

You say you want a Revolution...



Boston Tea Party

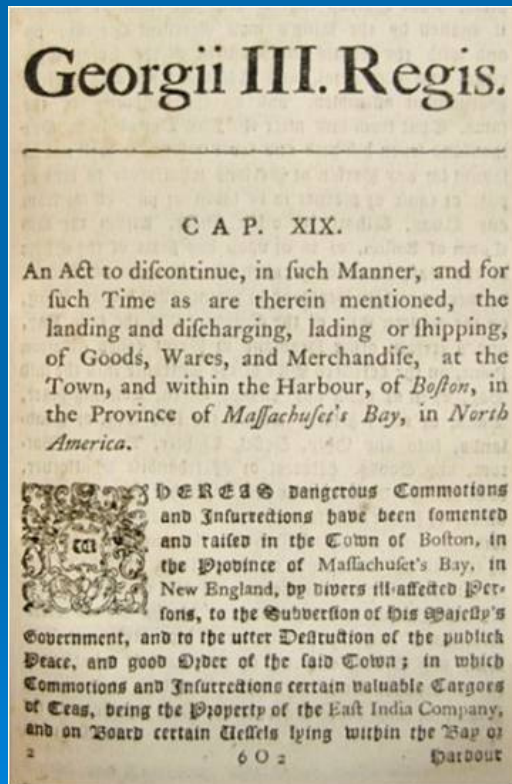


Illustration of the Boston Tea Party.

Mansell—Time Life Pictures/Getty Images

Coercive (Intolerable) Acts

- A set of laws passed by Parliament in 1774 aimed at bringing the colonies back into submission



- Punishment for Boston Tea Party
- Consisted of several laws
 - Boston Port Act – closed the port of Boston to all trade
 - Massachusetts Governance Act – did away with elected officials in Massachusetts; now appointed by the crown—Gen. Thomas Gage
 - Quartering Act – required colonists to provide lodging, food, and supplies to British soldiers
 - Administration of Justice Act – authorized Royal Governor to transfer trials of British officials to London to avoid hostile colonial juries
- Colonists called them “Intolerable”

First Continental Congress

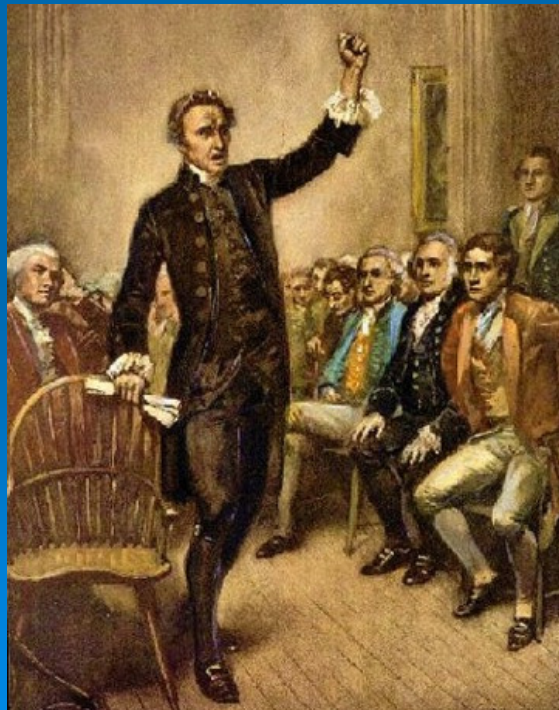
- In response to the Intolerable Acts, 12 colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia
 - Centrally located
 - Leading Colonial City
 - Georgia did not attend
- September 1774 to October 1774



Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia

First Continental Congress

- 56 delegates
- Presiding: Peyton Randolph (Va.)
- Notable Delegates:



- George Washington
- John Adams
- Samuel Adams
- Patrick Henry
- John Jay
- Richard Henry Lee
- John Dickinson

Patrick Henry speaking before Congress

First Continental Congress

➤ Drafted the Articles of Association

- Intended to alter Britain's policies towards the colonies: not to break ties, but to compromise
- Defined American grievances against Britain
 - Intolerable Acts
 - Taxes imposed were not intended to regulate trade
- Suspended trade with Britain until Intolerable Acts were repealed
 - Agreed to Boycott of British goods
 - No Imports from Britain (effective December 1774)
 - No Exports to Britain (effective September 1775)

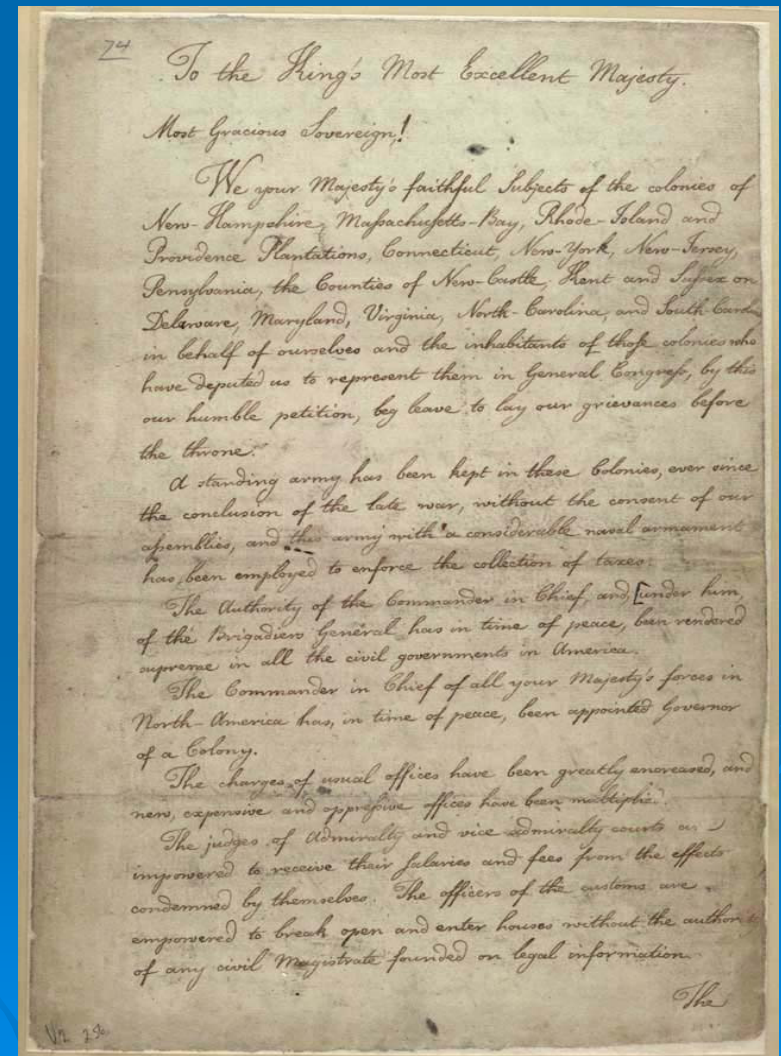
Declaration and Resolves

➤ Precursor to Declaration of Independence

- First to claim to colonial rights of “life, liberty, property”
- Refers to the colonies as “America”
- Loyal plea to the King

➤ Results in Articles of Association

- Unites colonies for the common good



First Continental Congress

- Agreed to meet again in May 1775 if their demands were not met
- Urged colonists to continue their boycotts
- Warned colonies to prepare their militias to fight—soon to be called Minutemen
- Created Committees of Observation to enforce the boycotts and publish the names of people who violated it.
 - Committees chosen by vote of local citizens

Shot Heard 'Round the World

- Tension mounts in Boston
 - General/Governor Gage decides to seize the militia's store of weapons at Concord
 - Sons of Liberty learn of plan
 - Paul Revere and Wm. Dawes warn: "The British are coming!"



Concord, Massachusetts, April 19, 1775

- 70 Minutemen meet British at Lexington Green
 - "Don't fire unless fired upon. But if they mean to have a war, let it begin here!" No one knows who fired first.
 - Battle over in minutes and militia defeated (18 casualties)
- British march on to Concord

Shot Heard 'Round the World

- Confrontation on Concord Bridge
 - British found that the weapons had been moved
 - Set fire to several buildings in anger
 - Minutemen attack the Redcoats
- British retreat 20 miles to Boston
 - Easy targets for the colonists firing from behind trees
 - Suffered 250 casualties
 - Fewer than 100 colonial casualties
- Minutemen hold British under siege in Boston



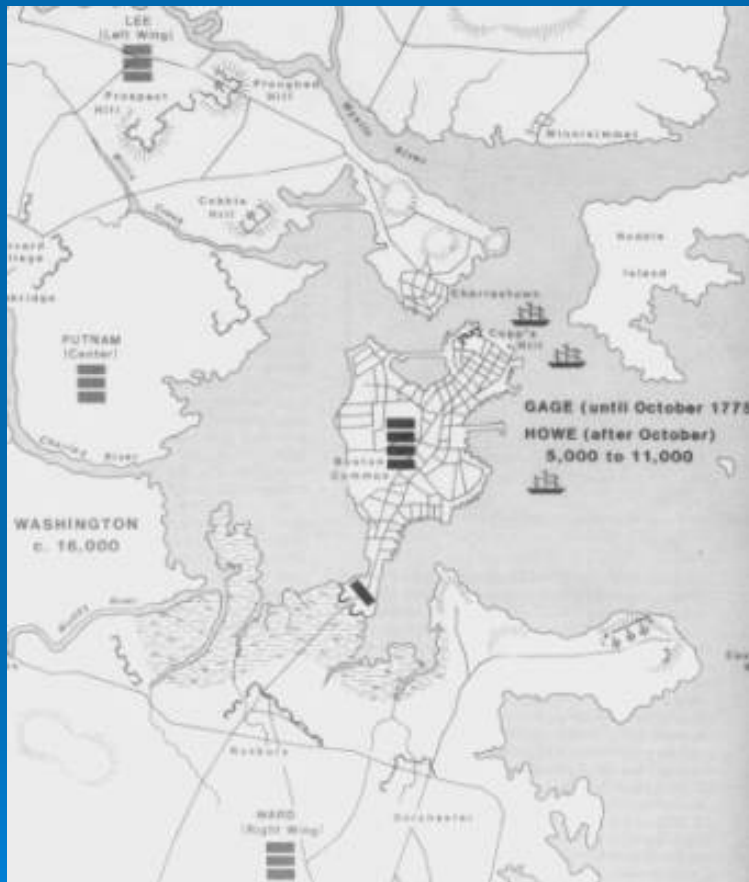
British Retreat from Lexington

Fort Ticonderoga



- After Lexington and Concord the fighting continued.
 - Recognizing the strategic importance of Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys (VT) and Benedict Arnold each led militia troops to take the fort.
- Ticonderoga, along with a valuable supply of cannons and gunpowder, was captured without a fight on May 10.

Battle of Bunker Hill



- Colonial forces build defenses on Bunker and Breed's Hill in order to defend British attack on Charlestown in June 1775
- Militia low on gunpowder
 - Ordered not to fire on British "until you see the whites of their eyes."
 - Eventually ran out of ammunition
 - British~more than 1,000 casualties
 - Colonists~about 400 casualties
- Showed the colonists that they could hold their own against the British

Second Continental Congress

- Meanwhile, in Philadelphia...
- May 1775~Delegates from 12 colonies meet as planned at the end of the First Congress
- Must decide how to react to the fighting
- Decided not to break away from Great Britain
- Created a Continental Army
 - George Washington named Commander
- Olive Branch Petition~July 1775
 - Final appeal to King for peace and compromise
 - Rejected by George III in the Fall of 1775

Resources and Images

Resources

- Avalon Project http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/18th.asp
- Call to Freedom (Teachers' Edition), Holt , Rhinehart and Winston, 2003.
- From Revolution to Reconstruction <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/D/1751-1775/independence/decrees.htm>

Images

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- Intolerable Acts <http://picture-book.com/users/len-ebert>
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- Shot Heard 'Round the World
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- Map/Siege of Boston <http://www.hannahdustin.com/soldiers.htm>