

French and Indian War: 1754 – 1760

- French and Indians fought British and Colonists for rights to the Ohio River Valley.
- Although the British won, they had major debt from the war.
- In order to pay for this debt, the King and Parliament began imposing taxes on the colonists.

Stamp Act (1765)

- Tax on paper goods/printed materials
- Colonists protested
- Formed the Stamp Act Congress
- Was eventually repealed

Townshend Acts (1767)

- Stopped the NY legislature for not complying with the Quartering Act
- More taxes on things such as glass, paint, and tea
- Continued to allow the Writs of Assistance.
- Colonists formed Committees of Correspondence who shared the Circular Letters
- British troops and warships were sent to Boston to watch over the colonists

Boston Massacre

- Colonists and British troops fought
- British fired into crowd of colonists -- 5 colonists killed
- Much debate as to who started it
- John Adams defended British troops in court because of his strong belief in the right to a fair trial

Tea Act (1773)

- Forced colonists to purchase tea from the British East India Company only
- Colonists strongly disagreed
- Led to the Boston Tea Party
 - Colonists disguised themselves and threw tea overboard into Boston Harbor

Intolerable Acts (1774)

- British reaction to the Tea Party
- Closed Boston Harbor
- Forbid town meetings
- Revived the Quartering Act – colonists had to house British soldiers

Sons of Liberty

- Group of colonists/patriots who came together to organize and protest British taxation, specifically the Stamp Act
- Founded by Samuel Adams and John Hancock
- Played a major role in Britain repealing the Stamp Act

First Continental Congress

- 1774 – Philadelphia
- All but Georgia attended
- Agreed to continue boycott of British goods
- Asked King to repeal taxes
- Agreed to meet again in 1775 if requests not met by the King

Representation

- “No taxation without representation” became a motto of the colonies.
- Colonists understood need for taxes but wanted their representatives present and heard when laws were passed.