

# CHAPTER 6 - INDEPENDENCE

1770 – LORD NORTH becomes PM of England

- all Townshend Acts repealed EXCEPT tax on tea (to remind colonies Parliament was in charge)

*Gaspé* Incident – a customs schooner, the *Gaspé* was burned by Providence (RI) locals (1772).

- (Not a single colonist admitted being able to identify any perpetrators!)
- Britain established a court of inquiry for incident
- this usurped colonial self-gov't

1772 - Massachusetts governor paid directly by England

- colonial legislature loses power of the purse

Committees of Correspondence (*MA, then other colonies*)

- brainchild of Sam Adams
- informed colonists of Anglo-American relations
- served to unite colonies; fostered cooperation

Boston Tea Party (Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 1773)

- East India Company going bankrupt
- tea piled up in storage
- Parliament waives duties, giving monopoly to Company
- became “a symbol of tyranny”
- 150 “Indians” dump tea, no further vandalism

The “Intolerable Acts” - Parliament's response

- closed Boston port 'til debt paid
- British officials to no be tried in Massachusetts
- new Quartering Act (now housed in homes)

- limited MA self-gov't
  - *other colonies responded by sending relief--!* (read p. 94, A Beka)
  - *new military governor – Thomas Gage*

Quebec Act – threatened religious freedom

## FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

- 12 colonies sent reps to Philadelphia to discuss situation
- Washington, Henry, the Adams “brothers”
- “Declaration and Resolves”
  - Colonists are Englishmen w/ English rights
  - rejected Parliamentary rule (no representation)
  - affirmed colonial self-rule
  - acknowledged submission to king
- organized total boycott of England (buying/selling)
- decide to reconvene next Spring
- *meanwhile, militias organized* (read P. Henry speech, p. 95 A Beka)

## LEXINGTON & CONCORD

- Gage moves troops to arrest Hancock and Sam Adams, seize munitions
- “Midnight ride of Paul Revere”
- met by 70 minutemen, April 19, 1775
- “shot heard 'round the world”
- British bottled up in Boston

(*Loyalists* or *Tories* – colonists supporting England)

*3 weeks later, the SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS convened (May 1775)*

- George Washington appointed Commander-in Chief
  - Next month – the Battle of Bunker Hill (*June 1775*)
- Olive Branch Petition sent to King George (*July 5<sup>th</sup>*)
  - Pledged loyalty to king
  - asked him to stop Parliament's abuses of colonies
- Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms (*July 6<sup>th</sup>*)
  - Dickinson & Jefferson
  - response by king → Proclamation of Rebellion

King George issues Prohibitory Act (*Dec 1775*)

- removes colonies from king's protection
- imposes a blockade on colonies – an act of war!
- England to confiscate American ships

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* pamphlet (*Jan 1776*)

- It is “common sense” that the colonies be free and independent

June 7, 1776 Richard Henry Lee presents his

**resolution for independence**

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 – **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

- penned by Jefferson (“*Red*”)
- adopted *unanimously*

# Brief Notes on the Revolutionary War

## Patriot advantages:

- fighting for homes/families/freedom
- knew the land
- experienced at wilderness fighting
- war was unpopular in England
- foreign aid, notably France

## Patriot disadvantages

- lack of unity/cooperation (like 13 separate wars)
- printed money to finance war
- lack of food/equipment

## Highlights:

- Patriot victory @ Saratoga
  - turning point
  - boosted morale
  - garnered France's recognition & support
- Winter @ Valley Forge
  - undernourished, sick, poorly clad
  - Washington inspired troops (read Thomas Paine)
- Yorktown – it's all over (*“thank you, monsieurs!”*)
- Treaty of Paris
  - US boundaries:  
north to Canada, west to Mississippi, south to Florida