

Bellringer: D6

Look at this license plate; what do the words:

“TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION”

mean to you? Does this sound like a **good** or **bad** thing? Explain:



U.S History: Ch. 5.1

Taxation Without Representation

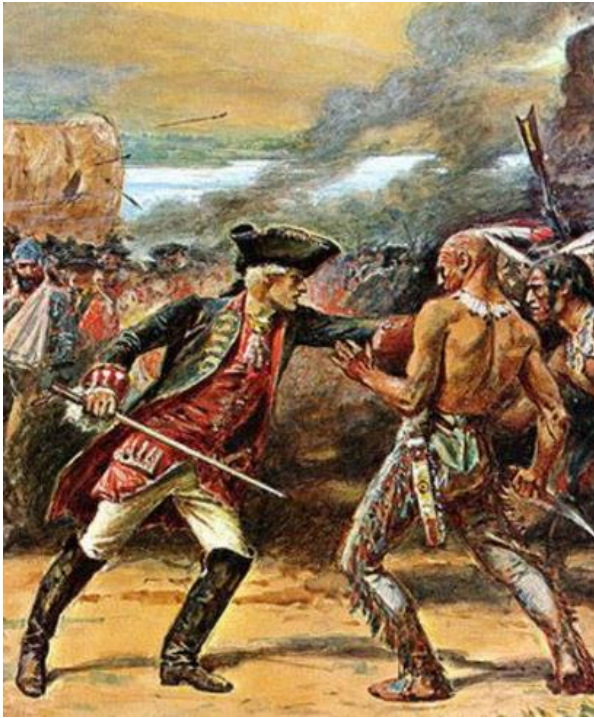
Relations with Britain

After winning the **French and Indian War**, Great Britain controlled much more of North America than before.

To limit settlement of much of this area, the **Proclamation of 1763** was issued. Some of the land was organized into provinces (like Quebec, Florida, etc.), but most importantly it **prohibited colonists from moving west of the Appalachian mountains**.

VID





Reasons Behind the Proclamation

Why do this? Several reasons:

It allowed the government to **control immigration** to the region, thus hopefully allowing the government to **avoid conflict** with the **natives**

They wanted to keep the **colonists** along the coast, where it was easier to **control** and **keep an eye on them**

The **fur trade** (which the French had taken advantage of) was still very **lucrative** at this point, and keeping that area reserved for that was important to British officials.



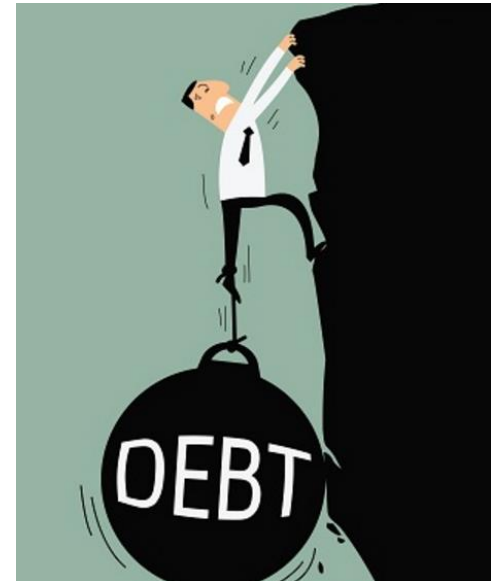
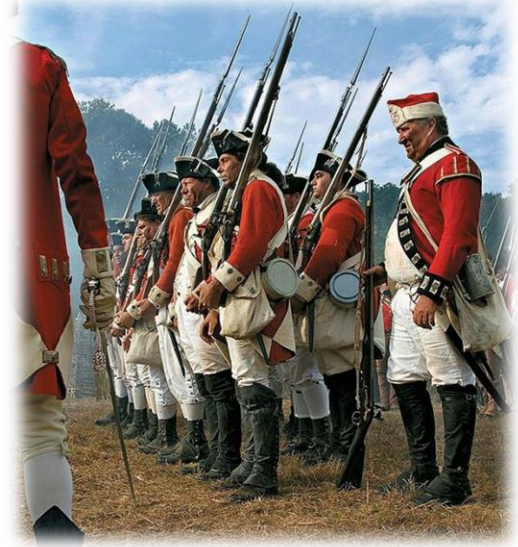
Upset with the *Status Quo*

Additionally, the British government decided to station **10,000 British Regulars (Troops)** in the American colonies to make sure everything went according to plan.

The colonists were alarmed at this, and felt that they were being treated like **terrorists**, and their **freedoms were being infringed** (interfered with).

The worst part was yet to come. Desperate to get **revenue** to pay off the **huge debt** incurred by fighting the French and Indian War, the British government decided that it was only fair that the **American Colonies pay for their fair share**, as the war had protected them.

Thus, they made **plans to tax** the Thirteen Colonies to pay for it. This would not go over well with the American colonists. [LINK](#)



Britain's Trade Laws

No Smuggling for You!

1763: George Grenville becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain. Determined to reduce the debt, **and** to make the American colonies fall in line, he orders that **smuggling** be cracked down on. Smuggled goods = lost revenue for debt payment, and he didn't like that at all.

Grenville also knew that **American juries** were sympathetic to smugglers, and often found them innocent, even when it was clear they were guilty. So, he convinced Parliament to pass a law saying that such smuggling cases would be tried by a **vice-admiralty court**, or a **military court**, which would be decided by British officers, **not** American colonists.

Additionally, Parliament authorized **Writs of Assistance** in 1767, which **gave customs officers permission to enter any place to look for smuggled goods**.

How did the American Colonists like this, do you think?



Wait, you don't like me barging into your house looking for smuggled goods?



Too bad! This Writ of Assistance let's me go anywhere I want! HAHA!

More Trouble...

Now that they could significantly slow down smuggling, Grenville got the **1764 Sugar Act** passed. This actually lowered taxes on **imported molasses**, the main type of sugar used then.

He hoped that it would encourage people to buy sugar legally, instead of smuggling it as they had before. It also allowed customs officers to **seize smuggled goods** without going to court.

As you can imagine, these laws angered the colonists. They felt that their rights were being violated. For instance, the **Writs of Assistance** violated the **right to privacy** in their home. Vice-admiralty courts violated their **right to trial by jury**.

Also, in the Vice-admiralty Courts one was basically **guilty until proven innocent**, which went against British Law, that said everyone else was **innocent until proven guilty**.

James Otis, a colonial lawyer from Boston, argued against these new laws. Most colonists agreed that they shouldn't be taxed without a say in Parliament, yet they had no voice.



"No part of [England's colonies] can be taxed without their consent. Every part has a right to be represented!"





The Stamp Act

In 1765, Parliament passed the **Stamp Act**, to increase tax revenues yet again! This meant that **everything printed** (newspapers, pamphlets, even playing cards), **had to have an official stamp**, which cost **money** to get from British Officials. [VID](#)



This affected just about everyone. And people had two main beefs with it: Parliament taxed the colonies directly, **meddling in their own affairs**. Secondly, **colonial legislatures were ignored** and had no say in the matter.

Generally speaking, the American colonies had been allowed **to do things as they wished**. That had now changed, and this left them feeling taken advantage of.

Stamp Act Reactions

The colonists were outraged. **Patrick Henry** for instance convinced the Virginia House of Burgesses to pass a **resolution** (or formal expression of opinion) that “*The only and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes*” lay with them, NOT with Parliament.

In **Boston**, **Samuel Adams**, created the **Sons of Liberty**, a group of disgruntled colonists that protested the new laws. These groups spread to other colonial cities as well.

They burned or hung **effigies** (or fake examples of) tax collectors to show how they felt about them, raided tax collectors’ houses, and marched in demonstrations saying only Americans should tax Americans.



Repeal of the Act...Kind of

9 of the 13 colonies created the **Stamp Act Congress**, which protested the Stamp Act, and they urged Parliament to repeal the law. Many people **boycotted** British goods, to show how mad they were, and signed **nonimportation documents** saying they would do so.

As a result, in March 1766, the **Stamp Act** was repealed. However, the same day, the **Declaratory Act of 1766** was passed, stating: "***Parliament has the right to tax British colonies in all cases***". A showdown was coming! [VID](#)

In 1767, the **Townsend Acts** were passed. These acts applied only to **imported goods**, like glass, tea, paper, lead, etc...but they were things the colonists **had** to import and couldn't make domestically. This sent the colonists into an angry fury, and they resumed their tactics of boycotting, effigy-ing, etc.

Women even joined now, creating the **Daughters of Liberty**, and they all urged each other to make their own things to avoid importing British goods, and to make a point.

HW Reminder:

Create either an **Editorial Letter**, or a **Political Cartoon** that shows how you as a colonist feel about any or all of these taxes.

You may do this with a partner, or individually. **Due: T2D9**