Chapter 7
The Road to Revolution, 1763–1775
I. The Deep Roots of Revolution

• Reluctant revolutionaries?
• In a way, the New World was the perfect environment for a revolution!
• Two ideas that had taken root in the minds of the colonists: (a) the republicanism of the ancient Greeks and Romans-subordinate your self interests to the common good. Republicanism was opposed to central authority. (b) the example of the radical Whigs-those in Britain who opposed the arbitrary power of the monarchy-Americans had become accustomed to running their own affairs.
II. Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances

- Mercantilism- an economic theory based upon the concept that a nation's wealth was measured in bullion. Exporting more than you imported = more gold and silver. Led to strict economic regulation of the colonies. Colonists were viewed as tenants - they were to provide products and raw materials to the mother country. Parliament passed laws to regulate the colonies.

- Navigation Laws of 1650 - aimed at Dutch shippers - American products could only be shipped on British vessels.
continued

• Subsequent laws- American products had to land in British ports first where tariff was applied; Americans were required to ship certain products to Britain only, despite lower prices.

• These regulations also created a currency shortage in the colonies. Basically, colonies were buying more than they were selling from Britain as a result of the regulations.

• Colonists printed paper money to resolve the issue-Britain prohibited it because British merchants complained.

• British government reserved the right to nullify laws passed by colonial legislatures (royal veto)
III. The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism

• Prior to 1763, the British economic policy had not been burdensome (salutary neglect). They were not strongly enforced and smuggling was common.

• Mercantilism had some benefits for the colonies: British paid bounties for some products; colonial tobacco growers had a monopoly in Britain; the colonies were protected by the world’s strongest empire at no cost.

• But, mercantilism had its burdens: colonists dependent upon British creditors; it stifled economic incentive and independence; led to animosity. Colonists tired of being treated like children.
IV. The Stamp Tax Uproar

• After French and Indian, there was a shift in British policy and approach. Britain had accumulated large debt.

• Prime George Grenville ordered strict enforcement of Navigation Laws.

• Sugar Act of 1764-first British law for raising tax revenue in the colonies. Increased duty on sugar from West Indies.

• Quartering Act of 1765-forced some colonies to house and feed British troops.

• Stamp Act-required stamp indicating tax was paid on many paper documents.
continued
V. Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act
No Stamp Act.
"America; Liberty... Restored"
VI. The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston “Massacre”
VII. The Seditious Committees of Correspondence
VIII. Tea Brewing in Boston
IX. Parliament Passes the “Intolerable Acts”
X. Bloodshed
XI. Imperial Strength and Weakness
XII. American Pluses and Minuses
XIII. A Thin Line of Heroes
# CHRONOLOGY

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1650</td>
<td>First Navigation Laws to control colonial commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>1696</td>
<td>Board of Trade assumes governance of colonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1763</td>
<td>Seven Years’ War (French and Indian War) ends</td>
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<td>1764</td>
<td>Sugar Act</td>
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| 1765 | Quartering Act  
Stamp Act  
Stamp Act Congress |
| 1766 | Declaratory Act |
| 1767 | Townshend Acts  
New York legislature suspended by Parliament |
| 1768 | British troops occupy Boston |
| 1770 | Boston Massacre  
All Townshend Acts except tea tax repealed |
| 1772 | Committees of correspondence formed |
| 1773 | British East India Company granted tea monopoly  
Governor Hutchinson’s actions provoke Boston Tea Party |
| 1774 | “Intolerable Acts”  
Quebec Act  
First Continental Congress  
The Association boycotts British goods |
| 1775 | Battles of Lexington and Concord |