

NEW MEASURES AND THE CONSERVATIVE COLONIAL STANCE, 1763-1773

I. Introduction

A. Following the close of the Seven Years' War in 1763, the colonial situation in North America had changed dramatically from that the colonists and the British government had faced only 7 years earlier. The French were completely thrown off the continent, and the Spanish held only those lands west of the Mississippi. The British controlled all the lands east of the Mississippi River, and they had control of Canada.

B. The colonists were very proud to be Englishmen and women; they were in fact apart of the most powerful Empire in the world. They were anxious to take advantage of their new gains, like the area over the Appalacian Mountains. At the same time however, they were also aware of the new opportunities and independence that the outcome of the war offered.

C. Like the colonists, the British government was excited about the great victories it had won all over the globe. However, it realized that measures would have to be taken to protect the new gains. At the same time, the British government faced the greatest debt it have ever encountered. In an attempt to protect its new gains, and get the debt under control, the British government sought to tighten its control over the colonies: to exercise the central control it had so long theorized about.

D. The response of the colonials to this attempt at centralization was conservative between 1763 and 1774. The colonials did not argue for independence, in fact they wanted the colonial system to remain as it had been for a century. They argued that the British Parliament was destroying the English Constitution by passing innovative new measures that violated the most basic principles of English liberty. The colonials were defending themselves not as Americans, but as British subjects that had rights under the English Constitution.

E. This conservative response failed because the English government viewed the Constitution as the constant creation of the Parliament. There was no written Constitution; the idea was that it was the body of law that had been passed in preceding years. Parliament could change its mind or exercise powers that had remained latent in the past.

II. British Actions Resulting from the Seven Years War, 1763-1764

A. Britain makes decision to tighten the new, large colonial system in North America.

B. Proclamation of 1763 [inherited by Grenville from Bute]

1. The British Government passed the Proclamation of 1763, which said that colonial settlement between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi river was illegal. Temporary settlement.
2. West of the Proclamation line was to be an Amerindian reserve.
3. Infuriated colonists who felt the area was what the war had been fought for. They wanted to move into the area.
4. Land speculators wanted to buy and sell the land for profit, many had already claimed areas, and their investment in the land would be worthless.

C. Left 10,000 regular troops in North American colonies to defend the frontier zones of the colonies. [inherited by Grenville from Bute]

“The reason given to Parliament on 4 March 1763 by the Bute ministry was France’s decision to maintain 20,000 troops in its West Indian colonies. This potential menace from Britain’s traditional enemy, and the need to control the new subjects of Canada, then estimated at 90,000 meant that the army would be garrisoned for the most part outside the 13 old colonies – in Canada, the Floridas, and the wilderness of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys. It is a long exploded myth that the British Army was in America to maintain military control over the settlement colonies. Nor was it to be the size of 10,000 men customarily stated. That was the establishment only for the transitional year of 1764. Thereafter it was 7,500 until further reductions took place from 1770.”

“The Bute ministry assumed that the cost burden of this army would be unacceptable to Parliament. Estimated in 1763 at 225,000 pounds, the average annual cost between 1763 and 1775 was to be 384,000 pounds. The announcement of the decision about a large American army was therefore coupled with a promise that after the first year the colonies themselves would pay for the American army.”

1. British troops intimidate the colonists
2. Still traditional British antipathy against a standing army, which was seen as a possible tool of tyranny by colonists.
3. Charles I and James II had attempted to establish royal despotism by their position as Commander in Chief of the Royal armed forces.
4. Troops not stationed on the frontier, Instead, they were garrisoned in cities on the Atlantic Coast.
 - a. British did this because the frontier was way too big to police.
 - b. However, colonists felt this was a sign that the troops were to be used to police them.

D. In addition, the British ministry tried to shift some of the financial burden of these costs to the colonists.

1. April 1764: The Sugar Act (American Revenue Act). [Grenville]

a. This was the first deliberate attempt to tax the colonies and to fulfill the promise of 1763 (that Americans would pay for their own protection).

b. Attempt to strengthen the largely ineffective Molasses Act (1733), which set a duty on imported molasses and sugar - products used to make rum in New England.

1) The Customs Board estimated the average annual revenue from all American customs to be a mere 1,800 pounds.

2) As for the Molasses Act of 1733, it had imposed what was intended as a 100 percent duty of 6 pence a gallon on the import of foreign molasses, used to make rum. This was evaded by smuggling and by collusion with the customs officers who usually charged about 10 percent of the duty.

3) Therefore the revenue had been around 700 pounds a year, instead of the 200,000 pounds to be expected from a trade estimated at eight million gallons.

4) "This state of affairs was found intolerable by a Prime minister whose guiding principles were strict adherence to legality and financial solvency."

b. This act cut the duty on imported molasses in half - from 6 to 3 pence a gallon. The prohibitive nature of the tax was dropped, Grenville and others knew the New Englanders needed the foreign molasses, but this act would be enforced.

c. This time, enforcement is taken from colonial courts and given to Vice-Admiralty Court, set up at Halifax Nova Scotia.

d. Also imposed new and higher duties on textiles, coffee, indigo, wine, and sugar.

e. Several issues at work here:

1) Colonists have to pay a tax they previously did not have to pay.

2) Colonists felt they were being deprived of an ancient British right: Trial by Jury.

3) Colonies now being taxed directly by Parliamentary, in which they were not represented.

f. No major response to the Sugar Act. James Otis did publish *The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved* in July 1764, which asserted the principle of no taxation without representation.

III. The Stamp Act Crisis, 1765-66

A. March 1765: Stamp Act passed by Parliament

1. This would be a tax on the sale of embossed paper on books, newspapers, magazines, receipts, legal documents, even cards and dice.
2. That the American colonies should, like Britain, pay stamp duties was an idea often proposed before 1763.
3. Grenville, the new Prime Minister, was opposed to the old system, by which the 26 colonies of North America and the West Indies taxed themselves. He believed that this procedure had not worked satisfactorily even in wartime, and rejected it.
4. So, this is a direct tax on the colonists. The proceeds were earmarked to defray the cost of maintaining 10,000 British regulars in America.
5. With the Sugar Act, the Stamp Act would cover only one-third of the annual army costs in the colonies, now being estimated at 350,000 pounds annually.
6. British government and taxpayers would pay other 2/3.
7. Colonials will collect the tax, but violations will again be tried in the Vice-Admiralty courts.

B. Problems with the Stamp Act

1. Stamp Act is, for the first time, a direct internal tax.
2. A particularly visible tax, which the colonists were not used to paying
3. Fell most heavily on influential peoples: Lawyers, Editors, Businessmen.
4. Represented a transfer of taxing power from lower houses of Assembly in the colonies to Parliament.

C. The Act is immediately unpopular and stirs a conservative, Whig response in the colonies of British North America

1. The most important issue of course was taxation without representation
2. The colonists recognized that through the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89 Parliament had won the sole authority to tax from the King, when William III agreed to the English Bill of Rights.
3. Parliament's right to tax was defended because it was a representative body.
4. British subjects firmly believed that "men's property must not be taken away without their consent, given either in person or by their representatives. . . . [P]roperty was not merely a possession to be hoarded and admired; it was rather the source of life and liberty. Without security for his property no man could live or be free except at the mercy of another. Property and liberty were one and inseparable, and without them life was not worth living"(Edmund Morgan, *The Birth of the Republic*, 16).
5. And so you see a leader in Virginia politics and society, George Washington saying: "A line should be drawn between Great Britain and the colonies clearly establishing our rights. We must either assert our rights or submit and become abject slaves like the Negroes over whom we rule with such arbitrary sway."
6. This was a **conservative response** based upon several principles
 - a. The colonials thought of themselves as Englishmen, who had English rights based on the English constitution: an unwritten understanding rooted in the British political tradition of Magna Carta (1215), the English Bill of Rights (1688-89), and English common law
 - 1) to be secure from unwarranted searches and seizures
 - 2) to face one's accusers in public
 - 3) to trial by jury of peers

- 4) to know charges against you
- 5) not to be held without trial
- 6) to consent to taxation
- 7) to be free to assemble peaceably
- 8) to publish without prior censorship (subject to libel prosecution)
- 9) to speak without prior restraint (subject to slander prosecution)

b. The colonials praised the English constitution and these rights

c. Their theory of government provided a basic reason for these rights: politics was nothing more than a perpetual battle between the passions of the rulers and the united interest of the people.

d. They saw an ever-present dichotomy between power and liberty.

e. If one gave up a right - even momentarily - that would set a precedent for the invasion of liberty by the ruler.

f. The colonists based their argument on the famous English Whigs of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, whose position is often called the radical country ideology.

1) Traditionally, country gentlemen and yeomen farmers dominated English life

a) They were morally and economically independent

b) Their government created and protected British liberty - triumphed over the threat of Stuart tyranny in the Civil War and Glorious Revolution

2) Recently, English life had become more commercial and English political power had become more centralized

a) Commercial: rise of banks, mercantile firms, stock markets, public debt (decline of religious concept of "usury"--that one could charge too much interest); new forms of wealth; new scale of wealth; new ways of receiving political favor

b) Political power concentrated--since 1688, the Crown in Parliament

c) These changes introduced new forms of corruption; new dangers for liberty. Standing armies, military trials (without jury), censorship of press or speech, or taxation without consent: these crimes against the constitution were seen by country leaders as the evil of the court - which had tied itself to new commercial wealth.

3) This idea comes down to the colonists through John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon, who wrote *Cato's Letters*. Said: when you see standing armies, when you see increased taxation, when you see people are losing their property without trial, then you know the people are losing liberty.

g. So, what you are going to see develop here is a conservative argument based on English rights and tradition.

7. 29 May 1765: **Virginia Resolves** passed by the House of Burgesses

a. Originally written by Patrick Henry who argued that the Stamp Act was unconstitutional, and that only the House of Burgesses had the right to tax Virginians. He ended his presentation of the resolutions with declaratory invective: "If this be treason, make the most of it."

b. Tempered by the House to simply declare the right of the colony to self-government.

c. Endorsed principle of no taxation w/out representation.

8. Virginia's resistance sparks the formation of the Sons of Liberty and Committee's of Correspondence

a. Sons of Liberty an underground organization - often sponsored and funded by wealthy - which used violence to force Stamp agents to resign and to force merchants to cancel orders for English goods.

b. Committee's of Correspondence connect the colonies through letter writing groups.

9. 8 June 1765: James Otis, in Massachusetts House of Delegates, suggests that all colonies must meet at an intercolonial Public Assembly.

10. Circular letter from Massachusetts to all other colonies, which leads to Stamp Act Congress.

11. 7-25 Oct. 1765: **Stamp Act Congress** meets in New York City.

a. 6 colonies sent representatives, 3 sent observers, and 4 sent no one.

b. In Stamp Act Congress Declaration, colonists assured George III of their undying loyalty.

c. The Stamp Act Congress also acknowledged "all due Subordination" to Parliament.

d. However, it argued that there was a "material Distinction in Reason and sound Policy, at least, between the necessary Exercise of Parliamentary Jurisdiction in general Acts, for the Amendment of the Common Law, and the Regulation of Trade and Commerce through the whole Empire, and the Exercise of that Jurisdiction by imposing Taxes on the Colonies."

1. There was a distinction in other words, between taxation and legislation, and the right to legislate did not necessarily include the right to tax.

2. Taxes were a gift, given by the people through their representatives, and consequently only a representative body could grant them.

3. Legislation however might be permissable to a government whatever its composition.

4. Parliament, because of the representative character of the House of Commons, had powers of taxation as well as legislation for Great Britain, but for the rest of the Empire, which was not represented in the House of Commons, Parliament had legislative powers only. (Edmund Morgan, *The Birth of the Republic*, 26).

e. Urges a boycott of all English imported goods, which is undertaken.

D. The British and the issue of taxation and representation

1. Thomas Whately, Treasury Secretary and author of the Stamp Act, defended the act by writing a 100 page analysis in which he said that the act was not a deviation from normal business. If it was not a deviation why not just say so? Why write 100 pages on the issue.

2. He argued that Parliament was and always had been an *Imperial* Parliament and thus could legislate anywhere the British King was in power.

3. Whately also claimed that the colonials had **virtual representation**: everyone in the empire is virtually represented by every member of parliament.

4. Whately writes: "the Inhabitants of the Colonies are represented in Parliament: they do not indeed chuse the Members of that Assmely; neither are Nine Tenth's of the Pople of Britain Electors . . . and yet are they not represented in Parliament? Is their vast Property subject to Taxes without their Consent? Are they all arbitrarily bound by Laws to which they have not agreed? The Colonies are in exactly the same Situation: All British Subjects are really in the same; none are actually, all are virtually represented in Parliament; for every Member of Parliament sits in the House, not as Representative of his own Constituents, but as one of that august Assembly by which all the Commons of Great Britain are represented(Greene, *Colonies to Nation*, 48-49).

5. Response to Whately by Daniel Dulany (who will remain a loyalist during the war). *Considerations on the Propriety of imposing taxes in the British Colonies* (1765)

6. He writes that "There is not that intimate and inseparable relation between the electors of Great-Britain, and the Inhabitants of the colonies, which must inevitably involve both in the same taxation; on the contrary, not a single

actual elector in England, might be immediately affected by a taxation in America, imposed by a statute which would have a general operation and effect, upon the properties of the inhabitants of the colonies. The latter might be oppressed in a thousand shapes, without any Sympathy, or exciting any alarm in the former. Moreover, even acts, oppressive and injurious to the colonies in an extreme degree, might become popular in England, from the promise or expectation, that the very measures which depressed the colonies, would give ease to the Inhabitants of Great Britain” (Greene, Colonies to Nation, 55).

E. Still, the British government is in a strange position. They need money from the colonies and feel the colonials should be willing to give, but the Stamp Act is not producing money and it is hurting the relations with the colonies.

F. Also important, the colonial boycott of English goods is badly hurting English merchants who have much power with Parliament. English merchants ship most of their exports to the American colonies; this has stopped and so the merchants pressure Parliament to end the Stamp Act.

G. 18 March 1766: Stamp Act repealed/Declaratory Act passed. (Same Day)

1. Declaratory Act almost unnoticed by colonists in the joy that followed repeal of Stamp Act.
2. Declaratory Act says that Parliament has the right to legislate to the colonies. There are no restrictions on Parliament whatsoever.
3. Even though Stamp Act is repealed, the constitutional issue has not been solved.

IV. The Townshend Duties and the Colonial Reaction

A. 29 June 1767: to make up for a shortfall of 400,000 pounds from a reduction of British real estate tax, Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend proposes a series of import duties (Townsend duties) to be levied in the colonies on commonly used articles like lead, paint, glass, and tea. It passes.

B. Townshend and his colleagues believed this series of taxes would work - where the Stamp Act had failed - because these duties were external (paid at port by merchants) not internal. Also, these duties, they said, were for the regulation of trade; they were not taxes.

C. Townshend duties go to pay for salaries of Royal Governors and judges.

D. The colonists do not see things the way the British do. They believed that this is what the Declaratory Act had meant, and that the issue was the same as it had been with the Stamp Act: taxation without representation.

E. The call to resistance was sounded by Pennsylvania lawyer **John Dickinson**, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies*.

1. In this famous pamphlet - first published as a series of newspaper articles - Dickinson presents his case that Parliament has the right to regulate trade but not tax the colonists:

a. Letter II.

“The parliament [of Great Britain] unquestionably possesses a legal authority to regulate the trade of Great Britain, and all her colonies. Such an authority is essential to the relation between a mother country and her colonies; and necessary for the common good of all. He, who considers these provinces as states distinct from the British Empire, has very slender notions of justice, or of their interests. We are all parts of a whole; and therefore there must exist a power somewhere to preside, and preserve the connection in due order. This power is lodged in the parliament.”(Jack Greene, From Colonies to Nation, 125)

“I have looked over every statute relating to [the economic regulation of] these colonies, from their first settlement to this time; and I find every one of them founded on this principle, till the Stamp-Act administration. All before, are calculated to regulate trade, and preserve or promote a mutually beneficial intercourse between the several constituent parts of the empire; and though many of them imposed duties on trade, yet those duties were always imposed with design to restrain the commerce of one part, that was injurious to another, and thus to promote the general welfare. . . .”(125)

“[In the Stamp Act and Townshend duties] we may observe an authority expressly claimed and exerted to impose duties on these colonies; not for the regulation of trade; not for the preservation or promotion of a

mutually beneficial intercourse between several constituent parts of the empire, heretofore the sole objects of parliamentary institutions; but for the single purpose of levying money upon us.” (126)

“This I call an innovation; and a most dangerous innovation. It may perhaps be objected, that Great-Britain has a right to lay what duties she pleases upon her exports, and it makes no difference to us, whether they are paid here or there.”(126)

“To this I answer. These colonies require many things for their use, which the laws of Great Britain prohibit them from getting any where but from here. Such are paper and glass.”(126)

“That we may legally be bound to pay any general duties on these commodities relative to the regulation of trade, is granted; but we being obliged by the laws to take from Great Britain, any special duties imposed on their exportation to us only, with intention to raise a revenue from us only, are as much taxes, upon us, as those imposed by the Stamp Act.”(126)

“Here then, my dear countrymen, rouse yourselves, and behold the ruin hanging over your heads. If you ONCE admit, that Great Britain may lay duties upon her exportations to us, for the purpose of levying money on us only, she then will have nothing to do, but to lay those duties on the articles which she prohibits us to manufacture - and the tragedy of American liberty is finished. . . .”(128)

“Upon the whole, the single question is, whether the parliament can legally impose duties to be paid by the people of these colonies only, for the sole purpose of raising a revenue, on commodities which she obliges us to take from her alone, or, in other words, whether the parliament can legally take money out of our pockets without our consent. If they can our boasted liberty is by a sound and nothing else.”(128)

b. Letter XII

“Let these truths be indelibly impressed on our minds - that we cannot be happy without being free - that we cannot be free without being secure in our property - that we cannot be secure in our property, if, without our consent others may, as by right, take it away - that duties imposed on us by parliament do thus take it away - that duties laid for the sole purpose of raising money, are taxes - that attempts to lay such duties should be instantly and firmly opposed - that this opposition can never be effectual, unless it is the united effort of these provinces . . .”(133)

c. Letter VII

“These duties, which will inevitably be levied upon us - which are now levying upon us - are expressly laid for the sole purpose of taking money. This is the true definition of taxes. They are therefore taxes. This money is to be taken from us. We are therefore taxed. Those who are taxed without their own consent, expressed by themselves or their representatives, are slaves. We are taxed without our own consent, expressed by ourselves or our representatives. We are therefore - SLAVES. A miserable tribe.”(133)

2. Said purpose of Townshend duties were NOT to regulate trade, therefore, a tax

3. Said Parliament did not have authority to tax the colonies.

F. Again Colonies respond with organized boycott of Townshend articles.

G. The boycott was highly effective: imports fell by £1 million.

H. With the Townshend Acts, the issue actually became more complicated than it had been with the Stamp Act.

1. British government makes it clear this tax will be collected: Smugglers will be tried in Admiralty courts (like with the Stamp Act), but this time the British move the British Customs Commission from London to Boston.

2. Customs Commissioners arrive in Boston in November 1767

3. In Birth of the Republic, Edmund Morgan calls these men a “band of harpies”(41), who seized on technicalities to seize ships and make 1/3 of the proceeds from the sale of the seized item.

4. They were notoriously corrupt.

Example: For instance, for a long time they allowed John Hancock, a rich Boston merchant, to register his ship's cargo and pay a duty for his trade at the time of departure from port. Technically, registering cargo and paying the duty was to happen before the ship was loaded. So, on June 10, 1767 - after Hancock had been following the old practice hitherto sanctioned by the commissioners - when the commissioners searched his ship Liberty and seized it

for violation of Townshend Acts, a mob arose backing Hancock. The commissioners were frightened and retired to Castle William, the fortress in the harbor, and called for British troops to be sent to Boston.

5. The complication in the end was: the British customs commissioners were corrupt, they were headquartered in Boston; Bostonians hated them and often fought with them; so, the British sent more troops to Boston to protect the customs officials.

V. The Boston Massacre (5 March 1770)

A. In late 1768 and early 1769, the British sent four regiments to stabilize Boston and protect the customs commissioners who were collecting the Townshend Duties.

B. The Bostonians did not see it this way. They felt they were being harassed by corrupt customs officials, and now troops were being sent in.

C. This seemed strange. For 150 years before, the colonists had been left to defend themselves. Yes, they had relied on British troops in the Seven Years War, but that was an Imperial War. They had thought it strange - in 1763 - when the British left 10,000 troops in America, and now something seemed even more provocative.

D. Why at precisely this moment - after the Seven Years War was won and the French and Spanish defeated - would the British be sending in troops.

E. Some Americans thought they knew why, and the reason they suggested was a grim one: England was sending the army not to protect them but to hold them quiet while she extracted their liberties. There is no evidence that anyone in England thought this, but for the colonists it seemed a reasonable assumption.

F. With the feeling among Bostonians that the troops were in Boston not to protect law and order but to overawe citizens and prevent them from asserting their natural and constitutional rights - it seems that conflict was almost inevitable.

G. Conflict did occur: On March 5, 1770, a group of redcoats sent to protect the Customs Commissioner were marching through town were set upon by a group of boys along the waterfront.

H. The boys threw snowballs, rocks, insults. Began following the troops.

I. British troops literally forced with their backs to the wall, fired upon the mob: 3 killed; 2 wounded; 6 injured.

J. Capt. Thomas Preston and 8 soldiers brought to trial (Oct.-Dec. 1770).

1. John Adams and Josiah Quincy defended the British soldiers.

2. Preston and 6 others acquitted.

3. 2 others charged with manslaughter and branded.

K. Two radical leaders in Boston--Sam Adams and Paul Revere exploit the massacre. Sam Adams published broadsides that said the British soldiers had brutally attacked the crowd without provocation, while Revere issued a woodcut depicting a "massacre."

VI. Following the Boston Massacre and the Arrival of New Troops

A. When news of the Boston Massacre reached Parliament, some hotheads argued that Sam Adams should be hung.

B. No doubt Americans would have been obliged to criticize the government even more harshly if the Townshend duties would have been continued.

C. However, after Parliament heard about the Boston Massacre, wisdom in the body prevailed. No one in the ministry thought highly of the Townshend duties: taxes on Britain's exports to the colonies were as disadvantageous to British as to colonial prosperity, and the revenue they were bringing in was trifling.

D. 12 April 1770: Parliament repeals the Townsend Acts, except for the tax on tea, which is its face-saving gesture.

E. Between 1770 and 1773, the colonials paid the small taxes, after the repeal of the Stamp and Townshend Acts (except for the one on tea) it was hard to keep excitement up for non-importation.

VII. Everyone Waiting for Next Move: The Tea Act (April - May 1773).

A. The next major development was initiated by the British Parliament, which, this time, passed an act it thought the colonists could not dislike since they were such confirmed tea drinkers.

B. The Tea Act was aimed at relieving the troubles of the East India Company. This huge corporation, which represented England's investment in India, was in financial difficulty.

C. The situation before the Tea Act was passed was this:

1. Tea from India brought by the East India Tea Company to Britain would pay a tax in Britain, then be shipped by a wholesale merchant to the colonies where it would be taxed again before reaching another wholesale merchant, who would then sell the tea to a reseller, who would finally sell the tea to a customer.

2. Thus, the cost of the tea was high because it had gone through at least four sets of hands, and had been taxed in England, the colonies, and would also be subject to the threepenny per pound Townshend tea duty.

3. The situation was not as bad as it seems for the colonists, who usually got their tea through blackmarket trade with the Dutch.

C. The Tea Act ended all export duties placed on tea brought from India through Britain going to American colonies.

D. Only, the threepenny per pound Townsend import tax is still in effect.

E. In addition, the East India Company was allowed to set up its own colonial agents who could then distribute tea directly to resellers. Bypassing wholesell merchants all together.

F. The act would give colonists much cheaper tea, and would give the East India Company a way out of its difficulty.

G. The situation was not so simple.

H. The tea act, colonists argued, gave the East India company a monopoly because they could now undersell even those who smuggled tea from Holland.

G. Colonial merchants not connected with East India Company were thus in a tough position:

1. East India merchants did not have to go through a middleman like colonial merchants did.

2. Could undersell all other colonial wholesale merchants.

3. Colonial merchants argued that the monopoly would allow the East India Company to run them out of business, and then the price will go up.

4. Colonists see this legalized monopoly as unfair.

5. If monopoly was possible in one product, then a monopoly in other products possible as well.

VIII. The Boston Tea Party (16 Dec. 1773)

A. 340 casks of tea dumped into Boston Harbor by colonials dressed as Indians.

B. This was Gesture Politics (not constitutional arguing): the colonists used the gesture (tea party) to get across a political point: they would not stand for monopoly or the tea duty any more.

C. There was tremendous outrage in Britain. The time had finally come to draw a line. The colonists had gone too far and must be taught a lesson. Boston Massachusetts would be the example.

IX. March 1774: Coercive Acts or Intolerable Acts passed

A. Sets in motion the immediate events which spark the American Revolution.

1. Closed Boston port to all commerce

2. Altered the Massachusetts government by giving the King, instead of the Assembly, the power of appointing the Governor's Council (Note: Massachusetts had been made royal in 1684, but got its charter back in 1691, and thus the Assembly had the power of appointing the Governor's Council)

3. Any magistrate, customs official, or soldier indicted for a capital offense within the colony could be brought to England for trial, where he would not have to face a hostile jury.

4. Provided for the quartering of troops in the town of Boston

B. To carry out these acts, **General Thomas Gage**, commander-in-chief of British forces in North America, was commissioned as governor of Massachusetts