



Many causes, one outcome; independence

Background

Victory in the French and Indian War was costly for the British. At the war's conclusion in 1763, King George III and his government looked to taxing the American colonies as a way of recouping their war costs. They were also looking for ways to reestablish control over the colonial governments that had become increasingly independent while the Crown was distracted by the war.



Core of the Dispute

A series of actions including the Proclamation of 1763, the Sugar Act (1764), Stamp Act (1765), the Townsend Acts (1767), the Boston Massacre (1770), and the Intolerable Acts (1774) agitated the colonists, straining relations with the mother country. But it was the Crown's attempt to tax tea (Tea Act of 1773) that spurred the colonists to action and laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.

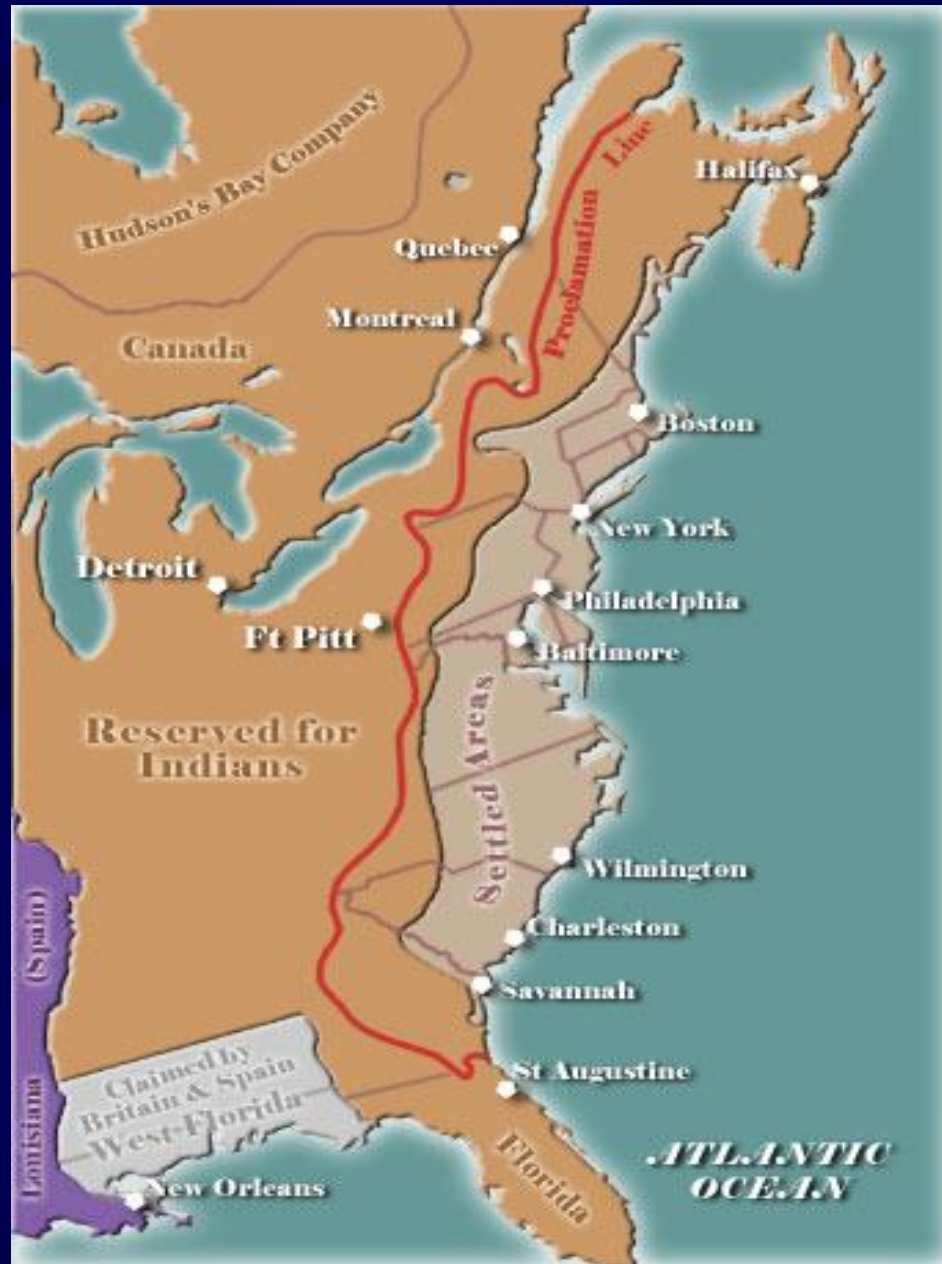
The Sugar Act

- The Sugar Act was created by the King of Britain and the British Parliament in an effort to recoup some of its costs from the French Indian War.
- Made the colonists upset... sugar was a staple that all people enjoyed.



The Proclamation of 1763

- An order issued by the King of Britain forbidding the colonists from settling the recently acquired lands west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- Ideally the order was issued to avoid future conflicts with the Native American Indians. Wars are EXPENSIVE.
- The measure also contained the colonists making it easier for Britain to maintain control.



The Stamp Act

- The Stamp Act was issued in 1765, at the urging of George Grenville, the British Prime Minister.
- It came about because Britain was in debt from the French Indian War. The King created the tax because he felt that the colonies should payoff the costs of the war.
- The act placed a tax on all printed materials created within the colonies. (internal tax)
- The colonists responded by boycotting British sold goods. Some responded violently by attacking the tax collectors, putting tar and feathers on them and sometimes worse.
- It was finally repealed in 1766.



DO NOT EVEN PONDER THE THOUGHT
OF SELLING OR TRADING GOODS
WITHOUT

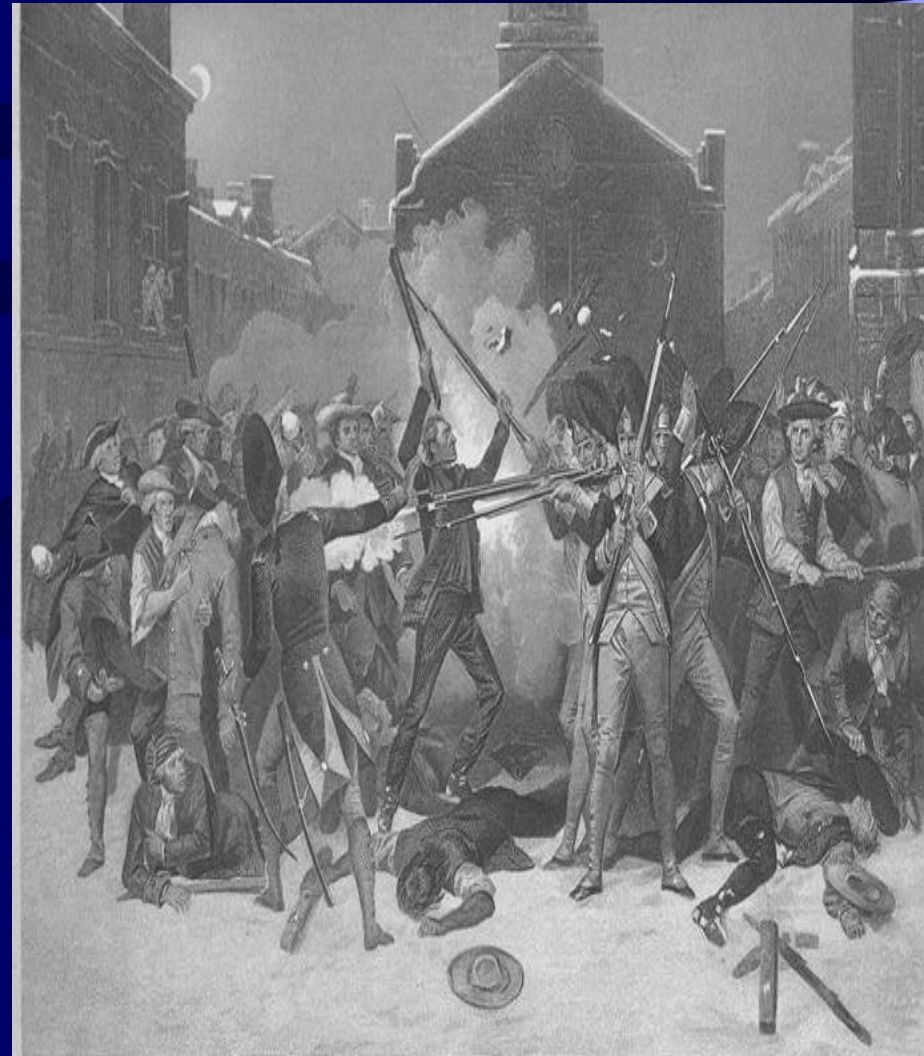
THE ROYAL STAMP

IF YOU CHOOSE TO DISOBEY THIS LAW
A SEVERE PENILTY WILL BE PAID



Various protests:

- Patrick Henry's speech
- Sons and Daughters of Liberty
- Benjamin Franklin's visit to Parliament
- Boston Massacre



The Townshend Act

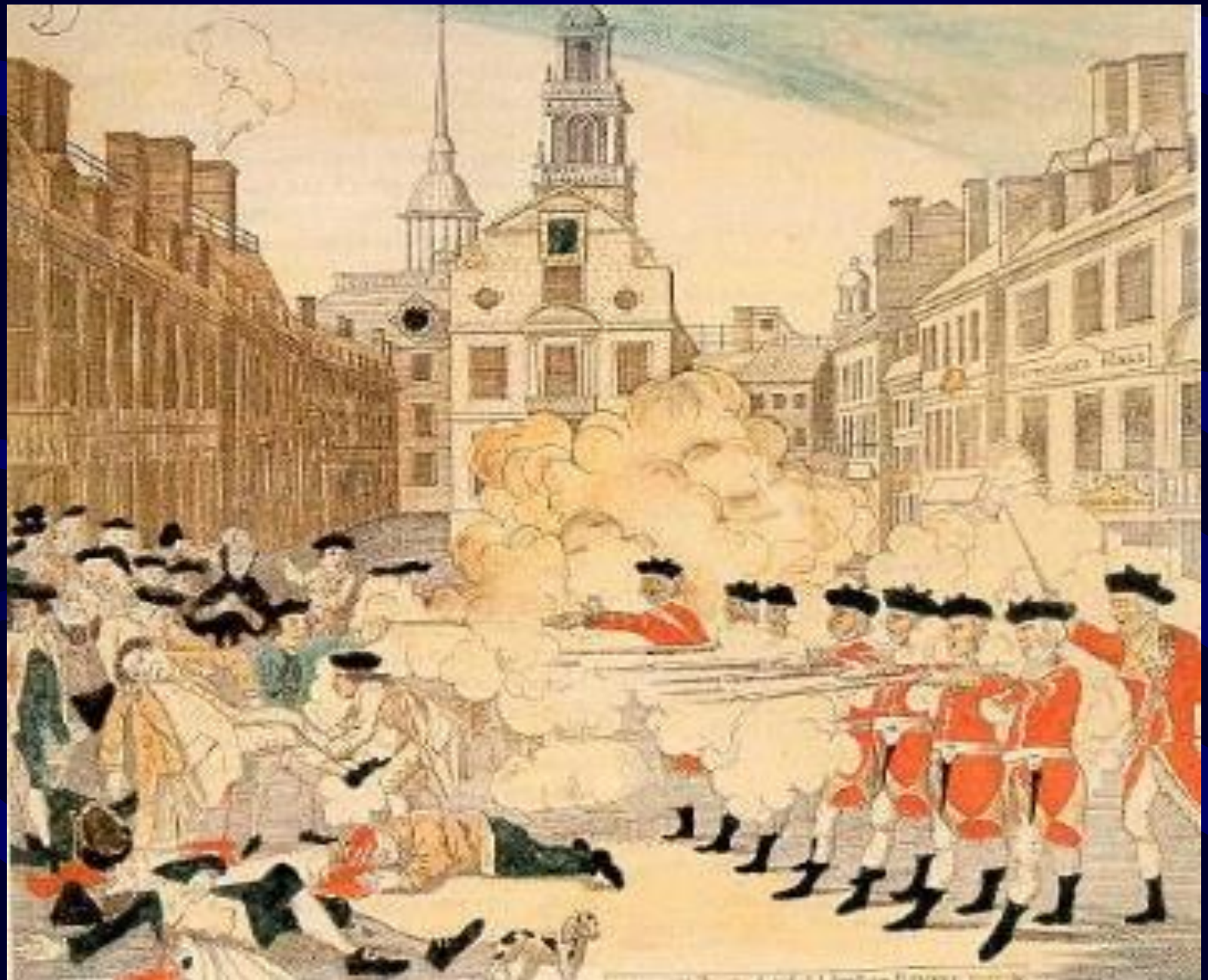
- The Townshend Acts created a tax on goods the colonists imported, such as paper, red and white lead, glass, paints, and tea shipped from England and English possessions. (**external tax**)
- Merchants in Boston and New York boycotted most British goods.
- At a town meeting held in Boston, Ma. the residents were told to bear arms in case they were needed to fight the coming British soldiers.
- British warships arrived in Boston Harbor in September and two regiments of infantry moved permanently into Boston neighborhoods.
- George Mason wrote a set of resolutions that were presented to the Virginia House of Burgesses by George Washington. The resolutions opposed taxation without representation.
- The Townshend Acts were finally repealed in March of 1770; **EXCEPT FOR THE TAXES ON TEA.**

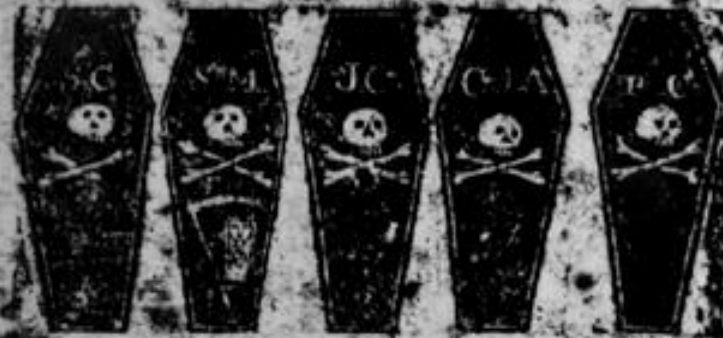
**“No Taxation
Without
Representation!”**

Colonists react...

The Boston Massacre

- March 5, 1770 A merchant and one of the soldiers were arguing and some of the townspeople gathered. They began to throw snowballs and rocks at the soldiers. Soon Captain Thomas Preston and a small group of soldiers arrived. Private Hugh Montgomery of the British troops was hit by a club thrown from the crowd. When he got up, he fired into the crowd. Soon other British soldiers started firing wildly with their guns.
- **Five unarmed colonists killed.**
- The Boston Massacre added to the hatred between the British soldiers and the colonists.
- The hostility and the Tea Act of 1773 sparked the Boston Tea Party





On the Death of Five
young Men who
was Murthered,
March 5th 1770.
By the 29th Regi-
ment.

The Boston Tea Party

- The Boston Tea Party was held in December of 1773.
- The Sons of Liberty held the “tea party,” in protest of the tea tax.
- They dressed up as Mohawk Indians and then dumped 342 chests of tea, into the ocean.



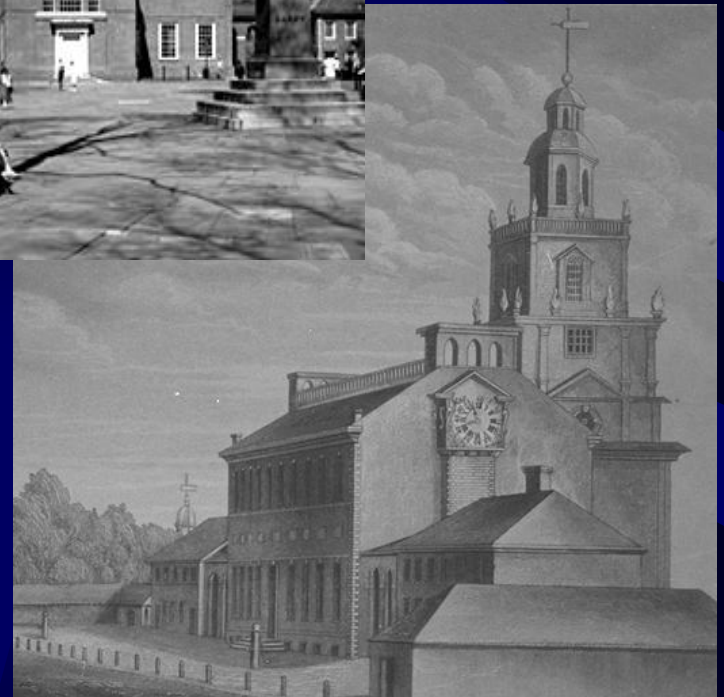
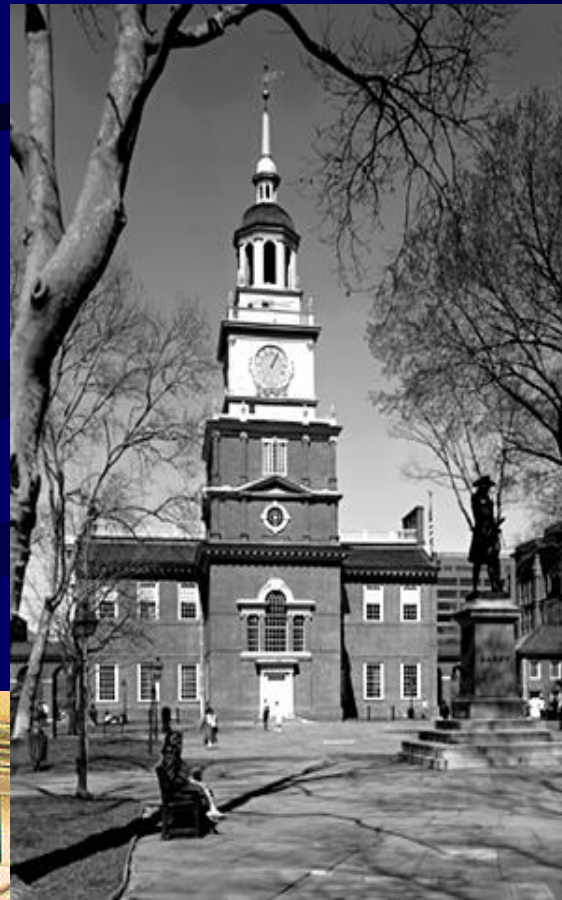
Library of Congress

The Boston Tea Party

The Intolerable Acts

- Aka: *The Coercive Acts*. The Intolerable Acts were passed in 1774 to punish the colonists for the Boston Tea Party.
- There were three major acts involved that angered the colonists.
- The first was the **Boston Port Bill** and it closed the Boston Harbor until the people of Boston paid for the tea that they threw into the harbor. It went into effect on June 1, 1774.
- There was also the **Quartering Act** which required the colonists to provide housing and supplies for the British troops.
- The Intolerable Acts united the colonies against England. To decide on what steps they would take, the colonists met in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress.

First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia



The First Continental Congress

- On **September 5, 1774**, every colony but Georgia sent representatives to what is now called the First Continental Congress.
- They signed a petition demanding the Intolerable Acts be repealed and sent it to England with the demand they would be repealed.
- When Patrick Henry went to the Virginia Convention in Richmond, he made a speech. It was from this speech that his famous quote comes:
"I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"
- King George III's decision not to repeal the Intolerable Acts or any of the other taxes finally caused the Revolutionary War that led to the Colonies Independence.

The Shot Heard Around the World

- April 19, 1775, 700 British soldiers met 70 minutemen at Lexington. The colonists began to go home when a shot was fired. Eight colonists were killed and one British soldier wounded.
- Concord: The British met 300 minutemen, who drove the British back, killing 73 of them and wounding another 200.
- The war had begun, by accident.

Paul Revere's Midnight Ride

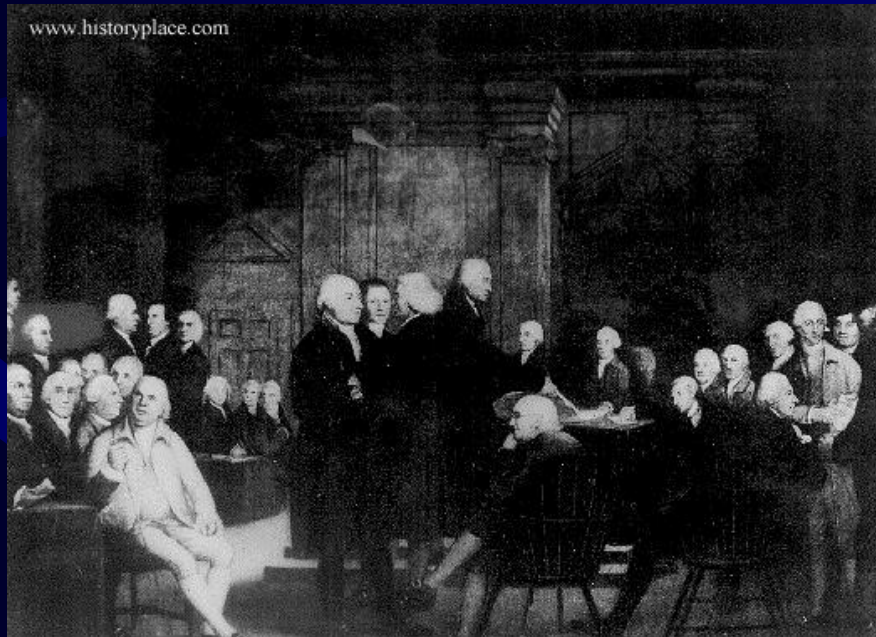
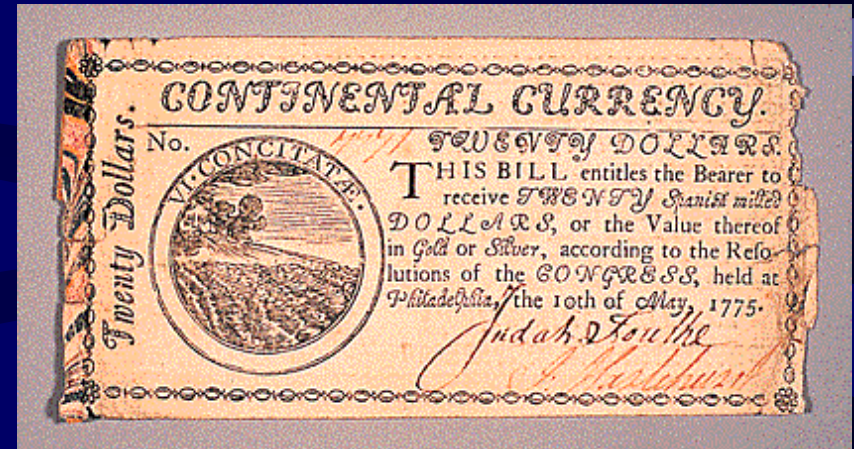


Common Sense

- Common Sense was a pamphlet that convinced many people that the time for independence had come.
- The pamphlet was written by Thomas Paine, an Englishman.
- It sold over 500,000 copies in six months!!!
- “Society in every state is a blessing, but Government, even in its best state, is a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one.” *Thomas Paine*

Second Continental Congress

Representatives
brought money to
help establish...



the Continental
Army

(i.e. pay soldiers,
buy guns, bullets,
food, and uniforms)

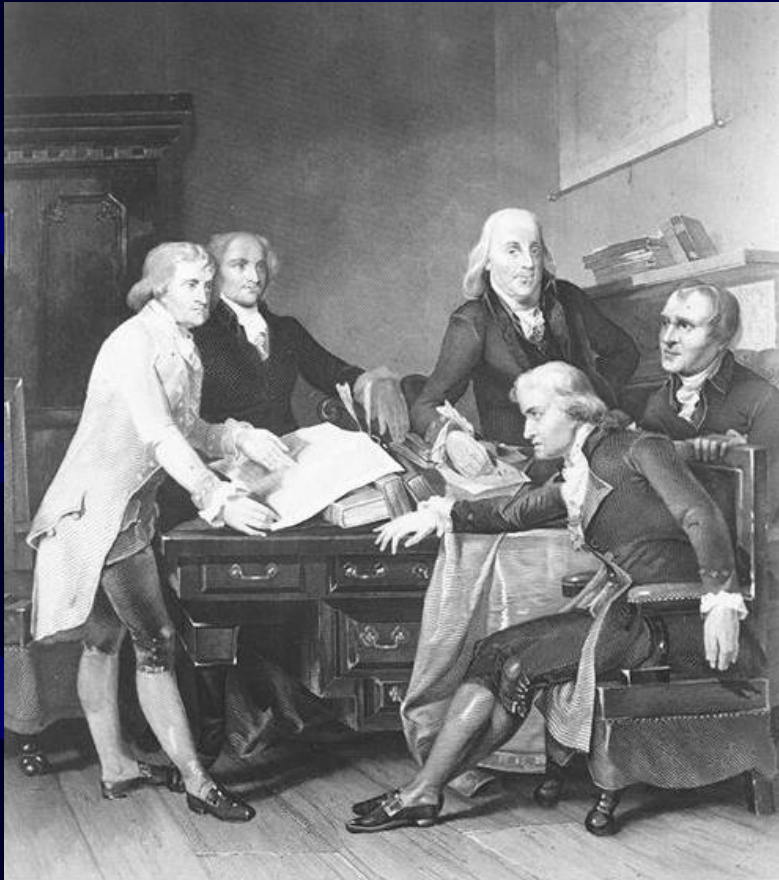
declaration : (*n*)

an official statement

independence : (*n*)

the freedom to govern on
one's own.

Who was involved?



- Benjamin Franklin
- John Adams
- Robert R. Livingston
- Roger Sherman
- Thomas Jefferson

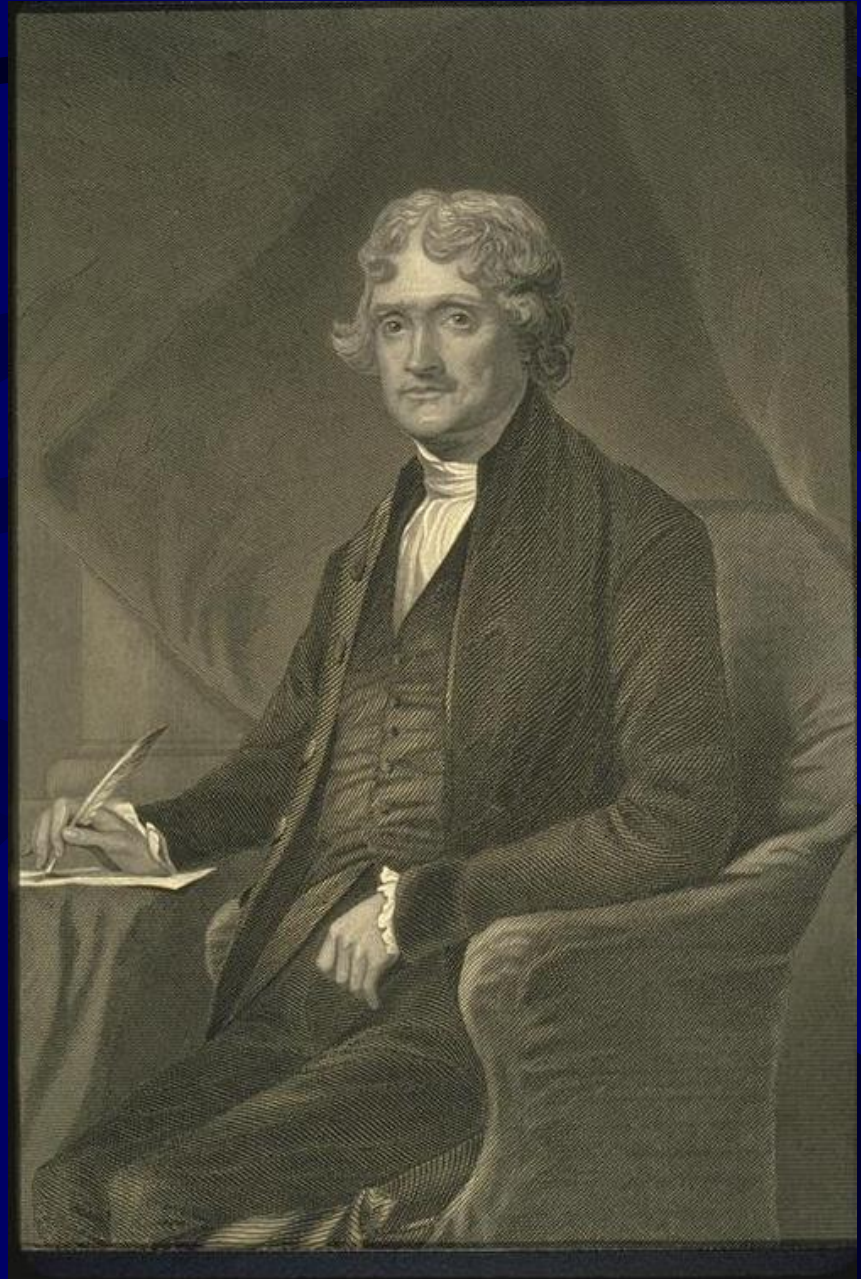
Where did it all take place?

This is a replica of the Graff house where Jefferson wrote the majority of the 1st draft of the Declaration of Independence. The original building (at this location) was destroyed in 1888.

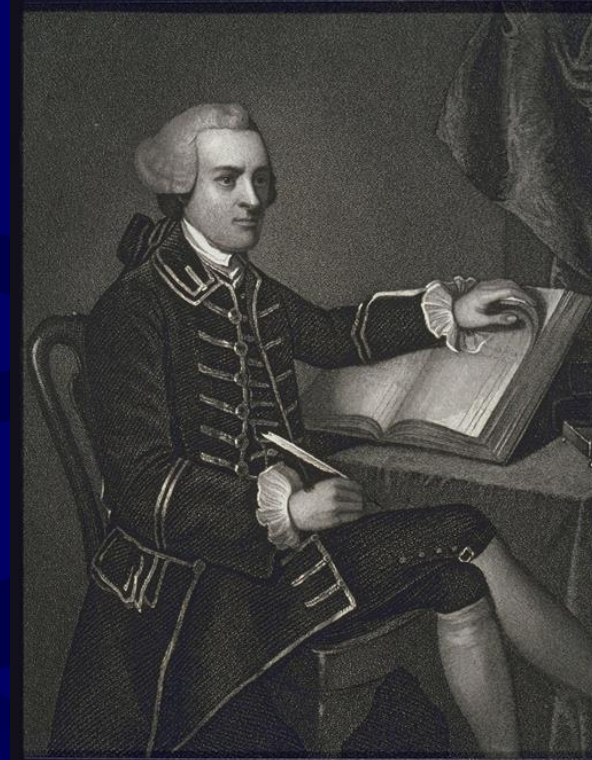


**What did it
look like?**

**Who wrote
the first
draft?**



Who signed it
first?



John Hancock