

## NATION: A War is Brewing

### Taxes: High— Colonists: Angry

Massachusetts, December, 1773

Boston patriots, painted like Indians, have thrown 342 boxes of tea into the sea. The tea was on an English ship. It was in Boston Harbor, waiting to unload.

Many Americans think the patriots should not have thrown away the tea. But the patriots say they want to shake up England. They want England to do away with taxes. The patriots may get war instead.

Just 10 years ago, the English and the Americans were friends. Together they fought the French and the Indians in the **French and Indian War (1754-1763)**. The French lost the war. They gave up most of their land in America. France gave up to England:

- All the land east of the Mississippi River.
- Most of Canada.

Fighting the war cost England money. Now England is telling Americans to help pay for the war. New taxes are flooding America. Even tea and paper are being taxed.

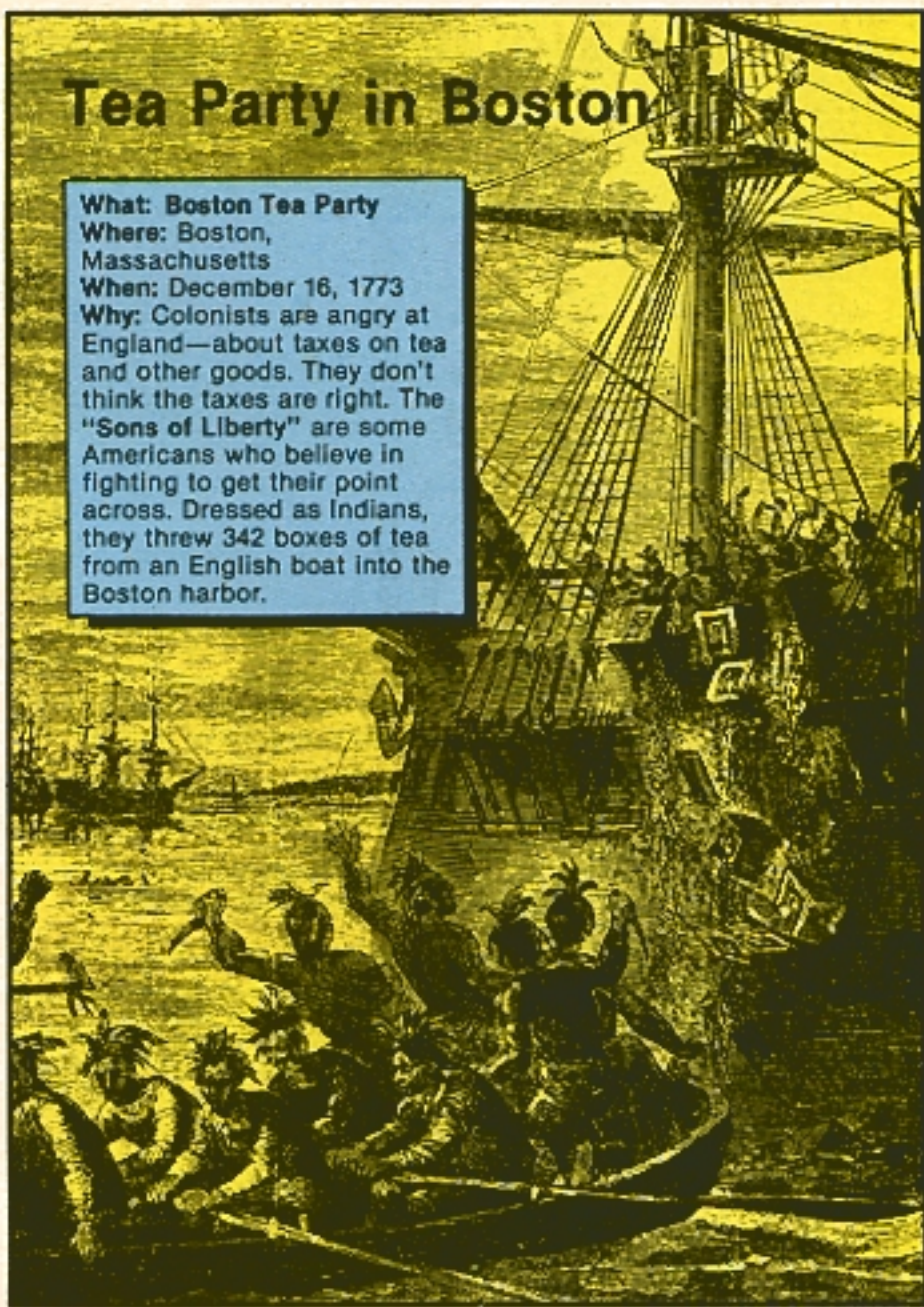
"Unfair!" American patriots cry. "We are English citizens. English citizens vote on their taxes. So why can't we vote? This is **taxation without representation.**"

England does not believe Americans should vote. England sees Americans as children. England is the **mother country**, a country that owns another country.

Americans are angry about being kept as children. They are also angry over England's mercantilism. **Mercantilism** is the way a

### Tea Party in Boston

**What:** Boston Tea Party  
**Where:** Boston, Massachusetts  
**When:** December 16, 1773  
**Why:** Colonists are angry at England—about taxes on tea and other goods. They don't think the taxes are right. The "Sons of Liberty" are some Americans who believe in fighting to get their point across. Dressed as Indians, they threw 342 boxes of tea from an English boat into the Boston harbor.



mother country runs the trade in her colonies. Mercantilism works like this:

§ England buys unfinished goods [like silver, wood, and cotton] from America. Then England makes them into finished goods [like spoons, tables, and clothes].

§ These finished goods cost more than the unfinished goods. So America has to give England money to buy the finished goods.

§ This money piles up in England and makes England rich. In short, mercantilism makes England rich and America poor.

All over the colonies, Americans are talking about going to war with England. Groups of people in many colonies are starting **Committees of Correspondence**. The committees, or groups, plan ways all the colonies can work together to fight England.

# NATION: Causes of the Revolutionary War

## English Laws Make Colonists Angry— Will There Be War?

Here is a look at the acts [laws] made by England:



**Proclamation of 1763:** This English law will not let colonists settle [move or live] west of the Appalachian Mountains. The English hope to stop war with the Indians by not letting the colonists move into the Indians' land. Colonists who want to move west are angry.



**Sugar Act (1764):** Imported [coming into the country] molasses is taxed. The only molasses not taxed is that from the British West Indies.



**Currency Act (1764):** Colonists are told not to print money. They must use English currency [money].



**Stamp Act (1765):** Colonists must buy stamps from England. The stamps must be put on all legal papers and other printed papers.



**Quartering Act (1765):** This act makes colonists give the English soldiers food and shelter at no cost.



**Stamp Act Taken Away (1766):** Protesting by colonists makes England repeal [take away] the Stamp Act.



**Writs of Assistance (1765):** Colonists are smuggling [bringing in goods without the government knowing]. That way they won't be taxed. England wants to cut down on smuggling. **Search warrants [called Writs of Assistance]** make it legal for English soldiers to come into the homes of colonists to look for smuggled goods.



**Townshend Act (1767):** England puts more taxes on goods coming into America, including tea, lead, glass, and paint.



**Townshend Acts Repealed; Tax on Tea Kept (1770):** The colonists boycott [don't buy] English goods to show they do not like the taxes. England takes away the Townshend Act taxes. But England keeps the tax on imported tea.



**Tea Act (1773):** The British East India Company can sell tea to colonial merchants who belong to the company. These merchants can sell tea cheaper than other merchants.



**Intolerable Acts (1773):** England feels it must punish colonists for the "tea party." England closes Boston Harbor until the tea is paid for. English soldiers will stay in the Boston area for awhile to keep an eye on the colonists.



## PEOPLE: Colonists Protest English Laws

# Patriots Are Protesting

A Look at Angry Colonists and What Is Making Them That Way



**ANGRY COLONISTS:** Colonists, angry over paying taxes to the English, are seen here beating up an English stamp agent.

■ The **Stamp Act (1765)** makes colonists buy stamps from England. The stamps must be put on goods made of paper: newspapers, books, playing cards.

■ This is just one of the taxes the colonists must pay to the English.



**STAMP:** A copy of the stamp that must be put on paper goods because of England's Stamp Act.



**DUMMY OF STAMP AGENT HANGED:** Colonists are angry about the Stamp Act and other acts put on the colonies by the English. Here, a stamp agent "dummy" is hanged to show anger at the English.



**PATRICK HENRY:** Most colonists want England to take back its laws. Colonial leaders like Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Patrick Henry are leading the fight.

Henry wants the colonists to be free from England—free to make their own laws. A short time ago, Henry excited colonists by saying "Give me liberty or give me death!"



**BOSTON MASSACRE (March 5, 1770):** English soldiers say they had to fire their guns in order to save themselves from a mob of angry colonists. Five colonists were killed. **Crispus Attucks**, a free black man, was one of the first to die.

## NATION: The Revolutionary War Begins

# Shots Fired at Lexington and Concord—War is On!

Massachusetts, April 19, 1775

Guns were fired as American **minutemen** [volunteer soldiers] tried to stop 700 **redcoats** [English soldiers]. The redcoats were on their way to do away with the American store of guns and gunpowder at Concord.

Eight minutemen were shot at

Lexington. But angry farmers at Concord chased the redcoats back to Boston. Along the way, colonists, hiding behind rocks and buildings, killed or hurt over 200 redcoats.

Americans have shown England that they will fight for freedom.

The Revolutionary War starts with the battle here at Lexington and Concord [two towns located near Boston, Mass.]

Boston

Massachusetts

## The War—What Made Us Fight

Here are the steps leading to the battle at Lexington and Concord. (For more detail, see p.24 and p.25).

### Colonists Can Take No More



1763-1774  
England puts taxes on goods in the colonies to help pay bills from the French and

Indian War. The colonists feel the taxes are unfair and protest:

- The colonists speak out against the new laws and taxes.
- The colonists **boycott** [don't buy] English goods to show they do not like the taxes.
- The colonists fight.

But even more laws are made to punish the colonists.

### Colonists Call First Congress

1774  
English taxes make colonists more and more angry. In September 1774, leaders of the colonies meet in Philadelphia for the **First Continental Congress**. They drew up a list of complaints to present to England. The Congress says Americans:

- Have the right to make their own laws.
- Should boycott English goods.

Most colonists want England to change its laws. Some colonists want complete independence from England.

### English Soldiers March to Concord



1775  
English soldiers hear that colonists are storing guns in

Concord. English soldiers march to Concord to take away the guns.

### Paul Revere Warns: The English Are Coming!

April 1775  
Colonial Patriots



[those who want independence from England] see the English soldiers moving in. Paul Revere and his friends ride horseback to warn the colonists: Get ready!

### Shots Fired Between American Minutemen and English Redcoats



April 19, 1775  
The English find the minutemen waiting at Lexington. They order the Americans to drop their guns and leave. The Americans begin to leave—but a shot rings out and the fighting starts.

### Second Congress Meets

May 10, 1775  
The Second Continental Congress does not want war with England—but it sets up an Army with George Washington in charge. King George III says the Americans are rebels. England gets ready for war.