

Student Study Guide for the American Pageant
CHAPTER 7 The Road to Revolution, 1763–1775

CHAPTER SUMMARY

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

One source of long-term conflict was the tension between the considerable freedom and self-government the colonists enjoyed in the American wilderness and their participation in the British Empire's mercantile system. While British mercantilism actually provided economic benefits to the colonies along with certain liabilities, its limits on freedom and patronizing goal of keeping America in a state of perpetual economic adolescence stirred growing resentment.

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

the colonists, however, the measures constituted attacks on fundamental rights.

Through well-orchestrated agitation and boycotts, the colonists forced repeal of the Stamp Act of 1765 as well as the Townshend Acts that replaced it, except for the symbolic tax on tea. A temporary lull in conflict between 1770 and 1773 ended with the Boston Tea Party, conducted by a network of Boston agitators reacting to the Massachusetts governor's attempt to enforce the law.

In response to the Tea Party, the British imposed the harsh Intolerable Acts, coincidentally passing the Quebec Act at the same time. These twin actions aroused ferocious American resistance throughout the colonies, and led directly to the calling of the First Continental Congress and the clash of arms at Lexington and Concord.

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

GLOSSARY - To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms:

Patronage - A system in which benefits, including jobs, money, or protection are granted in exchange for political support.

Mercantilism - The economic theory that all parts of an economy should be coordinated for the good of the whole state; hence, that colonial economics should be subordinated for the benefit of an empire.

Depreciate - To decrease in value, as in the decline of the purchasing power of money.

Veto - The constitutional right of a ruler or executive to block legislation passed by another unit of government.

Monopoly - The complete control of a product or sphere of economic activity by a single producer or business.

Admiralty courts' - In British law, special administrative courts designed to handle maritime cases without a jury.

Virtual representation - The political theory that a class of persons is represented in a lawmaking body without direct vote.

Nonimportation agreement - Pledges to boycott, or decline to purchase, certain goods from abroad.

Mulatto - A person of mixed African and European ancestry.

Duty (duties) - A customs tax on the export or import of goods.

Propaganda (propagandist) - A systematic program or particular materials designed to promote certain ideas; sometimes but not always the term is used negatively, implying the use of manipulative or deceptive means. (A propagandist is one who engages in such practices.)

Boycott - An organized refusal to deal with some person, organization, or product.

Inflation - An increase in the supply of currency relative to the goods available, leading to a decline in the purchasing power of money.

Desert - To leave official government or military service without permission.

Change in colonial policy by the British government that helped precipitate the American Revolution involved? (pg. 122)

Describe the American colonists' general attitude toward Revolution in the 1760's? (pg. 122)

According to American supporters of republicanism, a just society depends on: (pg. 122)

British political commentators known as "radical whigs" feared? (pg. 123)

What did mercantilists believe: (pg. 123)

Under mercantilist doctrine, what role were the American colonies expected to play for Britain? (pg. 123)

What was the purpose of the first Navigation Law? (pg. 123)

The British Parliament enacted currency legislation that was intended primarily to benefit: (pg. 124)

- A) Virginia tobacco planters. B) British merchants. C) New England merchants. D) backwoods farmers.
E) the Crown.

Despite the benefits of the mercantile system, the American colonists disliked it because: (pg. 124)

The _____ was the first law ever passed by Parliament for raising tax revenues in the colonies? (pg. 125)

The purpose of the Stamp Act was to raise money for? (pg. 125)

Passage of the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act: (pg. 126)

- A) led many colonists to believe that the British were expanding colonial freedom.
- B) convinced many colonists that the British were trying to take away their historic liberty.
- C) resulted in fewer laws being passed by Parliament regarding the colonies.
- D) exemplified to many colonists the difference between legislation and taxation.
- E) required action by each colonial legislature.

What was the primary objection by the colonists to the Stamp Act? (pg. 126) _____

_____.

What does "Virtual" representation mean? (pg. 126) _____

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Why was the principle of "no taxation without representation" so important? (pg.127) _____

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What effect did the Nonimportation agreements have on the colonists? (pg.127) _____

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Why was the Stamp Act repealed? (pg.127) _____

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What was the significance of the Declaratory Act? (pg.128) _____

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_____.

What was the Townshend Acts? (pg. 128) _____

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What happened as a result of American opposition to the Townshend Acts? (pg. 129) _____

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The tax on tea was retained when the Townshend Acts were repealed because: (pg. 130)

- A) Parliament believed the colonists would not object.
- B) the money was needed to support troops.
- C) it kept alive the principle of parliamentary taxation.
- D) it was the only tax passed by the colonists.
- E) colonial governors requested it.

What was the chief function of the local committees of correspondence? (pg. 130) _____

_____.

Summarize the key events that led to the Boston Tea Party: (pg. 131-132) _____

The Intolerable Acts were a series of acts designed to? (pg. 132) _____

Why did the American colonists dislike about the Quebec Act? (pg. 133) _____

What was the purpose for the summoning of the First Continental Congress? (pg. 133) _____

What was the most significant action taken by The First Continental Congress? (pg. 134) _____

As a result of Parliament's rejection of the petitions of the Continental Congress, : (pg. 134)

- A) Americans reluctantly obeyed the British laws.
- B) fighting and bloodshed took place, and war began.
- C) Sam Adams and John Hancock were arrested.
- D) America sent new petitions to Parliament.
- E) Ben Franklin returned to the colonies since his efforts failed.

Lecture Notes: For the purposes of this class, we will acknowledge Lexington and Concord as the beginning of the Revolutionary War. (pg. 134-135)

Which of the following accurately describe advantages held by the british as the Revolutionary War began? (pg. 135)

- A) overwhelming national wealth and naval power.
- B) an alliance with Spain and Holland.
- C) a well-organized and united home government and population.
- D) first-rate generals and a well-supplied professional army.
- E) all of the above.

Describe what weaknesses existed for the British as they attempted to thwart the colonists in their quest for independence: (pg. 135)

Why would Whigs in Britain be hoping for an American victory in the War for Independence? (pg. 135)

Describe the weaknesses and advantages held by the colonists as the War for Independence began? (pg. 136)
