

Proclamation of 1763

After the **French and Indian War**, British colonists were eager to move westward into newly acquired land west of the **Appalachian Mountains**.

Native Americans for 150 years had been pushed off their land and forced to relocate westward. This time they were going to resist colonial settlers. **Ottawa Chief Pontiac** united Shawnee, Delaware, Chippewa, Ottawa and other tribes to attack British forts in the **Ohio Valley**. Not only were British forts attacked, but colonial settlements were as well. Colonial **militia** took on the Native Americans. Only after the British government sent more professional forces into the region was Chief Pontiac defeated.

The British **Parliament** (government) realized that relationships between Native Americans and colonists were in question in the western regions and thus passed a law **barring** British settlers from **migrating** west. The law also ordered settlers already in the region to remove themselves from the land and return to the original territory of the 13 colonies.

The British government would control **trade** with the Native Americans and sent 10,000 additional British soldiers to the colonies to help enforce the law.

Navigation Acts, 1763

In the 1660's the British government passed the Navigation Acts, but the laws were hardly enforced for nearly 100 years.

To help pay the **war debt** created by the **French and Indian War**, **Parliament** (British Government) decided to enforce the laws more so than it had in the past. The Navigation Acts had several **regulations**:

- Colonists had to sell certain products (sugar, tobacco, indigo) only to England or English colonies.
- Products to be sold in colonies from **foreign nations** had to pass through England first. This way a **tax** could be collected on foreign goods before they were shipped to the colonies. Often times, foreign nations raised the price of goods to contradict the British tax which meant colonist paid more for the products.
- Any products sold or shipped to and from the colonies had to be shipped on British ships built in England or the 13 colonies. $\frac{3}{4}$'s of any ship's crew had to be British as well.

British warships were sent to the colonies to keep a close lookout for colonial **smugglers** who chose to ignore the laws in American waters.

Currency & Sugar Acts, 1764

In 1764, **Parliament** (British Government) passes two acts intent on creating **revenue** (making money) for the British government and providing a means to **discourage** foreign nations (**Dutch, French and Spanish**) from selling goods to the British colonists.

The **Sugar Act** placed taxes on sugar, coffee, indigo and molasses. British **subjects** (citizens) already paid a tax for these goods, so it seemed natural that colonial subjects would be required to pay the tax as well.

The Currency Acts were passed in response to the 13 colonies who had been printing their own form of paper money. The act **prohibited** (stopped) colonists from doing so. It also required that colonists pay off any debt with **gold or silver** only.

Though gold and silver were in short supply in the colonies, the paying of debts in this form allowed the British government to better control the flow of gold and silver and prevent it from reaching foreign nations instead.

Stamp Act, 1765

In 1765, **Parliament** (British Government) passed a tax proposed by **Prime Minister George Grenville**. The act placed a tax on several products sold in the colonies and in **England**. Legal papers, advertisements, newspapers, almanacs, calendars and playing cards now had to bear a **royal stamp** showing proving that the tax had been paid.

The purpose of the tax was to raise money specifically for the cost of maintaining **soldiers** stationed in the 13 colonies. Some of the stamps were only a few cents while others were more expensive.

In Britain, British **subjects** already paid a stamp tax and other taxes. It seemed reasonable, therefore, to ask colonists in America to do the same thing. It was the first attempt by Parliament to tax the colonists directly rather than taxing **imported** (goods brought into the nation) products.

Those who failed to pay the tax could be fined or imprisoned for breaking British law.

Declaratory Act, 1766

The Declaratory Act is simple in form. It stated quite clearly that the British government had “full power” over the British colonies in the Americas.

*When it came to governing the colonies, **Parliament** (British Government) could pass laws “in all cases whatsoever.” In other words, Parliament still claimed the right to tax colonists if it saw fit to do so.*

Townshend Acts, 1767

*Economic times continued to be tough in England. In order to make more money, the British government again looked to the colonies. The **Townshend Acts** contained three main provisions:*

- *British officers were already allowed to use **search warrants** to hunt for **smuggled** goods, but now British officers could enact “**writs of assistance**.” This basically meant that British officials could search any building for any reason.*
- *It placed more **duties** (taxes) on imported goods (lead, paint, paper, glass & tea)*
- *Money raised from said taxes would pay for British official’s **salaries** who lived in the colonies. This provision took power away from the colonies to regulate the salaries of its officials.*
- *The law forbids the **New York Assembly** from meeting. The New York Assembly did not provide supplies to British soldiers stationed in the colony of New York.*

Tea Act, 1773

*In 1773, the British government gave the **British East India Company** permission to ship tea directly from Asia to the 13 colonies.*

Because ships would no longer stop in England to pay taxes, the tea would end up being cheaper than it had previously been in the colonies.

The price of tea was greatly reduced in the 13 British colonies.

Coercive Acts, 1774

*During the night of **December 16, 1773** citizens of Boston disguised as Native Americans, boarded three **East India Company** ships, and poured **342 chest of tea** into the harbor in **protest** of the tax on tea. Several acts were passed by the British government in response to this most recent event in Boston:*

- *Boston Harbor would be closed to all business until the City of Boston paid for the damaged tea.*
- *The Massachusetts Royal Governor took control of the colony denying the Massachusetts' **legislature** (colonial government) from meeting unless given permission.*
- *Colonists were to provide food and shelter to British Redcoats (troops). **Quartering** (housing) of British Redcoats was required of Boston citizens.*
- *British officials charged with crimes in the colonies could be tried back in England to avoid less friendly judges and jury in the colonies.*

*In order to enforce the new set of laws, **King George III** sent more troops to Boston. He also appointed military commander, **General Thomas Gage**, as the new governor of Massachusetts.*