

Chapter 5: From Empire to Independence

The Heritage of War

- After war Americans began to have their own pride & nationalism
- Resentment at inept British troops
- Colonies' militiamen wanted separate ID from British army's harsh punishments for soldiers
- Molasses trade in West Indies very important to Colonists, British wanted it to stop
 - **"Writs of assistance"** – general search warrants (no time, place, specifics)
- **James Otis** – 1760 fought Writs of Assistance in court
 - Didn't win in court, parliament did retract writs of assistance

British Politics

- **Whigs** – opposed James II, led Glorious Rev. of 1688, secured Protestant Hanoverian secession of 1714; individual liberty and parliamentary supremacy
- Politics made up of factions of personal loyalties, family, etc.
- King's ministers took place of Privy Council
 - Used to form groups of men to control majorities in House of Commons

Western Lands

- **Pontiac rebellion**: Indians wiped out all British posts in Ohio region except Fort Detroit and Pitt (1763)
- Proclamation of 1763
 - Drew proclamation line along crest of Appalachians beyond which settlers could not go
 - 1768 two treaties negotiated, Iroquois and Cherokees gave up claims to Ohio region
 - 1770, Treaty of Lochaber, Cherokees agreed to move the line below the Ohio River, westward
 - Ignored by Settlers as they pushed west (Pittsburg (1770))
 - British: "We'll protect you from the Indians with soldiers"

Grenville and the Stamp Act

- **Salutary neglect ending**: Colonists need to pay costs, hire officials, troops, taxes
- British imperial financial problems
 - George Grenville – 1st minister & lord of treasury
 - Mis-1760s 60% of budget was to pay for interest
 - **Molasses Act** of 1733, Encouragement of Officers Making Seizures (1763)
 - **Revenue Act** of 1764 (**Sugar Act**), always existed but never enforced, now enforced
 - **Currency Act** of 1764
 - **Stamp Act** of 1765 – all printed matter & legal documents required stamps
 - Needed to pay tax on everything with a stamp
 - Affected everybody, 1st sign of colonial unity
 - Congress: Delegates meet to discuss options
 - **Quartering Act** of 1765
 - Town collected money, built barracks
- Response
 - Sons of Liberty
 - Sam Adams, James Otis
 - Equal politically
 - Different from British

- Wanted actual, not virtual Representation in Parliament
- James Otis' Circular letter – restated illegality of parliamentary taxation & invited support of other colonies
- Many protests
- Tyrannical feel
- Colonists: “No taxation without representation”
- Greenville: “Parliament represents the good of the country and empire”
- Colonists refused to abide by stamp act
- Colonists began to boycott British goods
- King removed Greenville over other matters, Rockingham (Whig) installed
 - Sympathized with colonists
- 1765 **Stamp Act** repealed
 - No money was ever collected
- **Declaratory Act** 1765 – parliament had control to make all laws binding on colonists
- **Townsend Act** of 1767
 - Complete control of colonies

Fanning the Flames

- Townshend Acts
 - Revenue Act of 1767, taxes on imports of glass, lead, paint, paper, tea
 - Revenues to pay for governors & other colonial officers
 - Tea act – gave monopoly to East India Company
- John Dickinson, Philadelphia lawyer
 - 12 “Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer”
 - Parliament can collect taxes for commerce but not for revenue
- Boston Massacre
 - March 5, 1770 colonists taunt British soldiers
 - Soldier fires, 5 dead, 8 wounded
 - John Adams defends accused for murder b/c no proof
- Results
 - All Townshend acts repealed except tea tax
 - Sugar act, currency act, quartering act, vice-admiralty courts, Board of Customs Commissioners still existed
 - Soldiers leave Boston proper

Discontent on the Frontier

- “Paxton Boys” murder peaceful Conestoga Indians in Lancaster County
 - Outraged b/c no protection during Pontiac’s Rebellion
- South Carolina colonists wanted protection from Horse thieves, cattle rustlers, Indians
 - “Regulators” took matters into their own hands
 - 1771 Gov. William Tryon leads 1200 militiamen & defeats 2000 regulators in **Battle of Alamance**
 - Forces Piedmont settlers to sign oath of allegiance
- British realize colonies are inherently unstable & require military force

A Worsening Crisis

- 1772 *Gaspee* runs aground in search for smugglers near Providence, RI
 - Crowd boards ship, removes crew, burns ship

- June 13 1772 Gov. Thomas Hutchinson told Mass. Assy. Salary would be paid from customs revenues; same for 2 other judges
- General feeling that British bypassing colonial government
- 1773 Virginia Assy. Proposes **committees of correspondence** & network to mobilize public opinion & keep resentments at a simmer
- **Boston Tea Party**
 - Lord North allows East India Company to sell cheap tea & bypass wholesalers
 - If this monopoly established, precedent set for other goods
 - Colonial merchants refused to accept the cheap tea
 - Charleston put in warehouses & funds revolution
 - Boston – Gov. Hutchinson demanded tea landed & duty paid (he would profit)
 - Dec. 16 1773 colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians dumped 342 chests of tea into bay
 - Introduces Coffee to colonies to replace tea
- **Coercive Acts of 1774**
 - Boston Port Act, closed port until city paid for tea
 - **Act for the Impartial Administration of Justice**, Gov. could transfer trials to England of soldiers
 - **Quartering Act**, local authorities to provide lodging, in homes if necessary
 - **Massachusetts Government Act**, make all colony's council & law-enforcement appointed
 - General Thomas Gage appointed Gov. of Mass. (military governor)
 - Above called “**Intolerable Acts**”
 - Quebec Act, gov. north in Canada could not have rep. assy.
 - Gave recognition to catholic church
 - Prevented colonists from moving north
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- **Continental Congress**
 - To represent all colonies by colonists
 - **First Continental Congress** (sept 5 1774)
 - Wanted to fight coercive acts
 - Not looking for independence, just wanted rights
 - 55 members 12 colonies (not Florida, Quebec, Nova Scotia)
 - Charles Thomson, Philadelphia
 - Adopted Declaration of American Rights
 - Declared intolerable acts null & void
 - Continental Association of 1774
 - Recommended boycott of British goods

Shifting Authority

- Royal officials losing authority
- April 14 1775 Gen. Thomas Gage (British) suppresses rebellion at **Concord**
 - Captures, arrests Provincial Congress; seizes militia's supply depot
- April 18 Colonel Francis Smith & Major Pitcairn gather 700 men, set out for **Lexington**
 - **Paul Revere** ride & alarm
 - Fighting begins
 - “Shot heard ‘round the world”
- **Second Continental Congress** assumes role of revolutionary government
 - Washington named general & commander-in-chief b/c most experienced in America

- Battle of Bunker Hill
 - Americans used guerilla style
 - Redcoats suffered heavy losses & more cautious in next battles
- **Olive Branch Petition (1775)** – (**John Dickinson**) loyalty to King George III, need to stop fighting, last ditch effort to keep peace
 - King thinks colonists afraid, wants to fight
 - King thinks he has strongest army
- Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms – (Dickinson) rejected independence, colonists need to fight for their rights
 - King declared colonists enemies
- **December Prohibitory Act** (colonies closed to commerce); mercenaries recruited from Europe

Common Sense

- 1776 **Thomas Paine's** (British) pamphlet published
- Attacks allegiance with King; focuses hostility on Parliament
- Tells the facts, doesn't completely push for independence

Independence

- July 4 1776 Congress adopts Jefferson's **Declaration of Independence**
- Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston (NY), Roger Sherman (Conn.) appointed by continental congress
 - Adams & Jefferson 1st draft
 - Adams doesn't help
- George Mason's draft of Virginia's Declaration of Rights stimulated many of Jefferson's phrases

Timeline

April 1775 – Lexington & Concord

1775 – Common Sense

1775 – Second Continental Congress

1776 – Declaration of Independence