

Parliament the american colonies, ranging from taxes



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Parliament imposed a variety of different acts on the American Colonies, ranging from taxes on glass products to forcing people to house soldiers. After the colonies had enough of the infringement of Parliament's power, they rebelled against the mother country and won.

The Americans, aside from winning their freedom, also ran into some big-time debt. In the decades leading up to the Revolutionary War, England was fighting wars in the New World when they didn't have the money to cover the expenses of the wars. To pay for the costs, Parliament imposed the Sugar, Stamp, Currency, Townshend, Tea, and Coercive (Intolerable) Acts on the colonies. Those acts taxed, sugar and paper products, lead, tea, glass, paint, legal documents, and imports. The colonists were upset about all of these taxes because they didn't have a say in what taxes were enacted upon us. The representatives of the colonies legislatures from a little over half of the British Colonies met up at New York's City hall to figure out what they could do about these tyrannical actions.

The other half of the colonies didn't want to disobey the British constitution, so they did not meet up with the other delegates. (NCC Staff 2016) The group came up with two documents stating their position on the taxes Parliament had opposed. The documents said something along the lines of, " You cannot tax us without our colony's representatives approving of the taxes.

" Parliament didn't care about what the colonies wanted, so they passed the Declaratory Act. An act that said they could tax whoever and whatever, whenever they wanted. A year after Parliament passed the Declaratory Act, they passed the Townshend Acts. This was the start of the rising tensions

between the colonies and Britain. The Townshend Acts were indirect taxes or an import tariff. Glass, lead, paints, paper, tea, and other imports were taxed under this act. (It also took away colonial legislature, so Parliament could tighten their hold on the colonies even more. They started the Writs of Assistance, which were search warrants, so they could search for smuggled goods in boats, houses, business, and other properties.

In response to the Townshend Acts, Samuel Adams said, "In all free states, the constitution is fixed; it is from then, that the legislature derives its authority; therefore, it cannot change the constitution without destroying its own foundation." (History.com Staff 2009) Samuel Adams meant that Britain can't govern their territory from so far away. It's the local government that knows what the people need and they are the ones who should provide. The colonists were angrier now that the taxes hadn't been repealed yet, especially the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty was a group created by Samuel Adams and John Hancock. They were a rebellious group of male lawyers, merchants, and craftsmen who tarred and feathered tax collectors to protest the Stamp Act. (Creating America 2005) They would hold huge meetings for everyone to hear, to get everyone who listened in the mood to rebel against all the oppressive acts that Parliament was imposing, and when the Tea Act got passed was when they really kicked into high-gear with (sometimes violent) protest.

(History.com Staff 2009) The Sons of Liberty were also the ones responsible for the Boston Tea Party. They tried to be civil at first, going to the Massachusetts governor's house and demanding that he send the ships back.

When the governor refused, they boarded three ships dressed as Mohawk Indians on the night of December 16, 1773.

On those ships was tea from the East India Tea Company, that was the only tea that the colonies could get, this was a British effort to save their valuable spot in India. The Sons of Liberty took a mere three hours to toss all the tea into the Boston Harbor. When it was all said and done, the damages amounted to about 704, 000 pounds or 1 million dollars. (Rebecca Beatrice Brooks 2014) Parliament was stunned by these actions and soon enacted the Coercive Acts or the Intolerable Acts as the colonists referred to them as.

This was the turning point in the road to American freedom, where everyone feels the effects and will do whatever they can do to help out for the greater good of the colonies. We soon won our independence from our country of origin and had to, literally, start building our new country from the ground up. We agreed on George Washington to be our first president of the United States of America, and he appointed Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury. While Hamilton thought that having some debt is good, he also saw that we were going to be in an enormous amount of debt, especially for a new nation.

To correct this, he proposed the Hamilton Financial Plan. His plan was a three-point plan; pay off war debts, mainly from France and the Netherlands; create a national bank to manage spending, borrowing, and repayment of borrowed money; and raise internal revenue by increasing taxes. Hamilton's plan worked for a little bit and was a great plan. Even though our debt went up at a slower rate, our debt just piled up from there; 77. 1 million in 1791,

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83 million in 1800, and 83.7 million in 1825. (Treasury Direct Staff 2010) Parliament was trying to pay for war expenses through taxes and tariffs that were imposed on the colonies.

The colonists didn't think that the taxes were fair, so they rebelled, smuggled, and went against everything they had ever known, for independence and a better life for future generations. The first cabinet that George Washington had appointed to office had great ideas for this new nation. Those ideas turned out to be very effective for a new, infant country.