



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

No Taxation Without Representation

The settlers who settled in the colonies of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut paid little to nothing in taxes during the first few decades of their establishment.

The English government imposed almost no taxes. In the early years, voluntary contributions supported spending on civic activities and church ministers. Too many free riders induced leaders to make contributions compulsory.

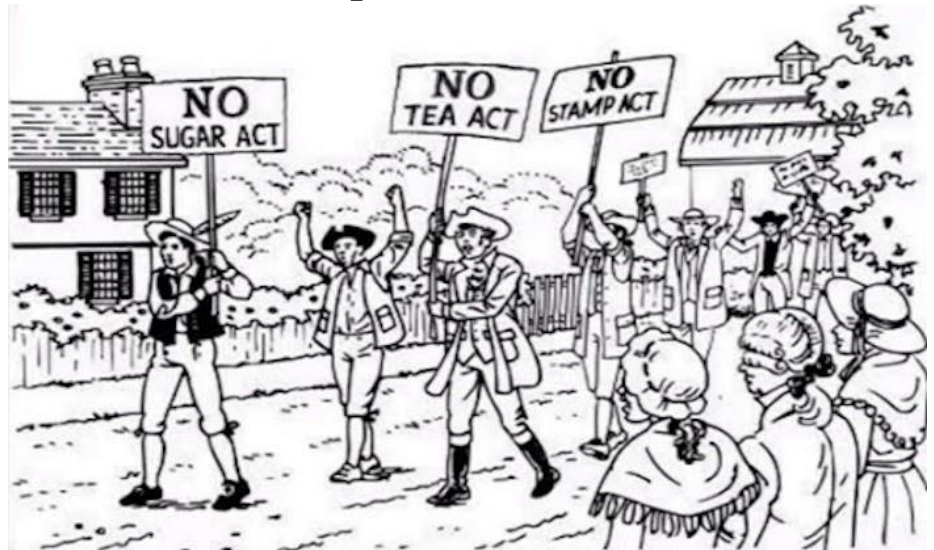
Taxes were not long in coming. Growing populations in the colonies necessitated defensive measures against Indians and other European intruders, along with the need to build and maintain roads, schools, prisons, public buildings, and ports and to support poor relief.

A variety of direct & indirect taxes were soon imposed on the colonists.

Many authors credit the reference of “No Taxation without representation” to the Boston lawyer and legislator James Otis, Jr. (in 1761).

This was followed up by declarations at the Stamp Tax Congress in New York in October 1765.

The Stamp Act Congress passed a ‘Declaration of Rights and Grievances’ that claimed that American colonists were equal to all other British citizens, protested taxation without representation.



They declared, “That it is inseparably essential to the freedom of a people, and the undoubted right of Englishmen, that no taxes be imposed on them, but with their own consent, given personally, or by their representatives.” (Article III)

The Colonists were British, but they did not have any member of Parliament representing them; and they resented that the taxes were imposed only on them and not all British subjects.

They stated that, without colonial representation in Parliament, Parliament could not tax colonists.

The American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) was sparked after American colonists fretted over issues like taxation without representation, embodied by laws like The Stamp Act and The Townshend Acts.

Mounting tensions came to a head during the Battles of Lexington and

Concord on April 19, 1775, when the “shot heard round the world” was fired.

The Declaration of Independence, issued on July 4, 1776, enumerated the reasons the Founders felt compelled to break from the rule of King George III and parliament to start a new nation.

In September of that year, the Continental Congress declared the “United Colonies” of America to be the “United States of America.”

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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