AP American

COLONISTS’ POINT OF VIEW

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **British Action** | **Rationale** | **Colonial Reaction** | **Rationale** |
| Proclamation of 1763: Parliament forbids American settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains | Provided a temporary measure to gain time to devise a more permanent solution to conflict between Indians and settlers. | Resentment and failure to comply | Colonists saw the Proclamation as an attempt to “hem them in” and keep them under British control. |
| 1763 Reinstate **Writs of Assistance**  | Colonists are smuggling goods without paying custom duties | **James Otis** takes the case to court after building and ships were ransacked and seized | The writs were against the fundamental principles of law, Which? |
| 1764 Sugar Act: tax on sugar | Colonists taxed at a rate comparable to levels of taxation for those at home | Boston experiments with boycotts | Britain had no right to tax for revenue without the colonists having representation in Parliament |
| 1765 Currency Actrequired colonists to pay British merchants in gold and silver | Rather than inflated colonial paper | Smoldering resentment | Mercantilism had created a chronic trade deficit for the colonies; the British were asking the impossible in demanding payments in gold and silver when colonial resources were continually being drained |
| 1765 Stamp ActTax on newspapers, playing cards, legal documents | Colonists must pay for part of the protection provided to them by the British government | **Sam Adams organizes Sons of Liberty**, Petitions, boycott, violence, **Stamp Act Congress, Resolutions of the Town of Braintree** | Britain had no right of taxation without representation, and no offenders should be tried in admiralty courts without juries |
| 1765 Quartering Act: Requires colonial civil authorities provide barracks and supplies for British troops | Required colonists to help provide for their own protection. | Protest in assemblies | 1. No taxation without representation.2. Questioned troops being sent to America while there was no foreign enemy. Perhaps troops sent there to control the colonists.3. This is an indirect tax since we are expected to house and feed British soldiers |
| 1766 Repeal of Stamp Act and passage of the **Declaratory Act** | Backed down on a particularly hated tax but retained the principle of British supremacy | Rejoicing over repeal; ignoring Declaratory Act | Colonists had forced the British to back down!!! (But are we overlooking the Declaratory act?) |
| 1767 Townshend dutiesPlaces duties on glass, lead, paints, paper and tea in the colonies | Reiterated the British belief that they had a legimate right to collect taxes from the colonies for the protection they received. And this is an indirect tax about which the colonists had not complained before | Boycotts, petitions, newspaper attacks**“Letters from a Farmer” John Dickenson** | The indirect taxes we had accepted earlier as a legitimate way to control trade in mercantilism were now being used to collect revenue; they considered this then another example of taxation without representation! |
| 1770 Boston MassacreBritish soldiers fired on a crowd in Boston killing several people | Colonists fired on the soldiers first and the soldiers defended themselves.  | Have the soldiers put on trial. | This is an example of British brutality and violence towards the colonists. |
| 1773 Tea Act: tax on tea | British attempt to save the British East India Company which had been floundering since the repeal of all the Townshend duties except the tax on tea. The price of tea was actually lower even with the tax | **Committees of Correspondence**, Protest, **Boston Tea Party,** boycott, **“John Adams Reflects on the Tea Party”** | Even though British tea became cheaper, colonists were still being taxed without representation. |
| 1774 Coercive or “Intolerable Act”Closes the port of Boston, Creates **Admiralty Courts** that tries people in military courts, restricts town meetings | Punished the Americans for property lost in the Boston Tea party | Boycott, convening **First Continental Congress** | Colonists viewed the acts as sweeping and unjustified denials of their constitutional liberties |
| 1774 Quebec Act  | Need to appease the French Catholic Canadians to avoid them supporting a rebellion in the colonies |  | Seen by the colonists as a way to strip their elected assemblies. Gave Ohio to Quebec, established Catholicism in colonies. Insult after fighting the French. |
| 1775 Lexington and ConcordArmed clashes between colonists and British troops | Were attempts to capture colonial leaders and war supplies to prevent the possibility of a successful colonial revolt!! | **2nd Continental Congress****Olive Branch Petition sent to the King****Paine’s “Common Sense”** | Paine’s Common Sense provided a rational for freeing America from British tyranny by force if necessary. (Get a copy of Common Sense and read it  |