



*Causes of the  
American  
Revolution*

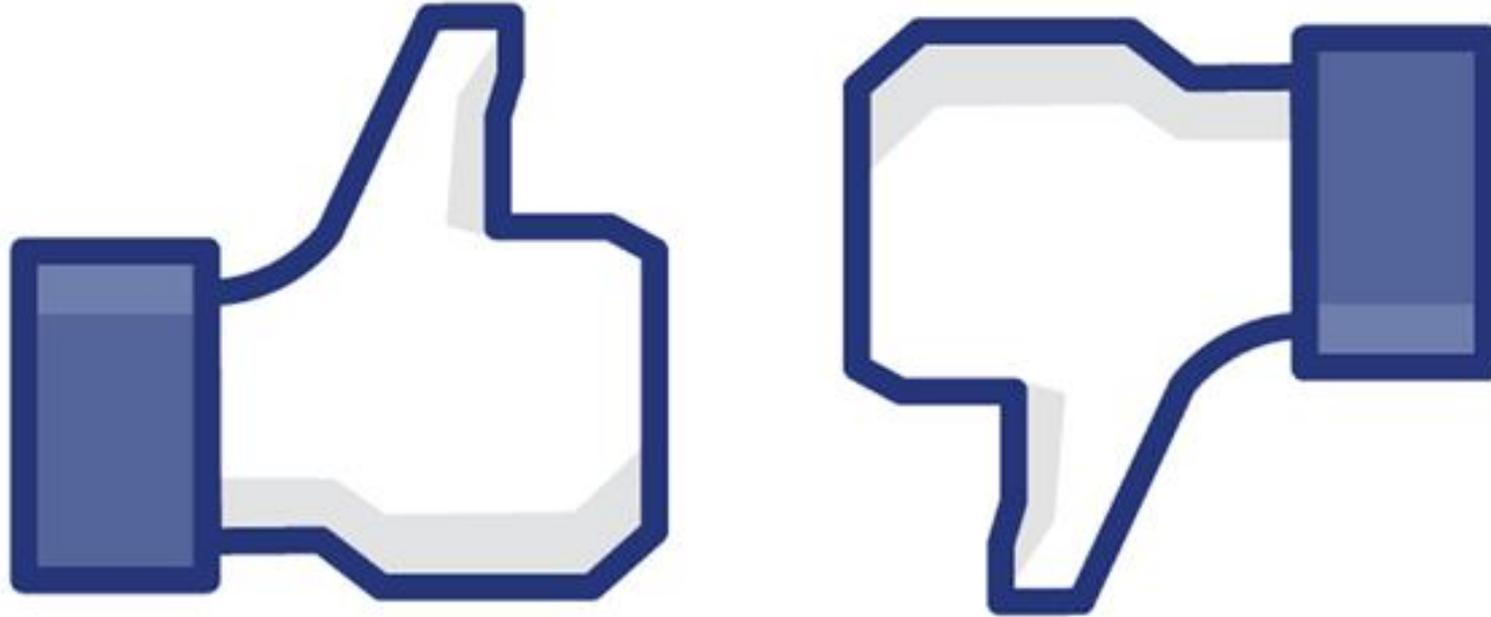
DONT TREAD ON ME

## Gadsden Flag

*I recollected that her eye excelled in brightness, that of any other animal, and that she has no eye-lids—She may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance.— She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders: She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage.—As if anxious to prevent all pretensions of quarreling with her, the weapons with which nature has furnished her, she conceals in the roof of her mouth, so that, to those who are unacquainted with her, she appears to be a most defenseless animal; and even when those weapons are shown and extended for her defense, they appear weak and contemptible; but their wounds however small, are decisive and fatal:— Conscious of this, she never wounds till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of stepping on her.—Was I wrong, Sir, in thinking this a strong picture of the temper and conduct of America?*

Benjamin Franklin - 1775

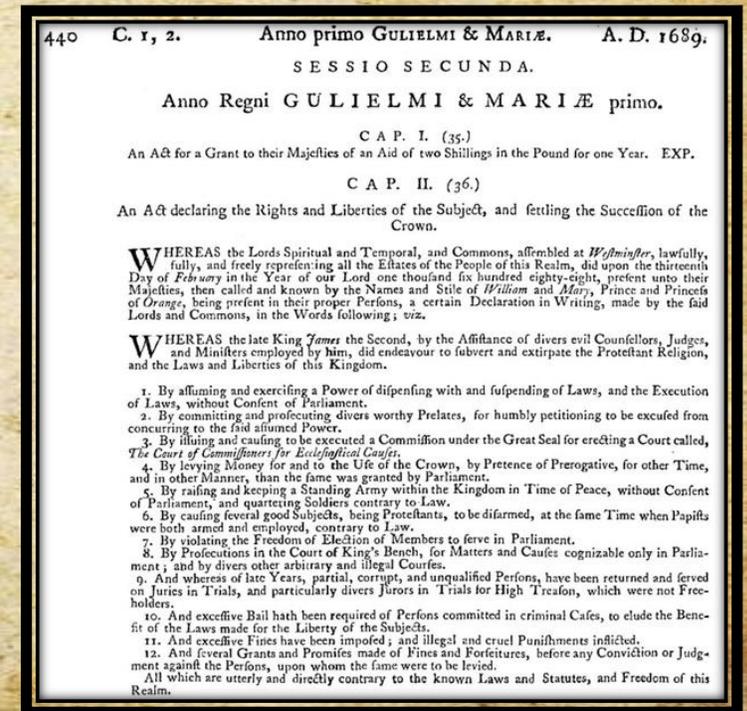
# Agree or Disagree



The colonies should have to pay taxes to recoup money from the French and Indian War.

# English Bill of Rights

- James II of England is overthrown in the Glorious Revolution because of his political/religious corruption
- William and Mary are crowned in 1688
- **Bill of Rights** is passed December 16, 1689
  - Creates separation of powers
  - Limits power of monarchy
  - Enhances freedom of speech
  - Empower Parliament as supreme ruling body
  - Outlines basic natural rights
- English colonists bring these ideas with them to North America



# *French and Indian War*

- 1754 – 1763: The last war of a long feud
- French want to preserve land for hunting/trapping while English want to clear cut to farm
- English gains land but colonists are not allowed to move into it – **Proclamation of 1763**
- England doubles debt to 140,000,000 pounds



# *Proclamation of 1763*

- War debt prevented crown from being able to afford protection to settlers
- Native Americans v. English colonists (refer back to farming v preservation)
- Colonists already settled west of line were upset
- Colonists wanting to expand to great farm land were upset



# *Sugar Act*

- Passed in 1764
- Taxes molasses, sugar, luxuries, and textiles
- Specifically aimed to raise money
- Colonists felt it would hurt businesses
- "No taxation without representation"
- Non-Importation Agreements are made = Less money for Britain



# Currency Act

- Passed in 1764
- Ended use of currency produced in colonies
- Uses standardized gold for trade
- Most colonists did not have gold to trade
- Beginning of planned protests



# *Quartering Acts*

- Several passed – focusing on 1765 and 1766
- Colonial governments were forced to provide barracks and supplies to troops
- Standing armies existed (refer back to Bill of Rights) as they had nowhere to go – no wars, too expensive to transport back
- Soldiers were put up in inns, abandoned buildings, shops, and even homes



# *Stamp Act*

- Passed in 1765
- Legal documents (wills, marriage licenses, etc.), newspapers, almanacs, playing cards, etc. was required to have a stamp affixed to show tax was paid.
- Lawbreakers were tried in **vice-admiralty courts** – No jury exists
- Stamp Act Congress convenes

# CHECKPOINT



- ✓ Colonists are becoming more worried about taxes
- ✓ Loyalist and rebel groups are beginning to form as events are discussed between people
- ✓ Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty form in 1765 in Boston
- ✓ Colonies most affected are in New England – southern colonies cared less
- ✓ Stamp Act Congress *successfully* repeals Stamp Act... for now.
- ✓ Writing of **Declaration of Rights and Grievances**

# *Declaratory Act*

- Passed in 1766
- Parliament declares they have the authority to pass taxes “in all cases whatsoever”
- Continued protests and colonists begin to tar and feather tax collectors soon after

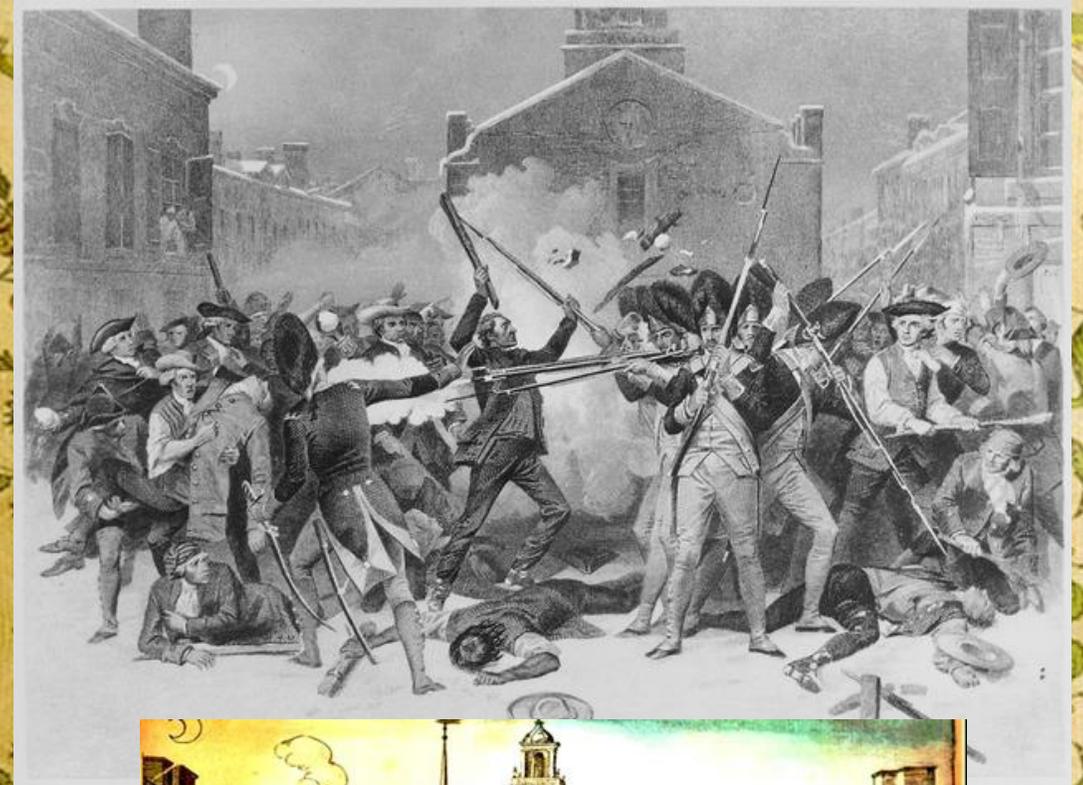


# *Boston Massacre*

- March 5, 1770
- Previous Days: A young boy is “accidentally” killed by a customs officer when a group of boys harasses the home.
- Angry colonists harass soldiers in Boston Square – taunting, swearing, challenging, and allegedly
- assaulting them.
- “Someone” yells FIRE and the “massacre occurs” – 5 colonists are killed

# *Boston Massacre*

- John Adams represents soldiers in court
  - All but 2 are acquitted
  - Colonists become extra angry
- 
- \*Note media bias



# Tea Act

- Allowed British East India Co. to ship tea to America without paying heavy tax in England
- This let them undersell colonial importers and smugglers
- Colonial merchants are upset and public demands tea be returned
- Leads to Tea Party
- \*Britain's imports were actually cheaper than Caribbean Tea – colonists were still upset; why?



# *Boston Tea Party*

- Governor of MA refused to send tea ships back to England.
- Men dressed as Indians boarded ships and dumped tea into Boston Harbor.
- Around 92,000 lbs of tea was dumped valued at \$1 million
- King George III and Parliament are angry



*1774 Boston Boys throwing tea into the harbour*

## *Intolerable Acts*

- Punish Boston for Tea Party.
- Closed port of Boston until tea was paid for.
- Government of MA was brought under King's direct control.
- British officials accused of crimes were tried in England, not in colonies.
- New Quartering Act.
- First Continental Congress met (1774).
- Declared acts unconstitutional and called for complete non-importation of British goods (**boycotting**)
- Parliament declared MA to be in rebellion.
- People began to arm and organize militias.

# *First Continental Congress*

- Met to protest Intolerable Acts in 1774
- Demanded acts be repealed and colonists be given more power in making decisions.
- Unified colonists.
- Prepared a list of grievances/requests to King George III (similar to Stamp Act Congress)

# *Conciliatory Resolution*

- An "attempt" made by Parliament to end tension
- Colonies that supported the common defense and provided support for civil government and justice would be relieved of taxes and duties.
- This caused more splitting between colonists
- Rejected by the Continental Congress



# *Lexington and Concord*

- April 19, 1775
- Paul Revere's famous Midnight Ride takes place
- British General, Thomas Gage, was ordered to collect weapons in Concord to prevent armed riots
- Two battles ensue after "shot heard around the world" and British are forced to retreat to Boston
- Colonists feel that they have a chance although they are extremely outnumbered and outskilled to start.

