

South Carolina & the American Revolution Document Walk

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Document 1: The Stamp Act, March 22, 1765

An act for granting and applying certain stamp **duties**, and other duties, in the British colonies and plantations in America, towards further defraying the expences of defending, protecting, and securing the same; and for amending such parts of the several acts of parliament relating to the trade and revenues of the said colonies and plantations...

...That from and after the first day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty five, there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid unto his Majesty, his heirs, and ...

For every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which shall be ingrossed, written or printed, any declaration, plea, replication, rejoinder, demurrer, or other pleading, or any copy thereof, in any court of law within the British colonies and plantations in America, a stamp duty of three pence.

For every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which shall be ingrossed, written or printed, any special bail and appearance upon such bail in any such court, a stamp duty of two shillings.

For every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which shall be ingrossed, written, or printed, any licence for retailing of spirituous liquors, to be granted to any person who shall take out the same, within the said colonies and plantations, a stamp duty of twenty shillings.

And for and upon every pack of playing cards, and all dice, which shall be sold or used within the said colonies and plantations, the several stamp duties following (that is to say)

For every pack of such cards, the sum of one shilling.

And for every pair of such dice, the sum of ten shillings.

..All the monies which shall arise by the several rates and duties hereby granted...shall be paid into the receipt of his Majesty's **exchequer**, and shall be entered separate and apart from all other monies, and shall be there reserved to be from time to time disposed of by parliament, towards further defraying the necessary expences of defending, protecting, and securing, the said colonies and plantations.

GLOSSARY:

Duties: taxes

Exchequer: a nation's treasury

Document 2: South Carolina Stamp Act Resolutions, 1765

That His Majesty's Subjects in this Province owe the same Allegiance to the Crown of Great Britain, that is due from His Subjects born there.

This His Majesty's Liege Subject in this Province are intitled [*sic*] to all the **inherent** Rights and Liberties of His natural born Subjects within the Kingdom of Great Britain.

That it is inseparably [*sic*] essential to the Freedom of a People, and the undoubted Right of Englishmen, that no Taxes be imposed on them, but with their own Consent, given personally, or by their Representatives.

That the people of this Province are not, and, from their local Circumstances, cannot be represented in the House of Commons of Great Britain...

That the only Representatives of the People of this Province are Persons chosen therein by themselves; and that no Taxes ever have been or can be, constitutionally imposed on them, but by the Legislature of this Province.

That the late Act of Parliament, instituted by "an Act for granting and applying certain Stamp Duties and other Duties on the British Colonies and Plantations in America," be by impressing Taxes on the Inhabitants of the Province; and the said Act and several other Acts, by extending the Jurisdiction of the Courts of Admirally [*sic*], beyond its ancient Limits; have a Manifest Tendency to **subvert** the Rights and Liberties of the People of this Province.

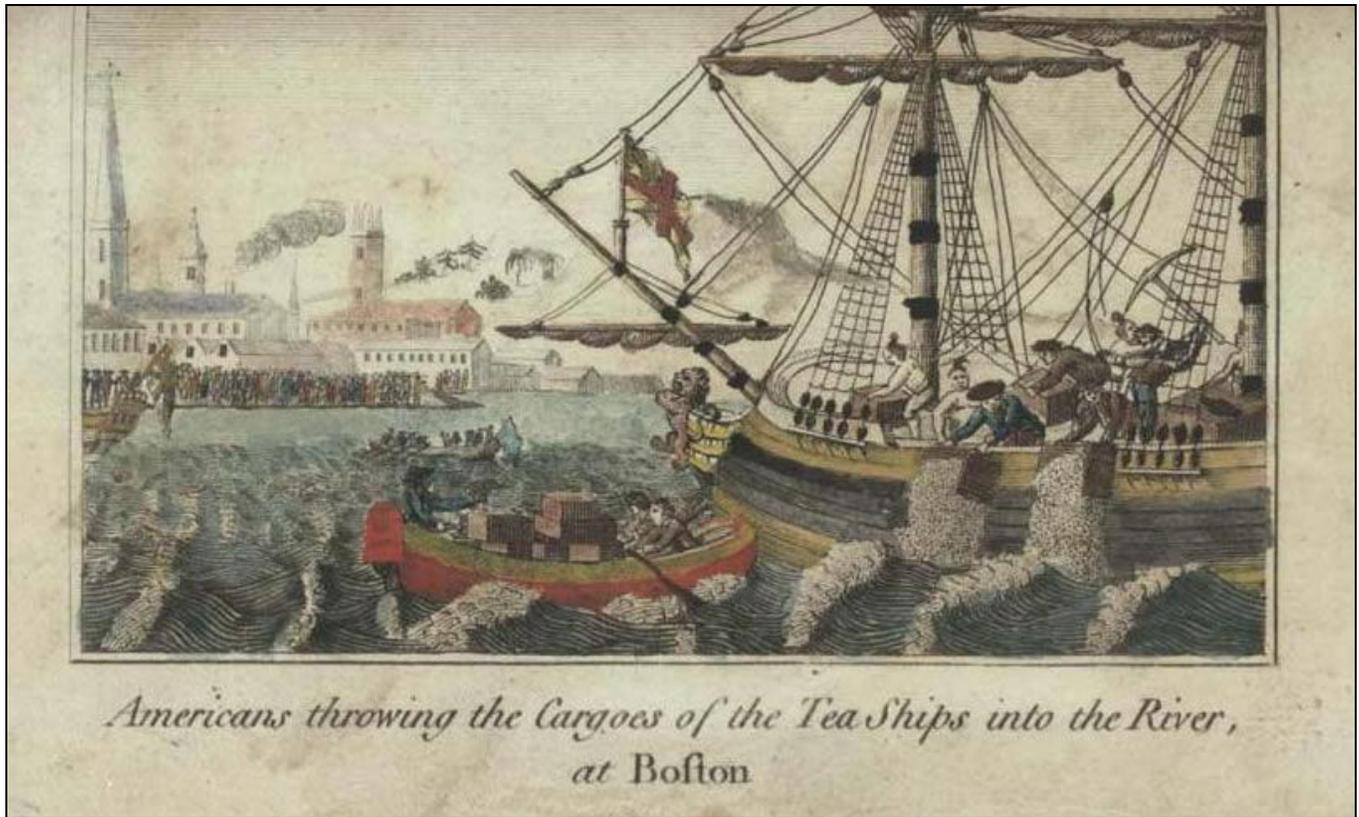
GLOSSARY:

Inherent: innate, natural

Subvert: threaten

Document 3 (Two documents):

Engraving (1789) of Boston Tea Party of 1773



***South Carolina Gazette*, Charles Town, November 21, 1774**

CHARLES-TOWN

The same Day arrived here, in the Ship Britannia, Capt. Samuel Ball, jun. from London ...

Before Captain Ball had been many Hours in Port, the Committee of Observation were informed, that he had Seven Chests of Tea on board, subject to that Duty which all America have denied to be constitutionally imposed; and the Minds of the People appeared to be very much agitated...

On Thursday at Noon, an Oblation was made to Neptune, of the said seven chests of Tea, by Messrs. Lindsay, Kinsley and Mackenzie themselves; who going on board the Ship in the Stream, with their own Hands respectively stove the Chests belong to each, and emptied their Contents into the River, in the Presence of the Committee of Observation, who likewise went on board, and in View of the whole General Committee on the Shore besides numerous Concourse of People, who gave three hearty Cheers after the emptying of each Chest, and immediately after separated as if nothing had happened.

Document 4: A SUMMARY VIEW OF THE RIGHTS OF BRITISH AMERICA, Thomas Jefferson, 1774

That by "an act to discontinue...the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of goods, wares, and merchandize, at the town and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America," which was passed at the last session of British parliament; a large and populous town, whose trade was their sole subsistence, was deprived of that trade, and involved in utter ruin... An act of parliament had been passed imposing duties on teas, to be paid in America, against which act the Americans had protested as inauthoritative. The East India company, who till that time had never sent a pound of tea to America on their own account, step forth...and send hither many ship loads of that obnoxious commodity. The masters of their several vessels, however, on their arrival in America, wisely attended to admonition, and returned with their cargoes. In the province of New England alone the **remonstrances** of the people were disregarded, and a compliance, after being many days waited for, was flatly refused. Whether in this the master of the vessel was governed by his **obstinacy**, or his instructions, let those who know, say. There are extraordinary situations which require extraordinary interposition. An exasperated people, who feel that they possess power, are not easily restrained within limits strictly regular. A number of them assembled in the town of Boston, threw the tea into the ocean, and dispersed without doing any other act of violence.

...They know, and will therefore say, that kings are the servants, not the proprietors of the people. Open your breast, sire, to liberal and expanded thought. Let not the name of George the third be a blot in the page of history...You have no ministers for American affairs, because you have none taken from among us, nor amenable to the laws on which they are to give you advice.

GLOSSARY:

Remonstrances: protests

Obstinacy: stubbornness

Document 5: Journals of the Continental Congress, The Articles of Association, October 20, 1774

We, his majesty's most loyal subjects, the delegates of the several ... avowing our allegiance to his majesty, our affection and regard for our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain and elsewhere, affected with the deepest anxiety, and most alarming apprehensions, at those grievances and distresses, with which his Majesty's American subjects are oppressed; and having taken under our most serious deliberation, the state of the whole continent, find, that the present unhappy situation of our affairs is occasioned by a ruinous system of colony administration, adopted by the British ministry about the year 1763...

To obtain **redress** of these grievances, which threaten destruction to the lives liberty, and property of his majesty's subjects, in North-America, we are of opinion, that a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement, faithfully adhered to, will prove the most speedy, effectual, and peaceable measure

...That from and after the first day of December next, we will not import, into British America, from Great-Britain or Ireland, any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever, or from any other place, any such goods, wares, or merchandise, as shall have been exported from Great-Britain or Ireland; nor will we, after that day, import any East-India tea from any part of the world; nor any molasses, syrups, paneles, coffee, or pimento, from the British plantations or from Dominica...

...The earnest desire we have not to injure our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain, Ireland, or the West-Indies, **induces** us to suspend a non-exportation, until the tenth day of September, 1775; at which time, if the said acts and parts of acts of the British parliament herein after mentioned, ate not repealed, we will not directly or indirectly, export any merchandise or commodity whatsoever to Great-Britain, Ireland, or the West-Indies, except rice to Europe.

...And we do further agree and resolve that we will have no trade, commerce, dealings or intercourse whatsoever, with any colony or province, in North-America, which shall not **accede** to...this association

IN CONGRESS, PHILADELPHIA, October 20, 1774.

Signed, PEYTON RANDOLPH, President.

GLOSSARY:

Redress: to set right

Induces: causes

Accede: agree

Document 6 (Two Documents):

Official Statement of John Robbins, Lexington Militia, April 24, 1775, on Lexington Green

I, John Robbins, being of lawful age, do testify and say, that on the nineteenth **instant**, the Company under the command of Captain John Parker being drawn up (sometime before sunrise) on the green or common, and I being in the **front rank**, there suddenly appeared a number of the King's Troops, about a thousand, as I thought, at the distance of about sixty or seventy yards from us, **huzzaing** and on a quick pace toward us, with three officers in their front on horseback, and on full gallop towards us; the foremost of which cried, "Throw down your arms, ye villains, ye rebels;" upon which said Company dispersing, the foremost of the three officers ordered their men, saying "Fire, by God, fire;" at which moment we received a very heavy and close fire from them; at which instant, being wounded, I fell, and several of our men were shot dead by one **volley**. Captain Parker's men, I believe, had not then fired a gun.

Lt. John Barker, British Soldier, 4th Regiment, Diary Account on the beginning of the march to Lexington

[April] 19th...about 5 miles on this side of a Town called Lexington which lay in our road, we heard there were some hundreds of People collected together intending to oppose us and stop our going on: at 5 o'clock we arrived there and saw a number of People, I believe **2 and 300**, formed on a **Common** in the middle of the Town; we still continued advancing, keeping prepared against an attack tho' without intending to attack them, but on our coming near them they fired one or two shots, upon which our Men without any orders rushed in upon them, fired and put 'em to flight; several of them were killed...

GLOSSARY:

2 and 300: between 200 and 300

Common: village green or square

Instant: a particular point in time, in this case on April 19, 1775

Front rank: front row

Huzzaing: cheering and yelling loudly

Volley: one round of firing

Document 7: The Declaration of independence, July 04, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. -
-That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government...

The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world....

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good...
For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us...
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world...
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent...
For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury...
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us...
He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people...

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America...by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown... we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Document Analysis Sheet

Guiding Question: What were the causes of the American Revolution?

Document: _____

Group Members: _____