

Taxation Without Representation

Essential Question

Following the French and Indian War, how did the British government anger the American colonists?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

- revenue (p. 123)
- writs of assistance (p. 123)
- resolution (p. 125)
- effigy (p. 125)
- boycott (p. 125)
- nonimportation (p. 125)
- repeal (p. 125)

Academic Vocabulary

- prohibit (p. 123)
- violate (p. 124)

Key People and Events

- Stamp Act (p. 124)
- Patrick Henry (p. 125)
- Samuel Adams (p. 125)

Reading Strategy

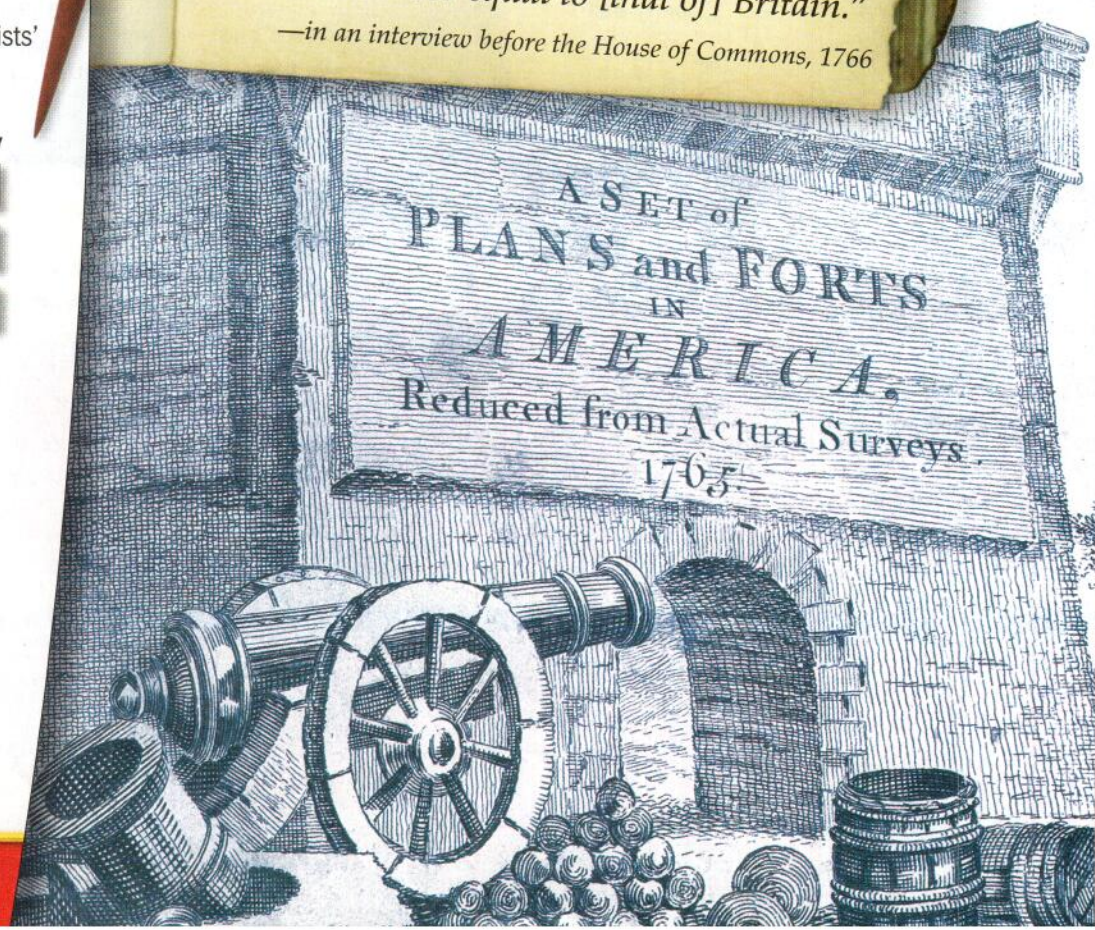
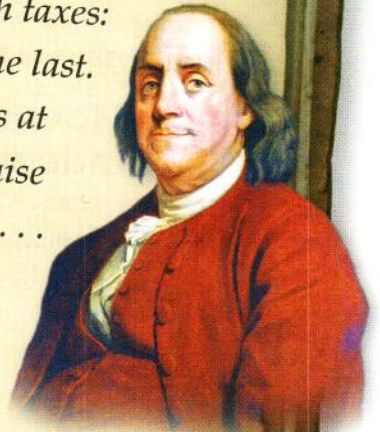
Taking Notes As you read, identify British policies that affected the colonists. Then describe the colonists' view of each policy.

British Policy	Colonists' View
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American Diary

In London, Benjamin Franklin stated the American view on British taxes: "They will oppose it to the last. They do not consider it as at all necessary for you to raise money . . . by your taxes. . . . America has been greatly misrepresented . . . [as] refusing to bear any part of [the war's] expense. The Colonies . . . paid and clothed near 25,000 men during the last war, a number equal to [that of] Britain."

—in an interview before the House of Commons, 1766



Relations With Britain

Main Idea After the French and Indian War, Great Britain passed laws to protect British interests in the colonies.

History and You How do you feel when someone treats you unfairly? Read to learn how the colonists felt about British laws that affected them.

With victory in the French and Indian War, the British gained control of a vast territory in North America. However, they faced the challenge of protecting their interests in the colonies and new territory. With the Proclamation of 1763, the British government set up new provinces. The proclamation also **prohibited**, or prevented, colonists from moving west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Limiting western settlement provided several advantages for Britain. It allowed the British government to control westward movement and to avoid conflict with Native Americans. Also, keeping colonists near the East Coast ensured a market for British goods in the coastal cities, where trade flourished.

Finally, closing western settlement allowed Britain to control the fur trade in the frontier. Britain planned to station 10,000 troops in the colonies to protect these interests.

Britain needed new **revenue**, or incoming money, to pay troop expenses. Also, the French and Indian War left Britain with a huge debt. The king and Parliament believed that the colonists should pay part of the cost, so they issued new taxes on the colonies and began to enforce existing taxes more strictly.

Britain's Trade Laws

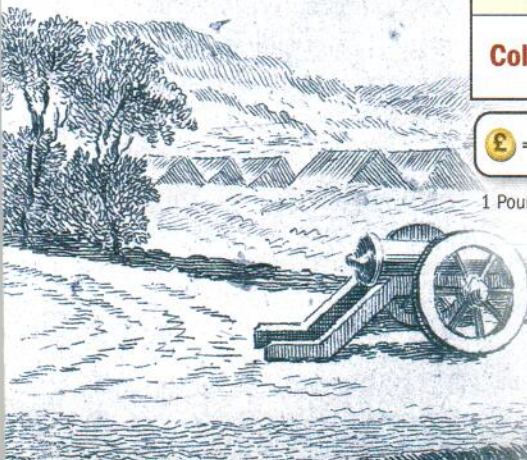
In 1763 George Grenville, prime minister of Britain, decided to act against smuggling. When the colonists smuggled goods to avoid taxes, Britain lost revenue.

Grenville knew that American juries often found smugglers innocent. He convinced Parliament to pass a law allowing smugglers to be sent to vice-admiralty courts, which were run by officers and did not have juries. In 1767 Parliament authorized **writs of assistance**. These legal documents allowed customs officers to enter any location to search for smuggled goods.

The Sugar Act

In 1764 Parliament passed the Sugar Act. This act lowered the tax on imported molasses. Grenville hoped the lower tax would convince colonists to pay the tax instead of smuggling. The act also let officers seize goods from smugglers without going to court.

During the colonial period, the British built a number of forts throughout their American colonies.



By the Numbers Pounds and Shillings

Britain's Per-Capita War Debt, 1765

Share of the debt per person:	
Britain:	£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £
Colonies:	£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £

£ = 1 British pound £ = 1 British shilling

1 Pound (£) = 20 Shillings

Source: Don Cook. *The Long Fuse: How England Lost the American Colonies, 1760-1785.*

Britain's National Debt At the end of the French and Indian War, Great Britain's national debt soared to more than £140 million. British citizens paid far more on the debt per person than their counterparts in the colonies.

Critical Thinking

Analyzing How much more per-capita debt did residents of Britain have compared to residents of the colonies?



"I can never look upon that Proclamation in any other light . . . than as a temporary expedient [solution] to quiet the Minds of the Indians and must fall . . . when those Indians are consenting to our Occupying the Lands."

—George Washington, 1767

Provisions of the Proclamation of 1763

- Created governments for the new North American territories won from France as a result of the French and Indian War
- Sought to prevent future conflicts with Native Americans
- Protected Native Americans by reserving the British Crown's right to enter into all land negotiations with them
- Forbade settlement of lands west of the Proclamation line
- Required settlers who had already moved west of the Proclamation line to move east of it
- Stated that the Native Americans were to govern the Proclamation territory under their own laws

Critical Thinking

Analyzing How did the Proclamation of 1763 attempt to protect Native American rights and lands?

The Sugar Act and the new laws to control smuggling angered colonists. They believed these British actions **violated**, or interfered with, their rights as English citizens. Writs of assistance violated their right to be secure in their homes. Vice-admiralty courts violated their right to a jury trial. Also, in vice-admiralty courts, defendants had to prove their innocence. This contradicted a British law stating "innocent until proved guilty."

These measures alarmed the colonists. James Otis, a lawyer in Boston, argued:

PRIMARY SOURCE

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

—from *The Rights of the British Colonies*

Reading Check Explaining Why did George Grenville want smugglers sent to vice-admiralty courts?

New Taxes

Main Idea As the British government passed new tax laws, resistance by the colonists grew.

History and You Suppose everyone in your community refused to buy from a certain store. How would this decision affect the store? Read to learn how boycotts by the colonists affected British merchants.

In 1765 Parliament passed the **Stamp Act**. This law placed a tax on almost all printed material, including newspapers, wills, and playing cards. All printed material had to have a stamp. British officials applied the stamp after the tax was paid.

Opposition to the Stamp Act centered on two points. Parliament had interfered in colonial affairs by taxing the colonies directly. In addition, it taxed the colonists without their consent.

Protesting the Stamp Act

A member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, **Patrick Henry**, persuaded the burgesses to take action against the Stamp Act. The Virginia assembly passed a **resolution**—a formal expression of opinion—declaring it had “the only and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes” on its citizens.

In Boston **Samuel Adams** helped start an organization called the Sons of Liberty to protest the Stamp Act. People in other cities also organized the Sons of Liberty groups. Protesters burned **effigies**—rag figures—representing tax collectors and destroyed houses belonging to royal officials.

In October delegates from nine colonies met in New York at the Stamp Act Congress. They drafted a petition to the king and Parliament declaring that the colonies could not be taxed except by their own assemblies.

In colonial cities, people refused to use the stamps. They urged merchants to **boycott**—refuse to buy—British and European goods in protest. Thousands of merchants signed **non-importation** agreements—pledges not to buy or use goods imported from Britain. As the boycott spread, British merchants lost so much business that they begged Parliament

to **repeal**, or cancel, the Stamp Act. In March 1766, Parliament repealed the law. However, on the same day, it passed the Declaratory Act. This law stated that Parliament had the right to tax and make decisions for the British colonies “in all cases.”

The Townshend Acts

In 1767 Parliament passed a set of laws that came to be known as the Townshend Acts. British leaders knew from the Stamp Act that the colonists would resist internal taxes—those paid inside the colonies. As a result, the new taxes would apply only to imported goods such as glass, tea, and paper, with the tax being paid at the port of entry.

By this time, *any* British taxes angered the colonists. They believed that only their own representatives had the right to tax them. The colonists organized another boycott.

Throughout the colonies, women formed groups, sometimes called the Daughters of Liberty. They urged Americans to wear home-made fabrics and produce other goods they needed rather than buy British goods.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** How did the Sons of Liberty attempt to influence British policy?

Section 1 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

1. Use each of these terms in a sentence that will help explain its meaning: **prohibit**, **revenue**, **writs of assistance**, **violate**, **resolution**, **effigy**, **boycott**, **nonimportation**, **repeal**.

Main Ideas

2. **Specifying** What advantages did the British gain by limiting westward settlement?
3. **Explaining** Why did some colonists smuggle goods?

4. **Identifying** Opposition to the Stamp Act centered on what two main points?

Critical Thinking

5. **Contrasting** How did the British and the colonists differ on the issue of taxes?
6. **Determining Cause and Effect** Describe the responses of the colonists to the Stamp Act and the result. Use a diagram like the one below.



7. **Persuasive Writing** Write a letter to the editor of a colonial newspaper. Your goal is to try to persuade fellow colonists to boycott British goods.

Answer the Essential Question

8. Following the French and Indian War, how did the British government anger the American colonists?