

*Conflict between the American colonies and the British began to deepen in the years after the French and Indian War.*

SS.8.A.3.1, SS.8.A.3.2, SS.8.A.3.5, SS.8.A.3.8, SS.8.A.3.16

## Dealing with Great Britain

### *Why did the British government establish new policies?*

After their victory in the French and Indian War, the British controlled much of North America. Now they had to protect all this territory. To meet this challenge, King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763. This order **prohibited**, or barred, colonists from living west of the Appalachian Mountains, on Native American land. For the British, the proclamation offered several advantages. It helped keep peace between Native Americans and settlers. It also kept colonists near the Atlantic Coast, where British authority was stronger. Finally, it allowed Britain to control westward expansion and the fur trade in the region. The king sent 10,000 troops to the colonies to enforce the Proclamation of 1763 and keep the peace with Native Americans.

### Enforcing Trade Laws

Great Britain needed new **revenue**, or income, to pay for the troops. The British also had large debts from the French and Indian War. The king and Parliament felt the colonists should pay part of these costs, so the British government issued new taxes on the colonies. It also enforced old taxes more strictly. To avoid taxes, some colonists resorted to smuggling. This caused British revenues to fall.

In 1763 Britain's prime minister, George Grenville, set out to stop the smuggling. Parliament passed a law to have accused smugglers tried by royally appointed judges rather than local juries. Grenville knew that American juries often found smugglers innocent. Parliament also empowered customs officers to obtain **writs of assistance**. These documents allowed the officers to search almost anywhere—shops, warehouses, and even private homes—for smuggled goods.

#### Florida **CONNECTION**

##### British Florida

After the French and Indian War, Florida became British territory. Britain divided Florida into two colonies, East Florida and West Florida. Both were royal colonies, ruled by an appointed governor. Great Britain encouraged settlers to move to Florida. These new settlers meant more trade and revenue for Great Britain.

## The Sugar Act

In 1764 Parliament passed the Sugar Act, which lowered the tax on the molasses the colonists imported. Grenville hoped this change would convince the colonists to pay the tax instead of smuggling. The act also allowed officers to seize goods from accused smugglers without going to court.

The Sugar Act angered many colonists. They believed this and other new laws **violated** their rights. As British citizens, colonists argued, they had a right to a trial by jury and to be viewed as innocent until proved guilty, as stated in British law. Colonists also believed they had the right to be secure in their homes—without the threat of officers barging in to search for smuggled goods.

British taxes also alarmed the colonists. James Otis, a lawyer in Boston, argued:

"No parts of [England's colonies] can be taxed without their consent . . . every part has a right to be represented."

— from *The Rights of the British Colonies*, 1763

**Explaining** Why did Parliament pass the Sugar Act?

## New Taxes on the Colonies

SS.8.A.3.1, SS.8.A.3.2, SS.8.A.3.4, SS.8.A.3.8, LA.8.1.6.1

### *How did the American colonists react to British policies?*

In 1765 Parliament passed the Stamp Act. This law taxed almost all printed materials. Newspapers, wills, and even playing cards needed a stamp to show that the tax had been paid.

## Opposition to the Stamp Act

The Stamp Act outraged the colonists. They argued that only their own assemblies could tax them. Patrick Henry, a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, got the burgesses to take action. The assembly passed a **resolution**—a formal expression of opinion—declaring that it had "the only and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes" on its citizens.

In Boston, Samuel Adams helped start the Sons of Liberty. Its members took to the streets to protest the Stamp Act. Protesters burned **effigies** (EH • fuh • jeez)—stuffed figures—made to look like unpopular tax collectors.

Colonial leaders decided to work together. In October, delegates from nine colonies met in New York at the Stamp Act Congress. They sent a statement to the king and Parliament declaring that only colonial assemblies could tax the colonists.

People in colonial cities urged merchants to **boycott**—refuse to buy—British goods in protest. As the boycott spread, businesses in Britain lost so much money that they demanded Parliament **repeal**, or cancel, the Stamp Act. In March 1766, Parliament repealed the law. However, it also passed the Declaratory Act, stating that it had the right to tax and make decisions for the British colonies "in all cases."

## The Townshend Acts

The Stamp Act taught the British that the colonists would resist internal taxes—those paid inside the colonies. As a result, in 1767 Parliament passed the Townshend Acts to tax imported goods, such as glass, tea, and paper. The tax was paid when the goods arrived—before they were brought inside the colonies.

By then, *any* British taxes angered the colonists. Protests of the Townshend Acts began immediately. In towns throughout the colonies, women protested by supporting another boycott of British goods. They also urged colonists to wear homemade fabrics rather than buying fabric made in Britain. Some women's groups called themselves the Daughters of Liberty.

**Contrasting** How did the Townshend Acts differ from the Stamp Act?

## LESSON 1 REVIEW

### Review Vocabulary

1. Write a paragraph about the 1760s in the American colonies in which you use these vocabulary words:

a. revenue b. resolution c. effigy d. boycott e. repeal

LA.8.1.6.1

### Answer the Guiding Questions

2. **Describing** What advantages did the British hope to gain by limiting westward settlement in 1763?

SS.8.A.3.1

3. **Explaining** Why did some colonists smuggle goods in the 1760s?

SS.8.A.3.2, SS.8.A.3.1

4. **Identifying** Why did colonists oppose the Stamp Act?

SS.8.A.3.2

5. **NARRATIVE WRITING** Write a conversation between two colonists who disagree over Britain taxing the colonies to help pay off its debts from the French and Indian War.

SS.8.A.3.2