



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

First Continental Congress

In 1774, the British Parliament passed a series of laws collectively known as the Intolerable Acts, with the intent to suppress unrest in colonial Boston, MA by closing the port and placing it under martial law.

Across North America, colonists rose in solidarity with the people of Massachusetts.

Goods arrived in Massachusetts from as far south as Georgia, and by late spring 1774, nine of the colonies called for a continental congress.

Virginia's Committee of Correspondence is largely credited with originating the invitation. The colony of Connecticut was the first to respond.

Colonial legislatures empowered delegates to attend a Continental Congress which would set terms for a boycott.

The colonies elected delegates to the First Continental Congress in various ways.

Some delegates were elected through their respective colonial legislatures or committees of correspondence.

The Congress first convened in Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia,

PA on Sept. 5, 1774, with delegates from each of the 13 colonies except Georgia.

(Georgia was facing a war with Native American tribes and the colony did not want to jeopardize British assistance.)

On October 14, 1774, the First Continental Congress adopted their Declaration & Resolves.

This stated the group's objections to the Coercive Acts, listed the rights of the colonists, and itemized objections to British rule beyond the Intolerable Acts.

The list of rights insisted that Colonists were "entitled to life, liberty, and property" and "that foundation of English liberty, and of all free government, is a right in the people to participate in their legislative council".

Finally, at the end of the First Continental Congress, the delegates adopted a Petition addressed to "The King's Most Excellent Majesty" on October 26, 1774.

Many delegates were skeptical about changing the king's attitude towards the colonies, but believed



that every opportunity should be exhausted to de-escalate the conflict before taking more radical action.

By the time Congress met again, war was already underway, and thus, the delegates to the Second Continental Congress formed the Continental Army and put George Washington in charge of it.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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