

# 1763 - 1776: The Road to Revolution

- Conflict escalates
- What are the issues?
  - “Natural rights”
  - Standing army
  - Taxation
  - Authority
  - “Home rule”



The TIMES are  
 Published  
 Weekly  
 DOLLARS, and  
 DOLLAR-LESS.



Tuesday, October 1765

THE

NUMB 115

# PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL; AND WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

EXPIRING: In Hopes of a Resurrection to LIFE again.

I am sorry to be obliged to acquaint my readers that as the Stamp Act is feared to be obligatory upon us after the first of November ensuing (The first of November, tomorrow), The Barthen, it expedient is, in order to

deliberate, whether any methods can be found to elude the chains forged for us, and escape the infamous slavery, which it is hoped, from the last representation now made against that act, may be effected. Mean while I must earnestly Request every individual of my Subscribers, many of whom have been long be-

hind Hand, that they would immediately discharge their respective Arrears, that I may be able, not only to support myself during the Interval, but be better prepared to proceed again with this Paper whenever an opening for that purpose appears, which I hope will be soon.  
 WILLIAM BRADFORD.

ADMITTED BY ORDER OF THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

# THE Massachusetts Spy

Or, Thomas's Boston Journal.

VOL. IV. THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1774. (NUMB. 179.)

JOIN OR DIE



**THE great demand for this paper, has of late increased many good subscribers being discovered, for which the publisher is very sorry: He will, in future, endeavor to provide any thing of the like kind happening, in doing so he may have the honor of being an Assistant in the matter.**

**The various proposals of public officers, at present, in the several colonies, has occasioned some publishing Democrats upon this, with a more great reluctance to subscribe to any paper, in consequence of the various and their kind offerings: He is sensible as usually these such a "scandalous" advertisement, but his efforts shall be directed, like elsewhere in the colony, to the best of his power, and hope in the other colonies, he hopes will have greater notice of it, and consider there is no possibility, especially for a remote locality, in serving as before.**

**W**HAT shall I do with Boston, for in this matter I have some gives to the present situation, and believe perhaps many have used for the coming of the town, and if the publisher of such news there, are being done to in the matter to be put, the printer will suffer through his neglect.

**Thomas's Boston.** This the publisher of this paper, who had not long since in the present situation to be put by the 18 day of July 1774, that an order was issued for the town, and that order, and the printer were to have a more suitable to such an order, the publisher is at the Boston News-office, that order the printer, that every one concerned may be notified in order to be the assistance. T. CROFTON, Printer in Council, June 24, 1774.

**JOHN CROFTON, P. R.**  
 Boston, June 24, 1774.

**Advertisement.** JOHN CROFTON, P. R. says, "The publisher of the present weekly and other papers, notices in the respective colonies, and notices of the present times, that they may be the same as the readers to the 18th of July 1774."  
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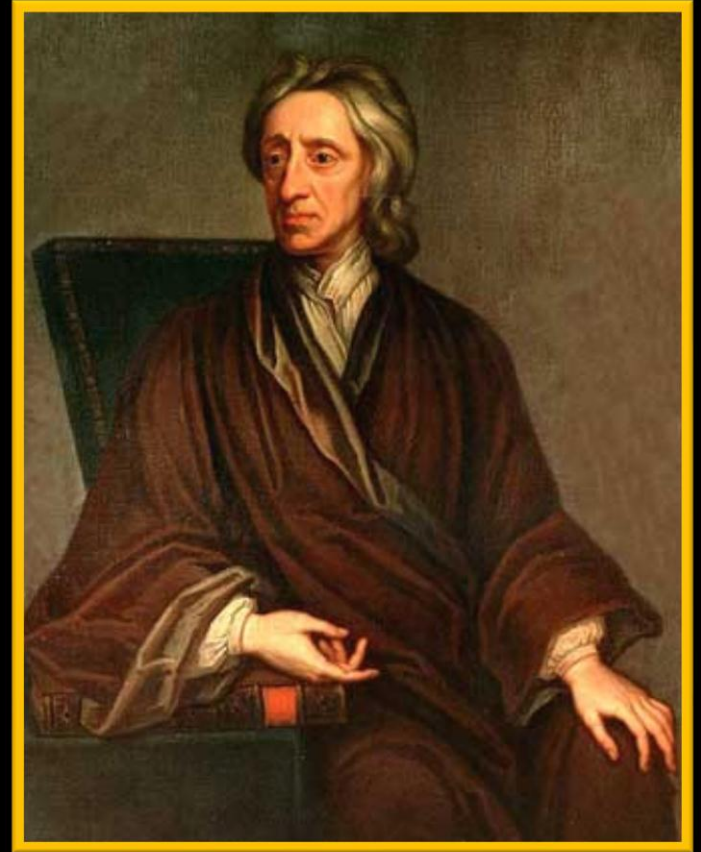
# Rhetoric

- Language designed to persuade &/or motivate
- Words might be
  - Emotionally-charged
  - Inflammatory
  - Exaggerated

# Enlightenment Ideas

- Natural rights
  - Life, liberty, opportunity

“Enslavement”



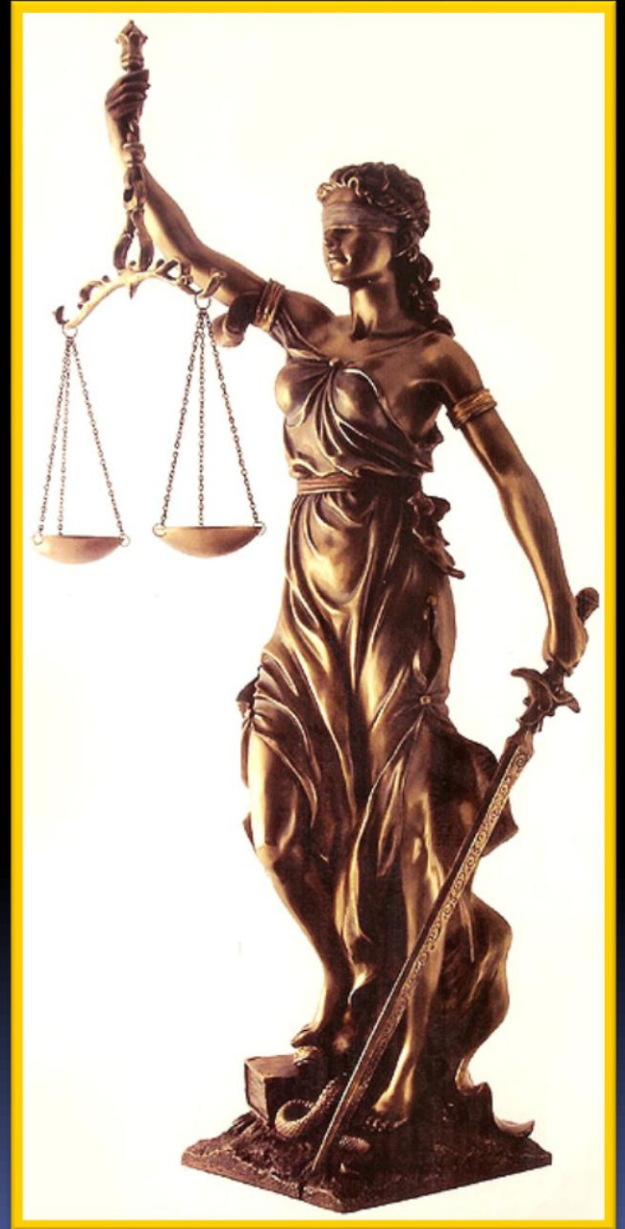
John Locke  
*Second Treatise on  
Government*

# Enlightenment Ideas

- Liberty
  - Rights given by law

“Abuse of power”

“tyranny”





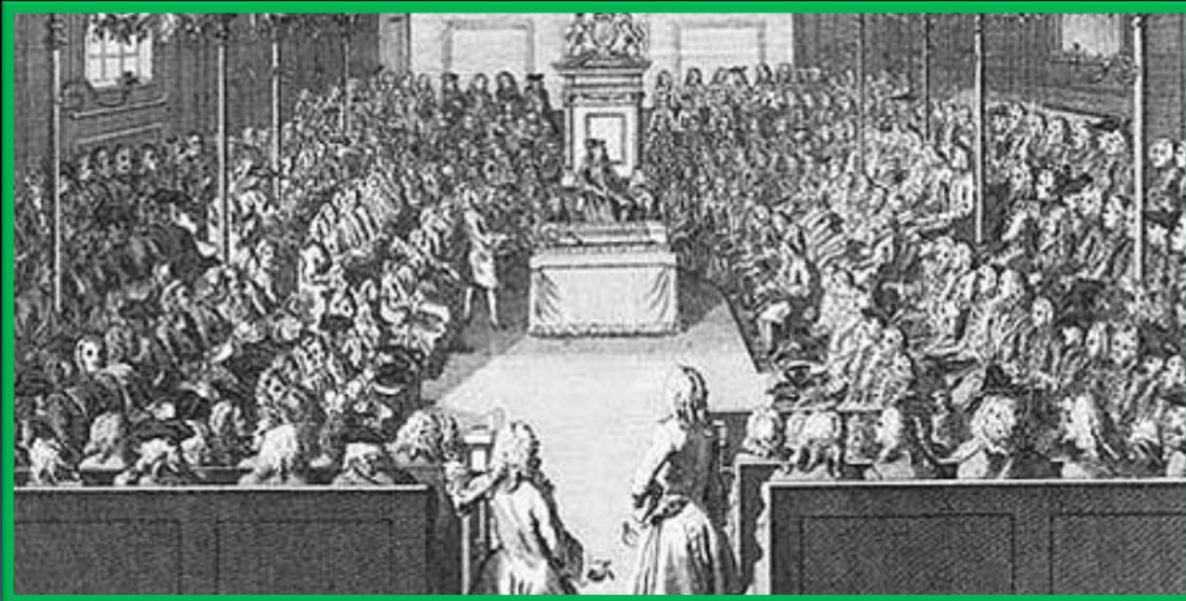
## ➤ “virtuous citizens”

- Obeys good laws
- Opposes bad laws
- Preserves the commonwealth



- Corruption of British government
- “conspiracy” to deprive rights

“arbitrary actions”



# British government

- Monarchy
  - King + “Privy Council”
- Parliament
  - House of Lords +
  - House of Commons





# Colonial government

- Governor
  - Represents King
- Assemblies (legislatures)
  - Represent people
  - Peoples' voice



1760



George III



# Parliament



# Specific Complaints

- Standing Armies
- Quartering Act, 1765

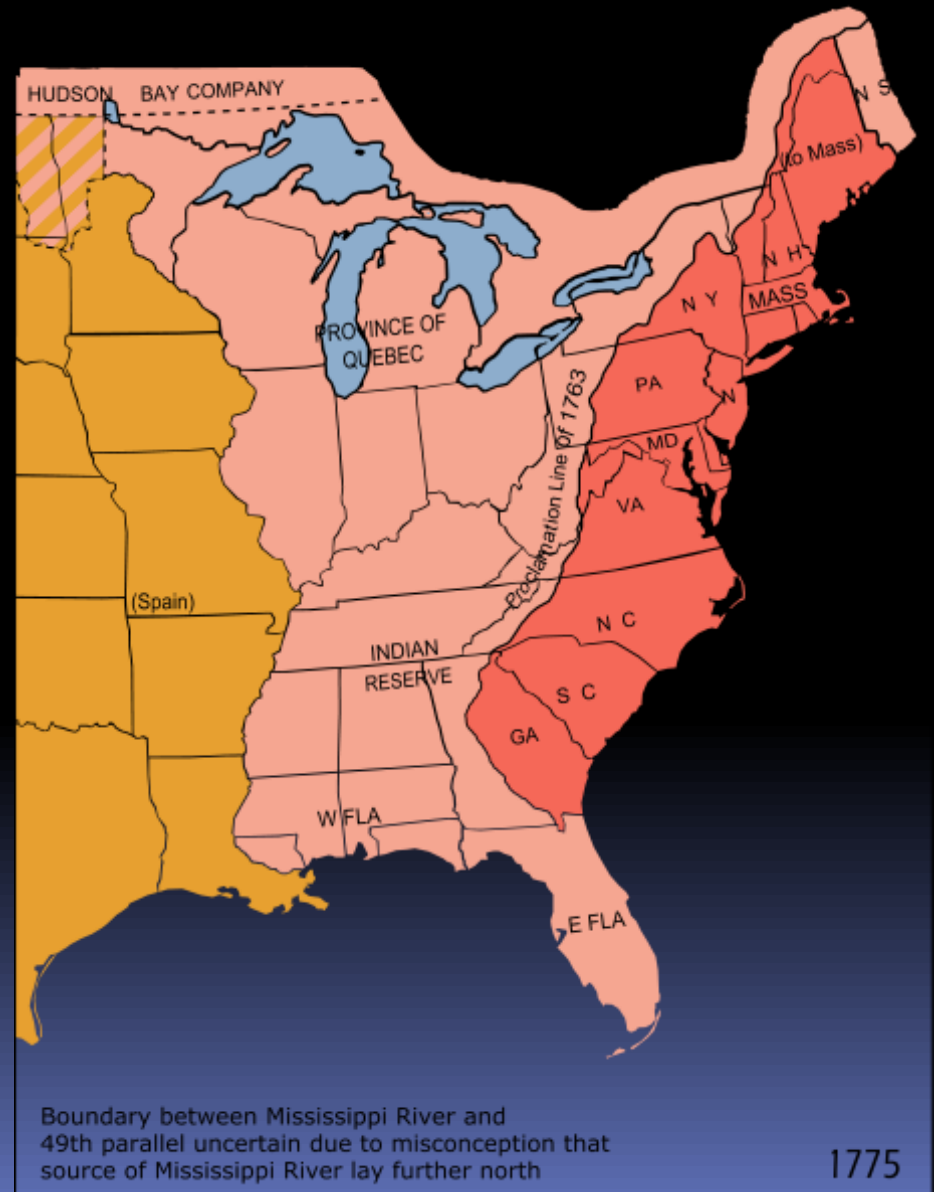
*"The means of defence against foreign danger, have been always the instruments of tyranny at home....Throughout all Europe, the armies kept up under the pretext of defending, have enslaved the people."*

- James Madison



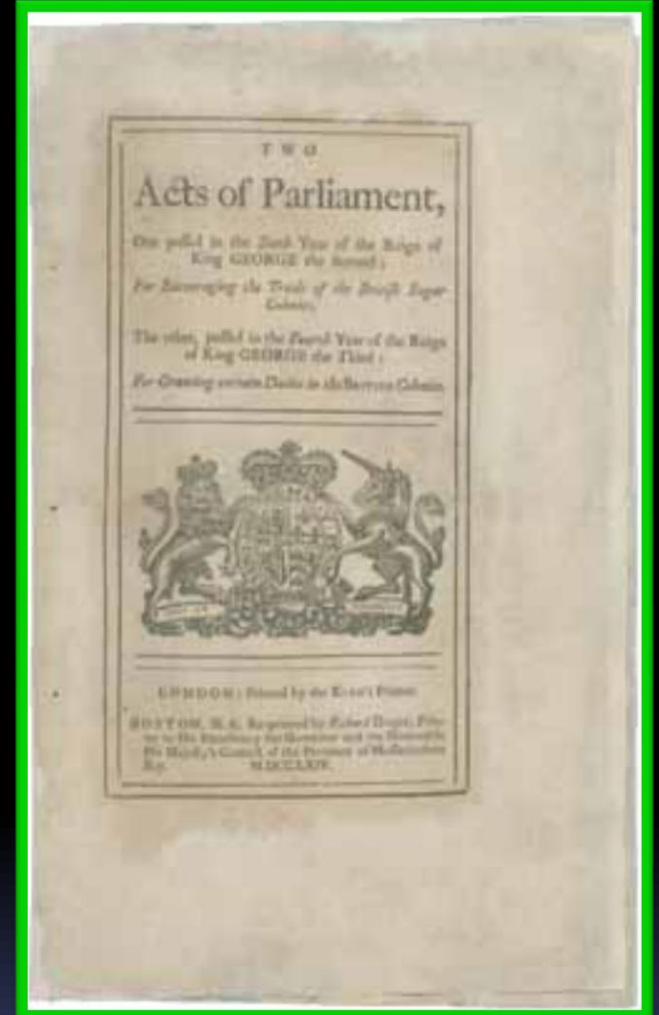
# Specific Complaints

- Proclamation Act, 1763



# Specific Complaints

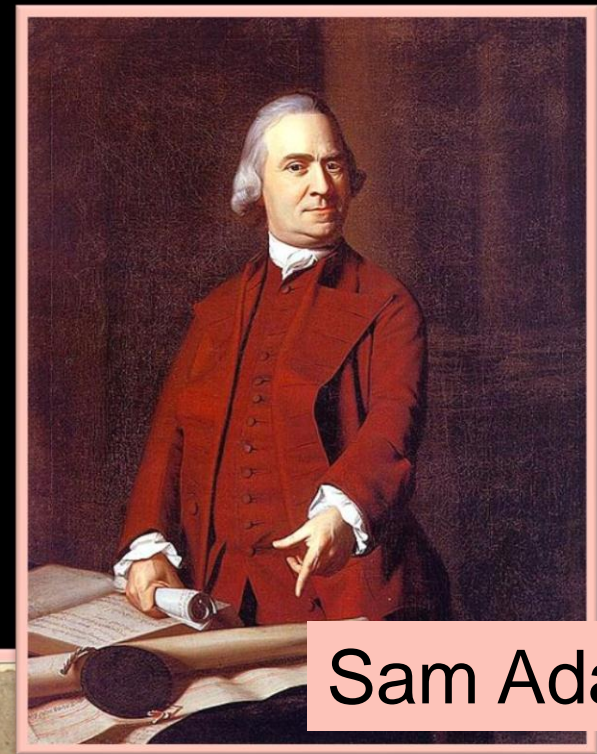
- Sugar Act, 1764
  - Molasses Act, 1733



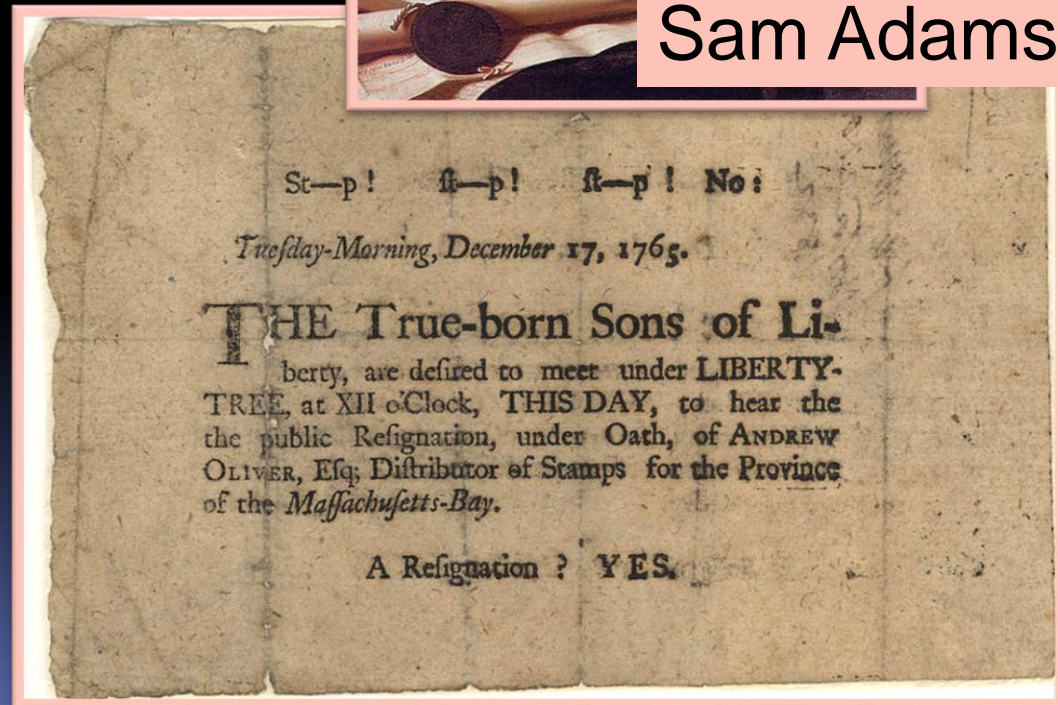


# Reaction

- *Virginia Resolves*
- Stamp Act Congress
- Mass protests
- Mob violence
  - Sons of Liberty

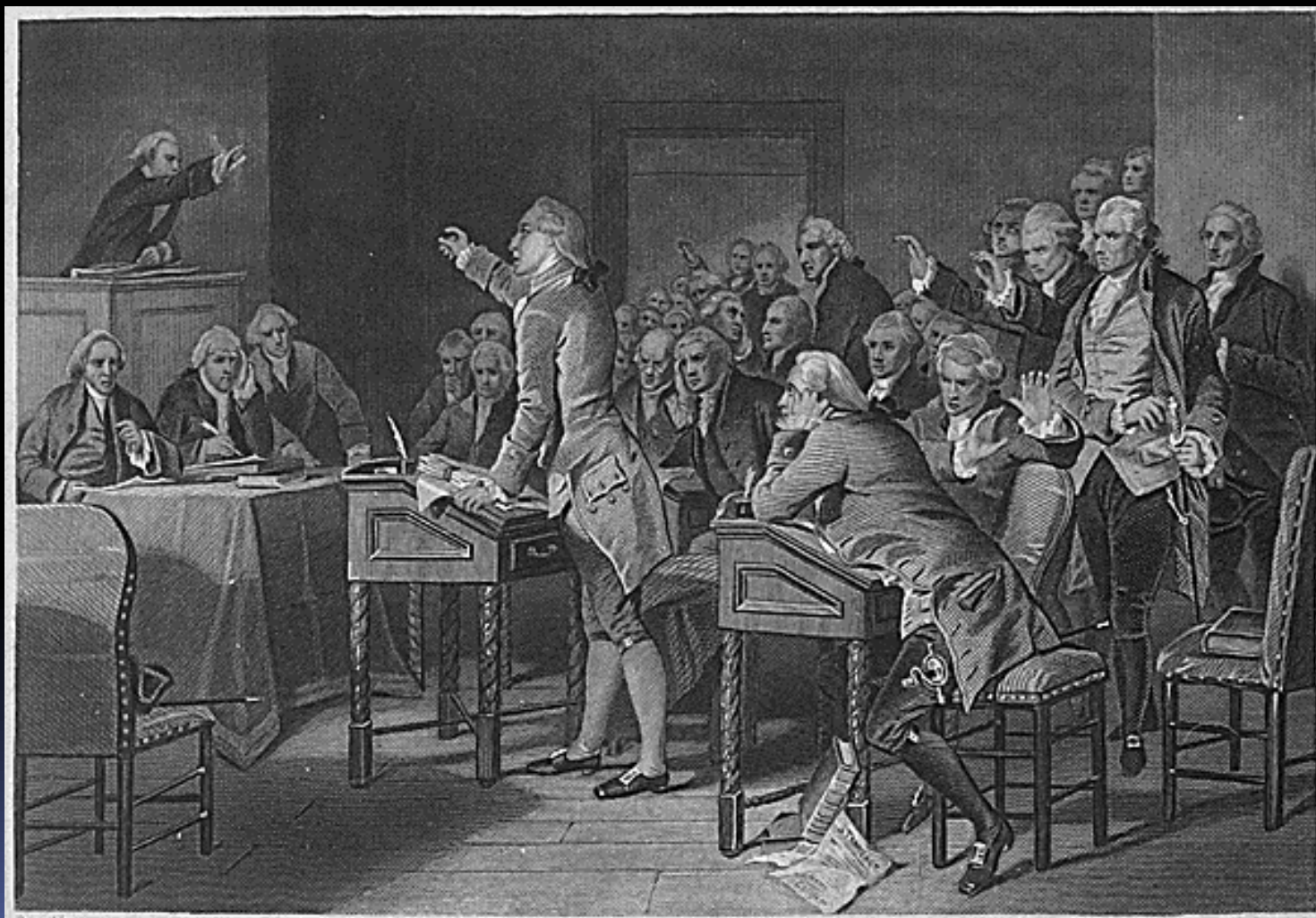


Sam Adams





# ➤ Stamp Act Congress



# Declaratory Act, 1766

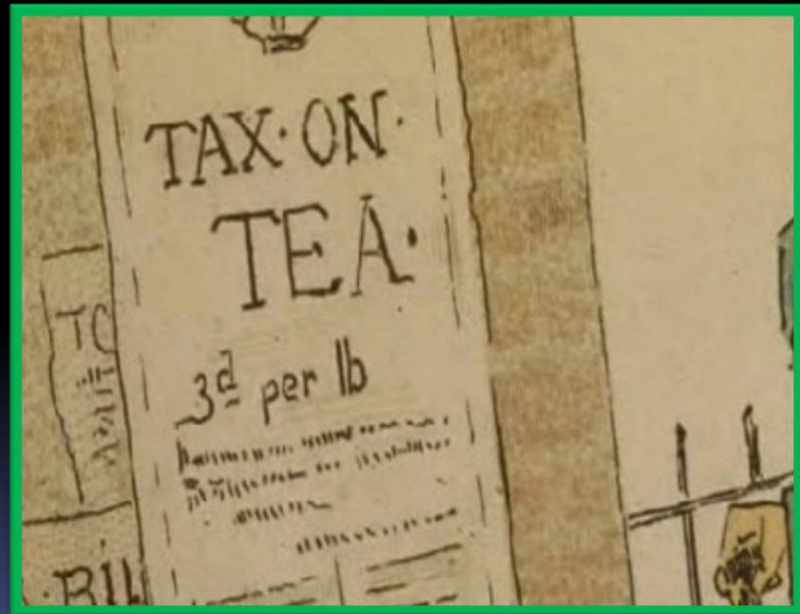
(American Colonies Act)

➤ Parliament's authority over Colonies

“in all cases whatsoever”

# Townshend Acts, 1767

- Duties on imports of paper, paint, glass, tea
- Increased enforcement



# Reaction

- *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*

Revenue taxes  
“unconstitutional”



John Dickinson



# Reaction

- boycotts
- Massachusetts Assembly protest

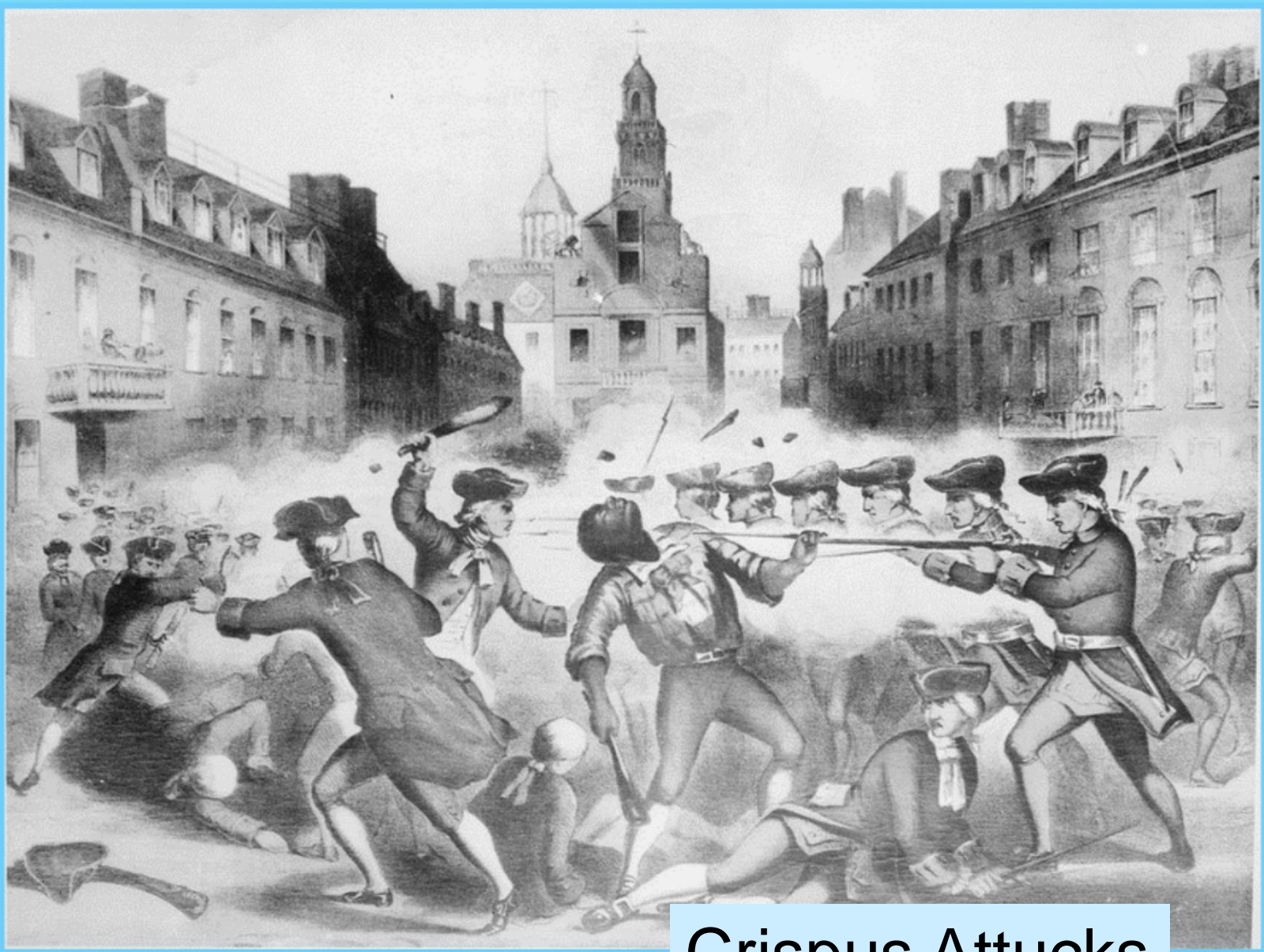


# Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770

“Incident on King Street”



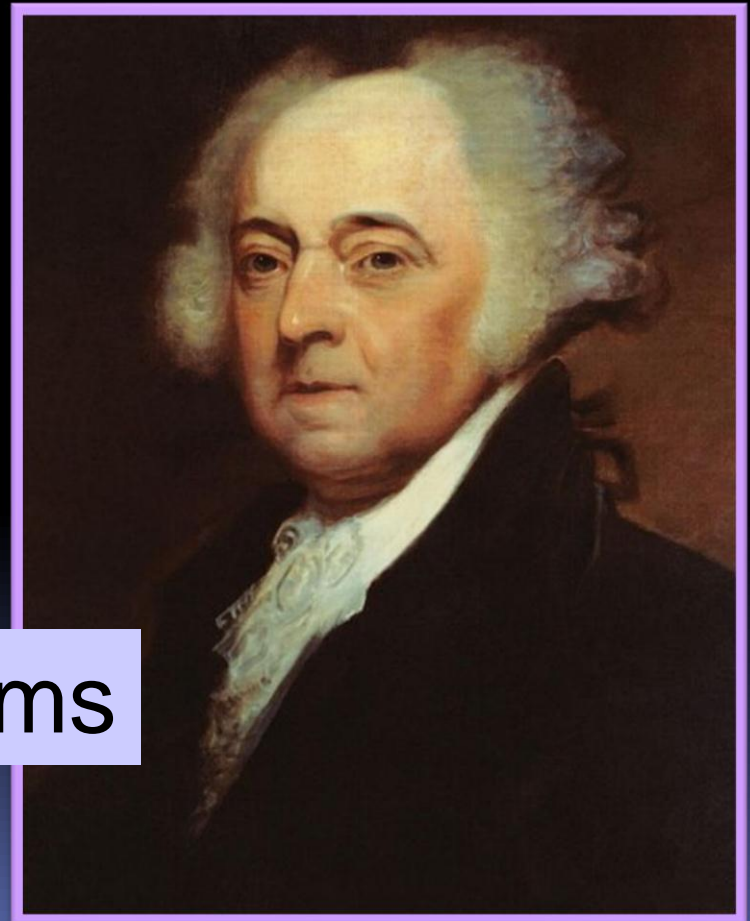




Crispus Attucks



“the foundation of American  
independence was laid” on  
March 5, 1770

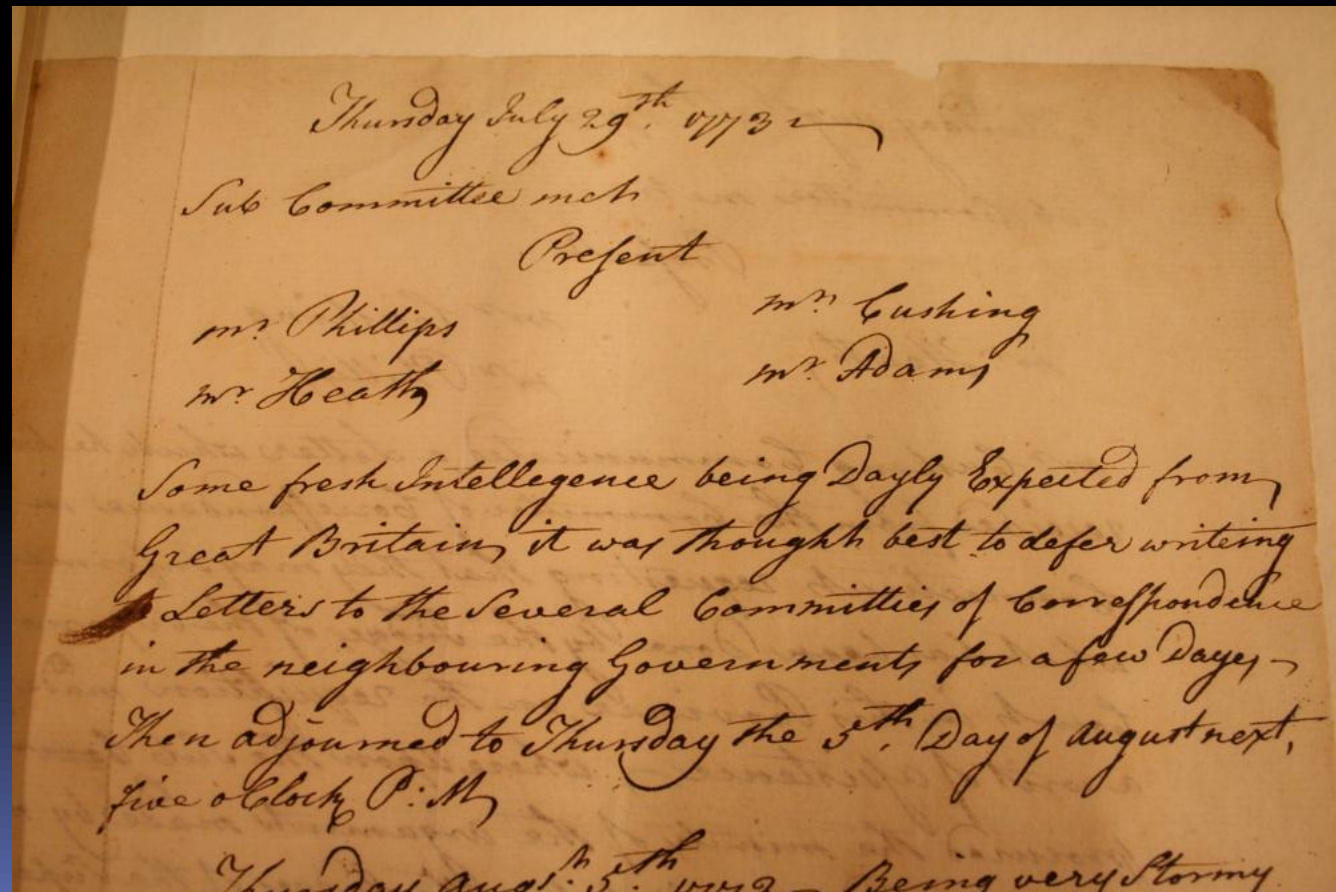


John Adams

# Committees of Correspondence

- Communications link
- Power structure

- “pseudo-government”



Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup> 1773

Sub Committee met

Present

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Mr. Phillips | Mr. Cushing |
| Mr. Heath    | Mr. Adams   |

Some fresh Intelligence being Daily Expected from Great Britain, it was thought best to defer writing Letters to the several Committees of Correspondence in the neighbouring Governments for a few Days, then adjourned to Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> Day of August next, five o'clock P.M.

Thursday Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> 1773 - Being very stormy.

# Tea Act, 1773

- Help British East India Company
- Force colonists to accept Parliament's right to tax

# Boston Tea Party - Dec 16, 1773



*Americans throwing the Cargoes of the Tea Ships into the River,  
at Boston*



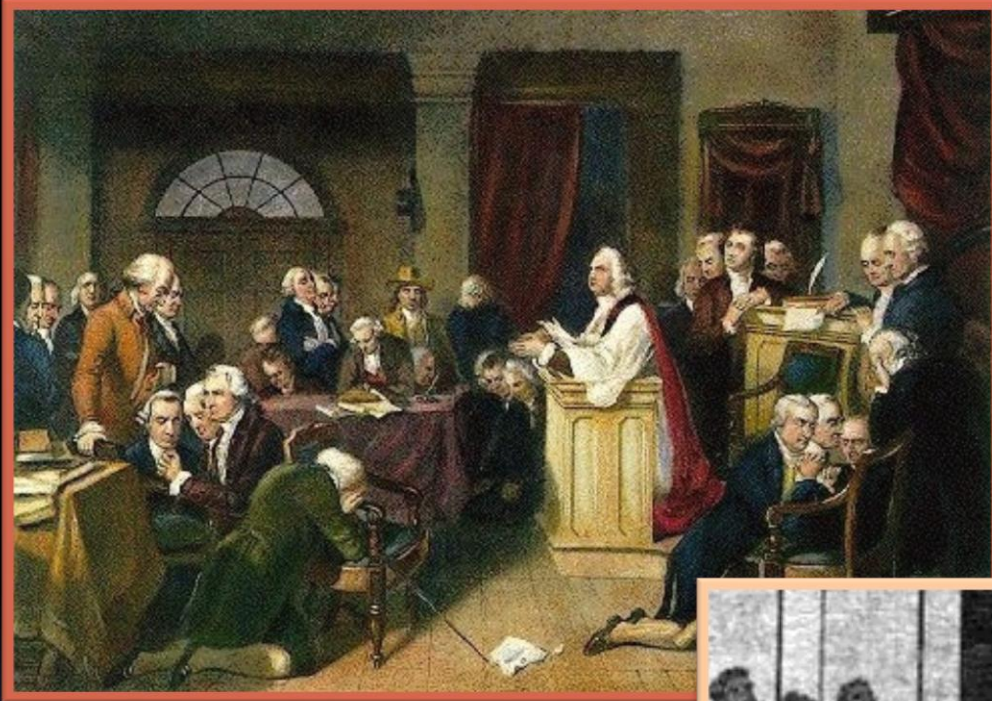
# Coercive Acts

(“Intolerable Acts”)

- Closed port of Boston
- Restructured MA government
- Restricted town meetings
- Quartering Act

# First Continental Congress, Sept 1774

## ➤ How to respond to Intolerable Acts



# First Continental Congress, Sept 1774



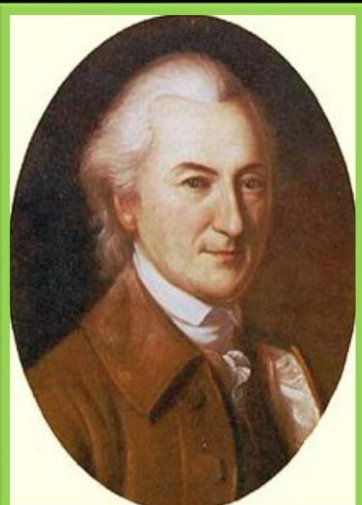
Peyton Randolph



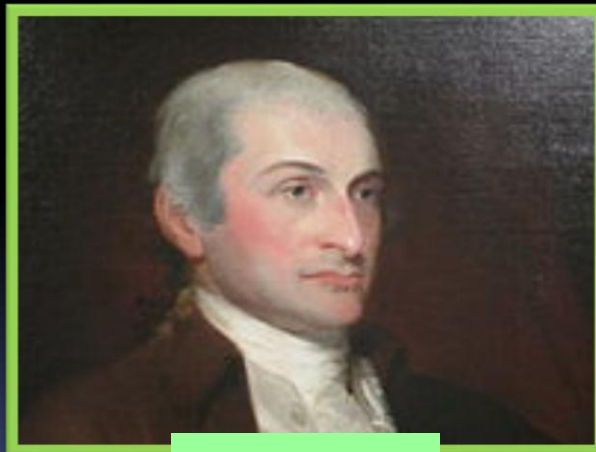
George Washington



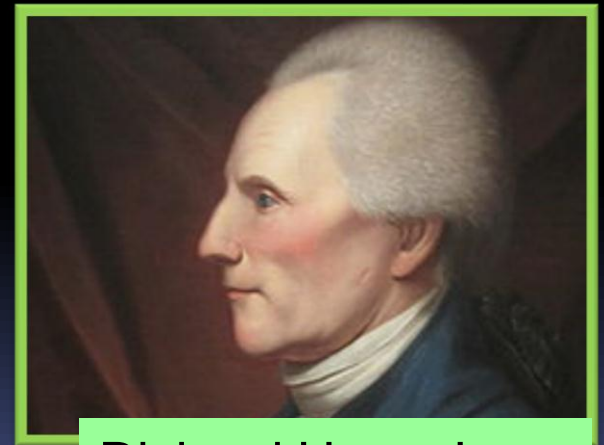
Patrick Henry



John Dickinson



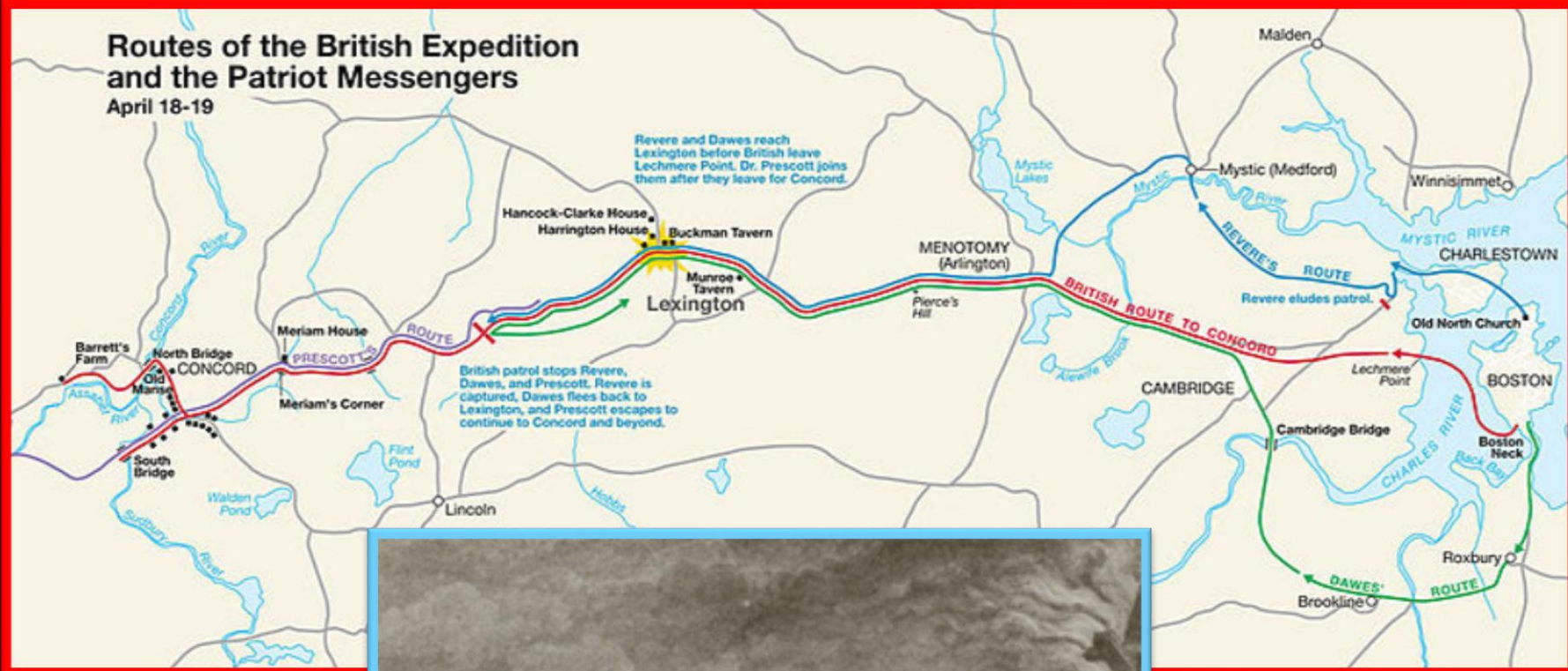
John Jay



Richard Henry Lee



# Lexington & Concord - Apr 19, 1775

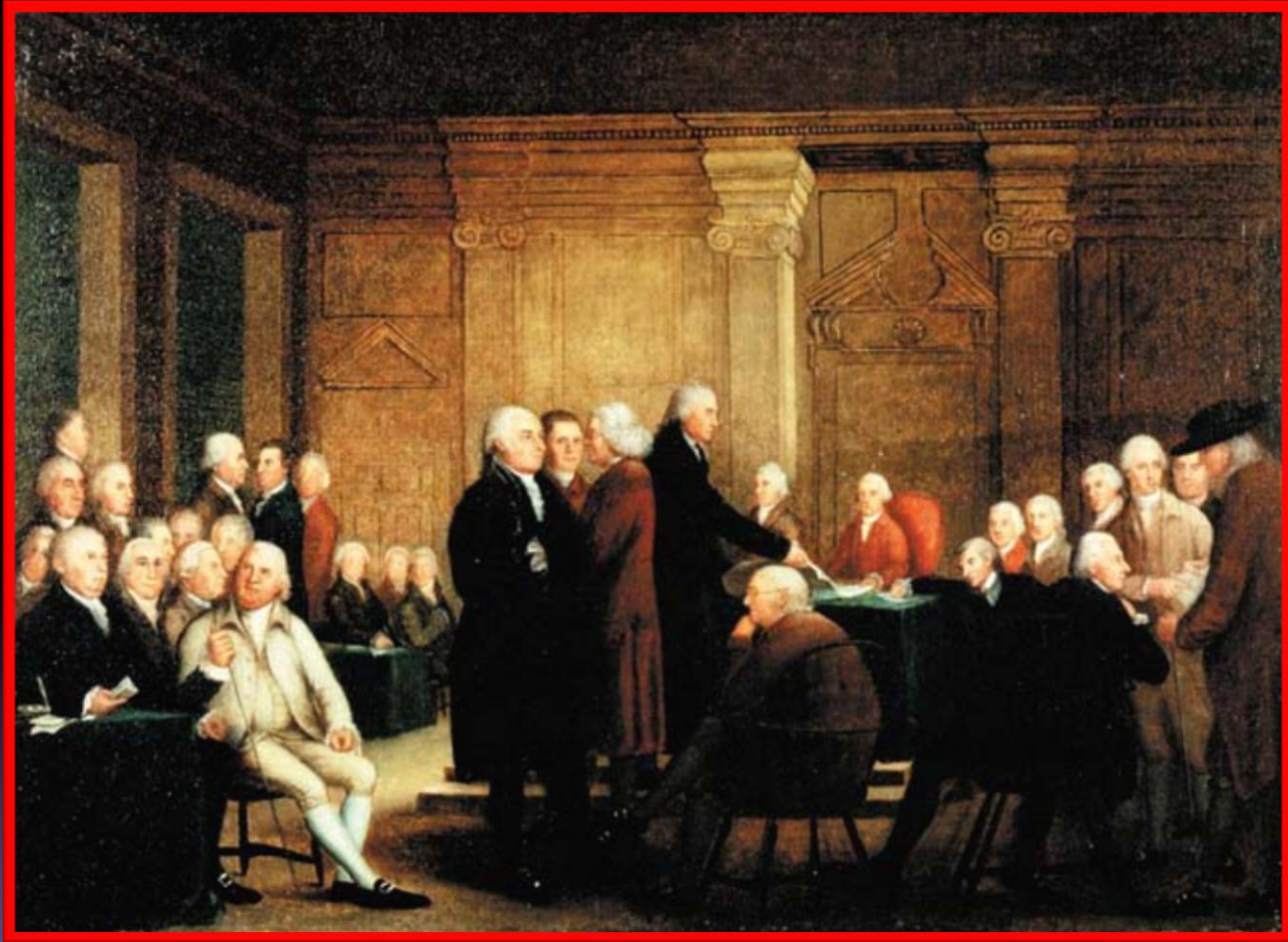




# “Breed’s Hill”



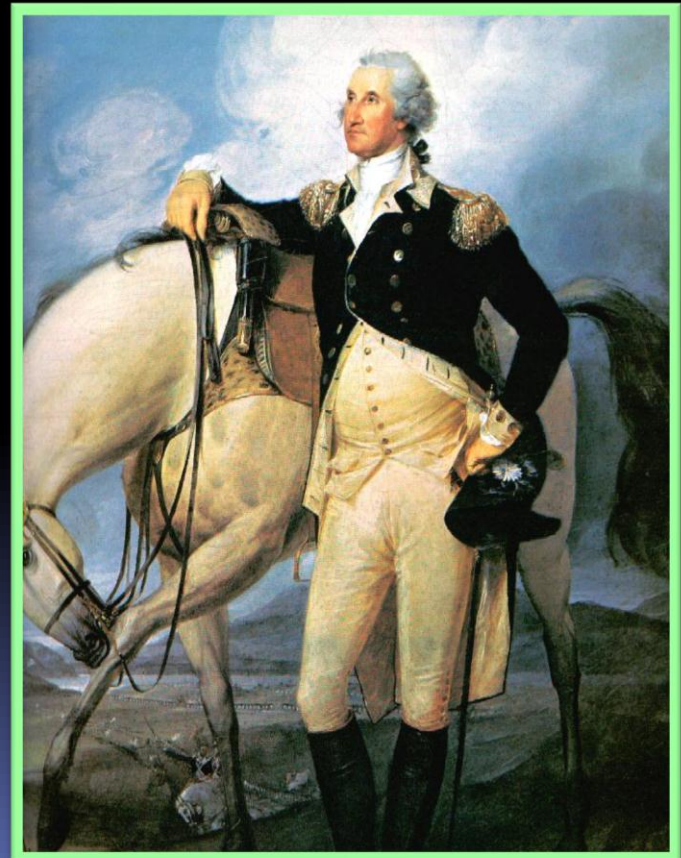
# Second Continental Congress May 1775





# Second Continental Congress

- Congress takes control of war
- Formed Continental Army
- purchased supplies
- authorized printing of money



# British Response

➤ Proclamation of Rebellion

➤ Prohibitory Act

- “War” on American commerce
- Naval blockade



By the KING,  
A PROCLAMATION.  
For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.

GEORGE R.



HEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us. And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Comfort of divers wicked and oprobrious Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereunto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and assisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; And We do accordingly strictly charge and command all Our Officers as well Civil as Military, and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, in order to bring to condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators, and Abettors of such traitorous Designs.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's*, the Twenty-third Day of *August*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

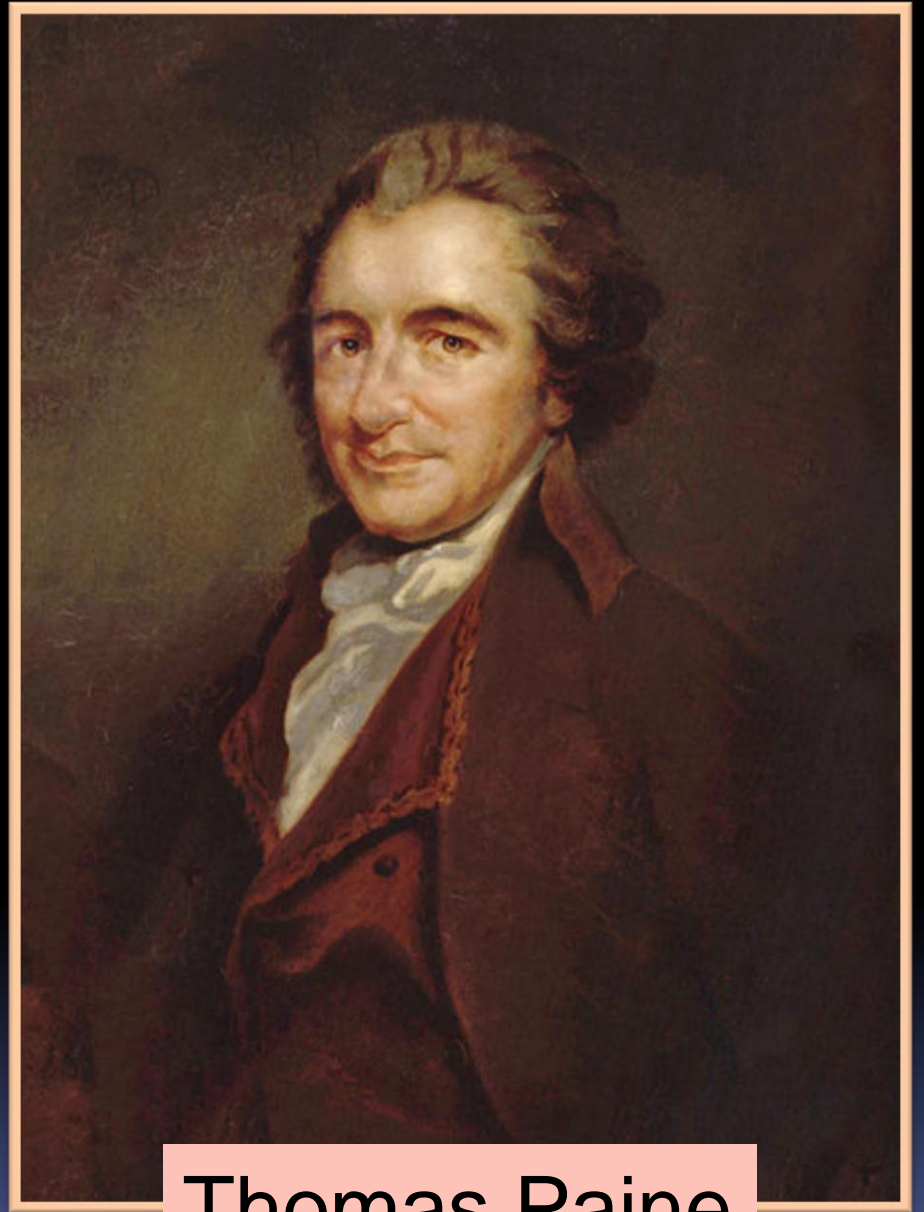
L O N D O N :

Printed by *Charles Eyre* and *William Strahan*, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1775.



Jan 1776

*Common Sense*



Thomas Paine

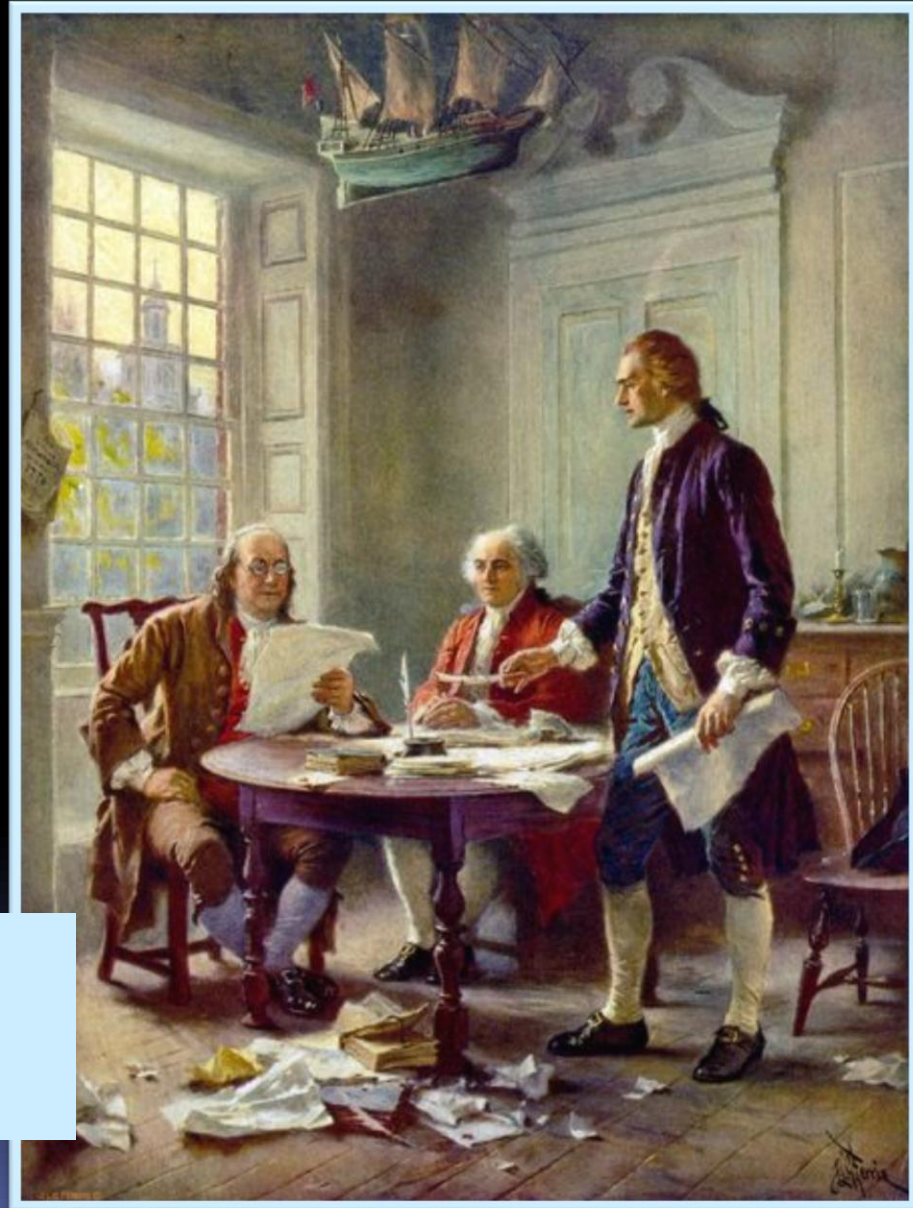
# Spring, 1776

- State resolutions

# June, 1776

- writing committee

Franklin, Adams, &  
Jefferson



# July 2, 1776

➤ voted for independence

# July 4, 1776

➤ approved Declaration







“...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 of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government...”

“...The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world...

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people...

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures...



“For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us...

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny...

“...We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States...

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

# Independence

