Problems facing England after the French and Indian War
Changes in English Colonial Policies

- The introduction of new English mercantilist policies changed its economic & military attitude towards the colonies:
  - England increased protective tariffs & trade regulations so the colonies worked for motherland
  - If all else failed, they could also go to war with their economic rivals & get the colonists to fight too
Changes in English Colonial Policies

- The Navigation Acts (1660-1696) changed Colonial requirements for the conduct of trade
  - Products from the American Colonies could only be shipped on English ships
  - All European goods headed for the America’s had to be shipped through England
  - Changes equaled increased costs and longer shipping times for colonists
Changes in English Colonial Policies

- The Navigation Acts (1660-1696) changed Colonial requirements for the conduct of trade
  - 3/4 of all ship’s crews had to be English
  - British laws were harsh on Seamen
  - Used Impressment and Keelhauling
Changes in English Colonial Policies

- The Wool Act (1699) changed Colonial requirements for trade of Wool Products
  - Increased control over Colonial Trade and Production
  - Prohibited the export or import of any wool to/from America (except on British ships)
  - Some Colonists opted to use flax or hemp instead
Changes in English Colonial Policies

- The Molasses Act (1733) increased Colonial restrictions on the trade of goods
  - Passed to compete with French trade in the Caribbean
  - Opposed by Colonists
  - Tax rarely paid due to:
    - Smuggling
    - Bribery
    - Corrupt Officials
Why was 1754 a “turning point” in British-colonial relations?
Turning Point: 1754

- In 1754, English officials & colonists met to discuss problems with Native Americans and the impending conflict with France
  - Benjamin Franklin proposed the Albany Plan
  - Plan was vetoed by both colonial assemblies and Parliament

The plan was too expensive & would limit each colony’s power to control its own actions.

This would give the colonists too much power.
How was 1763 another “turning point” in British-colonial relations?
Perceptions after the War

- **Colonial Views:**
  - Colonies could be very strong when they worked together
  - Newly gained frontier presented new opportunities for wealth and land
  - Colonists still considered themselves proud members of the British Empire

- **British Views:**
  - Americans were slow to organize and balked when required to pay taxes
Effects of the War on Britain?

- The War increased England’s Colonial Empire in North America.
- But, William Pitt’s “blank check” greatly enlarged England’s debt.
- Britain’s contempt for the Colonials began creating bitter feeling.
- As a result, English leaders felt that a major reorganization of its American Empire was necessary.
Paying Off England’s National Debt
Parliamentary Sovereignty

- 1760: King George III came to the throne
  - He began a new colonial attitude known as *Parliamentary Sovereignty*
  - English officials assumed that Parliament must have ultimate authority over ALL Laws and Taxes
  - The Colonists tried to reserve the Colonial authority for their own legislatures
1763 proved to be a critical year for the Colonists

- Chief Minister George Grenville assessed England’s War debt
  - Determined that colonists needed to pay their share of the war debt
  - Decided that new political and economic restrictions were needed
  - Convinced Parliament to pass new acts and taxes
New Parliamentary Acts

– Sugar Act (5 Apr 1764)
– Currency Act of 1764
– Stamp Act (22 Mar 1765)
– Quartering Act (15 May 1765)
– Declaratory Act (18 Mar 1766)
– Townshend Acts of 1767
The Sugar Act of 1764

- The Sugar Act placed a tax on imported sugar & created means for enforcing it
- Sugar was an expensive luxury
- Colonial protest was limited to the wealthy gentry, merchants, & politicians
- Most colonists were unaffected by it
The Stamp Act

- The Stamp Act required colonists to buy a royal stamp to validate legal documents.

By taxing marriage licenses, property deeds, & playing cards, this duty affected *common folks*.

- Colonial protests changed from a gentry movement to a mass protest by common citizens.

- Massachusetts called for a Stamp Act Congress to petition the King and Parliament for a repeal.
The Stamp Act

- The Stamp Act ultimately led to major protests
  - Mob Riots: Intimidating local officials
    - Tax collectors resigned, making it impossible to collect the taxes
  - Boycotting British Goods:
    - “Save your money and you can save your country”
  - Women changed what they bought for the family to support the boycott
The Stamp Act Resistance

First Use of term “Patriots”
The “Sons of Liberty” were formed to protest British restrictions & became the leading agitators for colonial resistance.

The Stamp Act Resistance
“No Taxation Without Representation”

- Colonists assumed that their assemblies were quasi-equal to Parliament because they had no Parliamentary Representatives.
  - British officials countered with the “virtual representation” argument.

Parliament represents ALL British citizens no matter where they live.

- Colonists insisted that only their own assemblies could tax Americans.
The Declaratory Act of 1766

➢ Due to effective colonial protests, Parliament revoked the Stamp Act

❖ The Declaratory Act reaffirmed Parliament’s sovereignty over the American Colonies

➢ “In all cases Whatsoever!”
Eroding the Bonds of Empire

- After the French and Indian War, everyone expected King George to remove British troops from the American colonies

- But . . . . this large, expensive army was not removed

  - British citizens were not happy because they had to pay for it

  - Colonial citizens doubted the army’s ability to defend against native threat
The Quartering Act of 1765

The Quartering Act made provisions for British troops to be given food and shelter at Colonists expense

Allowed troops to remain in colonies to:

- Enforce new tax laws
- Protect new frontier
- Deal with protestors
The Townshend Duties of 1767

- Initiated a series of taxes that the colonists weren’t suppose to notice

  Townshend attempted to avoid the same mistakes Grenville made

- Taxed imports on paper, lead, glass, & tea

- Created a Board of Customs Commissioners to collect duties

- Ordered Royal Governor of New York to veto all decisions by the colonial assembly until the Quartering Act was obeyed
Response to the Townshend Duties

- Sons of Liberty organized another boycott of British goods
  - They issued a circular letter to protest the Townshend Acts (in Mass)
  - This “seditious letter” was considered an act of treason
  - The Massachusetts colonial assembly was dissolved by order of Parliament
Response to the Townshend Duties

- Effects:
  - The crisis over colonial representation was now evident
  - Committees of Correspondence began communicating their dissatisfaction with King and Parliament
  - The colonies became united in their "moral" opposition to English abuses
In 1756, Britain sends more men to the French and Indian War. They spend to win...

I will get colonists to pay for the war, since we have been protecting them.

The Sugar Tax 1764
This is the first time Britain taxes all 13 colonies to raise money directly for the crown.

This is fun! Let's try another tax...

The Stamp Act 1765
Newspapers, legal deeds and even playing cards are taxed. This is the first British tax on goods that Americans make for themselves.

OK, OK! We take back the Stamp Act, but just to prove we rule, we'll tax these.

Townshend Acts 1767
A tax on paper, printers' lead, glass and tea. The money will pay the salaries of Royal officials working in the colonies.

But we pay salaries of Royal officials working here! That gives us some power over them. Now we have no way to punish bad officials. Are you trying to enslave us?!!

Fine! We will end all the taxes... except the one on tea.

In 1763: We Win... an empty piggy bank!

Wh-what? Britain has left us alone for years! We have our own political assemblies to tax us! You are making this British tea mighty bitter.

NEXT: TIME