



The Road to Ruin

The Beginning of the End of Colonial America



3 Blind Mice

- ▶ **Royal colonies** - *owned by the king.* (ie. New York and Virginia)
- ▶ **Proprietary colonies** - *Individuals were awarded huge tracts of land that they would then supervise and govern in return for political and/or financial favors.* Their colonial governors report directly to the king. (ie. Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware)
- ▶ **Self-governing colonies** - *the king granted a charter to a joint-stock company, and the company then set up its own government independent of the crown.* The king could revoke the colonial charter at any time and convert a self-governing colony into a royal colony. (ie. Rhode Island and Connecticut)

The Structure of Colonial Government

- **Charters** - *issued by the king set up the rules of governance*. Some charters were issued to individuals or joint-stock companies to develop the rules while others.
- **Governors** - *ran the day to day operations of colonies. Most were appointed by the king and were paid by state legislatures*. This caused them to serve two masters.
- **Legislatures** – *made laws and paid the bills*. Members were appointed or elected. The *first colonial legislature was the House of Burgess in Virginia*, created in 1619.



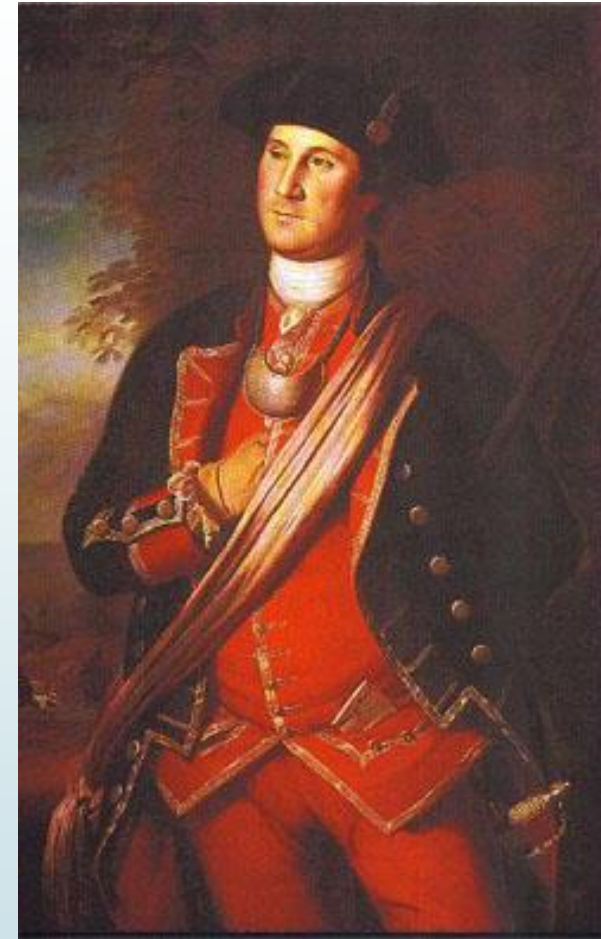
Land of Conflicting Claims

- ▶ *Both the British and French claimed the Ohio River Valley*
- ▶ Virginia & Pennsylvania were the British colonies that laid claim to the land
- ▶ The *French built trading outposts that were also forts to protect their claims the land*



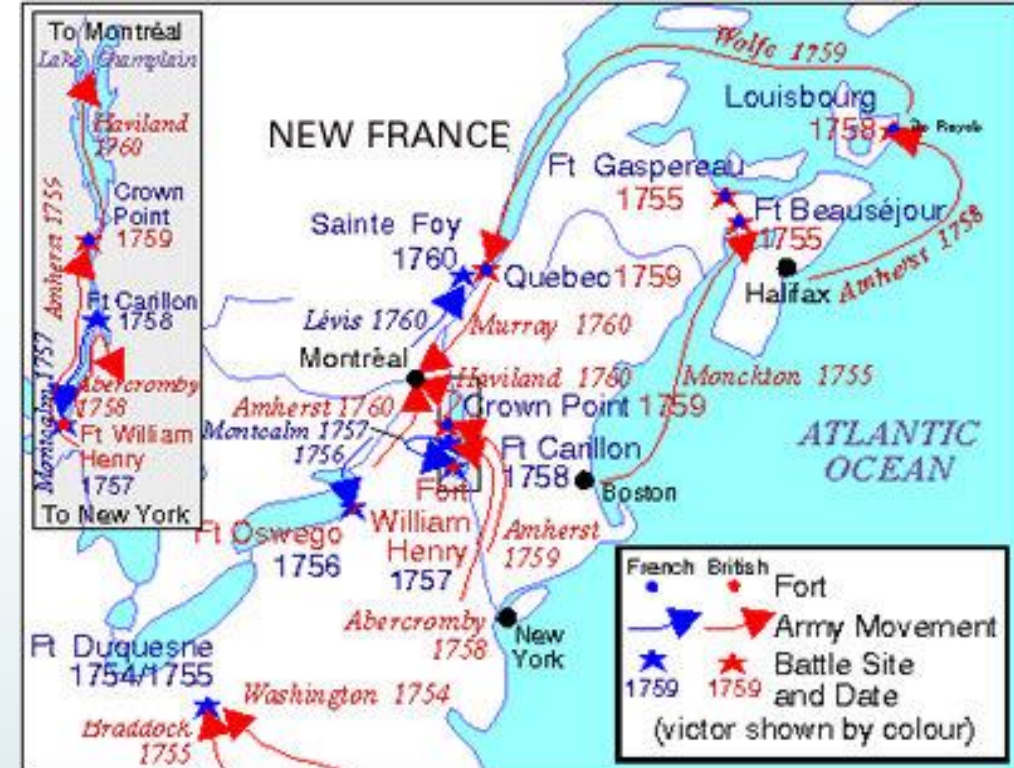
“Cry Havoc and Let Slip Loose the Dogs of War”

- ▶ Virginia sent a force of militia men in 1754 to a French fort in the Ohio River Valley (Duquesne-modern day Pittsburgh) to demand their withdrawal
- ▶ The *force was commanded by George Washington*
- ▶ When the French refused *the militia men attacked and were briefly successful until a larger French force caused them to surrender*
- ▶ *This started the Seven Years War* (aka the French & Indian War)



The First Real World War

- *The Seven Years War (1756-1763) was fought on 5 continents*
- In North America it pitted the *British colonies and their Iroquois allies* versus the *French and their Native American allies*
- Main battles in North America include:
 - General Braddock's attack on Fort Duquesne – French ambush British and kill most of the British officers. Only saved by George Washington leading a counter attack and retreat
 - Fort William Henry – French seize the fort and control of Lake George
 - Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga) – British seize the fort and control of Lake George and Lake Champlain
 - Quebec – In a daring attack, the British attack and seize the capital of New France. Both the French and British commanding generals die during the battle
- *War ends with the Treaty of Paris (1763) giving Great Britain control of New France*



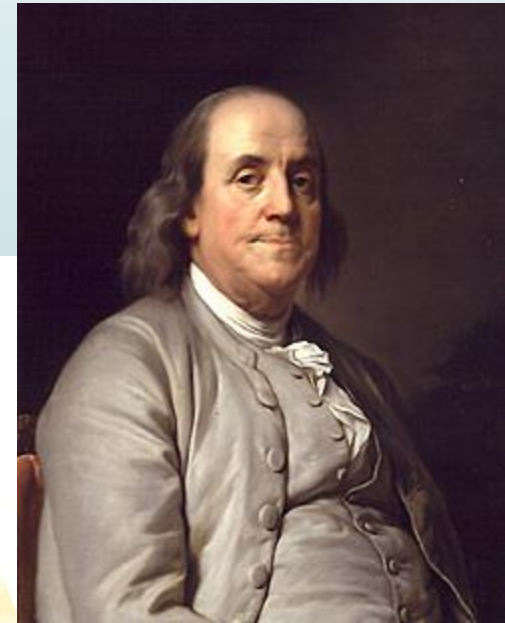
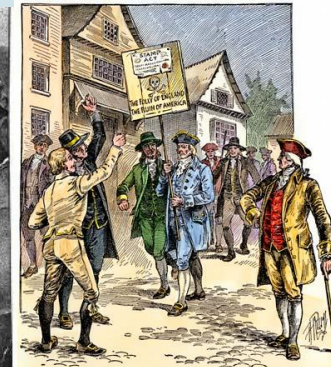
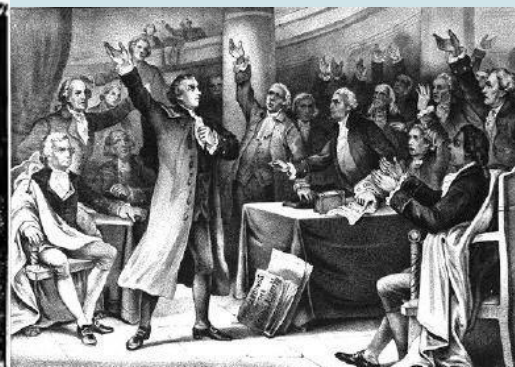
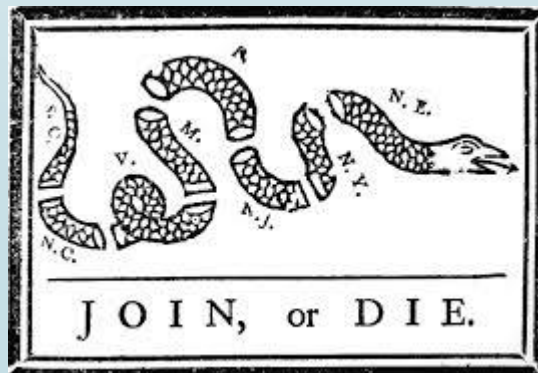
Paying the Price of Peace

- Determined not to continue problems with the Native Americans and to pay for the high cost of the war as well as the continued stationing of troops in North America, the British Parliament instituted a number of reforms
- *Pontiac's Rebellion (1763) – Native Americans under the command of Pontiac rebelled against British rule and colonial settlements in their territory west of the Appalachian Mountains. This forced the British to issue the Proclamation of 1763 banning settlement west of the Appalachians.* British colonist despised this and often ignored it.
- *Sugar Act (1764) – Parliament wanted to pay for the troops stationed in North America so it issued a tax on molasses.* Control of colonial trade was also tightened to limit smuggling and maximize mercantilism profits in Britain. It was enforced with writs of assistance (search warrants). Colonists cried “no taxation without representation”
- *Stamp Act (1765) – Parliament placed a tax on legal documents, cards, newspapers, and calendars.* A stamp was placed on the documents when the tax was paid.
- *Quartering Act (1765) – Ordered colonies to house and feed British troops in the colonies*



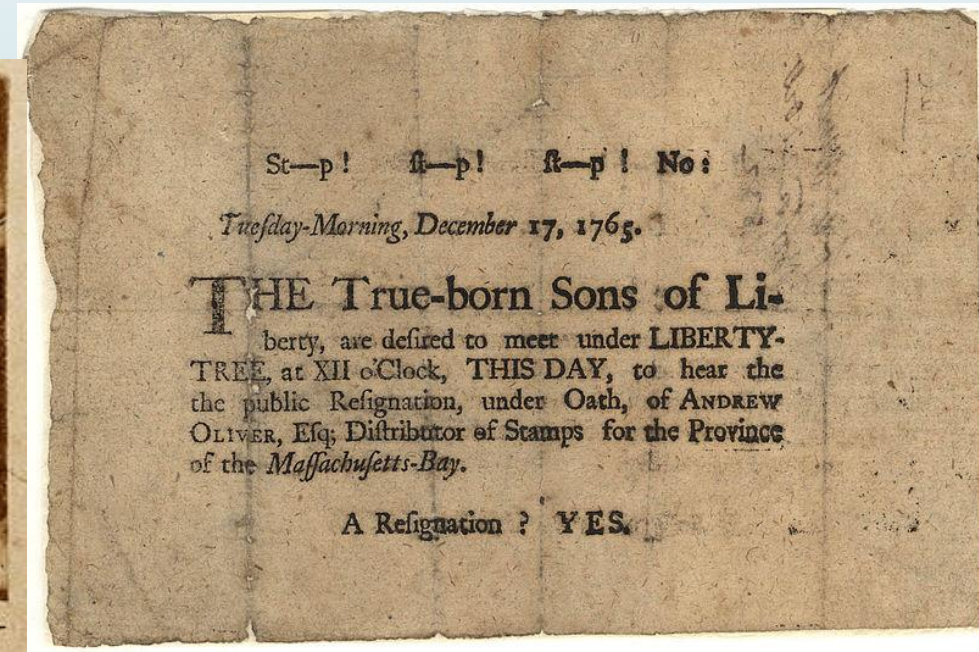
For every act there is an equal and opposite reaction...

- ▶ After years of *Salutary Neglect (a policy of being ignored by the British government)*, the colonies were angry under the sudden and strict British control
- ▶ The *Sons of Liberty were formed* by Sam Adams and John Hancock in Boston
 - ▶ Hancock's smuggling business was being threatened by the British trade limitations
- ▶ *Representatives from the colonies met at the Stamp Act Congress to organize opposition to the Sugar and Stamp Acts.*
 - ▶ Used the Albany Plan of Union (1754) proposed by Ben Franklin as a model
 - ▶ *Organized a boycott of British goods*
 - ▶ *Got Ben Franklin to lobby support in Parliament to repeal the acts*
- ▶ *Parliament repealed the Sugar and Stamp Acts in 1766*



Someone has to pay...

- After the Sugar and Stamp Acts were repealed, Parliament still had to pay for the troops in north America
- **Townshend Act (1767) – Taxed newspapers, paint, lead, and glass.**
 - **Colonists again formed boycotts to protest the tax**
- **Colonists formed the Committees of Correspondence to record and share acts of tyranny by the British government in the colonies.**
 - Committees were organized in all 13 colonies and would coordinate their efforts



It's a "Massacre" out there

- On March 5, 1770 a crowd of Bostonians whipped up by the Sons of Liberty challenged British soldiers standing guard outside the Customs House.
- The crowd began throwing objects at the soldiers, including cobble stones, trying to provoke the soldiers
- Fearing for their lives, the soldiers fired, killing 5 including run-away slave Crispus Attucks
- Paul Revere made an engraving of the incident and labeled it a massacre. This was distributed throughout the colonies
- The soldiers were put on trial for murder
- They were defended by a young lawyer, John Adams
- They were acquitted and the incident was called self-defense



Tea Time

- ▶ **Tea Tax (1773)** – Parliament issued a tax on tea and made the British East India Company the sole supplier in the colonies
- ▶ This was resented in the colonies
- ▶ In Boston, a group of **Sons of Liberty** dressed as Native Americans boarded 3 ships carrying tea. They **threw the crates of tea into Boston Harbor**
- ▶ **Parliament was so incensed it passed the Coercive Acts (1774) (aka the Intolerable Acts)**
 - ▶ Sends more troops and ships to Boston to close the harbor until the cost of the tea has been paid for
 - ▶ Limited Town meetings in Massachusetts and placed Boston under military rule
 - ▶ Said British officers would only stand trial in Britain for crimes committed in the colonies
 - ▶ Ordered troops in Boston to be quartered in private homes with the home owners feeding and taking care of the soldiers
- ▶ The **13 colonies send representatives to the First Continental Congress** in Philadelphia to plan a response



The Shot Heard Around the World

- ▶ British Military Governor *General Thomas Gage sends troops to Lexington and Concord to capture militia gun powder and cannon stored there as well as Sons of Liberty leaders Sam Adams and John Hancock*
- ▶ On the morning of April 19, 1775 the British force leaves Boston on its' capture mission
- ▶ Sons of Liberty Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott rode out of Boston to warn Minutemen militia men in Lexington and Concord
- ▶ When the *British reach Lexington Adams and Hancock are gone but a force of Minutemen block the road*
 - ▶ Shots are fired, 7 Minutemen are killed, and the Minutemen flee
- ▶ *British march onto Concord but run into Minutemen shooting at them* from behind anything they could, forcing *the British to withdraw back to Boston*
- ▶ 73 British soldiers are killed, 174 wounded, and 26 missing. Approximately 90 Minutemen were killed or wounded.

