2-2: THE IMPERIAL CRISIS

1765-1775
STAMP ACT

- Taxation without Representation
  - Americans—Only elected legislatures can impose taxes; denied British birthright
  - British—Virtual Representation

- Sons and Daughters of Liberty
  - Intimidation tactics
    - “Liberty Trees”
    - Burning effigies of tax collectors
    - Use of violence rather than legal means

- Non-Importation Agreements
  - Boycott
  - Stamp Act economically unviable
  - Repeal and Declaratory Act
CONTINUED BRITISH “USURPATIONS”

- Townshend Duties
  - Strict enforcement of taxes
  - “Letters from a Pennsylvania Farmer”
    - England can regulate commerce
    - Taxes require colonial consent
    - Urged united action
  - “Massachusetts Circular Letter”
    - Called for all colonies to boycott

- Boston Massacre
  - Events preceding shooting
  - Sons of Liberty propaganda
  - Trial and acquittal
  - Committees of Correspondence
BOSTON TEA PARTY

- Tea Act
- Tea Party
  - Mixed colonial reaction
- Coercive Acts
  - Designed to punish Massachusetts
- Quebec Act
  - Established official Canadian religion
  - No representative assembly
  - Took away “American lands”
- First Continental Congress
  - Urged restoration of salutary neglect
PHILOSOPHY OF THE REVOLUTION

- Enlightenment
  - Reason
  - Natural rights
    - Role of government
    - George III a tyrant

- Deism
  - Natural law governs events
  - No divine right

- John Peter Zenger Trial
  - Arrested for disparaging remarks
  - No malicious intent

- “Common Sense”
  - Defense of republican government
EMERGENCE OF UNITY

- There were several calls for cooperation in the events before and after the French and Indian War but very little action in terms of union
  - Albany Plan
  - Stamp Act Congress
  - Committees of Correspondence
  - First Continental Congress

- Actions NOT taken
  - Calls for war
  - Calls for independence
EMERGENCE OF UNITY

- However, partnerships were established and the seeds were sown for collective action.
- But anger against England was limited to New England and a few radicals elsewhere.
- A stronger case needed to be presented to convince the remaining colonies that England posed a serious threat to American colonists.