

## Ch 4 The War for Independence

### Section 1 The Stirrings of Rebellion

#### The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain

##### The Stamp Act

- **Stamp Act (1765)**—requires stamped paper for documents, printed items

##### Stamp Act Protests

- **Samuel Adams** helps found Sons of Liberty, secret resistance group:
  - harass customs workers, stamp agents, royal governors
- Stamp Act Congress—colonies can't be taxed without representation
- Colonial merchants boycott British goods until Stamp Act repealed
- Parliament repeals Stamp Act; passes Declaratory Act same day (1766)

##### The Townshend Acts

- **Townshend Acts (1767)** levy duties (indirect taxes) on imported materials, tea
- Colonists enraged; Samuel Adams organizes boycott
- Women stop buying British luxuries; join spinning bees; boycott tea
- Customs agents seize John Hancock's ship *Liberty* for unpaid taxes
- Colonists riot; 2,000 British soldiers stationed in Boston

##### Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

##### The Boston Massacre

- Soldiers compete with colonists for shipyard jobs. British soldiers are stationed in Boston
- **Boston Massacre (1770)**—mob throws stones, British fire, kill five
- 1772, colonists burn customs ship; suspects to be tried in Britain
- **Committees of correspondence** discuss threat to freedom, form network

##### The Boston Tea Party

- 1773 Tea Act lets East India Company avoid tax, undersell colonists
- **Boston Tea Party**—disguised colonists dump 18,000 lbs. tea in harbor

##### The Intolerable Acts

- **King George III**, British king, is angered by destruction of tea
- 1774, Parliament passes **Intolerable Acts** as response to Tea Party
- Acts close Boston Harbor, quarter soldiers in empty homes, buildings
- General Thomas Gage puts Boston under **martial law**—rule by military
- As a result of the Intolerable Acts, the colonists hold the First Continental Congress
- First Continental Congress claims colonial rights, supports protests

##### Fighting Erupts at Lexington and Concord

##### To Concord, By the Lexington Road

- Civilian militia or **minutemen** begin to stockpile firearms, 1775
- Resistance leaders John Hancock, Samuel Adams hide in Lexington

##### “The Regulars Are Coming!”

- 700 redcoats sent to capture leaders, destroy munitions, April 1775
- Paul Revere, William Dawes, Samuel Prescott warn leaders, townspeople

##### “A Glorious Day for America”

- First fight between minutemen and British in Lexington; British shoot minutemen, kill eight
- 3,000–4,000 minutemen ambush British in Concord, kill dozens