Chapter #7: The Road to Revolution

1. Following the French and Indian War, the British crown needed money and figured the Americans could help pay for the war.

2. Also, the economic policy of mercantilism dictated that England try to keep its hard money within the British Empire. So, laws were passed to restrict American trade.

3. The taxes and regulations that followed were not received well by the Americans, notably the Stamp Act.

4. Conditions deteriorated and radical patriots brought matters to a head in events such as the Tea Party and Boston Massacre. Even though most Americans would be considered moderates at the time, the radical patriots were the ones making things happen.

5. The culmination of the patriots’ activities came at Lexington and Concord, when the American Revolution began.

IDENTIFICATIONS

Lord North
1770's-1782 King George III's stout prime minister (governor during Boston Tea Party) in the 1770's. Lord North's rule fell in March of 1782, which therefore ended the rule of George III for a short while.

Internal/External taxation
According to this doctrine, the colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country; they should add to its wealth, prosperity, and self-sufficiency. The settlers were regarded more or less as tenants. They were expected to produce tobacco and other products needed in England and not to bother their heads with dangerous experiments in agriculture or self-government.

George Grenville
George Grenville was the British Prime Minister from 1763-1765. To obtain funds for Britain after the costly 7-Years War, in 1763 he ordered the Navy to enforce the unpopular Navigation Laws, and in 1764 he got Parliament to pass the Sugar Act, which increased duties on sugar imported from the West Indies. He also, in 1765, brought about the Quartering Act, which forced colonists to provide food and shelter to British soldiers, who many colonists believed were only present to keep the colonists in line.

Letter from a Farmer in Pennsylvania
A declaration of colonial rights and grievances, written by John Dickinson in 1767 to protest the Townshend Acts. Although an outspoken critic of British policies towards the colonies, Dickinson opposed the Revolution, and, as a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1776,
refused to sign the Declaration of Independence.

**Gaspee Incident**
In June, 1772, the British customs ship *Gaspee* ran aground off the colonial coast. When the British went ashore for help, colonials boarded the ship and burned it. They were sent to Britain for trial. Colonial outrage led to the widespread formation of Committees of Correspondence.

**Charles Townshend**
Charles Townshend was control of the British ministry and was nicknamed "Champagne Charley" for his brilliant speeches in Parliament while drunk. He persuaded Parliament in 1767 to pass the Townshend Acts. These new regulations was a light import duty on glass, white lead, paper, and tea. It was a tax that the colonist were greatly against and was a near start for rebellions to take place.

**Baron Von Steuben**
A stern, Prussian drillmaster that taught American soldiers during the Revolutionary War how to successfully fight the British.

**Mercantilism**
According to this doctrine, the colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country; they should add to its wealth, prosperity, and self-sufficiency. The settlers were regarded more or less as tenants. They were expected to produce tobacco and other products needed in England and not to bother their heads with dangerous experiments in agriculture or self-government.

"Virtual" representation
Theory that claimed that every member of Parliament represented all British subjects, even those Americans in Boston or Charleston who had never voted for a member of the London Parliament.

**Sons of Liberty**
An organization established in 1765, these members (usually in the middle or upper class) resisted the Stamp Act of 1765. Even though the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, the Sons of Liberty combined with the Daughters of Liberty remained active in resistance movements.

**Admiralty courts**
British courts originally established to try cases involving smuggling or violations of the Navigation Acts which the British government sometimes used to try American criminals in the colonies. Trials in Admiralty Courts were heard by judges without a jury.

**Committees of Correspondence**
Samuel Adams started the first committee in Boston in 1772 to spread propaganda and secret information by way of letters. They were used to sustain opposition to British policy. The committees were extremely effective and a few years later almost every colony had one. This is another example of the colonies breaking away from Europe to become Americans.
**First Continental Congress**

a convention and a consultative body that met for seven weeks, from September 5 to October 26, 1774, in Philadelphia; it was the American's response to the Intolerable Acts; considered ways of redressing colonial grievances; all colonies except Georgia sent 55 distinguished men in all; John Adams persuaded his colleagues toward revolution; they wrote a Declaration of Rights and appeals to British American colonies, the king, and British people; created the Association which called for a complete boycott of English goods; the Association was the closet thing to a written constitution until the

**Loyalists (Tories)**

Colonials loyal to the king during the American Revolution.

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**GUIDED READING QUESTIONS:**

**The Deep Roots of Revolution**

1. Why does the author say that the American Revolution began when the first settlers stepped ashore?
**Mercantilism and Colonial Grievances**  
Know: Mercantilism, Navigation Laws, Royal Veto

2. Explain the economic theory of mercantilism and the role of colonies.

3. How did Parliament enact the theory of mercantilism into policy?

**The Merits and Menace of Mercantilism**  
Know: Salutary Neglect, John Hancock, Bounties

4. In what ways did the mercantilist theory benefit the colonies?

5. What economic factors were involved in leading colonists to be displeased with the British government?

**The Stamp Tax Uproar**  
Know: George Grenville, Sugar Act, Quartering Act, Stamp Act, Admiralty Courts, Virtual Representation

6. Why were the colonists so upset over relatively mild taxes and policies?
Forced Repeal of the Stamp Act
Know: Stamp Act Congress, Non-importation Agreements, Homespun, Sons of Liberty, Declaratory Act

7. In what ways did colonists resist the Stamp Act?

The Townshend Tea Tax and the Boston "Massacre"
Know: Townshend Acts, Indirect Tax, Boston Massacre, John Adams

8. How did the Townshend Acts lead to more difficulties?

The Seditious Committees of Correspondence
Know: George III, Lord North, Samuel Adams, Committees of Correspondence

9. How did Committees of Correspondence work?

Tea Brewing in Boston
Know: British East India Company, Boston Tea Party

10. What was the cause of the Boston Tea Party, and what was its significance?
Parliament Passes the "Intolerable Acts"
Know: Boston Port Act, Massachusetts Government Act, Administration of Justice Act, Quartering Act of 1774, Quebec Act

11. What was so intolerable about the Coercive (Intolerable) Acts?

Bloodshed
Know: First Continental Congress, Declaration of Rights, The Association, Tar and Feathers, Minute Men, Lexington and Concord

12. What was the goal of the First Continental Congress?

Imperial Strength and Weakness
Know: Hessians, Tories

13. What were British strengths and weaknesses at the outset of the war?
American Pluses and Minuses
Know: George Washington, Ben Franklin, Marquis de Lafayette, Continentals
14. What were the American strengths and weaknesses at the outset of the war?

A Thin Line of Heroes
Know: Valley Forge, Baron von Steuben, Continental Army
15. What role was played by African-Americans in the Revolution?