

"When a certain great king, whose initial is G,
 Shall force stamps upon paper, and folks to drink tea;
 When these folks burn his tea and stamp paper, like stubble,
 You may guess that this king is then coming to trouble."—Philip Freneau

POLITICAL CAUSES FOR BREAKING WITH BRITAIN.

1. England's neglect of the colonies



2. Taxation without representation

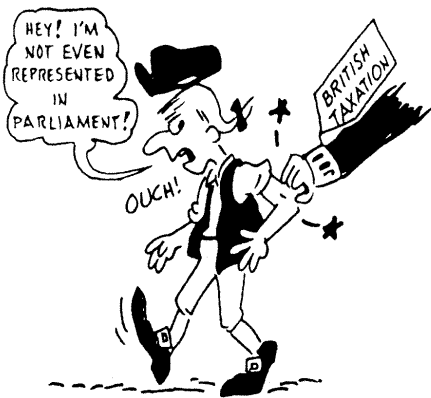


3. Limitation of Individual rights

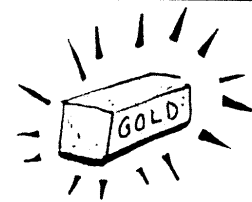


ECONOMIC CAUSES FOR BREAKING WITH BRITAIN

4. Taxation



5. Mercantilism



ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC POLICY

- 1) Gold in the treasury makes a nation strong.
- 2) So a nation must have a favorable balance of trade: more gold coming in than going out.
- 3) Therefore, a nation must regulate its trade to sell more than it buys.
- 4) Colonies exist for the trade benefits of the mother country.

6. Trade restrictions

Britain regulated trade with the colonies for her own benefit through navigation, or shipping, laws that forced the colonists to trade mainly with Britain.



7. Economic power

But England failed to enforce the navigation laws, and the colonists traded with whomever they pleased—and made money doing so.



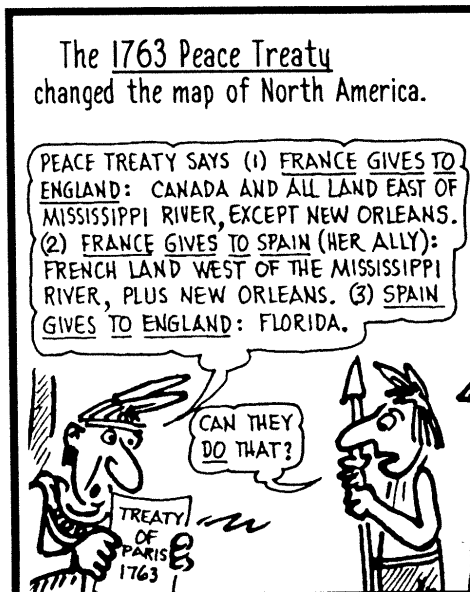
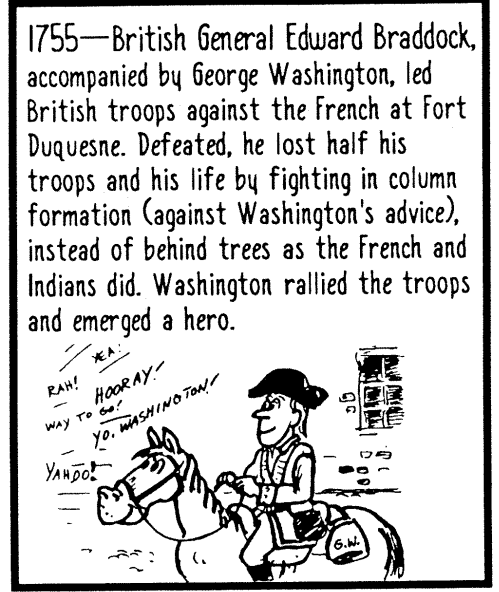
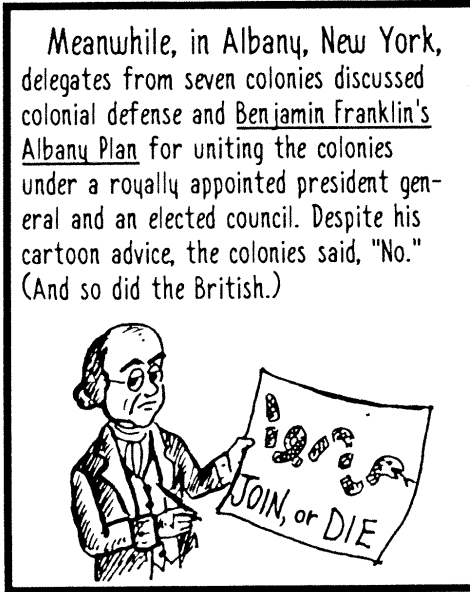
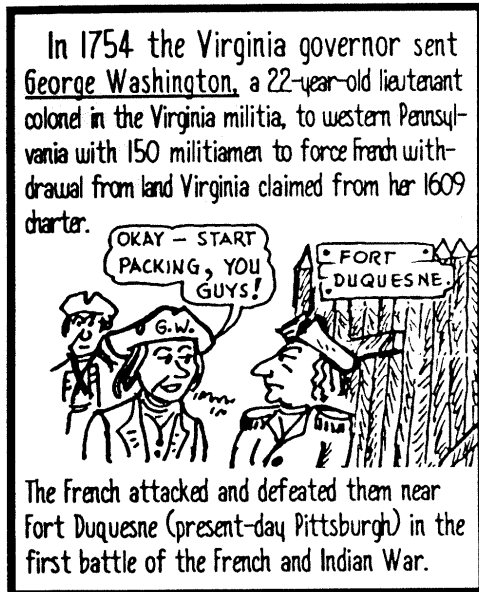
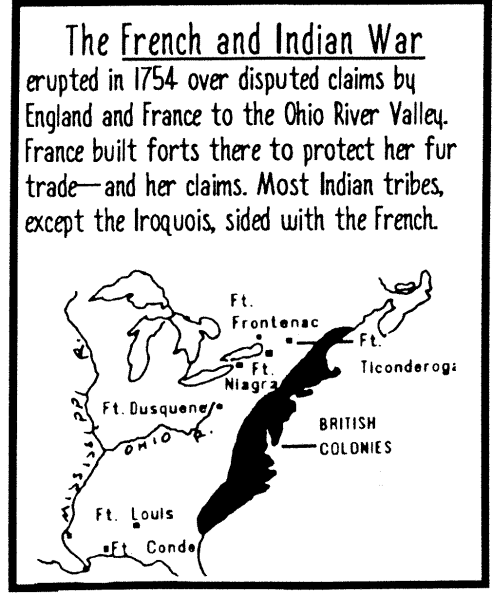
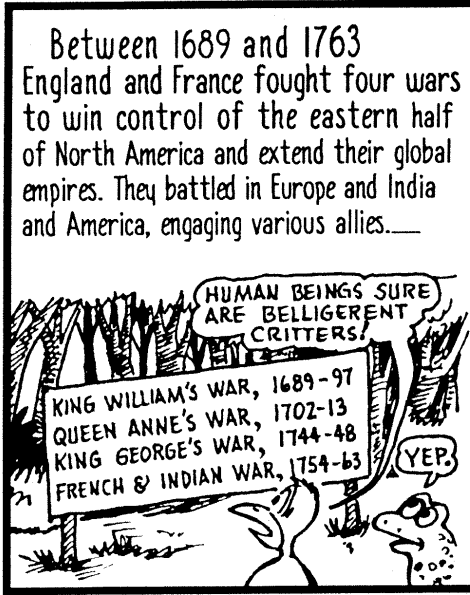
8. Free enterprise

The colonists grew accustomed to free enterprise (free, unrestricted trade). When Britain finally began enforcing the navigation laws, it was too late!



47 — STRUGGLE FOR NORTH AMERICA: THE FRENCH & INDIAN WAR

Remember the 3-way race for North America among Spain, France, and England? One contestant, France, now loses.



"What do we mean by the Revolution? The war? That was no part of the Revolution: it was only an effect and consequence of it. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people, and this was effected from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen 1492 years, before a drop of blood was shed...."—John Adams 1763-74 2000

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR CHANGED EVERYTHING.

Until 1763 Britain had paid little attention to her colonies, 3,000 miles distant. Taking advantage of this salutary (beneficial) neglect, the colonists had exercised the liberties of Englishmen and become increasingly autonomous (self-governing), while remaining proud, loyal British subjects.

After 1763 victorious Britain tightened control of her vast North American empire (almost doubled in size) in a series of actions that seemed fair to Britain, unfair to the colonists, and that led directly to the American Revolution.

As you read what happened, analyse the cause and effect relationships in the sequence of events, and then use your decision-making skills to judge what you would have done 1) as a colonial leader and 2) as Parliament.



In 1760 George III (age 22) became king of Great Britain. Although not a tyrant, he took his mother's advice to rule as well as reign (unlike easy-going George I and George II).



Insecure, vain, headstrong, and eventually insane, George III and his King's Friends faction in Parliament were ill-equipped to deal with British-American problems following the French & Indian War.



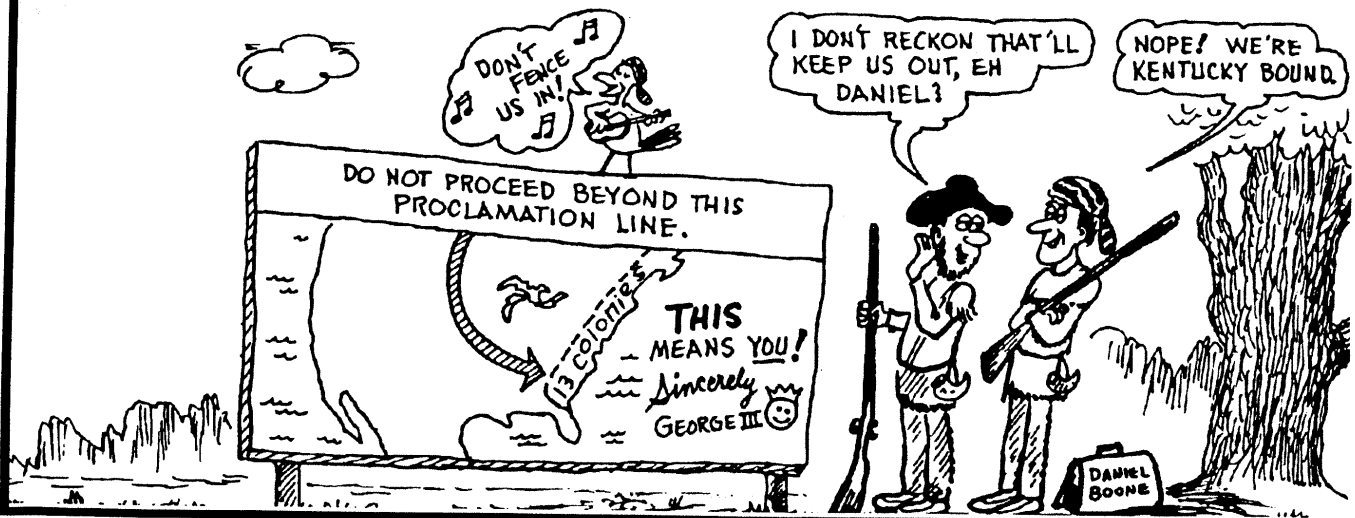
PROBLEM #1: FRONTIER DEFENSE—How could England keep peace along the colonial frontier with Americans raring to cross it and settle Indian lands? In 1763 Chief Pontiac led Indians in the Great Lakes area in a year-long war against such land-hungry colonists.

BRITISH ACTION

AMERICAN REACTION

1. PROCLAMATION LINE OF 1763: would bar westward settlement on Indian lands and, in turn, protect the colonists from invading Indians;
2. 10,000 BRITISH TROOPS: would protect this frontier line, with the colonists to pay one-third of the \$1,000,000 annual cost.

"UNFAIR! Our original charters included land west of that line. And we don't want a standing army during peace time!"



PROBLEM #2: TAXES...and then one thing led to another!

THE COST OF BEATING THE FRENCH HAS DOUBLED OUR NATIONAL DEBT!! WHO'S GOING TO PAY THIS BILL? ENGLISHMEN ARE ALREADY PAYING HUGE TAXES: 20%.



King George

LET'S MAKE THOSE UNGRATEFUL COLONISTS PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE. WE FOUGHT THE WAR TO FREE THEM FROM THE FRENCH MENACE, AND THEY SMUGGLED GOODS TO THE FRENCH THE WHOLE TIME! AND THEY STILL SMUGGLE TO AVOID PAYING DUTIES. LET'S TAX THEM! IT'S ONLY FAIR.



Prime Minister George Grenville

CAN WE DO THIS? PARLIAMENT HAS ALWAYS LIMITED ITS TAXING OF THE COLONIES TO EXTERNAL TAXES—ON IMPORTED GOODS. IT HAS NEVER PASSED INTERNAL TAXES. THESE ARE LEFT TO THE COLONIAL ASSEMBLIES, AS A BASIC LIBERTY OF ENGLISHMEN.



House of Commons member Edmund Burke

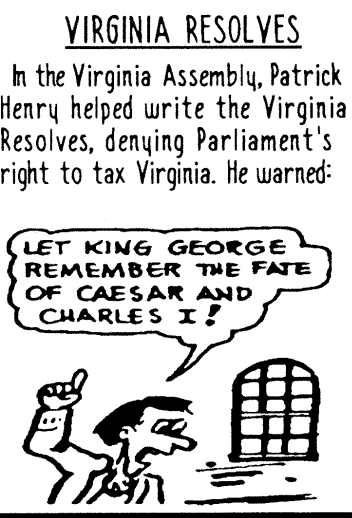
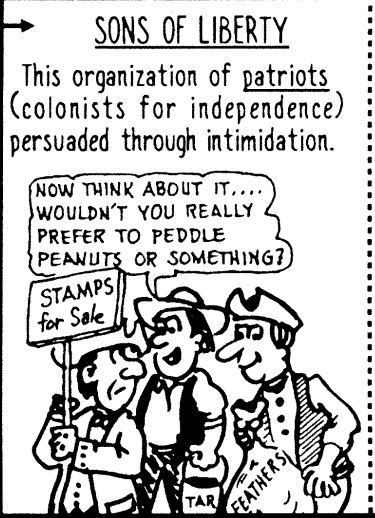
BRITISH ACTION

COLONIAL REACTION

1764—SUGAR ACT
Taxed sugar and molasses—not just to regulate trade (as before) but to produce revenue for Britain. Smugglers would be tried in admiralty courts without juries.



1765—STAMP ACT
Required revenue stamps for all publications and official documents.
Englishman Isaac Barre warned his fellow Parliamentarians, "Americans are sons of liberty and won't surrender their rights without a fight."
He was right!



1765—QUARTERING ACT
Required the colonists to quarter (house and feed) British troops in America.



1766—Repealed STAMP ACT but passed **DECLARATORY ACT**: Parliament could make laws binding colonies "in all cases whatsoever."



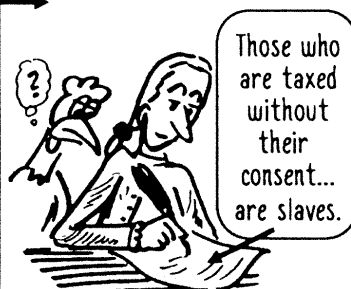
BRITISH ACTION

1767—TOWNSHEND ACTS

1. Revenue duties on tea, glass, lead, paper, paints
2. Strict customs enforcement, including Writs of Assistance (non-specific search warrants)—

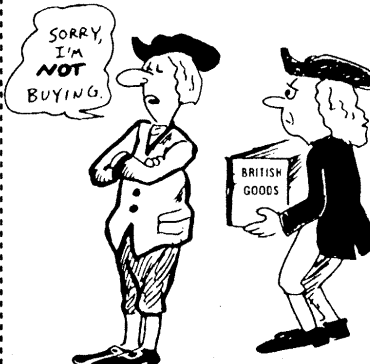
Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Treasury), boasted he could raise revenue through duties, because Americans accepted these external taxes to regulate trade as legal.

"Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania," by John Dickinson, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, argued that external taxes to regulate trade were illegal if used to raise revenue. This influential pamphlet urged repeal of the Townshend Acts.



AMERICAN REACTION

Sam Adams and fellow radicals in the Massachusetts legislature circulated letters to all the colonies, urging them to boycott (refuse to buy) British goods.



Colonists revived James Otis' 1761 claim that Writs of Assistance violated their English rights to sanctity of the home: not to have their homes searched without a warrant.



1768—BRITISH TROOPS

(4,000) were assigned to Boston to ensure orderly customs collections.

1770: THE BOSTON MASSACRE

Bostonians resented the British troops and often taunted them. On March 5 a rowdy gang of men and boys threw snowballs and rocks at a British soldier guarding the Boston customhouse across from the Statehouse. Captain Thomas Preston and a few soldiers came to his aid. An unknown person shouted "Fire!"—and the soldiers did, killing 5 colonists including Crispus Attucks, an African-American. Attucks, a former slave, was the first person to die for the nation's liberty.



1770—TOWNSHEND DUTIES

repealed—on all items except tea

On March 5 (the same day as the Boston Massacre) Lord Frederick North, the new Prime Minister, recommended this action because of pressure from British merchants who had suffered a 38 percent cut in exports from the colonial boycott.

The tea duty was retained to show that Parliament and King George III were still boss.

Two Boston Sons of Liberty used the shooting incident as propaganda to stir revolutionary fervor: 1) Sam Adams, by publicizing it as a massacre of innocent victims, and 2) Paul Revere, with his engraving of British soldiers firing on unarmed men and women, entitled "The Bloody Massacre." Prints were sent to all the colonies.



Boston lawyer John Adams (Sam Adams' cousin) courageously defended Preston and his men in their murder trial, for he believed they fired in self defense. (John Adams later became the second president of the U.S.) All were acquitted except two who were convicted of manslaughter, branded on the thumb, and released.



BRITISH ACTION

1770-73—A calm period as King George III and Lord North avoided further provocation of the colonists

1773—TEA ACT

In a costly blunder, Parliament tried to bail out the (British) East India Company—near bankruptcy because of 17,000,000 lbs. of surplus tea—by giving it a monopoly of the American market.

Parliament hoped the colonists would start buying British tea again (instead of smuggling Dutch tea) when they saw the new bargain prices.

AMERICAN REACTION

1772 — COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE

Meanwhile, patriot Sam Adams helped Boston and 80 other Massachusetts towns organize Committees of Correspondence to spread word of any new British aggression. Other colonies followed suit, and by 1774 an intercolonial information network existed that would unite the colonies in fighting for their liberties. If trouble arose—and it soon did—they would be ready.



1773 — THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

The Tea Act united America's conservative merchants (outraged by the monopoly) and radical patriots (angered by the tea tax) in resisting Great Britain. In New York and Philadelphia, tea ships were forced back to England.

Then, on December 16, about 60 Bostonians disguised as Mohawk Indians (believed to be Sons of Liberty, led by Sam Adams) war-hooped onto three tea ships in Boston Harbor and threw overboard all 342 chests of East India Company tea.



1774—COERCIVE ACTS (called "INTOLERABLE ACTS" by the colonists)

An angry King and Parliament decided to teach all the colonies a lesson by punishing Massachusetts through four acts, which:

1. closed Boston's port until the city paid for the tea,
2. deprived Massachusetts of self-government and placed it under the military rule of British General Thomas Gage,
3. allowed British officials to be tried in England if charged with crimes while enforcing British laws,
4. issued a stronger Quartering Act for all the colonies.

1774—QUEBEC ACT

1. extended Quebec's boundaries to Ohio and Mississippi rivers —land claimed by Mass., Conn., N.Y., and Va.,
2. gave Quebec's Catholic Church preferred status and sanctioned Quebec's French law of trial without jury. (Would America be next? Some colonists feared so.)

FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, Sept. 5-Oct. 26, 1774

Blasting the Intolerable Acts as tyrannical, Committees of Correspondence rallied support in all the colonies for beleaguered Massachusetts and arranged for an unprecedented gathering: a Continental Congress. Fifty-six delegates, from every colony except Georgia, met in Philadelphia to chart a unified response to Britain. The results:

1. an Association, pledged to boycott British trade,
2. adoption of Suffolk Resolves, declaring the Coercive Acts unconstitutional and urging Massachusetts to form its own government and collect its own taxes and to form and arm a militia,
3. a Declaration of Rights and Grievances, stating that the colonists were defying Britain because their LIBERTIES AS ENGLISHMEN had been violated.

