

Road to Revolution:

Step by Step, Act by Act

Navigation Acts--Mercantilism mediated by Salutary Neglect; Acceptable for Britain & Colonies



British Identity--American colonists aspired to be full British citizens, where their status in the colonies translated into status in the Empire.

French & Indian War created resentments & different expectations for future of colonies.

Proclamation of 1763--Limited westward expansion to lower expense of Frontier defense; such policies traditional cause of colonial conflict.

Sugar Act (1764)--Reinvigoration of Mercantilism; brought little response other than increased smuggling because Mercantilism was not disputed.

Stamp Act (1765)--Purely internal tax on wide variety of goods; represented both a violation of colonial sovereignty & mercantilism; protests led to repeal of specific tax but not to British claims of Virtual Representation.

Declaratory Act (1766) & Townshend Duties (1767)--Statement of British authority followed by extensive duties on building materials; included tools to enforce duties & any other imperial policies. Non-Importation agreements successful, led to repeal, but Boston Massacre followed protests over smuggling arrests.

Tea Act (1773) & Coercive Acts (1774)--Boston Tea Party, largely symbolic, responded to imposition of tax & bailout for East India Co.; British Gov't responded with Intolerable Acts that repressed New England, the most independent of the colonies, & the Quebec Act, another set of policies to benefit one part of the empire at expense of American colonies.

Lexington/Concord & Bunker Hill (1775)--No turning back after bloodshed; King sought to suppress with mercenaries.



Declaration of Independence (1776)--Formal declaration of war; all who signed guilty of treason.