The American Pageant, 13th ed.
Chapter 7: The Road to Revolution 1763-1775

Introduction (p. 122)

• The British, with now a larger empire, wanted the colonies to shoulder some of the cost of maintaining troops along the American frontier after the war.

• Conflicts over economic policies designed to bring revenue from the colonies exposed irreconcilable differences over political principles.

• These differences led “reluctant revolutionaries” to birth a new nation.

The Deep Roots of Revolution (p. 122)

American wilderness environment and lack of English social structure contributed to new ideas:

• Republicanism: rooted in the minds of colonists by the mid 18th cent. and derived from Greece/Rome, it was the idea of equal citizens rejecting selfish interests and acting in the public interest – required __________, self-sufficiency, courage. It rejected aristocracy and monarchy.

The Deep Roots of Revolution (2)

• “Radical ______” influenced the colonists to be extremely wary of corruption and abuses derived from arbitrary royal power.

• Life experience of colonists had only reinforced these values: did not have an aristocratic social structure, were used to running their own affairs as London was too far away to effectively govern.

• Result: they were shocked when Britain tried to tighten control after 1763.

Mercantilism & Col. Grievances (p. 123)

• Mercantilism: wealth is power, and the key to wealth is for a nation to export more than it imports.

• The role of colonies under mercantilism was to keep gold in the empire by providing ______ ____________ (so a nation did not have to import them from other nations) and to buy the mother country’s exports.

Mercantilism & Col. Grievances (2)

Role of American colonies under mercantilism:

• Provide needed products in Britain like tobacco, sugar, & ships’ masts that Britain would otherwise have to buy outside the empire.

• Refrain from competing with British manufacturers – not allowed to make woolen cloth or beaver hats.

• Buy imported _______________ goods exclusively from Britain.

Mercantilism & Col. Grievances (3)

• American colonies were not to be economically self-sufficient – their role was to benefit England.
Parliament passed laws to enforce mercantilism:

- First was the __________________ Law of 1650: Restricted colonial trade to English or colonial vessels only (no Dutch).
- European goods bound for the colonies had to go to England first for tariff duties (taxes) and profit sharing.

Mercantilism & Col. Grievances (4)

- American merchants must ship “enumerated” products (e.g. tobacco) only to Britain, even when higher prices could be found elsewhere.
- Because the colonists bought more from Britain than they sold to them, they had to make up the difference in hard money, but from where?
- Some hard money came from illegal trade with the Spanish and French __________ ____________.

Mercantilism & Col. Grievances (5)

- Because of the lack of hard money, a barter economy in butter, nails, etc. developed.
- Many colonial governments addressed the problem by printing paper money, which depreciated.
- British creditors did not want colonial debts to be repaid in devalued paper money, so Parliament prohibited the money printing, which angered the Americans.

Mercantilism & Col. Grievances (6)

- In addition to Parliament, the crown also protected mercantilism through royal vetoes (done by the ____________ Council) of laws passed by colonial assemblies.
- Though used sparingly, it was fiercely resented by the colonists (was one of the grievances against King George listed in the Declaration of Independence).

Merits & Menace of Mercantilism (p. 124)

- While oppressive in theory, until 1763 the Navigation Laws were not a burden because they were laxly enforced (“salutary neglect”).
- Merchants disregarded or evaded restrictions, and ____________ grew rich (e.g. Hancock).
- And many Americans benefited from mercantilism: Ship parts & stores producers got price supports, & Virginia tobacco farmers were guaranteed a monopoly on the English market.

Merits & Menace of Mercantilism (2)

- Colonists also were protected by the British army and the most powerful navy in the world without cost.
- Despite benefits, mercantilism stifled economic initiative.
- It forced the colonists to use British agents and creditors to do business.
- Most important, mercantilism was insulting: colonies felt they were being kept in economic adolescence.
Stamp Tax Uproar (p. 125)

- After the Seven Years’ War, Britain had a huge empire, but also a huge debt (£140 million). One half of the debt came from defending the American colonies. They needed a return on their investment.

- 1763: Prime Minister Grenville ordered strict enforcement of the Navigation Laws.

- 1764: Grenville led Parliament to pass the ________ Act – 1st law to raise tax revenue in colonies for crown (but taxes lowered after protest).

Stamp Tax Uproar (2)

- 1765: ________________ Act passed—colonies must provide food and quarters for British troops.

- 1765: Grenville’s most controversial law, the Stamp Act, was passed – required stamps on bills of sale and commercial & legal documents like playing cards, newspapers, diplomas, and marriage licenses.

- Grenville felt he was simply asking the colonists to pay their fair share, as Britain had a far heavier stamp tax.

Stamp Tax Uproar (3)

- But the Americans were not only concerned about losing money—were more concerned about losing rights: so some col. assemblies refused to comply with Quartering Acts.

- Worse, these laws jeopardized colonists’ rights as Englishmen because violators would be tried in Admiralty Courts, which violated rights Americans had grown used to: rights to jury trials and to be held innocent until proven guilty.

Stamp Tax Uproar (4)

- Americans also asked: why were British troops needed now that the French were gone & Pontiac was defeated? Could the purpose be to keep us in line?

- Began to sense a grave threat to their historic liberties.

- Cried “No taxation without _________________!”: Parliament could pass other laws, but only local assemblies could tax.

Stamp Tax Uproar (5)

- Grenville’s response: the Power of Parliament is supreme, plus you are represented through “__________ representation.”

- While Americans rejected virtual representation, the logical impossibility of dividing Parliament’s authority eventually led the rebellious colonists to reject the authority of Parliament entirely.

Repeal of the Stamp Act (p. 127)

Colonial Responses to the Stamp Act:

- Stamp Act Congress of 1765. Delegates from 9 colonies drafted a statement of rights and grievances, and asked for repeal. It was ignored in England, but was a significant step toward colonial unity.

- Far more effective: ________________ agreements – boycotts of British goods.
• Boycotts united Americans for 1st time in common action.

Repeal of the Stamp Act (2)

• The ________________ “enforced” the boycotts with violence against violators and tax collection officials.

• Protests resulted in a breakdown of collection machinery. By the day the tax went into effect, all stamp agents had been forced to resign. No one left to sell stamps.

• English economy hard hit by boycotts – 1/4 of all British exports, 1/2 of British shipping had been involved in trade with America.

Repeal of the Stamp Act (3)

• 1766: Parliament reluctantly repealed the Stamp Act, but passed the face-saving “______________ Act” – said that Parliament was sovereign over the colonies.

• But the colonies were demanding a measure of their own sovereignty, and proved they would back up their demands with action.

• Stage was set for continuing conflict.

Tea Tax/Boston Massacre (p. 128)

• 1767: New PM Townshend encouraged passing of the Townshend Acts – import duty (tax) on glass, white lead, paper, paint, tea, to be paid at colonial ports.

• His rationale for colonial acceptance: this is different than the Stamp Act because it is an external tax (paid at port of entry) rather than an internal tax.

• But Americans rejected this distinction, and particularly resented the tax on ________.

Tea Tax/Boston Massacre (2)

• Also, the tax revenues were to be used to pay the salaries of royal ________________, denying that historic leverage to colonial assemblies.

• 1767: Fears of oppression were confirmed when the British suspended the NY legislature for violating the Quartering Act.

• Nonimportation agreements were revived, but were less effective because the tax was light, indirect, and colonists could find cheap smuggled tea.

Tea Tax/Boston Massacre (3)

• By 1768, the breakdown of law and order due to smuggling and protests led the British to land troops in Boston.

• Redcoats were taunted by the colonials.

• March 5, 1770: a crowd of about 60 colonists set upon 10 redcoats who fired without orders – 11 colonists killed or wounded.

• Trial: only 2 soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter, defended by __________ __________.

Committees of Correspondence (p. 130)
• By 1770, George III was more desperate to assert the authority of the crown: replaced Prime Minister Townshend with _______ _________.

• North led Parliament to repeal the Townshend duties (in one year they had only collected £295), but left offensive tax on tea to keep principle of taxation in place.

• Resistance was further kindled by Samuel Adams, the “Penman of Revolution.”

Committees of Correspondence (2)

• Adams organized local “________________ of ____________________” in Boston, spread to all MA.

• Purpose: to spread information to encourage opposition to British policies.

• 1773: VA set up a CofC as a standing committee in the House of Burgesses to share information with other colonies. Soon every colony did the same.

• These committees evolved into the 1st American “Continental” congresses.

Tea Brewing in Boston (p. 131)

• By 1773, the boycotts were weakening and the tea tax was being paid because the legal tea was cheaper than smuggled tea.

• However, the British __________ __________ Co. had too much unsold tea, were facing collapse, so London gave them a monopoly on American tea supply, which made tea even cheaper.

• Some Americans felt the British were trying to get them to accept the principle of taxation by bribing them with cheap tea.

Tea Brewing in Boston (2)

• None of the tea was ever sold by the British in America:

• In New York and Philadelphia, mass demonstrations forced the ships to return.

• In Maryland, colonists burned the ships (and tea).

• In Charleston, intimidated local merchants refused to accept the tea.

Tea Brewing in Boston (3)

• In Boston, Royal Governor Hutchison was determined to enforce the law, but his leaked private letter confirmed the suspicions of radical colonials that the British were conspiring to abridge their historic rights.

• Colonists disguised as Indians dumped chests from 3 ships into the harbor (Dec., 1773).

• After “______ __________”, reconciliation was very unlikely: colonial actions and British responses would now lead to conflict.

The Intolerable Acts (p. 132)

• 1774: In response, Parliament passed a series of laws to punish Massachusetts, especially the Boston Port Act – closed the harbor until damages were paid.
• Other “________________ Acts” included restrictions on town meetings, trying British soldiers accused of killing colonials in Britain, and a new Quartering Act requiring Americans to potentially house British troops in their homes.

The Intolerable Acts (2)

• 1774: At the same time, Parliament passed the __________ Act, which gave the ethnic French in Canada the right to keep their traditions (incl. Catholicism), and extended the border of Quebec all the way to the Ohio River (southern border of modern Ohio).

• While good for the Canadians, this law angered American colonists – set precedent for limited representation, no jury trials, and expanded Catholicism while snatch land away from American colonies.

Bloodshed (p. 133)

Responses to the Intolerable Acts:

• Other colonies rallied to support Boston with food shipments, etc.

• 1774: A __________________________ was summoned in Philadelphia to redress grievances. 55 delegates came from 12 colonies (no GA), incl. S. Adams, J. Adams, Washington, Patrick Henry. Socializing of delegates melted away colonial frictions.

Bloodshed (2)

• Under the influence of J. Adams, the Congress drew up a Declaration of Rights, and created The ________________ (called for complete boycott of British goods and was the 1st step to a written constitution for the colonies).

• They agreed to reconvene in May, 1775 if their grievances were not addressed.

• The American petitions were rejected by Parliament.

Bloodshed (3)

• Colonists were harassing violators of The Association, collecting muskets, and their militias were openly drilling.

• April, 1775: British sent troops from Boston to ____________ & Concord to seize gunpowder and arrest Samuel Adams & John Hancock.

• “Minute Men” (having been warned by Paul Revere) refused to disperse at Lexington, and 8 colonists were killed.

Bloodshed (4)

• At Concord, the Redcoats were forced to retreat by American militiamen. During the march back to Boston, Americans swarmed the British troops, killing 70 and injuring 300 (called the “shot heard ‘round the world”).

Imperial Strengths/Weaknesses (p. 135)

British Strengths:

• 3:1 population advantage
• Huge advantage in wealth & naval power

• Professional army of 50,000

• Money to hire mercenaries (“__________”)

• 50,000 American loyalists as well as Indians to fight on their side

Imperial Strengths/Weaknesses (2)

British Weaknesses:

• Some troops had to be diverted to Ireland.

• Inept leadership (George III, Lord North).

• Divided: some did not want war (Pitt, _________ cheered American victories)

• Military leaders were 2nd rate, and they had difficulties with supplies.

Imperial Strengths/Weaknesses (3)

British Weaknesses (2):

• To win, the British had to conquer the Americans in order to impose their will on them: a draw would be a colonial victory.

• Operating 3000 miles from home.

• Colonies were huge, and had no urban nerve center which, if conquered, would cripple the colonies.

• Time was on the colonies’ side (demographics, rapid population growth)

Colonial Strengths/Weaknesses (p. 136)

Colonial Strengths:

• Outstanding leadership (Washington, Franklin)

• Possible help from ___________ (European officers like Lafayette)

• Defensive fight

• The Colonies were self-sustaining due to the agricultural economy and self-reliant people.

• Moral advantage of belief in a just cause

Colonial Strengths/Weaknesses (2)

Colonial Weaknesses:

• Rebels were badly organized (The Continental Congress was basically just a debating society, and grew weaker as the war went on).

• Jealousy among “sovereign” colonies and between sections.

• No metallic money, so had to print money which depreciated badly.

A Thin Line of Heroes (p. 137)
• Military supplies, e.g. firearms, gunpowder, very low (led to French Alliance).

• Army often lacked food, clothing. E.g. at ________________, Winter ‘78-’79, soldiers went without bread for 3 days, 2800 men lacked shoes or clothes.

• American militiamen were poorly trained and often unreliable (Only 7/8000 “regulars” were well-trained by the end of the war, helped by German Baron von Steuben).

A Thin Line of Heroes (2)

• Blacks served on both sides. About 5,000 mostly free blacks from the North served in colonial armies.

• The British offered freedom to slaves who served, and evacuated 14,000 at war’s end.

• American morale was undermined by colonial merchants profiting from trade with the British.

• Actually, only a minority of colonials identified with the cause of independence.