1763 - 1776: The Road to Revolution

- Conflict escalates

- What are the issues?
  - “Natural rights”
  - Standing army
  - Taxation
  - Authority
  - “Home rule”
THE 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 30th of November (The Fast Thursday). The publication of this paper, and the Burthen it expedites me, in order to deliberate, whether any methods can be found to elude the chains forged for us, and escape the insupportable slavery, which it is hoped, from the just 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 behind 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.
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
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

Boundary between Mississippi River and 49th parallel uncertain due to misconception that source of Mississippi River lay further north.
Specific Complaints

- Sugar Act, 1764
  - Molasses Act, 1733
Specific Complaints

- Stamp Act, 1765
Reaction

- **Virginia Resolves**
- **Stamp Act Congress**
- **Mass protests**
- **Mob violence**
  - **Sons of Liberty**
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
England’s Reaction

- Colonial assemblies dissolved
- Troops to Boston
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”
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

Routes of the British Expedition and the Patriot Messengers
April 18-19

Revere and Dawes reach Lexington before British leave.
Lechmere Point. Dr. Prescott joins them after they leave for Concord.

Hancock-Clarke House, Harrington House, Buckman Tavern,
Munroe Tavern.

British patrol stops Revere, Dawes, and Prescott. Revere is
captured. Dawes flees back to Lexington, and Prescott escapes to
continue to Concord and beyond.

Linear Belcher's "The Battle of Lexington" 1776-77

Lexington Bridge, Concord Bridge, Charlestown Bridge,
Mystic River, Charles River.

Old North Church, Boston Neck, Rock Point.

BOSTON
CHARLESTOWN
Mystic (Medford)
Winnisimmet
MYSTIC RIVER
CAMBRIDGE
MENOTOMY (Arlington)
Roxbury P
Lechmere Point
Brookline

ROUTE
REVERE'S ROUTE
BRITISH ROUTE TO CONCORD
Revere eludes patrol.

North Bridge, Concord.
Horton's House, Meriam's Corner.

Assay, Andover.

Lincoln, Walpole.

Bates Pond, Flint Pond.
“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.

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, Councils, and Comfort of divers wicked and osperate 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 thenceunto 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.

LONDON: 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
Declaration of Independence

- political philosophy
- grievances
- justification
- statement
“...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