

# The Seeds of Unrest

## READ TO DISCOVER

1. How did the British Crown respond to Pontiac's Rebellion?
2. Why did the British government pass the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act?
3. How did the colonists respond to the Stamp Act?
4. What events led to the Boston Massacre?

## DEFINE

duty  
nonimportation agreements  
writs of assistance

## IDENTIFY

Neolin  
Pontiac's Rebellion  
Proclamation of 1763  
Sugar Act  
Stamp Act  
Sons of Liberty  
Samuel Adams  
Stamp Act Congress  
Declaratory Act  
Townshend Acts  
Quartering Act  
Boston Massacre  
John Adams

## WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Many important historical places in the United States have been protected and preserved. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to find out about a historical site in the United States today. Record your findings in your journal.

[CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com)

## EYEWITNESSES to History

*"The American colonies stand no longer in need of England's protection. England will call on them to help contribute toward supporting the burden they have helped to bring on her, and they will answer by striking off all dependence."*

—Charles Gravier

Charles Gravier (graww-yay), Comte de Vergennes (ver-zhen), a French government official, was very clear about how he thought a conflict between Great Britain and its colonies would be resolved. Victory in the French and Indian War had left Britain with a huge debt and large amounts of territory to govern and defend. British officials expected the American colonists to help pay for administering this expanded empire. The colonists, however, believed that they had the right to determine their own financial affairs. These differing opinions set the stage for a major conflict.

## Governing the New Territories

The Treaty of Paris of 1763 forced France to give up its North American empire. Spain also surrendered some of its territory. With the stroke of a pen, the British gained control of Canada, Spanish Florida—except New Orleans—and the rich land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. Trader and American Indian agent George Croghan traveled through this western territory in 1765. He noted in his diary that a "good hunter, without much fatigue to himself, could here daily supply one hundred men with meat." Croghan described the amazing variety of terrain he encountered.

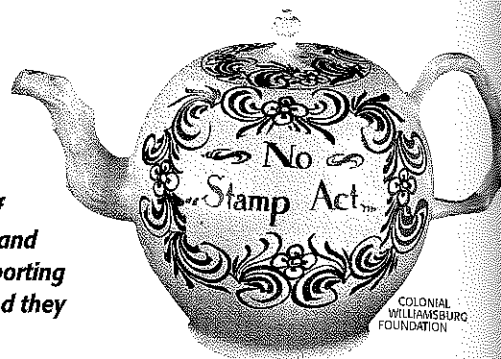


*"We set out very early in the morning and marched through a high country, extremely well timbered, for three hours. . . . The remainder of this day we traveled through fine rich bottoms [lowlands], overgrown with reeds, which make the best pasture in the world."*

—George Croghan, diary entry, 1765

Such glowing reports drew many farmers and speculators to the region. Ignoring American Indian claims to the land, they demanded that the territory be opened for settlement. British officials opposed these demands because they feared that conflicts between settlers and American Indians would result.

**American Indian resistance.** The British authorities had good reason to be concerned. Following the French and Indian War, the British had limited the amount of ammunition and rum available for trade with American Indians. They had also abandoned the French practice of presenting annual gifts to the Indians.



Teapot bearing an anti-British slogan

These changes angered many American Indians who considered the trade goods and presents fair payment for allowing colonists to use their lands. George Croghan warned that the Indians who "had great expectations of being very generally supplied by us" might wage war.

American Indians grew increasingly upset by the large number of settlers that poured into the western lands. Many peoples had already seen their traditional ways of life disrupted by European trade. Now they faced losing their lands as well.

Neolin, an American Indian also known as the Delaware Prophet, traveled among these troubled western peoples. He appealed to them to return to their ancient practices. Neolin denounced the use of European goods and customs and urged his audiences to drive out the settlers. "They are my enemies," he said of the British. "They are your brothers' enemies."

Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, heard Neolin's message and acted upon it. Pontiac called on the Delaware, Ojibwa, Seneca, Shawnee, Wyandot, and other American Indians to unite and "exterminate from our lands this nation which seeks only to destroy us." For most of 1763, war raged all along the frontier. Pontiac's forces killed some 2,000 settlers and destroyed many British forts.

**Pontiac's Rebellion** ended when the Indians failed to take Fort Detroit and Fort Pitt. Pontiac's troops attacked the forts for months without success. With winter approaching and ammunition in short supply, the Indian forces began to doubt that victory was possible. Faced with disheartened troops and no hope of French aid, Pontiac called off the siege. Instead of being driven off by the rebellion, the British now possessed military control of Indian lands in the West.

**The Proclamation of 1763.** Pontiac's Rebellion and other American Indian uprisings convinced British authorities that although they had gained military control of the frontier, they could not effectively protect British settlers there. As a result, Great Britain issued the **Proclamation of 1763**, barring settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. The law also required fur traders to obtain royal permission before entering the territory.

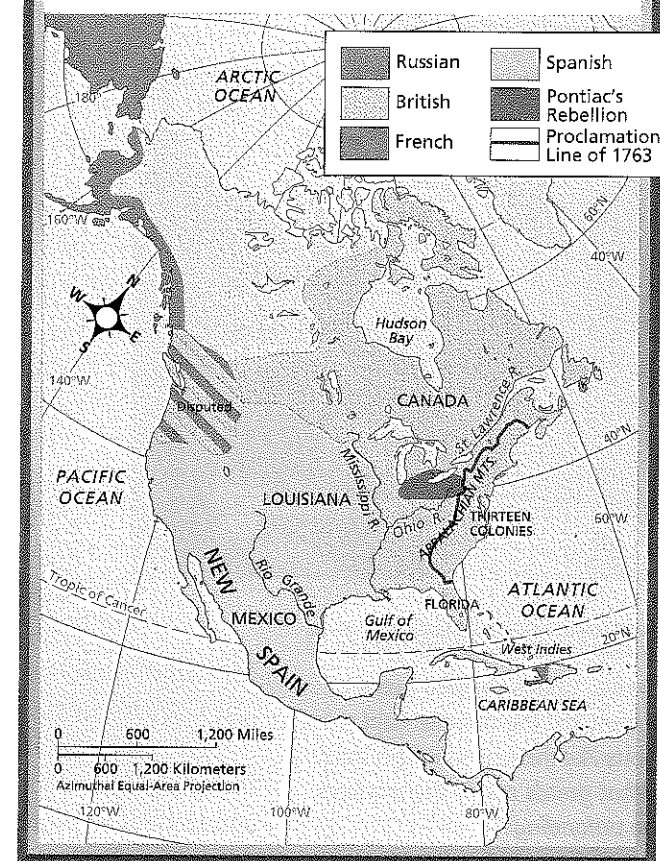
British officials hoped that separating settlers and Indians would end fighting on the frontier. However, the proclamation was difficult to enforce. Land-hungry colonists resented the measure. Colonial governors, often land speculators themselves, did little to enforce it. As a result, settlers continued to pour into the territory.

✓ **READING CHECK: Sequencing** Place in chronological order the events that led to the Proclamation of 1763.

## North America in 1763

**Interpreting Maps** By the terms of the Treaty of Paris, Great Britain took control of millions of square miles of land in North America.

**PLACES AND REGIONS** Where were France's remaining territories located?



After his defeat in the rebellion, Pontiac formed friendly relations with the British.

## Financing the Empire

The Proclamation of 1763 was not the only British policy that colonists resented. They were also angered by Parliament's efforts to make them pay part of the costs of "protecting and securing" the frontier. The British government was deeply in debt after the French and Indian War and needed assistance from its colonies. Englishman Thomas Whately stated the Crown's position on this issue in a pamphlet.



**"We are not yet recovered from a War undertaken . . . for their Protection. No Time was ever so seasonable [appropriate] for claiming their Assistance. The Distribution is too unequal, of Benefits only to the Colonies, and of all the Burdens upon the Mother Country."**

—Thomas Whately, *Considerations on the Trade and Finances of This Kingdom*

For British officials, the question of how to raise this needed revenue always came back to one solution: taxes. As a first step to increase revenue, Parliament passed the **Sugar Act** of 1764. This act imposed a **duty**, or import tax, on foreign sugar, molasses, and several other items entering Great Britain's American colonies.

This was not the first time the British had imposed a duty on foreign molasses and sugar in the colonies. In fact, the new law actually lowered the existing duty on molasses. It was, however, the first time officials seriously enforced such a law. Until this time, British officials had been quite lenient in enforcing colonial trade laws. For example, they had often ignored obvious smuggling by colonists.

Now royal inspectors searched homes, ships, and warehouses for smuggled goods. The Crown's judges presided over courts without juries to hear smuggling cases.

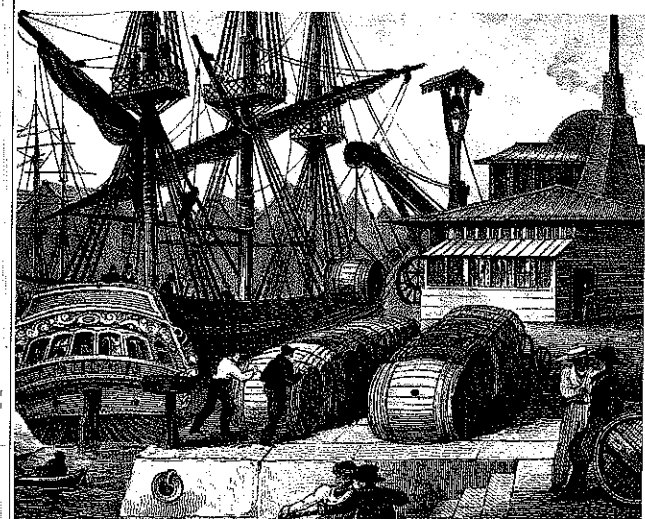
For the colonial merchants, rum distillers, and shipowners who profited from foreign trade and smuggling, the Sugar Act meant decreased business. They formed committees to protest the law and refused to cooperate with Royal Navy officers who entered colonial ports. Some merchants in Newport, Rhode Island, even persuaded the local sheriff to arrest an inspector who was particularly strict about enforcing the Sugar Act.

As this controversy raged, Parliament slapped another revenue law on the American colonies, the **Stamp Act** of 1765. Far more sweeping than the Sugar Act, the Stamp Act placed a tax on printed matter of all kinds: advertisements, diplomas, legal documents, newspapers, and playing cards. These materials had to be printed on stamped paper or have special stamps attached to show that the tax had been paid.

✓ **READING CHECK: Identifying Points of View** Why did the British government enforce the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act more strictly than previous taxes?

## Colonial Protests

British officials had expected the colonists to oppose the Stamp Act, but they were unprepared for the intensity of colonial resistance. In the past, the colonists had accepted taxes passed by the colonial assemblies. In the colonists' eyes, however, this tax was different. It had been passed by Parliament, where the colonists had no direct representation.



### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

**Trade.** Goods shipped between Britain and the colonies kept ports like this one in Britain busy. **What goods might the workers be unloading?**



Colonial assemblies met in protest. In May 1765 the Virginia House of Burgesses passed a series of resolutions that condemned the Stamp Act.

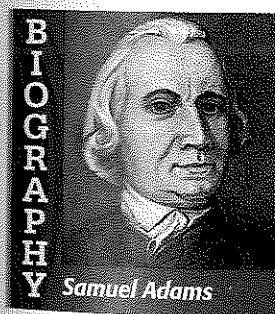
**"The taxation of the people by themselves, or by persons chosen by themselves to represent them . . . is the only security against a burdensome taxation, and [is] the distinguishing characteristic of British freedom."**

—The Virginia Resolves

British officials responded by claiming that the colonists enjoyed "virtual representation," since Parliament represented all British subjects. Many colonists rejected this argument and decided it was time to express their discontent.

**A call to action.** Colonial merchants signed **nonimportation agreements**, promising not to buy or import British goods. Workers and artisans who opposed the Stamp Act took to the streets in demonstrations. Though most of these protests were peaceful, some turned violent, such as one that occurred in Boston on a hot August night in 1765. A mob led by shoemaker Ebenezer MacIntosh wrecked a building belonging to Andrew Oliver, a stamp agent, and then hung an effigy—a crude likeness—of Oliver. Within two weeks, the mob struck again. They destroyed court records and wrecked the house of the chief customs officer. They then looted and vandalized the elegant mansion of Oliver's brother-in-law, Thomas Hutchinson. Hutchinson was the lieutenant governor of the colony and the judge who had upheld the Stamp Act. Throughout the colonies, terrified stamp agents resigned their posts, making the Stamp Act almost impossible to enforce.

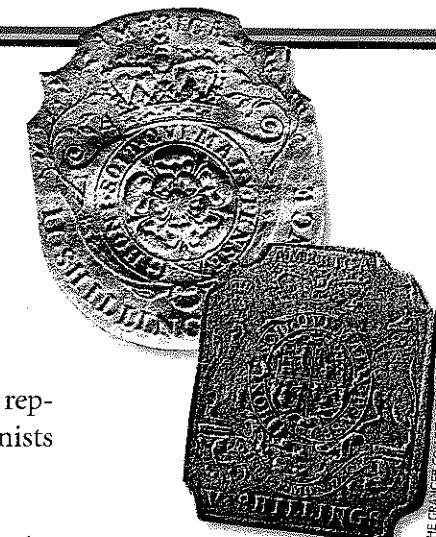
British officials singled out MacIntosh as the mob's leader, but they also suspected that the members of the Boston **Sons of Liberty** were involved. The Sons of Liberty were committees of artisans, lawyers, merchants, and politicians formed to protest the Stamp Act. The Sons of Liberty generally relied on pamphlets, petitions, and public meetings to rally support. Sometimes they resorted to violence.



**Repeal of the Stamp Act.** Samuel Adams was a leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty. The son of a local merchant and brewer, Adams was born in 1722. He graduated from Harvard College while he was still in his teens. After graduation, he worked for his father in the family brewing business, which he later inherited but lost to creditors. He also became involved in Boston politics and served in a series of local offices, including tax collector. In 1765 he was elected to the

Massachusetts House of Representatives. The Stamp Act crisis turned him into a key political activist. Adams became a leader in the fight for the colonists' rights. He explained, "If we suffer tamely a lawless attack upon our liberty, we encourage it."

A peer of Adams described him as a man who "eats little, drinks little, sleeps little, thinks much, and is most decisive and indefatigable [tireless] in the pursuit of his objects." A master of propaganda, Adams proved particularly skillful at staging demonstrations and writing articles that influenced the public's perception of events. His elegant writings both expressed and heightened the colonists' anger at the British government:



### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

**The Stamp Act.** The Stamp Act required colonists to display tax stamps such as these on all printed documents. **What is at the center of each stamp?**

### Research on the ROM

**Free Find: Samuel Adams**

After reading about Samuel Adams on the Holt Researcher CD-ROM, imagine that you are a reporter for a Boston newspaper interviewing Adams about colonial opposition to British taxes. Write a series of questions about specific acts of Parliament and the answers you think Samuel Adams would give.

## Scots-Irish in the Backcountry

## teen Life

Some of the strongest opposition to the acts of the British government came from young Scots-Irish colonists. In the half century before the Revolutionary War, as many as 250,000 people of Scottish descent immigrated to North America from Ulster, a province in northern Ireland. Their ancestors had come to Ulster in the early 1600s. In the early 1700s, facing economic depression, drought, and religious discrimination, the Scots-Irish began crossing the Atlantic to start a new life in America.

Many of the Scots-Irish moved to the western backcountry, where they worked small farms and faced the danger of conflict with local American Indians. Despite the hardships of frontier life, however, they placed a strong emphasis on the institutions of church and school. Scots-Irish youngsters were taught by Presbyterian ministers who doubled as schoolmasters.

A strong distaste for the British government caused many Scots-Irish teens to enthusiastically support American independence. Andrew Jackson, for example, participated in a battle against the British when he was 13 years old. He and his brother Robert were captured and thrown in prison, where Andrew contracted smallpox. Robert died on the difficult journey home, but Andrew survived and went on to become the seventh president of the United States.

An anvil used by Scots-Irish in Tennessee

### INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS

**Protests.** In this 1766 British cartoon, members of Parliament carry the “dead” Stamp Act in a small coffin. **Why would members of Parliament mourn the repeal of the Stamp Act?**



“When the people are oppressed, when their Rights are infringed [violated], when their property is invaded, when taskmasters are set over them . . . in such circumstances the people will be discontented, and they are not to be blamed.”

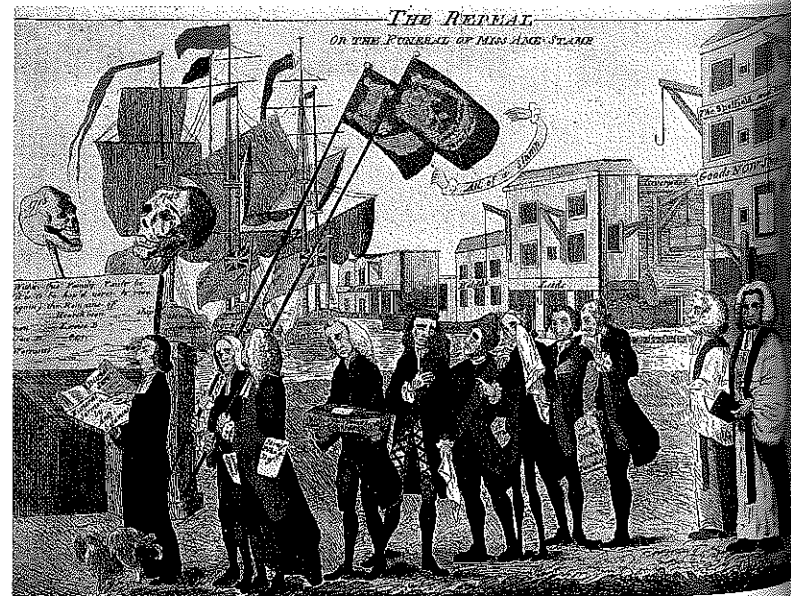
—Samuel Adams, *Boston Gazette*, August 8, 1768

Led by Adams and others, the colonists decided to inform the king of their dissatisfaction. In October 1765, delegates from nine colonies gathered in New York City for the **Stamp Act Congress**. The delegates expressed the “warmest sentiments of affection and duty to His Majesty’s Person and Government.” They pledged “all due subordination [obedience]” to Parliament. Yet they also voiced their objections to the Stamp Act and denied that Parliament had the right to tax the colonies. The congress marked an important step toward more unified resistance.

British merchants who relied on colonial trade joined in the protest against the Stamp Act. The nonimportation agreements were hurting their businesses. Fearing financial ruin and wanting to keep the colonies “firmly attached to their mother country,” they pressured Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act. Thus, people on both sides of the Atlantic rejoiced when Parliament repealed the hated measure in March 1766.

Pleased with the repeal, most colonists took little notice of another law that Parliament passed at the same time. The **Declaratory Act** of 1766 asserted the “full power and authority” of Parliament “to make laws . . . to bind the colonies and people of *America*” in “all cases whatsoever.” Clearly, the fight over whether Parliament had the right to tax the colonists remained unresolved.

✓ **READING CHECK: Evaluating** How effective were colonists’ responses to the Stamp Act?



THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

## The Townshend Acts

The colonists had objected to the Stamp Act because they did not believe that Parliament had the right to tax them without representation. Charles Townshend, Britain’s finance minister, never grasped this point. Townshend believed that the colonists had opposed the stamp tax because it was collected within the colonies. They would, he reasoned, be willing to accept taxes that were collected at colonial ports.

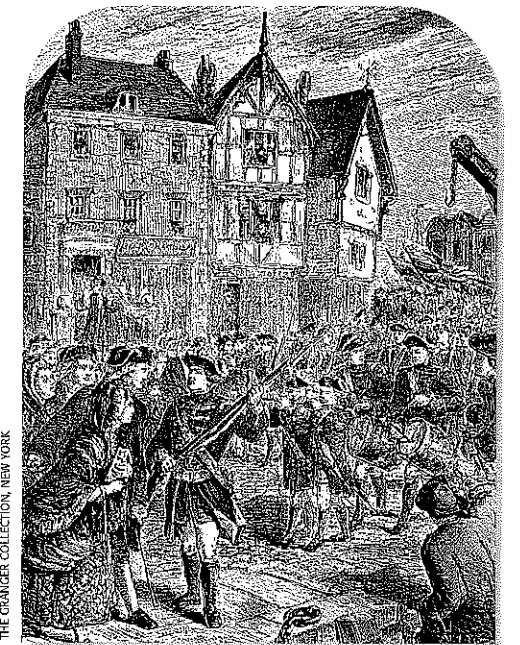
Parliament agreed, passing the **Townshend Acts** in 1767. These laws placed import duties on such common items as tea, lead, glass, and dyes for paint. British customs officials revived the use of special search warrants called **writs of assistance** to enforce the Townshend Acts. Unlike modern search warrants, which must state the exact articles sought and the specific places to be searched, writs of assistance were general warrants. Armed with a writ, a customs officer could search any vessel, warehouse, or home on the mere suspicion that it contained smuggled goods.

**Colonial opposition.** The Townshend Acts aroused powerful opposition in the colonies. Although the colonists accepted Britain’s right to regulate colonial trade, they strongly objected to these new duties that were intended strictly to raise money. Many colonial courts resisted the law by simply refusing to issue writs of assistance.

Troubled by these renewed protests, the Crown decided to station additional soldiers in the colonies. New York’s colonial assembly responded by refusing to provide money to quarter, or house and supply, these troops as the **Quartering Act** of 1765 required. The British government promptly suspended the assembly.

The most active center of protest was Boston. In February 1768 the Massachusetts legislature drafted a protest letter attacking taxation without representation. The legislature then sent the letter to other colonial assemblies for endorsement. The British government reacted by dissolving the Massachusetts assembly. This further fueled protests and triggered a new round of nonimportation agreements. One Massachusetts woman boasted that her friends would not touch “a Drop of Tea” that was imported from Britain. Many women held spinning parties to make their own cloth so that they would not have to buy textiles from Britain. Women in Middletown, Massachusetts, for example, wove more than 20,000 yards of cloth in 1769. Not all the protests were peaceful boycotts. Angry demonstrators boarded and smashed British ships, attacked customs officials, and tarred and feathered people who informed on smugglers.

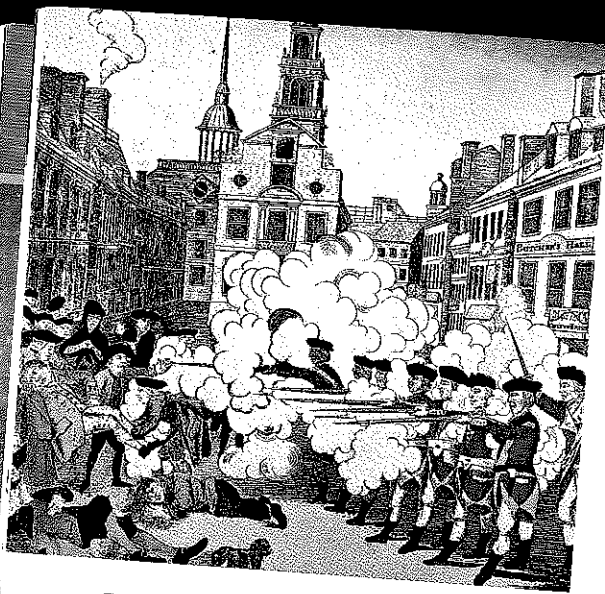
**The Boston Massacre.** In 1768 General Thomas Gage dispatched British troops to Boston to silence the protests and enforce the writs of assistance. Their presence created greater tensions that eventually exploded into violence. On the evening of March 5, 1770, an angry crowd gathered outside a customs house. Some 50 or 60 colonists faced a small group of British soldiers. The crowd yelled insults and began throwing snowballs, rocks, oyster shells, and pieces of coal at the soldiers. Then, according to an observer, “the motley [mixed] mob of saucy [disrespectful] boys, negroes, . . . and outlandish jacktars [sailors]” pressed so hard



THE CRANER COLLECTION, NEW YORK

### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

**Conflict.** British troops stream into Boston in this 1768 image. **How are the colonists in the image reacting to the British troops?**



**INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD**

**The Boston Massacre.** Boston silversmith Paul Revere engraved and printed this image of the Boston Massacre. *Which side does Revere depict as the aggressor? How can you tell?*



“[Legal] counsel ought to be the very last thing that an accused should want [lack] in a free country; . . . and . . . persons whose stake ought to have the counsel they prefer.”

—John Adams, quoted in *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*

In the end, two soldiers were convicted of manslaughter. As punishment, they were branded on the hands and released.

✓ **READING CHECK: Making Predictions** How might the Boston Massacre affect the colonists' future responses to British authority?

**SECTION 1 REVIEW**

- 1. Define and explain:**  
 duty  
 nonimportation agreements  
 writs of assistance

- 2. Identify and explain:**  
 Neolin  
 Pontiac's Rebellion  
 Proclamation of 1763  
 Sugar Act  
 Stamp Act  
 Sons of Liberty  
 Samuel Adams  
 Stamp Act Congress  
 Declaratory Act  
 Townshend Acts  
 Quartering Act  
 Boston Massacre  
 John Adams

**3. Categorizing** Copy the chart below. Fill in the objections that colonists had to each of the acts, how colonists expressed their discontent, and the outcome in the case of each act.

	Sugar Act	Stamp Act
Objections	_____	_____
Colonists' Actions	_____	_____
Outcome	_____	_____

- 4. Finding the Main Idea**
- How did the British Crown attempt to bring order to the western frontier after Pontiac's Rebellion?
  - Imagine that you are an American Indian living west of the Appalachian Mountains in the 1760s. Explain why you will or will not join Pontiac's Rebellion.
  - How did Parliament justify its taxes on the colonies? From the colonists' point of view, was this a valid argument?

- 5. Writing and Critical Thinking**
- Drawing Inferences** Write a paragraph arguing that the Boston Massacre could have been avoided.
- Consider:**
- what led to the confrontation between colonists and soldiers
  - what events sparked the Boston Massacre
  - at what points the events could have been halted before blood was shed

**Go Home.com** Homework Practice Online  
 keyword: SD3 HP4

# The Shot Heard Round the World

## SECTION 2

### READ TO DISCOVER

1. Why did the colonists in Massachusetts stage the Boston Tea Party?
2. Why did Parliament pass the Intolerable Acts?
3. What events led to the battles at Lexington and Concord?
4. What actions did the Second Continental Congress take?

### DEFINE

minutemen

### IDENTIFY

- George III
- Committee of Correspondence
- Tax Act
- Boston Tea Party
- Intolerable Acts
- Quebec Act
- First Continental Congress
- Parsons
- Paul Revere
- Second Continental Congress
- George Washington
- William Howe
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- Olive Branch Petition

**WHY IT MATTERS TODAY**

When the colonies rebelled against Britain, they did not have a professional army or navy. Today U.S. leaders consider it vital to have a well-equipped and prepared military. Use [omni.com](http://omni.com) or your journal to record your findings in an issue you are serving today.

**omni.com**

### EYEWITNESSES TO HISTORY

“It seems we have troublesome times a coming, for there is great disturbance abroad in the earth and they say it is tea that caused it. So then if they will quarrel about such a trifling thing as that, what must we expect but war, I think or at least fear it will be so.”

—Jemima Condict Harrison, diary entry, October 1, 1774

Jemima Condict Harrison, a young woman from New Jersey, noted these concerns in her diary in October 1774. During the early 1770s relations between Great Britain and the colonies worsened. A new tea act in 1773 provoked a dramatic protest in Boston. Less than one year later, Parliament passed a series of laws that angered many colonists as never before. Despite the growing crisis, some colonists still hoped for a peaceful resolution. Many, however, became convinced that war was inevitable.

## Continuing Unrest

When Frederick, Lord North, became Great Britain's prime minister in 1770, he hoped to pacify the colonies with a partial repeal of the Townshend Acts. Parliament agreed and also allowed the Quartering Act to expire. The British kept a small duty on tea, however. As King **George III** explained, there must “always be one tax to keep up the right”—that is, to show that the British government still had the right to tax the colonists.

The repeal quieted the general unrest, but the calm was short-lived. In 1772 the Crown announced that it—not the colonial legislature—would pay the salaries of the governor and judges in Massachusetts. Colonists feared that if these officials did not depend on the legislature for their pay, they might more readily ignore colonial demands.

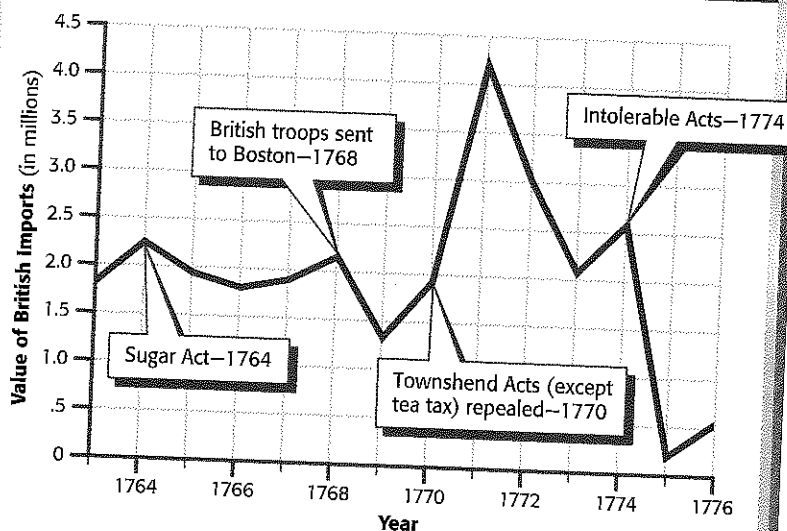
Led by Samuel Adams, Bostonians responded quickly to this latest threat. They created a 21-member **Committee of Correspondence** charged with keeping the rest of the colony and “the World” informed about “the Infringements [trespasses] and Violations” that Britain had made on colonial rights. For the next several years, similar correspondence committees in Massachusetts and other colonies helped shape public opinion.

**The Tea Act of 1773.** Even the business of selling tea provoked a crisis. By 1773 the British East India Company was almost bankrupt. To save the ailing company,

The battle on the Lexington green



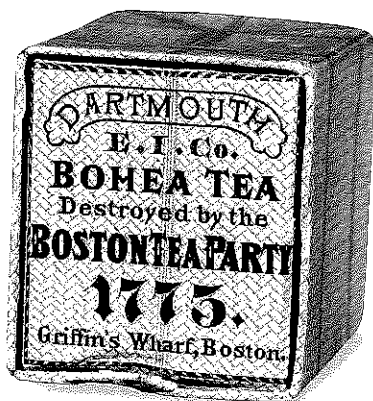
## The Power of the Purse, 1763–1776



Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

**Interpreting Graphs** Colonists reacted to British policies such as the Sugar and Stamp Acts by refusing to import British goods. Parliament's repeal of the Townshend Acts resulted in a brief upsurge in imports. But soon the British actions sparked new protests.

**Skills Assessment** Between which two years did British imports experience the greatest drop?



This package of tea celebrates the Boston Tea Party.



**“In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found. . . . We were surrounded by British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us.”**

—George Hewes, quoted in *The Spirit of 'Seventy-Six*, edited by Henry Steele Commager and Richard B. Morris

News of the **Boston Tea Party** spread rapidly. Many colonists cheered the tea destruction. Others were shocked by such disregard for property rights.

**READING CHECK: Analyzing Information** Why did colonists view the Tea Act as a violation of their rights?

**The Intolerable Acts of 1774.** The Boston Tea Party infuriated British officials. Parliament responded by passing the Coercive Acts—four laws designed to punish Boston and the rest of Massachusetts and to strengthen British control over all of the colonies. The colonists called these laws the **Intolerable Acts**.

The first act closed the port of Boston until the colonists paid for the destroyed tea. The second act revoked the Massachusetts charter of 1691 and forbade colonists in the region to hold town meetings without the governor's permission. The third act allowed royal officials who were charged with crimes in Massachusetts to be tried in other colonies or in Britain so as to avoid hostile juries. Many

Parliament passed the **Tea Act** of 1773. This law excused the company from paying certain duties and permitted it to import tea directly to American agents. As a result, the East India Company was able to charge the lowest prices even after the colonists no longer paid the tea tax.

Most colonists, however, opposed the Tea Act and refused to buy tea. Many colonists were concerned that the East India Company would develop a monopoly of the tea trade. American wholesalers and merchants feared that other British companies would secure similar privileges from Parliament and force them out of business.

The Sons of Liberty in Philadelphia and New York threatened tea imports and pledged a boycott. Once again, the most heated protests occurred in Massachusetts. On December 16, 1773, after the governor refused colonists' demands that he send three shiploads of tea back to Britain, colonists held a mass meeting

at Boston's Old South Church. Later that night, a well-organized group of colonists “dressed in an Indian manner” boarded the tea ships anchored in Boston Harbor. The colonists dumped 342 chests of tea into the water. One of the participants later remembered the incident.