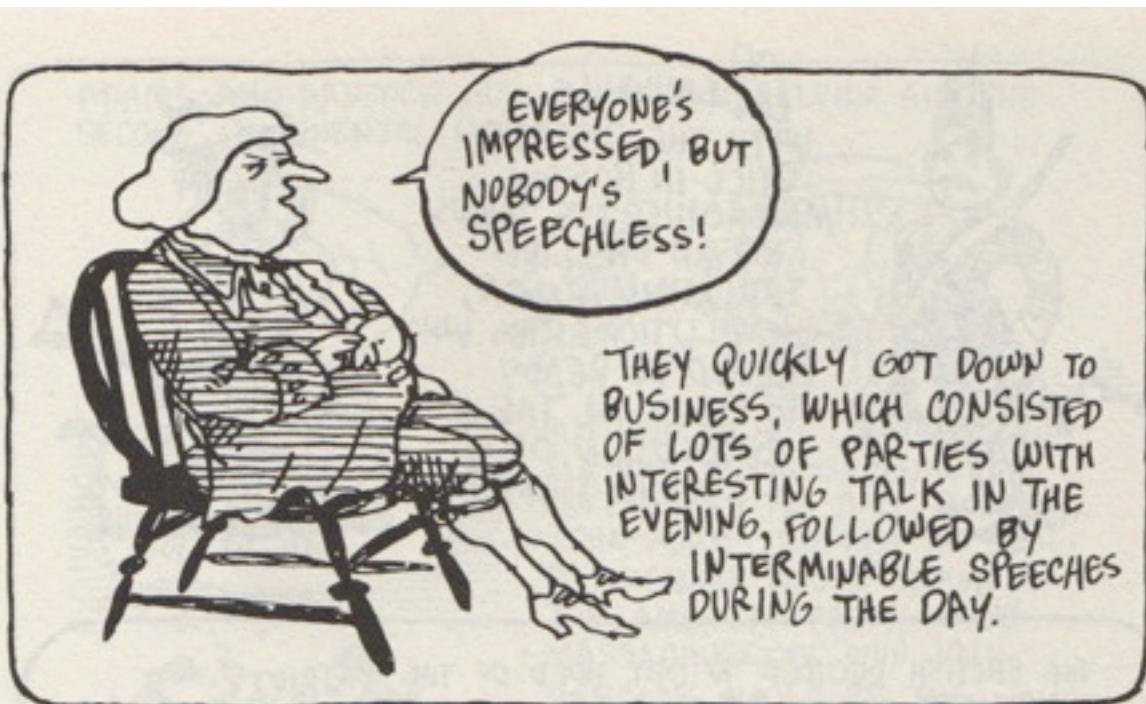
ALL THE BIGGIES WERE THERE: PATRICK HENRY, GEORGE WASHINGTON, SAM ADAMS, HIS COUSIN JOHN ADAMS, JOHN HANCOCK, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A **H**ISTORIC **O**CCASION, AND EVERYONE WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED, OR AT LEAST SOMEWHAT BENT OUT OF SHAPE.



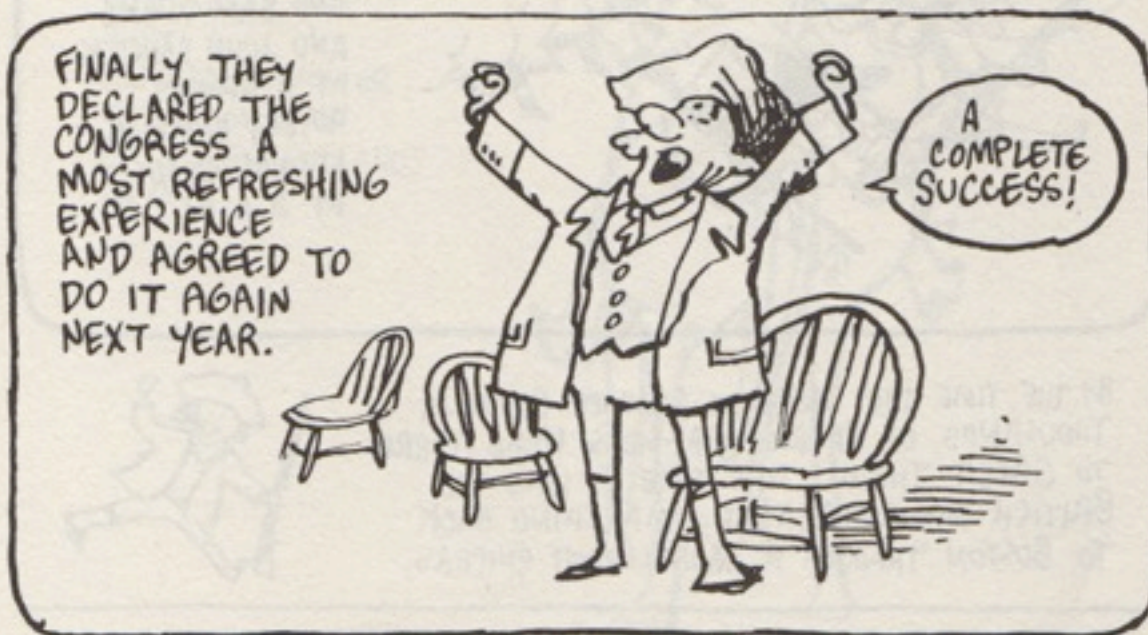
(ESPECIALLY THRILLED WAS BEN FRANKLIN, WHO HAD PUSHED COLONIAL UNION AS EARLY AS 1754 WITH THIS CARTOON.)

ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, HE'S A CARTOONIST?!! AWESOME !!





BETWEEN NAPS, THEY DREW UP A **D**ECLARATION OF **R**IGHTS (TOGETHER WITH A **B**ILL OF **W**RONGS), A **P**ETITION OR TWO, AND AN **I**NVOICE FOR MORE **T**AR AND **F**EATHERS.





MEANWHILE,
WITH THE TROOPS
STILL IN BOSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS
BEGAN DRILLING
THE MINUTEMEN,
REVOLUTIONARIES WHO
COULD BE READY
TO FIGHT IN THE
REVOLUTION OF
A SECOND HAND.*



THE BRITISH DECIDED TO GET HOLD OF THE PATRIOTS' GUNPOWDER SUPPLY AT CONCORD, OUTSIDE BOSTON. ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 18, 1775, THEY MARCHED.



THE MINUTEMEN, WARNED BY PAUL REVERE AND OTHERS, MUSTERED ON LEXINGTON GREEN. THE BRITISH OPENED FIRE; THE MINUTEMEN BOLTED; AND SAM ADAMS AND JOHN HANCOCK, AT A NEARBY HOTEL, WOKE UP. IT WAS CHAOS AT 3 A.M.

BY THE TIME THE REDCOATS REACHED CONCORD, THOUSANDS OF PATRIOT FARMERS WERE THERE TO GREET THEM. THIS TIME IT WAS THE BRITISH WHO RETREATED, MARCHING BACK TO BOSTON THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF SNIPERS.



* THIS WAS BEFORE DIGITAL WATCHES.

ADAMS AND HANCOCK HURRIED TO PHILADELPHIA AND THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

GOOD
NEWS! IT'S
WAR!



OUR GUY GETS THE
INSURANCE COMPANY;
YOURS GETS THE
DOLLAR BILL...



BUT HOW TO GET CONGRESS TO
SUPPORT A MASSACHUSETTS
BATTLE? IN THE BACK ROOMS,
JOHN ADAMS WORKED THE DEAL:
A VIRGINIAN WOULD COMMAND
THE AMERICAN ARMY, WHILE
MASSACHUSETTS' OWN JOHN
HANCOCK WOULD BE THE
(POWERLESS) PRESIDENT OF
CONGRESS.

AND SO IT WAS
THAT A
SOUTHERN PLANTER
TOOK COMMAND
OF A NEW ENGLAND
ARMY...

DO MY
EYES DECEIVE
ME, OR DO I
SEE NEGROES
WITH MUSKETS?



TO WASHINGTON'S EYES, THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY LOOKED VERY PECULIAR: RACIALLY INTEGRATED, EGALITARIAN, ITS OFFICERS ELECTED BY THE RANK AND FILE.



IT'S
AGAINST
THE SACRED
LAW OF THE
PLANTATION!

WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY ORDERED:

- ★ ALL BLACKS OUT OF THE ARMY
- ★ NEW OFFICERS TO BE CHOSEN BY THEIR SUPERIORS
- ★ A RAISE IN OFFICERS' PAY
- ★ THE USE OF FLOGGING FOR DISCIPLINE

JUST
LIKE THE
BRITISH
ARMY!



AMID THE HOWLS OF PROTEST, WASHINGTON AGREED TO LET THE BLACKS STAY, BUT REFUSED TO GIVE IN ON THE REST. SO — HALF THE ARMY WENT HOME IN DISGUST.



NOW!
LET'S FIGHT
THIS
REVOLUTION,
MEN! MEN?
MEN...?

CHAPTER 5

IN WHICH HAPPINESS IS PURSUED, GUN IN HAND

SO—IT WAS WAR... ON ONE SIDE, A MIGHTY EMPIRE, EMBRACING ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND PARTS OF GERMANY AND INDIA (ALTHOUGH NOT ALL OF THEM RETURNED THE EMBRACE).



ON THE OTHER—AN INCREDIBLE SHRINKING ARMY, A SELF-APPOINTED CONGRESS WITHOUT THE POWER TO TAX OR DRAFT, AND NOT EVEN A VERY CLEAR IDEA WHAT THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR...



TOO WEAK TO WIN, CONGRESS COULD ALSO HARDLY AFFORD TO LOSE... NOT WHILE THE REWARD FOR TREASON AGAINST BRITAIN WAS AN INVITATION TO A BARBECUE - OF YOUR OWN INTESTINES.



HELP! THAT'S

WHAT THEY NEEDED... AND, THIS BEING THE AGE OF REASON (IF NOT YET OF TRAINS), THEY FOLLOWED THIS TRAIN OF REASONING WHERE IT LED: STRAIGHT TO FRANCE, THE "OTHER" SUPERPOWER, WHICH ALL GOOD AMERICANS HAD HATED UNTIL JUST A MINUTE AGO.



LEGEND:

- WINE
- BREAD
- CHEESE
- CHURCH
- TOPLESS BEACH
- FILM FESTIVAL

BUT-AND THIS WAS A BIG BUT- WHY SHOULD FRANCE HELP THE REBELS, IF THE REBELS' ULTIMATE GOAL WAS TO REMAIN UNITED TO GREAT BRITAIN?



UM... ER...
AH... I
NEVER THOUGHT
OF THAT...

⇒ THAT QUESTION, AMONG OTHERS,
WAS RAISED IN THE BEST-SELLING
PAMPHLET
"COMMON SENSE,"
WHICH APPEARED IN EARLY 1776.
IT CALLED FOR A COMPLETE
BREAK WITH ENGLAND.



UP TO THAT POINT, CONGRESS HAD
BEEN LOUDLY PROCLAIMING
LOYALTY TO KING GEORGE...
INDEPENDENCE WAS A GOAL
OF ONLY THE WILDEST RADICALS...
BUT "COMMON SENSE" CHANGED
ALL THAT!

AS PUBLIC OPINION SWUNG AROUND,
THE RADICALS SEIZED THE INITIATIVE.
BY JUNE, 1776, CONGRESS HAD
VOTED IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE!!

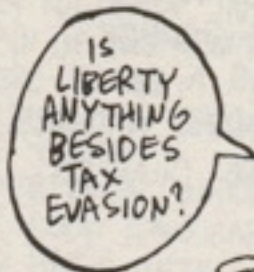


IT'S
COMMON
SENSE!

THE TASK OF
WRITING THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE FELL
TO **THOMAS
JEFFERSON**, A
VIRGINIA CONGRESSMAN
WITH A POSITIVE
PASSION FOR HUMAN
LIBERTY, AS LONG AS
THEY WEREN'T HIS
HUMANS...



IF PATRICK HENRY WAS THE
REVOLUTION'S GREATEST ORATOR,
AND SAM ADAMS THE PREMIER
PROTESTER, THEN JEFFERSON WAS
THE SUPREME PROSE STYLIST
AND POLITICAL VISIONARY.



BEFORE JEFFERSON, THE MOVEMENT'S
SLOGAN HAD BEEN "LIBERTY AND
PROPERTY..."



BUT T.J.
WANTED TO FOUND
THE NEW NATION
ON SOMETHING A
LITTLE LESS CRASS...



THIS SUBSTITUTE SPRANG TO MIND:

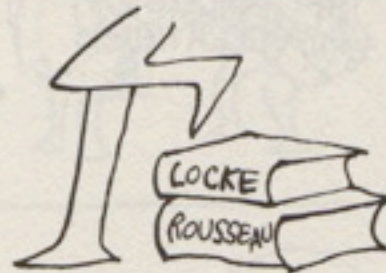
"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-
EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED
EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR
CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS,
THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY,
AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS..."

NICE...

JEFFERSON'S WORDS WERE LESS A DESCRIPTION OF REALITY IN 1776 THAN A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE — THAT EVENTUALLY EVERYONE WOULD GAIN EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, SEX, OR INCOME.

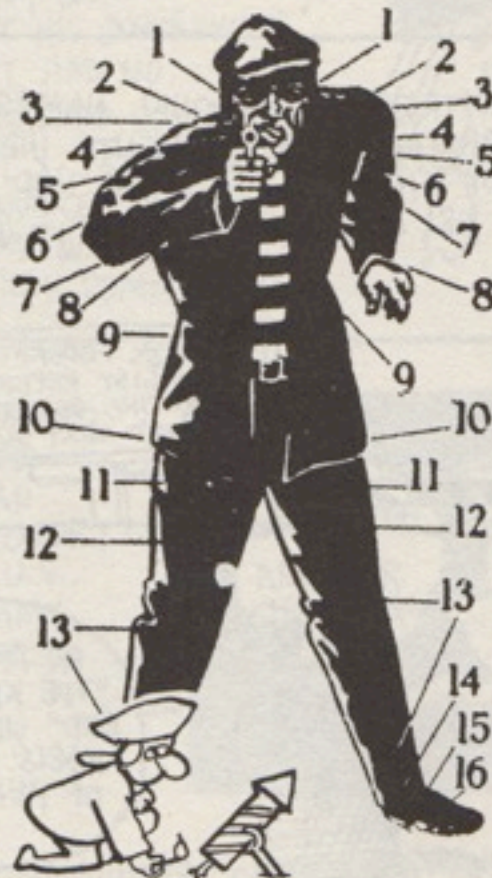


THE DECLARATION ALSO ANNOUNCED THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE ITS OWN GOVERNMENT, AN IDEA THAT HAD BEEN IN THE AIR FOR A WHILE, BUT HADN'T TOUCHED GROUND UNTIL NOW.



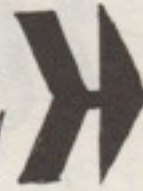
THE REST OF THE PAPER IS AN (INFLATED) LIST OF THE CRIMES OF KING GEORGE, WHO WAS MADE TO SOUND A BIT LIKE A

Giant life like karate practice dummy



CONGRESS ACCEPTED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON THE FOURTH OF JULY AND WASTED A QUANTITY OF PRECIOUS GUN-POWDER IN A FIREWORKS SHOW.

MINDFUL THAT NO
NATION IS COMPLETE
WITHOUT TRAPPINGS,
CONGRESS QUICKLY
ADOPTED A FLAG (RED,
WHITE, & BLUE), AN ARMY
UNIFORM (BROWN), A
BIRD (BALD), ARTICLES
OF CONFEDERATION
(CLUMSY), AND A NAME
(ALMOST AS CLUMSY AS
THE ARTICLES OF
CONFEDERATION):



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Advanced Technology Academy Course American History Aligned to Michigan Content Standards for 8th Social Studies			
Date Range:		Thematic Unit Name: Why a revolution?	Activity
Standard and Benchmark #	Students will be able to....	Students will know.....	
5 – U3.1.1	Describe	how the french and indian war changed the way Britain treated the colonies	reading guides
5 – U3.1.2	Describe	the causes of the major events that led to the revolution	jigsaw partner reading of supplemental resources
5 – U3.1.3	Explain	How the colonies and england views on power differed	historical opinion journals
5 – U3.1.4	Describe	The importance of the 1st & 2nd continental congress	
5 - U3.1.6	Identify	the roles and importance of the founding fathers	
Essential Questions			Resources
●Why did the colonists separate from england?			idiots guide to american history american adventure tales cartoon history of the US founding fathers documentary key decisions in US history

Assessment		Questions/Key Areas I Need to Review
Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment	
Section/exit quizzes Journals Reading Guides	Unit Quiz Prove you learned it: Make a biographical comic strip create a presentation	