

RS#8: Educational materials developed through the Baltimore County History Labs Program, a partnership between Baltimore County Public Schools and the UMBC Center for History Education.

Evidence A: Sugar Act (April 5, 1764)

Breaking it Down: The colonies had, for many years, set up their own taxes to pay for militias and to run their own affairs. For the first time the British Parliament laid a direct tax on the colonists in the form of the Sugar Act in 1764. Through the enforcement of the Sugar Act the crown hoped to address smuggling of sugar into the colonies from the French West Indies and to increase revenue to help reduce the debt from the French and Indian War. In order to enforce the Sugar Act more customs officials were hired and British warships were put in place around colonial ports.

*“WHEREAS it is expedient that new provisions and regulations should be established for improving the revenue of this kingdom, and for extending and securing the navigation and commerce between Great Britain and your Majesty’s dominions in America, which, by the peace, have been so happily enlarged: and whereas it is just and necessary... And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in lieu and instead of the rate and duty imposed by the said act upon melasses and syrups, **there shall, from and after the said twenty ninth day of September one thousand seven hundred and sixty four, be raised, levied, collected, and paid, unto his Majesty, his heirs and successors, for and upon every gallon of melasses or syrups, being the growth, product, or manufacture, of any colony or plantation in America, not under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, which shall be imported or brought into any colony or plantation in American... no rum or spirits for the produce or manufacture of any of the colonies or plantations in America, not in the possession or under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, shall be imported or brought into any of the colonies or plantations in America which now are, or hereafter may be, in the possession or under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, upon forfeiture of all such rum or spirits, together with the ship or vessel in which the same shall be imported, with the tackle, apparel, and furniture thereof, to be seized by any officer or officers of his Majesty’s customs, and prosecuted in such manner and form as herein after is expressed; any law, custom, or usage...”***

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Evidence B: Quartering Act (May 17, 1765)

Breaking it Down: In order for King George III to protect colonial interest British soldiers were sent to the colonies. These soldiers were charged with protecting against threats from remaining Frenchmen and Native Americans, enforcing the Proclamation Line of 1763 and other Parliamentary Acts. Providing room and board for British regulars was required by law and refusal to obey the Quartering Act resulted in criminal charges.

*"WHEREAS in and by and act made in the present session of parliament... there may be occasion for marching and quartering of regiments and companies of his Majesty's forces in several parts of his Majesty's dominions in America: and whereas the publick houses and barracks in his Majesty's dominions in America, may not be sufficient to supply quarters for such forces: and whereas it is expedient and necessary that carriages and other conveniences, upon the march of troops in his Majesty's dominions in America... **to quarter and billet the officers and soldiers, in his Majesty's service, in the barracks provided by the colonies; and if there shall not be sufficient room in the said barracks for the officers and soldiers, then and in such case only, to quarter and billet the residue of such officers and soldiers, for whom there shall not be room in such barracks, in inns, livery stables...** it shall and may be lawful for the governor and council of each respective province in his Majesty's dominions in America to authorize and appoint to take, hire, and make fit for the reception of his Majesty's forces, such and so many **uninhabited houses, outhouses, barns, or other buildings, as shall be necessary, to quarter therein the residue of such officers and soldiers for whom there should not be room in such barracks** and publick houses as aforesaid, and to put and quarter the residue of such officers and soldiers therein ..."*

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Evidence C: Stamp Act of 1765

Breaking it Down: Prime Minister George Grenville had heard the complaints of the colonists about the Sugar Act. He decided to take a different approach with the Stamp Act of 1765. It was the first and only tax that the individual colonists had to pay themselves. This act impacted almost all of the colonists and Prime Minister Grenville felt it was fair because British citizens already paid taxes that were similar.

*"WHEREAS by act made in the last session of parliament, several duties were granted, continued, and appropriated, towards defraying the expences of defending, protecting, and securing, the British colonies and plantations in America: and whereas it is just and necessary, that provision be made for raising a further revenue within your Majesty's dominions in America, towards defraying the said expences ... be it enacted ... That from and after the first day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty five, **there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid unto his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, throughout the colonies and plantations in America which now are, or hereafter may be, under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs and successors ... [stamp duties on legal papers, commercial papers, liquor licences, land instruments, indentures, cards, dice, pamphlets, newspapers, advertisements, almanacs, academic degrees, and appointments to office]...** And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all the monies which shall arise by the several rates and duties hereby granted (except the necessary changes or raising, collecting, recovering, answering, paying, and accounting for the same, and the necessary charges from time to time incurred in relation to this act, and the execution thereof) shall be paid into the receipt of his Majesty's exchequer, and shall be entered separate and apart from all other **monies, and shall be there reserved** to be from time to time disposed of by parliament, **towards further defraying the necessary expences of defending, protecting, and securing, and said colonies and plantations...**"*

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The stamps were not like the stamps used on mail today. These images were show stamps which were placed on documents to make them official and to prove that the tax had been paid on the paper.

[document=2437](#). Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs at Ashland University. June

The Stamp Act. <http://americanrevwar.homestead.com/files/stamp.htm> . The American Revolution homepage. June 30, 2010

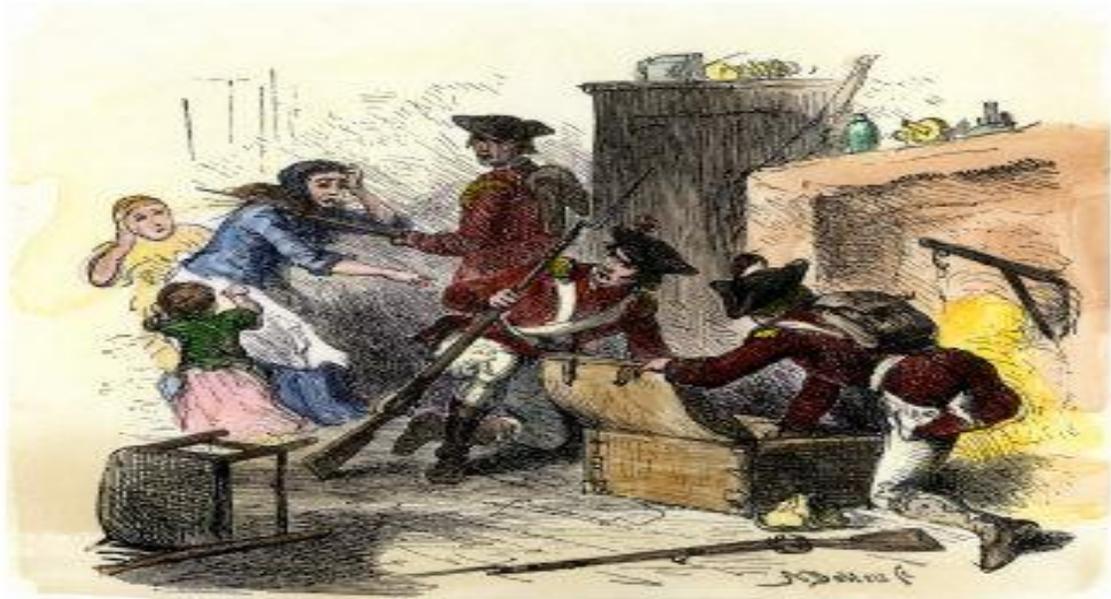
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Evidence D: Townshend Act (June 29, 1767)

Breaking it Down: By 1767, Colonists were unhappy with British taxation. Charles Townshend, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Treasury) agreed that internal taxes, like the Stamp act, could be considered illegal. To address colonial frustration Parliament passed the Townshend Acts. Townshend thought that no one could argue that the British government had the right to tax good imported to the colonies. The issue of smuggling on the part of the colonists was also a problem for Britain. The Townshend Act stretched the power of British soldiers stationed in the colonies to try and put an end to the smuggling.

*"WHEREAS it is expedient that a revenue should be raised, in your Majesty's dominions in America, for making a more certain and adequate provision for defraying the charge of the administration of justice, and for the support of civil government, in such provinces where it shall be found necessary; and towards further defraying the expences of defending, protecting, and securing, the said dominions;... be it enacted... That from and after the twentieth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven, there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid, unto his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, for and upon the respective goods herein after mentioned, which shall be imported from Great Britain into any colony or plantation in America which now is, or hereafter may be, under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs, or successors, the several rates and duties following...**upon glass, red lead, white lead, painter's colors, tea, and paper...An act for preventing frauds, and regulating abuses, in his Majesty's customs, and several other acts now in force, it is lawful for any officer of his Majesty's customs, authorized by writ of assistance under the seal of his Majesty's court of exchequer, to take a constable, head-borough, or other public officer inhabiting near unto the place, and in the day-time to enter and go into any house, shop, cellar, warehouse, or room or other place, and, in case of resistance, to break open doors, chests, trunks, and other package there, to seize, and from thence to bring, any kind of goods or merchandize whatsoever prohibited or uncustomed..."***

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English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's). <http://www.uruknet.info/index.php?p=61993> . Military Resistance 8A5. June 30, 2010

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Evidence E: The Tea Act of 1773

Breaking it Down: To ease tensions in the colonies, Parliament repealed taxes on imported goods, except tea from the East India Company. Tea was an extremely popular colonial drink and demand was high. But, many colonists were smuggling tea into the colonies in order to avoid the tax. The East India Company, a huge trading company based out of Britain, was in serious financial trouble. Parliament hoped they could help the East India Company by granting them a monopoly on tea sales in the colonies.

*Be it Enacted: That there shall be drawn back and allowed for all teas, which, from and after the tenth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, shall be sold at the publick sales of the said united **[East India] company, or which shall be imported by licence and which shall, at any time hereafter, be exported from this kingdom, as merchandise, to any of the British colonies or plantations in America, the whole of the duties of customs payable upon the importation of such teas...***

*III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners of his Majesty's treasury... upon application made to them by the said united company of merchants of England trading to the East Indies for that purpose, **to grant a licence or licences to the said united company, to take out of their warehouses, without the same having been put up to sale, and to export to any of the British plantations in America, or to any parts beyond the seas, such quantity or quantities of tea as the said commissioners of his Majesty's treasury...shall think proper** and expedient, without incurring any penalty or forfeiture for so doing.*

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*IV That from and after the passing of this act, it shall and may be lawful...to grant a licence or licences to the said company, to take out of their warehouses such quantities of tea as the said commissioners of the treasury...shall think proper, without the same having been exposed to sale in this kingdom; and **to export such tea to any of the British colonies or plantations in America, or to foreign parts, discharged from the payment of any customs or duties whatsoever...***

Adapted from *Call to Freedom* page 141

The Tea Act. <http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=2439>. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs at Ashland University.
June 29, 2010

Evidence F: Coercive/Intolerable Acts: Section A- Boston Port Act

Breaking it Down: The news about the Boston Tea Party quickly made its way to King George III and Britain. King George III realized that Britain was beginning to lose control of the thirteen colonies. He said, "We must master them or leave them to themselves." Lord Oliver North, the prime minister of Britain, decided to punish Massachusetts by working with Parliament to pass the Coercive Acts in 1774. The Colonist referred to these acts as the Intolerable Acts. Included within these Acts was a reinforcement of the Quartering Act of 1765, which was a financial burden on the people of Boston.

Boston Port Act (March 31, 1774)

*WHEREAS dangerous commotions and insurrections have been fomented and raised in the town of Boston, in the province of Massachuset's Bay, in New England, by divers ill-affected persons, to the subversion of his Majesty's government, and to the utter destruction of the publick peace, and good order of the said town; in which commotions and insurrections certain valuable cargoes of teas, being the property of the East India Company, and on board certain vessels lying within the bay or harbour of Boston, were seized and destroyed: And whereas, in the present condition of the said town and harbour, the commerce of his Majesty's subjects cannot be safely carried on there, nor the customs payable to his Majesty duly collected...May it please your Majesty that it may be enacted...That from and after the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, **it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever to lade put, or cause or procure to be laden or put, off or from any quay, wharf, or other place, within the said town of Boston, or in or upon any part of the shore of the bay, commonly called The Harbour of Boston...***

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...until it shall sufficiently appear to his Majesty that full satisfaction hath been made by or on behalf of the inhabitants of the said town of Boston to the united company of merchants of England trading to the East Indies, for the damage sustained by the said company by the destruction of their goods sent to the said town of Boston, on board certain ships or vessels as aforesaid; and until it shall be certified to his Majesty, in council, by the governor, or lieutenant governor, of the said province, that reasonable satisfaction hath been made to the officers of his Majesty's revenue, and others, who suffered by the riots and insurrections above mentioned...

Adapted from American Journey

Boston Port Act. <http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=2367>. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs at Ashland University
June 29, 2010

Evidence F: Intolerable/Coercive Acts: Section B- Massachusetts Government Act and Administration of Justice Act

Breaking it Down: The news about the Boston Tea Party eventually made its way to Britain. King George III realized that Britain was beginning to lose control of the thirteen colonies. He said, "We must master them or leave them to themselves." Lord Oliver North, the prime minister of Britain, decided to punish Massachusetts by working with Parliament to pass the Coercive Acts in 1774. The Colonist referred to these acts as the Intolerable Acts.

Massachusetts Government Act (May 20, 1774)

*That from and after the said first day of August, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, **no meeting shall be called by the select men, or at the request of any number of freeholders of any township, district, or precinct, without the leave of the governor, or, in his absence, of the lieutenant-governor, in writing, expressing the special business of the said meeting, first had and obtained...***

Administration of Justice Act (May 20, 1774)

*That if any inquisition or indictment shall be found, or **if any appeal shall be sued or preferred against any person, for murder, or other capital offence, in the province Of the Massachuset's Bay...** either in the execution of his duty as a magistrate, for the suppression of riots, or in the support of the laws of revenue, or in acting in his duty as an officer of revenue, or in acting under the direction and order of any magistrate, for the suppression of riots, or for the carrying into effect the laws of revenue, or in aiding and assisting in any of the cases aforesaid: and if it shall also appear, to the satisfaction of the said governor, or lieutenant-governor respectively, that an indifferent trial cannot be had within the said province, in that case, it shall and may **be lawful for the governor, or lieutenant-governor, to direct, with the advice and consent of the council, that the inquisition, indictment, or appeal, shall be tried in some other of his Majesty's colonies, or in Great Britain;***

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Evidence F: Intolerable/Coercive Acts: Section C- Quebec Act

Breaking it Down: The Quebec Act impacted the British citizens (formerly French colonists) living in the province of Quebec. They were guaranteed the right to keep their Catholic faith. This Act also greatly extended the territory of Quebec into the land that had formerly been claimed by the original thirteen colonies.

Quebec Act (June 22, 1774)

*Be it enacted: That all the territories, islands, and countries in North America, belonging to the crown of Great Britain... following the said bank until it shall arrive at that point of the said bank which shall be nearest to the northwestern angle of the said province of Pennsylvania; and thence, by a right line, to the said north-western angle of the said province; and thence along the western boundary of the said province, until it strike the river Ohio; and along the bank of the said river westward, to the banks of the Mississippi, and northward to the southern boundary of the territory granted to the merchants adventurers of England, trading to Hudson's Bay; and also **all such territories, islands, and countries, which have, since the tenth of February, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, been made part of the government of Newfoundland, be, and they are hereby, during his Majesty's pleasure, annexed to, and made part and parcel of the province of Quebec, as created and established by the said royal proclamation of the seventh of October, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three.***

Adapted from American Journey

Massachusetts Government Act. <http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=2396>. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs at Ashland University, June 29, 2010

Administration of Justice Act <http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=2358>. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs at Ashland University, June 29, 2010

Quebec Act. <http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=2417>. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs at Ashland University, June 30, 2010