

## Seminar: Causes of the American Revolution (Was it inevitable?)

American History Honors / AP U.S. History

Your assignment is to do the following:

- Read the textbook selections for the time period leading up to the start of the War for Independence and the beginning years of the conflict (1763-1778) [Honors: Sections 4.1 & 4.2]
- Prepare to discuss the following in-class:
  - Signs of conflict during the colonial period (pre-1763)
  - Taxes and new laws passed 1763-1775
  - Developing signs of colonial unity
  - What was the British argument? (support/oppose); What was the colonial argument? (support/oppose) Who was right?
  - Is the primary cause the debate on taxation without representation? Did mercantilism cause the conflict?
  - What was the purpose of the First Continental Congress?
  - Could the war have been avoided? Was the American Revolution inevitable?
  - Could fighting have been avoided after Lexington and Concord?
  - Is this a “conservative” revolution? Who fights in this war?
  - How do these events leading to the Revolution contribute to our “American Identity”?
  - How did world events/actions/ideas shape this Revolution? How did this Revolution affect the rest of the world?

### How you will be graded...

- 50% - Seminar Preparation (have notes in class to discuss from)
- 50% - Seminar Participation (must contribute **thoughtful** ideas/remarks to the discussion; must be on-task)

### **TIMELINE:**

1763 – Proclamation of 1763

1764 – Sugar Act; Currency Act; End of British Salutary Neglect (Boycott in America)

1765 – Stamp Act passed (Reaction: Stamp Act Congress)

1765 – Quartering Act

REACTIONS: Patrick Henry of the Va. House of Burgesses – only local assembly may tax

Sons and Daughters of Liberty

Non-importation agreements

New York refuses to comply with the Quartering Act

1766 – Stamp Act repealed; Declaratory Act passed

1766 – New York Assembly suspended over Quartering Act issues

1767 – Townshend Revenue Acts passed (Reaction: boycotts)

1768 – “No taxation without representation” – Samuel Adams (propaganda)

1768/1769 – From colonial adoptions of Adams’ circular letter, royal governors in Massachusetts and Virginia dissolve assemblies

3/5/1770 – Boston Massacre

1770 – Townshend Acts repealed; *Gaspee* affair (customs schooner attacked by colonists off shore of Rhode Island)

1772/1773 – Committees of Correspondence are formed

1773 – Tea Act is passed in May; In December, the Boston Tea Party occurs

1774 – Responding to the Boston Tea Party, the Coercive Acts are passed in Parliament

March 1774 – Boston Port Bill closes the harbor

September 5 to October 26, 1774 – **First Continental Congress** (and the Association)

*Declaration and Resolves*: Responds to Quebec Act, Coercive Acts, and further measures

Early 1775 – Massachusetts declared in state of rebellion / Patrick Henry’s famous speech: “Give me liberty or give me death!”