



# Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

## Actions After the French and Indian War Changed Everything



The French & Indian War (1754-1763) started as a struggle for control of the land west of the Allegheny Mountains in the Ohio River Valley. As the conflict spread, European powers began to fight in their Colonies throughout the world. It became a war fought on four continents.

In a lot of respects, actions after the war changed everything in the Colonies. While the British won the war, it had been enormously expensive and left Great Britain with a heavy debt.

The war and the British government's attempts to impose taxes on the Colonists to help cover these expenses resulted in increasing Colonial resentment. One of the early taxes was the Stamp Act (passed in 1765).

These new taxes ultimately led to the cries of "No Taxation Without Representation."

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.

As noted by Benjamin Franklin in his 'Examination' on the Stamp Act before the Houses of Commons in 1766, the "temper of America towards Great Britain before the year of 1763" was "The best in the world, they have submitted willingly to the government of the Crown, and paid, in all their courts, obedience to acts of parliament."

"They had not only a respect, but an affection, for Great Britain, for its laws, its customs and manners, and even a fondness for its fashions, that greatly increased the commerce."

"They consider themselves as a part of the British empire, & as having one common interest with it; they may be looked on here as foreigners, by they do not consider themselves as such."

"They are zealous for the honour & prosperity of this nation, and, while they are well used, will always be ready to support it, as far as their little power goes."

Before 1763, there was no "objection to the right of [Parliament] laying duties to regulate commerce; but a right to

lay internal taxes was never supposed to be in parliament, as we are not represented there."

And, in 1763, "it is greatly lessened" which was due to "a concurrence of causes; the restraints lately laid on their trade, by which the bringing of foreign gold and silver into the Colonies was prevented; the prohibition of making paper money among themselves; and then demanding a new and heavy tax by stamps; taking away at the same time, trials by juries, and refusing to receive & hear their humble petitions."

The temper in 1766? "O, very much altered." (Benjamin Franklin)

Realizing it actually cost more to enforce the Stamp Act in the protesting Colonies than it did to abolish it, the British government repealed the tax in 1766. However, the dye was cast and "the shot heard round the world" was fired at Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775).

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](http://www.sar.org)

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