The Radical Revolution, 1774-1776
The Radical Revolution

Topics of Conditions, 1774-1776

I. Britain Responds to the Tea Party:
   The Coercive Acts, May-June 1774

II. The Colonial Response to the Coercive Acts:
    First Continental Congress (Sept 5-Oct 27, 1774)

III. The Military Crisis Develops 1775

IV. Reaction to the Fighting:
    Second Continental Congress (May 1775-1781)

V. Thomas Paine, Common Sense (January 1776)

VI. Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)
The PATRIOTICK BARBER of NEW YORK, OR THE CAPTAIN IN THE SUDS.

A New York barber, Jacob Vredenburgh, refused to complete the shave of British navy Captain John Crozer when informed of his identity. The Sons of Liberty praised the Barber’s patriotism.

Images include: a barber shop; wig shop; portrait of William Pitt, portrait of Chief Justice Charles Pratt, Baron Camden; William Pitt, Earl Chatham; Sons of Liberty.

1775
A NEW METHOD OF MACARONY MAKING, AS PRACTICED AT BOSTON.

This print shows the British perspective on events in America. It condemns the violent defiance of law and order, such as the tarring and feathering of John Malcolm, the British Commissioner of Customs at Boston, in the lead-up to the outbreak of war. Image includes: Sons of Liberty; gallows with severed rope.

January 25, 1774
The Radical Revolution

I. Britain Responds to the Tea Party: The Coercive Acts, May-June 1774

A. Boston Port Bill
B. Massachusetts Government Act
C. Administration of Justice Act
D. Quartering Act
E. Quebec Act
F. Thomas Gage > Gov. of Mass
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II. Colonial Response to Coercive Acts: First Continental Congress

A. Held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Sept 5-Oct 27, 1774)

B. Declaration of First Continental Congress, Oct 14, 1774

C. Articles of Association on Oct 20, 1774
   1. Boycotted British goods
   2. Halted exportation of goods to Britain
   3. Potential of altering British policy was cut off by the outbreak of open fighting in 1775.

D. Seize Arms, Control Militias, Massachusetts form gov
That the foundation of English liberty, and of all free government, is a right in the people to participate in their legislative council: and as the English colonists are not represented, and from their local and other circumstances, cannot properly be represented in the British parliament, they are entitled to a free and exclusive power of legislation in their several provincial legislatures, where their right of representation can alone be preserved, in all cases of taxation and internal polity, subject only to the negative of their sovereign, in such manner as has been heretofore used and accustomed: But, from the necessity of the case, and a regard to the mutual interest of both countries, we cheerfully consent to the operation of such acts of the British parliament, as are bonfide, restrained to the regulation of our external commerce, for the purpose of securing the commercial advantages of the whole empire to the mother country, and the commercial benefits of its respective members; excluding every idea of taxation internal or external, for raising a revenue on the subjects, in America, without their consent.

Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress  Oct 14, 1774
The Radical Revolution

III. The Military Crisis Develops, 1775

A. Virginia: Governor Dunmore and the Colonials

1. April 20-21, 1775: Gunpowder incident
2. June 8, 1775: Dunmore left Williamsburg
3. Dunmore retreated to HMS Fowey in York River
4. Nov 7, 1775: Dunmore’s Proclamation to free slaves
5. Military crisis: War Effectively begins in Virginia
6. December 9, 1775: Battle of Great Bridge
A PROCLAMATION
As I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His MAJESTY'S Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack his MAJESTY'S Troops and destroy the well disposed subjects of the Colony. To defeat such treasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purpose can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to end that the Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offenses; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &. &. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, foe the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Dignity.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM by Norfolk, the 7th Day of November in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign. DUNMORE (GOD save the KING.)
Virginia, Dec. 14, 1775.

By the Representatives of the People of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, assembled in GENERAL CONVENTION

A DECLARATION

WHEREAS lord Dunmore, by his proclamation, dated on board the ship William, off Norfolk, the 7th day of November 1775, hath offered freedom to such able-bodied slaves as are willing to join him, and take up arms, against the good people of this colony, giving thereby encouragement to a general insurrection, which may induce a necessity of inflicting the severest punishments upon those unhappy people, already deluded by his base and insidious arts; and whereas, by an act of the General Assembly now in force in this colony, it is enacted, that all negro or other slaves, conspiring to rebel or make insurrection, shall suffer death, and be excluded all benefit of clergy: We think it proper to declare, that all slaves who have been, or shall be seduced, by his lordship's proclamation, or other arts, to desert their masters' service, and take up arms against the inhabitants of this colony, shall be liable to such punishment as shall hereafter be directed by the General Convention. And to that end all such, who have taken this unlawful and wicked step, may return in safety to their duty, and escape the punishment due to their crimes, we hereby promise pardon to them, they surrendering themselves to Col. William Woodford, or any other commander of our troops, and not appearing in arms after the publication hereof. And we do farther earnestly recommend it to all humane and benevolent persons in this colony to explain and make known this our offer of mercy to those unfortunate people.

EDMUND PENDLETON, president.
The flag of the Battalion of Culpeper. This battalion of 150 wore green hunting shirts with the motto "Liberty or Death." They fought at Great Bridge in 1775.

One of the flags of the first Virginia Regiment also known as the "Shirtmen". It was used initially by men in Hanover County.

By December 1775 the British army had 300 slaves wearing a military uniform. Sewn on the breast of the uniform was the inscription "Liberty to Slaves." These new troops were designated as "Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment."
III. The Military Crisis Develops, 1775

B. Massachusetts: Thomas Gage and the Colonials

1. Thomas Gage orders 700 British troops to take colonial armory at Concord, April 18, 1775
2. Paul Revere, William Dawes, Sam Prescott warn colonials
3. British Troops leave Boston
4. Battles of Lexington and Concord, April 19-20, 1775
5. Battle of Bunker Hill (Breed's Hill), June 17, 1775
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IV. Reaction to the Fighting: Second Continental Congress (May 1775-1781)

A. Meets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Gov. of Revolution
B. Formation of Continental Army (June 14)
C. George Washington Commander in Chief (June 15)
D. Adopts John Dickinson’s “Olive Branch Petition” (July 5)
E. Declaration of Rebellion by George III (August 23)
F. Congress discards Navigation Acts and opens free trade (Sept)
G. Lord Dunmore’s Proclamation (November 7); Dunmore defeated at Battle of Great Bridge (December 11)
H. George III approves Prohibitory Act (December 22)

“All manner of trade and commerce” shall be prohibited; any ship found trading “shall be forfeited to his Majesty, as if . . . open enemies.”

Independence Hall
The Radical Revolution

V. Common Sense, January 1776

A. Thomas Paine
B. Professional agitator
C. Denies right of Kings
D. Breaks final tie - colonials and British

“Everything that is right or reasonable pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'tis time to part.”
VI. Declaration of Independence

A. 90 Early “Declarations of Independence” (April-July 1776)

B. Richard H. Lee proposes to Congress that the colonies "out to be free and independent states" (June 7)

C. VA Declaration of Rights (June 12)

D. Jefferson, Preamble to VA Constitution (June 29)

E. Declaration of Independence - June-July 1776
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VI. Declaration of Independence

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 to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.
Pulling down the statue of George III by the "Sons of Freedom," at the Bowling Green, City of New York, July 1776 / painted by Johannes A. Oertel; engraved by John C. McRae.