

U.S. History I

Semester 1

United States History 1: Anchor Assignment

As the colonies fought against their own people, the British, in America, it was inevitable that the Revolutionary War would break out. There were many things that started this war, but there were three main acts that sparked the ignition of war. One of the most important events was the Boston Tea Party, which gave the colonists a way to fight against Britain. Another important event that brought about the Revolutionary War was the Stamp Act, which started the fighting between the colonists and Britain. Lastly, the colonists had to face the Intolerable Acts. After this act was established, the colonists were done with trying to make peace with Britain.

The fighting between the colonists and the British began after the French and Indian war, when Britain established the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act was the taxing of special stamped papers that were used for legal documents, licenses, newspapers, pamphlets, and almanacs. This tax was made to help pay Britain so they could come out of debt after the French and Indian war. The passing of this law made the colonists furious. In one reading, it says that “We have called this a burthensome tax, because the duties are so numerous and high... that it would be totally impossible for the people to subsist under it... (Reading 4)” In a way of attack the British, the colonists boycotted the items being taxed. Another effort to bring down this new law was made when the colonists set up a secret resistance group, also known as the Sons of Liberty. With the risk of being mobbed, many stamp agents resigned. The British realized what was going on in America, so they decided to repeal the Stamp Act. But from that point on, the British and the colonists knew that they would not be able to get along much longer.

The most important event that brought about the war was the Boston Tea Party, which occurred sometime after the Tea Act. In this event, the colonists disguised themselves as Indians, snuck on board of British tea ships, and dumped the contents of the ship into the Boston Harbor. That night, 18,000 pounds of tea were thrown overboard the British ships, to symbolize the colonist’s anger with the new laws that the British made. As John Andrews said in his quote, “... and before nine o’clock in the evening, every chest from on board the three vessels was knock’d to pieces and flung over the sides. (pg. 99)” This night brought good and bad with it though. The colonist’s rebellion showed what the colonists could do, and that was the message they wanted to pass along. But because of that night, on December 16, 1773, the Intolerable Acts were made for the colonists, which made it worse to be a colonist in the 1770s. The British and the colonist’s anger began to rise as more and more Acts were being made. But one more act sent the colonists into war.

After the Boston Tea Party, Britain was horrified with the colonist’s actions. In response, Britain established the Intolerable Acts. This law did three things. The first thing it did was shut down the Boston Harbor. This left the colonists with no trading, which brought most of the money into the colonies. The second event that took place was the Quartering Act. This allowed British commanders to

house British soldiers in vacant houses, and sometimes in houses that people were already living in. This gave the colonists no privacy in their own homes. They were not able to kick the British out of their house either, so the British stole their food and items of value, without getting in trouble. As Reverend Ebenezer Baldwin said in 1774, “—armies of the soldiers quartered among the inhabitants, who know the horrid purpose for which they are stationed, in the colonies—to subjugate and beat down the inhabitants... (103)” The last thing that took place was that General Thomas Gage was appointed the new leader of the Massachusetts colony. After being made governor, he put Boston under the martial law, or a rule imposed by military forces. But the colonists responded with the making of the First Continental Congress. They made up a declaration of colonial rights and they also told Britain that if force was used against the colonists, then the colonists should fight back. Because of this last act, Britain began the spiral into the Revolutionary War.

There was no way of avoiding the Revolutionary war for the colonists or the British. In all the situations that the British made an act, the colonists would grow angrier and angrier, and they would just fight back. The British started the anger between the colonists and themselves when they established the Stamp Act. In response to the acts that Britain made, the colonists then struck back with the Boston Tea Party. The colonists were at their boiling points, and the Intolerable acts were the last straw. The only choice left now was to go to war with Britain. But the colonists were up against a strong army. With their flowing supply of military, their large army, and their educated commanders, it would be hard to hold up for a long time. But the colonists had their own weapons they could use against the British. The Revolutionary War was an important step for the colonists, and they needed to work hard to fight for their rights for freedom.