

A Worsening Crisis



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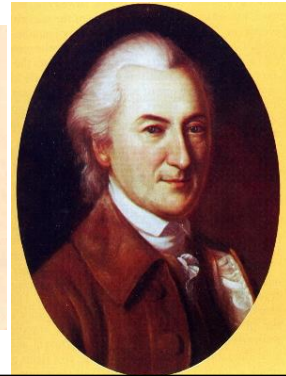
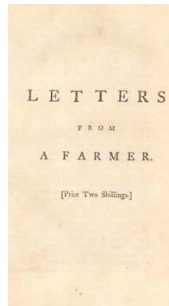
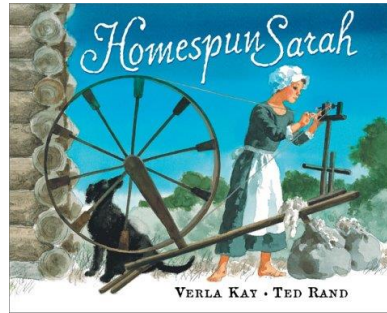
Townshend Acts

- 1767
- Levied new taxes on imports (glass, lead, tea)
- New revenue used to pay salaries of royal governors
 - Whose power does that curtail?

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Colonial Protest

- Colonists boycott British goods
 - Women play big part
 - “homespun” clothes vs. storebought
- *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*
 - John Dickenson
 - Parliament could not levy taxes for revenue, but could regulate trade
 - **However, he used moderate language, stating “anger produces anger”**



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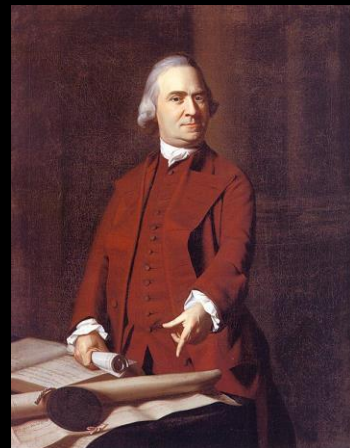
- Some protesters preferred anger
- The Sons of Liberty organized protests
 - Argued that Parliament could not legislate at all in the colonies
- Protests from colonial assemblies in MA & VA led the crown to dissolve the assemblies

To the PUBLIC.

AS I am convinced that my refusing to store my Goods, was wrong; I do promise and consent, That they shall be deposited in the public Store with other Goods which were imported contrary to the *Non-importation Agreement*;---which I hope will appease the Minds of my injured Fellow Citizens, and convince them that I do not regard sacrificing my private Interest for the *Good of the Public.*

Simeon Coley.

New-York, 21st July, 1769.
Afternoon, 2 o'Clock.



4

1770 -- Boston Massacre

- Presence of British “redcoat” soldiers in Boston was a source of constant tension
- **On a snowy night a crowd taunted and threw snow, ice, and rocks at a British sentry on duty, who soon called for reinforcements**
 - **Supposedly a runaway mulatto slave named Crispus Attucks was at the head**
- **The crowd continued to bait the British, and eventually a soldier was knocked down**
- The soldiers panicked and opened fire
 - Killed five and wounded eight



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On the Death of Five young Men who was Murthered, March 5th 1770. By the 29th Regiment.

SOON OF LIBERTY BROADSIDE THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

- At trial, the British soldiers were defended by Boston lawyer John Adams (Sam's cousin)
 - His persuasive arguments convinced the jury to acquit all but two, who were convicted of manslaughter & branded

8

- Incident shocked the colonies and London
 - Soon Parliament repealed all the Townshend Acts except the one on tea
 - By 1770 the nonimportation agreements were hurting the British economy, and Parliament wanted to reduce tension



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1772

- *H.M.S. Gaspee*, patrolling for smugglers, was burned by colonists
 - **The ship accidentally ran aground, and the crew started taking food from locals...the locals struck back**
 - **Investigation bypassed RI courts**
- Sam Adams convinced Boston to form a committee of correspondence
 - Members communicated with protest leaders in other colonies



10

Tea Act

- Prime Minister allowed the East India Tea Company to sell its tea to the colonies without paying any duty

– **Means cheaper tea for colonists, which is a good thing, right?**

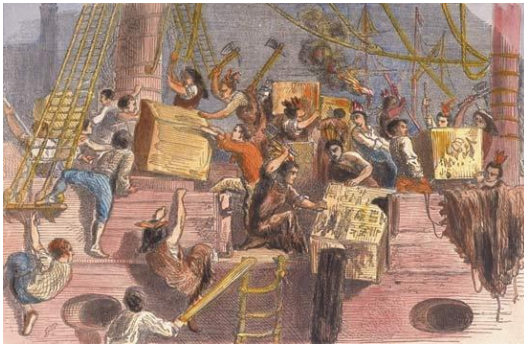
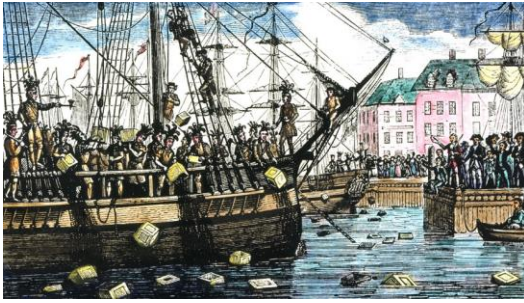


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- Committees of Correspondence argued that Parliament was trying to buy our acquiescence with cheap tea
- Act also let British merchants undercut colonial competition
 - Like smugglers selling Dutch tea



12



Boston Tea Party

- Group of sixteen men dressed as Mohawk Indians boarded merchant ships in Boston harbor & tossed 342 chests of tea overboard

– **Adjusting for current inflation & exchange rates, it was worth about \$1.7 million.**

13

- Many Americans (especially merchants) were horrified by the destruction of property
 - Benjamin Franklin called it a violent injustice & urged Boston to reimburse the ship owners for their cargo



14

Coercive Acts (aka Intolerable Acts)

- Boston harbor closed until lost tea reimbursed
- British officials accused of crimes tried in Britain
 - **What lawyer might have been particularly offended at this?**
- New Quartering Act forced local authorities to house redcoats, in private homes if necessary
- All unapproved town meetings illegal
 - **MA under the military control of General Thomas Gage and 4,000 redcoats**

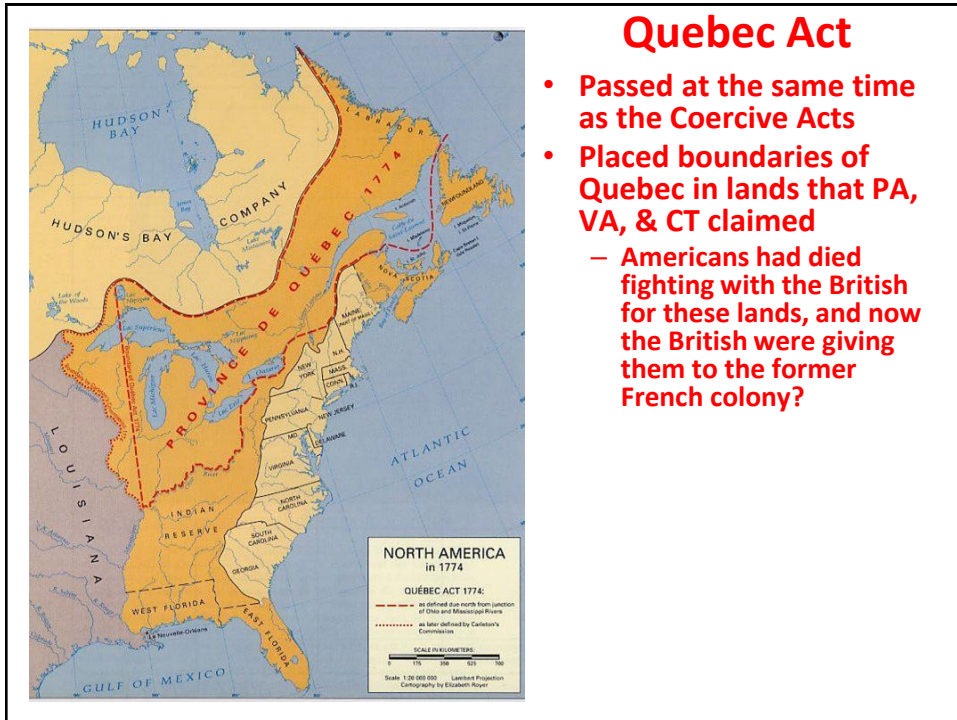


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- **Coercive Acts designed to punish and isolate Boston**
- **Instead they galvanized colonial resistance**
 - **If the British could do that to MA then they could do it to any other colony**
 - **Now Americans fear permanent tyranny; revolution is inevitable**



16



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First Continental Congress

- Delegates from 12 colonies met to respond to Coercive Acts
 - met in Philadelphia in Sep. 1774
 - GA didn't attend
 - Congress agreed to vote as colonies, not individual delegates

19

- **Continental Association recommended that every county, town, and city form committees to enforce a boycott of British goods**
 - Such committees became the organizational & communications network for the Revolution
 - Thousands participated throughout the colonies
 - Besides enforcing the boycott, they served in militias, attended town meetings, and exerted pressure on loyalists



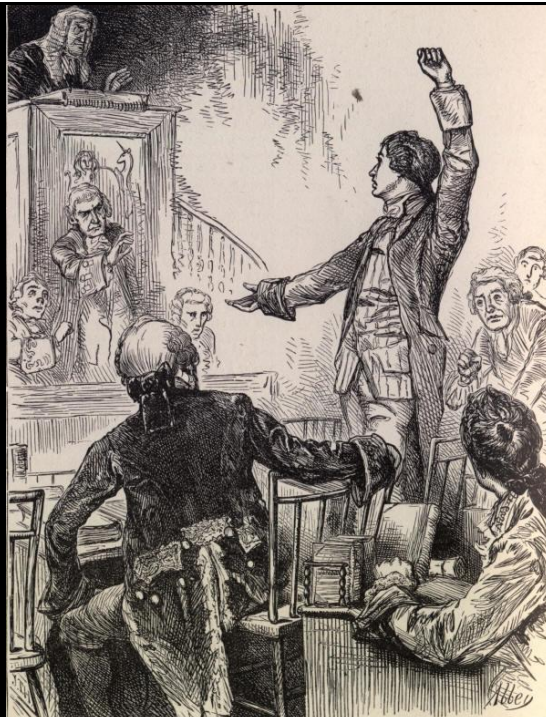
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- In London, King George fumed and declared that the “New England colonies are in a state of rebellion”
- Parliament agreed
 - British believed that sovereign power could not be shared.
 - Parliament could not abandon its authority in one area without abandoning it altogether.
 - There would be no more negotiation with the rebellious colonies.

21

- Most Americans thought the British would relent as they had during the Stamp Act Crisis
- In the VA assembly Patrick Henry disagreed and urged that local militias prepare for combat
 - “It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, ‘Peace, Peace’ but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”



22