

1767 - Townshend Acts

The British were determined to raise taxes and assert their authority over the increasingly defiant, independent Americans. The Declaratory Act was passed, stating that they had the right to make laws for the colonists in all instances. They soon followed up with the *Townshend Acts* in 1767, which were a series of taxes on paper, paint, lead, glass, and especially tea, the beverage of choice for both Americans and Englishmen of that day. The colonists immediately began to boycott these products.

As with previous British boycotts, merchants complained because they were losing business. In 1768 British warships arrived



in Boston harbor carrying two regiments of seasoned troops to maintain order and support the British tax collectors.

Discussion: What major event in history is the result of this act?

1770 - The Boston Massacre

The British had 4,000 troops stationed in Boston, the center for resistance to British taxes and British authority. It was home to Samuel Adams and many of the Sons of Liberty. The boycotts were especially effective in this city of 16,000 residents. In 1770 a lone British soldier guarding the Customs House, where taxes were paid, was harassed and badgered by members of the ~~Sons of Liberty~~ and local toughs. He called for reinforcements, who were promptly assaulted by the mob with fists, sticks, and flying chunks of ice. A soldier fell, his weapon discharged, and other British soldiers fired on the mob. Five American rioters were killed in the incident.

Samuel Adams and his allies quickly dubbed the event a "massacre", and public anger at the British was inflamed even more. Paul Revere published an engraving of the event showing British soldiers firing on peaceful unarmed citizens. This *propaganda* reached many American colonists outside of Boston and angered them.

Discussion: By calling this event a "massacre" and creating propaganda, what did Revere and Adams accomplish?

1773 - Tea Acts Lead to

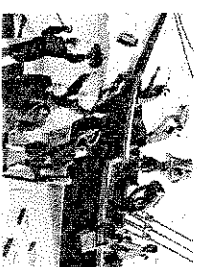
Boston Tea Party

The removal of some British troops from the city of Boston helped calm passions, but the radicals kept the pressure on. British leaders were determined to reestablish

control over the colonies, and the young King George III was irate at the rebellious behavior of the Americans.

In May of 1773, the British government granted a complete monopoly over the sale of tea to the British East India Company. The tea was not going to be taxed in the colonies and would actually cost less than tea sold in Britain. On the surface it looked like a good deal, but it would put virtually all American tea sellers out of business.

Sam Adams, Paul Revere, and John Hancock encouraged residents to take action, and they did. Soldiers in the local *militia* refused to let the tea be unloaded. Adams and his allies tried to make the British tea agents quit. Adams also tried to convince the governor to send the tea back to England, which had been done in some

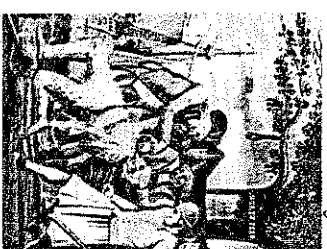


other American ports. The king had ordered the tea in Boston harbor to be unloaded by British soldiers. This was scheduled for

December 17, 1773. On the evening of December 16, however, the Sons of Liberty and local toughs dressed up as Mohawk Indians, boarded the British ship carrying the tea, and dumped all 342 casks of tea into the harbor. Afterward, the colonists called this incident the *Boston Tea Party*. Soon people were singing a song about it throughout the colonies. "Rally, Mohawks [Native Americans], they sang, 'Bring out your axes/ And tell King George we'll pay not taxes/ On his foreign tea.'"

1774 - Intolerable Acts

The Boston Tea Party made the British authorities **FURIOUS**. They immediately passed a series of laws to punish the city of Boston and reestablish control. These *Intolerable Acts*, as the colonists named them, banned town meetings in Boston, closed the port of Boston until the tea was paid for, and stationed troops in Boston where citizens had to house and feed them. Closing the port put a lot of citizens out of work and threatened the city with starvation because much of the city's food supplies came by ship. A new governor of Massachusetts was also appointed with broad powers to run the affairs of the colony, and the Massachusetts legislature had its powers severely diminished, or reduced.



This illustration shows a tax collector who has been tared and feathered by colonists. The colonists force tea down his throat. To punish the colonists for actions like these, the British passed the Intolerable Acts.

The people throughout the colonies quickly rallied to Boston's support. They staged tea parties of their own and sent food and supplies to Boston. In the fall of 1774, 12 colonies sent representatives to a meeting in Philadelphia to protest the Intolerable Acts. The First Continental Congress passed a declaration of the colonists' rights, which restated their rights as British citizens.

What	When	Where	Who	Why	Colonist Response
<i>Townshend Acts</i>					
<i>The Boston Massacre</i>					

What	When	Where	Who	Why	Colonist Response
Tea Acts & Boston Tea Party					
Intolerable Acts					