

Chapter 7 – The Colonists Seek Greater Freedom 1763 – 1775

Topic 1 – WHY DID BRITAIN TIGHTEN ITS CONTROL OVER THE AMERICAN COLONIES?

A). STRIFE ON THE FRONTIER

1). The new territories draw attention.

- The lands west of the Appalachian Mountains (Ohio River Valley)

2). Pontiac’s War interferes with western settlement

- The British government realized that Native Americans and colonists could not share western lands

3). The Proclamation of 1763 closes the frontier.

- It forbids settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains.

If you lived there already, you must leave the land.

It also stated that the British government would control trade with the Native Americans.

B). GRENVILLE’S NEW PROGRAM

1). Britain needs money to pay war debts.

- George Grenville decided that American colonists should help pay for the war debt.

2). Britain tries to enforce the Navigation Acts.

- The Navigation Acts were designed to give Britain a large share of the profits from colonial trade. British warships began keeping a closer look out for smugglers in American waters.

3). Parliament approves 2 new taxes. Name them.

Sugar Act (1764) – taxed sugar, coffee, indigo and molasses

Currency Act (1764) – prohibited the colonies from issuing their own currency (paper money) and required the colonists to pay debts in gold and silver

4). Parliament passes the Stamp Act (1765)

- To raise money to pay the British soldiers stationed in America.

TOPIC 2 – HOW DID AMERICAN COLONISTS REACT TO STRICT CONTROLS BY BRITAIN?

A). ANGER IN THE COLONIES

1). Grenville's new policies anger the colonists.

- The colonists fought in the French and Indian War and wanted to settle on the land that they won. This denied their British right to British lands. Strict enforcement of the Navigation Laws.

2). The colonists oppose “taxation without representation”.

- They believed that they should have a say in how much taxes they should pay. Only colonial legislatures should be able to apply taxes to the colonies. Laws passed in Parliament.

3). The colonists take action against the Stamp Act. List examples

- create the Stamp Act Congress, create the Sons and Daughters of Liberty, boycott British goods, threaten and attack stamp collectors

4). Parliament repeals the hated Stamp Act.

- The boycott is hurting British merchants and manufacturers. They are losing money.

B – NEW LAWS AND NEW PROTESTS

1). Parliament passes the Townshend Acts (1767).

- They wanted to raise money

2). Townshend Acts outrage the colonists.

- The writs of assistance (illegal) made them angry because they thought that their homes and businesses should be safe from government officials. They also did not want to pay British salaries with tax money.

3). The colonists resist the Townshend Acts.

- They sent letters to other colonies urging them to oppose the taxes and boycott British goods.

4). The Boston Massacre (1770) strengthens opposition.

- Soldiers were stationed on the streets of Boston. Several citizens were killed when soldiers shot into a threatening crowd of people. Led to the repeal of the Townshend Acts.

5). The Tea Act (1773) stirs up trouble.

- This gave the British East India Company the right to ship tea directly from Asia to America. The tea would be cheaper since they did not have to stop in England to pay taxes. This lowered the price of tea, but the colonists saw it as a trick to stop the colonial boycott of tea.

6). Boston holds a tea party (1773)

- They refused to allow the tea to be sold. Wanted to show how strongly they objected to taxation without representation.

Topic 3 – WHAT HAPPENED WHEN BRITAIN PUNISHED THE COLONISTS?

A). British Restrictions –

1). Parliament passes laws to punish Massachusetts. What were they called?

- The Coercive Acts (1774) (The colonists called them the Intolerable Acts)

2). Patriots organize resistance to the Intolerable Acts. Name some examples of resistance.

- Committees of Correspondence, First Continental Congress and sent supplies to the citizens of Boston.

3). Why did the First Continental Congress (1774) meet?

- They asserted that the colonial legislatures had the right to make all colonial laws, called for a repeal of the Intolerable Acts, organized a boycott of British goods and promised to meet again in May 1775 if things with Great Britain did not improve by then.

B – Taking Up Arms

1). The colonists prepare to fight.

- Parliament added new restrictions on colonial trade and sent more British soldiers to America. Parliament did not repeal the Intolerable Acts – the boycott did not work.

2). The British move on Lexington & Concord.

- General Gage heard that the Massachusetts colonists had formed an army and that the weapons and ammunition were stored in Concord.

3). A “shot heard round the world.” What does this mean?

- The Patriots had taken a bold stand against the British. The shots at Lexington and Concord were the opening shots of the Revolutionary War.