

Causes of the American Revolution

- I. Revolution Questions
 - a. Necessary – Coming of Age/Time Had Come or America would have remained obedient had England not made mistakes
 - b. A true revolution or merely transfer of power from one wealthy group to another
 - c. Capitalist motivation to keep money in America instead of taxes going overseas
- II. Decades before 1754 – proud to be Englishmen
 - a. Colonists annoyed at Navigation Acts, Brits annoyed with chaotic legislatures
 - b. Grown apart - could govern selves better than overseas
- III. Causes
 - a. Sprit of self-reliance – decades of colonial legislatures, economically independent
 - b. Religious annoyance – haven't forgotten being kicked out
 - c. England trying to improve trade/industry at America's expense
 - d. Colonists should pay for expense –no “taxation without representation”
 - e. Enlightenment – well-read Jefferson, Adams
 - f. Mercantilism clashes with capitalism – trade w/ everyone
- IV. Irritants
 - a. America forced to take in British criminals
 - b. Northern colonies that wanted to stop slave trade could not
 - c. Royal governors looked down noses at colonists
- V. British Debt – Americans seen as Englishmen, must bear cost/taxes
 - a. Centuries of fighting/French and Indian War costly
 - b. Troops needed to remain in America to protect against Indians
- VI. Types of Protests
 - a. Speeches – James Otis/Patrick Henry
 - b. Harassment – burning governors homes/tar and feathering tax collectors
 - c. Boycotts – refuse to buy British goods
 - d. Committees of Correspondence – method of colonies talking
 - e. Propaganda/Pamphlets – Common Sense – Thomas Paine
- VII. Catalysts
 - a. 1763 – Proclamation of 1763 – Colonists can't move west of Appalachian
 - b. 1764 – Sugar Act – duties on sugar, textiles, coffee, wine
 - c. 1764 – Currency Act – colonists can't make paper money – how to trade?
 - d. 1765 – Stamp Act – all legal documents - \$ goes back to England – a first
 - e. 1765 – Quartering Act – colonists house and feed British troops
 - f. 1765 – Virginia Resolutions – Patrick Henry – only Virginia can tax
 - g. 1767 – Towshend Acts – more taxes
 - h. 1770 – Boston Massacre – 5 killed after harassment – propaganda wins
 - i. 1772 – Gaspee ship attacked and burned – culprits threatened back to Engl
 - j. 1773 – Boston Tea Party – Sons of Liberty mad Tea Act not enforced
 - k. 1774 – Coercive Acts/Intolerable Acts – punish Boston
 - l. 1774 – First Continental Congress – colonial militia
 - m. 1775 – Concord and Lexington – fight starts after Brits try to get weapons
 - n. 1776 – Declaration of Independence – 12 of 13 endorse, 55 sign “hang apart”