

FROM EMPIRE TO
INDEPENDENCE,
CHAPTER 6 NOTES,
PART 3

Townshend Revenue Acts

- ⦿ Taxes in Britain were lowered in the 1760s and so revenue had to come from the colonies
- ⦿ Nonimportation: Early Political Boycott
 - Main weapon of the resistance
 - Boycotts of English products (lead, glass, paper, paint, tea)
 - 1769 Virginia banned the importation of goods in the Townshend Acts
- ⦿ Repealed in March of 1770

Boston Massacre

- Confrontation in March 1770
- Crowd of colonists taunted soldiers at the Customs House
- Colonists threw snowballs and rocks
- Soldiers fired into the crowd
- 7 colonists were killed

Governor Hutchinson

- ⦿ 1772-announced that his salary and those of other appointed Massachusetts officials would be paid by the crown
- ⦿ Result
 - Executive and Judicial branches are independent of elected representatives
 - Boston formed a “Committee of Correspondence” to communicate with other colonies
 - Virginia appointed a committee as well

Boston Tea Party

- Parliament passed a Tea Act in 1773
- Townshend Act tea tax really hurt the colonial market for tea, and the East India Company which imported tea
- British Plan:
 - Sell tea to the colonies cheaply, but with a small tax
 - Radicals in Boston did not buy it—they saw it as a plot to get unconstitutional taxes

What happened at the Tea Party

- 50 to 60 men dressed as Indians boarded a tea ship and dumped 45 tons of tea into the harbor
- Britain was outraged

Intolerable Acts-Spring 1774

- ⦿ Parliament was angry about the Boston Tea Party and passed the Intolerable Acts (America) also known as the Coercive Acts (Britain)
 - Massachusetts Government Act
 - Delegates in the colony's legislature now appointed by the King
 - Town meetings limited to once-per-year
 - Administration of Justice Act
 - British officials protected from colonial courts

More parts to the Intolerable Acts:

⦿ Quartering Act

- Legalized housing of troops at public expense (even in private homes)

⦿ Quebec Act

- Permanent government for territory taken from France in Seven Years' War
- Government was authoritarian—ruled by the King's appointed men
- Colonists saw this as their future

First Continental Congress 1774

- ⦿ Delegates from colonies met in Philadelphia
 - Samuel Adams
 - John Adams
 - Patrick Henry
 - George Washington
- ⦿ Delegates wanted to avoid war
- ⦿ Used more boycotts—organized committees in every town:
 - Committees of Observation and Safety

Late 1774-1775

- ⦿ September 1774
 - General Gage (new governor of Massachusetts) sent troops to seize cannon and ammunition from the Massachusetts Militia
- ⦿ Minutemen were organized in response
- ⦿ King George III believed it was time for war

Spring of 1775

- Patrick Henry gave his famous speech—"give me liberty or give me death!"