Chapter 5
Toward Independence: Years of Decision
1763-1820
Imperial Reform, 1763-1765

• The Great War for Empire 1754-1763 led to England replacing “salutary neglect” with _________________. Why?

The Legacy of War

Disputes over Trade and Troops

• Exposed the ineffectiveness of royal governors
  • Sharing powers
  • Revenue Act of 1762
• Victory led to shift in peacetime policy-
• Who were the British concerned with?
  • French
  • Native Americans
  • Proclamation of 1763
The National Debt
- Costly troops
- What was the solution?
  - Land or consumers
    - Tobacco, salt, sugar, beer, distilled spirits
- Enforcement of coast patrol
- British reformers (Radical Whigs) condemned rotten boroughs

George Grenville: Imperial Reformer
- New revenue from America
- Currency Act of 1764-

The Sugar Act-
- Replaced widely ignored Molasses Act of 1733
- Little support in America. Why?

Constitutional Conflict
- Violators of all custom offenses would be tried by vice-admiralty court
- Real issue was the growing power of the British
- “no taxation without representation”
  - Virtual representation
An Open Challenge: The Stamp Act

- Stamp Act of 1765-
  - The first great imperial crisis
- Quartering Act-
- “Imperial reform”-
The Dynamics of Rebellion, 1765-1770

• Americans had faced an all out attack on their institutions only once before in 1686, when James II had unilaterally imposed the Dominion of New England.

• Now colonial autonomy was in greater risk because:

Politician Protest and the Crowd Rebels

• American politicians condemned Grenville and King George III’s support of the Stamp Act.

The Stamp Act Congress

• In 1765 in New York City delegates challenged the Stamp and Sugar Acts.

• What was the method?

• The Sons of Liberty in protest destroyed tax collectors’ private property and businesses.

• Patriot leaders such as John Hancock and John Adams, encouraged mobs and instigated violence.

The Motives of the Crowd

• Riots against impressment, low priced British imports, and Stamp Act
The Ideological Roots of Resistance

- Americans rooted their resistance in three political ideologies
  - 1. English common-
    - Magna Carta (1215)
  - 2. Enlightenment-
    - John Locke “natural rights”
    - Montesquieu “separation of powers”
  - 3. English political tradition
    - Commonwealth era (1649-1660)
    - Glorious Revolution (1688-1689)

Parliament Compromises, 1766

- New prime ministers and British merchants were “accommodationist”.
  - Trade instead of taxes
  - Objected to Stamp Act
  - Lord Rockingham repealed the Stamp Act and lowered the duty on the Sugar Act
Charles Townshend Steps In

• New prime minister Charles Townshend created Townshend Act of 1767-
• Purpose:
• Revenue Act of 1767-
• Restraining Act of 1767-

America Debates and Resists Again

A Second Boycott and the Daughters of Liberty
• Boston and New York merchants began a new boycott
• Women became crucial in nonimportation movement through production of ________.
  • Daughters of Liberty
• Sons of Liberty extended boycott movement by....

Britain Threatens Coercion
• MA assembly wrote a letter opposing the Townshend duties
  • Effect:
Lord North Compromises, 1770

- A series of harsh winters and dry summers in England had cut grain output and raised food prices.

Nonimportation Succeeds

- Boycotts and American exports gave the colonies a surplus
- Prime minister Lord North began to question taxing exports
  - Result:
    - Boston “Massacre” 1770

Sovereignty Debated

- Outspoken Patriots like Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, and Samuel Adams concluded that the British ruling elite was determined to exploit the colonies for its own benefit.
- Kings ruled from afar
The Road to Independence

A Compromise Repudiated

- In Boston, Samuel Adams inspired other towns to form committees to support colonists rights

The East India Company and the Tea Act 1773

- Tea Tax was passed to offset debt by East Indian Company
- The EIC tea would still be cheaper than smuggled Dutch Tea.
- Boycott?

The Tea Party and the Coercive Acts

- Boston Tea Party 1773-
- Coercive Acts/”Intolerable Acts”-
  -
  -
  - Massachusetts Government Act-
  - Quartering Act-
  - Justice Act-
- Quebec Act-
  - Effect
The Continental Congress Responds

• The 1774 Continental Congress met in Philadelphia
  • Declaration of Rights and Grievances
  • Repudiated the Declaratory Act of 1766
  • Threat of aggressive boycotts

• Effect:

The Rising of the Countryside

• Conscription
• Taxes
• Threat of losing land

Loyalist Americans

• “introduce anarchy and disorder and render life and property here precarious”
• Quakers and Germans
• slaves
Armed Resistance Begins

- In September 1774 General Thomas Gage ordered British troops to seize Patriot armories in Charlestown and Cambridge. Following that raid 20,000 militiamen mobilized to safeguard other MA military depots.
- Minutemen were organized for defense in Concord.
- In April 1775 Gage dispatched seven hundred soldiers to capture colonial leaders and supplies in Concord.
- Paul Revere and other Patriots warned the militiamen of there arrival.
- Battles at Lexington and Concord ended with British retreat.

The Second Continental Congress Organizes for War

- As the Continental Congress met in May 1775, British troops attacked and defeated American forts on Breed’s Hill and Bunker Hill near Boston.
- Goals of Second Continental Congress:
Congress versus King George

- Despite divisions among Congress, King George issued a Proclamation for Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition
- Patriot forces easily defeated British forces in Montreal
- Merchants cut off all exports to British lands

Fighting in the South

- Skirmishes between Patriot and Loyalists broke out in VA
- Controversial proclamation in the south:

Thomas Paine’s Common Sense

- In 1776 Paine’s published Common Sense
- “monarchy and hereditary succession have laid the world in blood and ashes”
- Effect:
Independence Declared

- On July 4, 1776, the Congress approved the Declaration of Independence
- Thomas Jefferson
- Republicanism and vilification of King George III
- European Enlightenment
- “self-evident” truths: “that all men are created equal”
- “unalienable rights” of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”
- Popular sovereignty