Content Reading: The American Revolution 1775-1783: Part 1

Using the Proclamation Line of 1763, Britain told the Colonies not to go west of the Appalachian Mountains to avoid conflict with Native Americans. Many colonists felt this proved Britain did not care about their advancement. There was vast land and resources in the west that the colonists wanted. Britain had spent a lot of money on the French and Indian War and they wanted to use the Colonies to pay the bill. Britain created the Stamp Act, which taxed the colonists when they used wills, newspapers, playing cards, or any printed material. The colonists claimed the taxes were not fair because they had no representation in Parliament. This led to the protest statement, “No taxation without representation!”

The Colonies boycotted British made goods. This forced Britain to remove the Stamp Act, but then they issued other taxes, like taxes on tea. The group the “Sons of Liberty” formed to resist Britain’s taxes, led by men such as Samuel Adams. Britain also issued the Townshend Acts, which taxed glass, paint, paper, and other British supplies.

In 1770, a protest formed in Boston against the taxes that Britain had placed on the Colonies. A British soldier panicked and fired into the crowd. Five colonial residents died in what came to be known as the Boston Massacre.

In 1773, Britain placed a tax on selling tea. During the Boston Tea Party, several colonists boarded British ships to dump tea into the Boston harbor. Some of them dressed up like Native Americans when this occurred. King George the 3rd responded with rage. He encouraged Parliament to pass laws to punish the colonies.

Britain passed the Coercive Acts, which the colonist called THE INTOLERABLE ACTS. These laws increased the military influence in Boston and attempted to force the Bostonians to make restitution for the Boston Tea Party. The First Continental Congress formed in 1774 to demand colonial rights against the harsh treatment by the British.