

CHAPTER 7

THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION, 1763–1775

1. Introduction to the Revolutionary Period (pp. 122–123)

In the introductory section, the authors state that Americans were “reluctant revolutionaries,” but that their unique conditions and distance from Britain had imbued them with new ideas that made them especially sensitive to threats to their liberties. *** Before reading the rest of the chapter, why do you think that many otherwise contented colonists might have been ready after 1763 to resist Britain’s efforts “to enclose its American colonists more snugly in its grip”?

2. Mercantilism (pp. 123–125)

a. Mercantilist theory states that a country’s power is directly proportional to the amount of gold and silver that can be amassed in its treasury. *** How is it that exporting more than one import leads to amassing more bullion in the treasury?

b. *** Under mercantilist theory, how does the colonial role of supplying raw materials to the mother country and buying its finished products contribute to making the mother country rich?

c. List two main features of the Navigation Laws that were passed to implement mercantilist theory.

(1)

(2)

d. From the perspective of the Americans, list two main negative and two main positive aspects of the Navigation Laws.

(1) Negative Aspects:

(2) Positive Aspects:

3. Stamp Tax Uproar (pp. 125–128)

a. Why did the British feel justified in beginning to levy taxes on the colonies after 1763, including the new Stamp Tax instituted by Prime Minister _____?

b. What do you think are the three most significant reasons that Americans objected to the Stamp Tax? *** If you list “Taxation Without Representation,” do you really think they would have been happy to pay the tax if they had had representation in Parliament?

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

c. What two measures did the colonists take to resist the Stamp Tax which, though the principle of absolute sovereignty was reaffirmed in the _____ Act, was ultimately repealed in 1766?

- (1)
- (2)

4. Townshend and Tea (pp. 129–134)

a. In 1767, New British Prime Minister Charles _____ decided to raise colonial revenues another way, by taxing the importation of certain products, most notably tea. The ill-timed Townshend Acts produced an uproar, including the formation by Samuel _____ of Committees of _____, one of the first efforts to link the colonies together in a common cause, and the famous _____ Tea Party of December 1773. *** Looking at the issues, do you feel that it was the economic impact of these taxes (after all, a large share of what you now pay for gas is actually a tax used by the government to build roads—and no one objects) that bothered the Americans or certain broader principles? What do you think was really bothering the Americans?

b. *** Which seems more significant to you in promoting rebellion throughout the colonies (not just in New England) after 1774, the “Intolerable Acts” (passed to punish Boston after the Tea Party) or the Quebec Act (see the map on p. 133), extending the province of Quebec to the Ohio River? Why?

5. Continental Congress of 1774 and Bloodshed (pp. 134–135)

a. A Continental Congress has just met for the first time in 1774, sent a petition to the King, and agreed on a complete boycott of British goods. *** Can you think of an enlightened response the British Parliament might have made which might have defused the situation and avoided war by giving the colonies a greater degree of home rule while preserving British sovereignty? What might this response have entailed?

b. To exert authority over the area outlying Boston, British troops marched on _____ and _____, Massachusetts in May of 17____ where the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired.

6. The Power Line-Up (pp. 135–139) As you read the final section, list the major strengths and weaknesses of the two sides who were about to enter a military conflict.

British

Americans

(1) Strengths:

(2) Weaknesses:

VARYING VIEWPOINTS

Underlying Causes of the Revolution

It is important to understand how the views of historians have changed over time about the factors influencing critical events like the American Revolution. It is especially interesting to see how the concerns of the present influence the interpretations of the past. Look at the last two paragraphs of this section and summarize the views about the causes of the Revolution of:

1. Bernard Bailyn (ideological and psychological factors):

2. Gary Nash (social and economic factors):

*** Which of these two viewpoints do you think more accurately reflects the emphasis of the authors of your textbook?
Why?

CHAPTER 7 TERM SHEET

The Road to Revolution

Pages 122–123

Republicanism

Radical Whigs

Pages 123–125

Theory of “Mercantilism”

Navigation Law of 1650

“Enumerated” Products

Nullification of Laws (“Royal Veto”)

Pages 125–128

George Grenville

Sugar Act (1764)

Quartering Act (1765)

Stamp Act (1765)

“Taxation Without Representation”

“Virtual Representation”

Stamp Act Congress (1765)

Nonimportation Agreements

Sons of Liberty

Stamp Act Repeal (1766)

Declaratory Act (1766)

Pages 129–134

“Champagne Charley” Townshend

Townshend Acts (1767)

Boston Massacre (1770)

Crispus Attucks

King George III

Lord North

Samuel Adams

Committees of Correspondence (1772)

British East India Company

Gov. Thomas Hutchinson

Boston Tea Party (1773)

Edmund Burke

Repressive/Intolerable Acts (1774)

Boston Port Act

Quebec Act (1774)

Pages 134–135

Continental Congress (1774)

John Adams

Declaration of Rights

The Association

Lexington and Concord (April 1775)

John Hancock

“Minute Men”

Pages 135–139

Hessians

Loyalists

Marquis de Lafayette