



# The downward spiral

## Review: British acts of revenue

1. 1764: Currency Act
2. 1764: Sugar Act
3. 1765: Quartering Act
4. 1765: Stamp Act

## Colonists unite: "Us vs. Them"

1. 1764- Boycott of British goods
2. 1770: Boston Massacre
3. 1773: Boston Tea Party

# The downward spiral

## British reaction to colonial resistance

### 1. Townshend Acts, 1767

New set of taxes: tea, glass, paper

Actually **lowered** the tax on tea, paper

Colonists found items to be essential to daily life

### 2. "Intolerable Acts", 1774

Series of laws in direct response to Boston Tea Party

Four new laws meant to punish colonists...

# The downward spiral

## Intolerable Acts

### 1. Boston Port Act

Closed port of Boston to **all** merchant traffic

Punished everyone, not just the rebels

### 2. Massachusetts Government Act

Gutted Massachusetts legal system

Ended town meetings, local elections

All officials now appointed by the crown

# The downward spiral

## Intolerable Acts

### 3. Administration of Justice Act

Can't get a fair trial in colonies? Go elsewhere

British official tried in other colonies, or in England

George Washington calls it the "Murder Act"

Hey, wasn't the massacre trial a fair one?

### 4. Quebec Act

Vague, but upsetting to colonists

Extended British North America south to Ohio Valley



*The able Doctor, or America swallowing the Bitter Draught.*

# The downward spiral

## Changes in perception

### 1. The King George III factor

George III is young and fancy

Rose to power at age 22

Top adviser: Mommy

Policy: Make sure that the colonists knew who was in charge



Bridge to Revolution

# The downward spiral

## Changes in perception

### 2. Self-reliance

95% of colonists would rather stay loyal to Britain

Ongoing wars with Native Americans

Growing sentiment: We can take care of ourselves



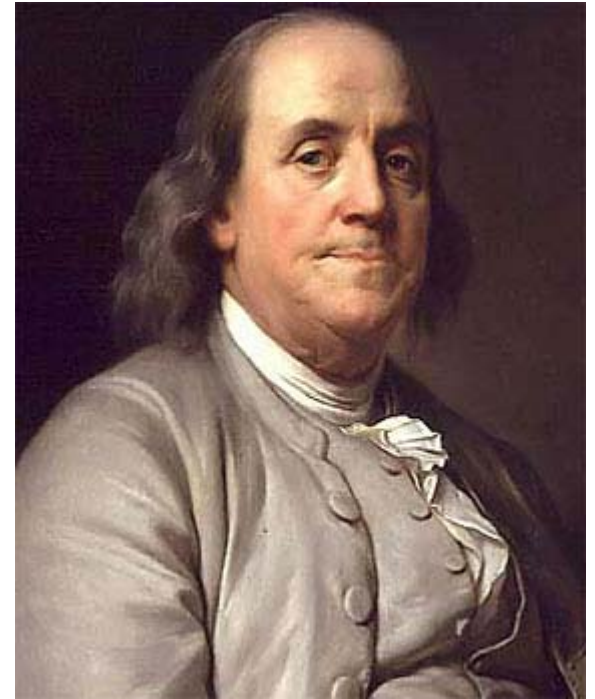




Bridge to Revolution

## The downward spiral

I never had heard  
in any conversation  
from any person,  
drunk or sober,  
the least expression  
of a wish for a separation,  
or hint that such a thing  
would be advantageous  
to America.



**Ben Franklin**  
**1774**

Bridge to Revolution

# The downward spiral

## Turning point for the colonists

Closing of the port of Boston

basically, this says that Britain  
can do whatever it wants

this act is intolerable to everyone, be they a...

*carpenter, miller, fuller, smith, gardener,  
barber, farmer, chandler, farrrior, archer,  
baker, dyer, wainwright, cook, tailor,  
cooper, or weaver*

Bridge to Revolution

# The downward spiral

**First Continental Congress: A “meeting of the minds”**

The best of the best meet in Philadelphia, 1774

Committee meeting of bankers, landowners,  
businessmen, and politicians

What can be done to get King George to listen?

...and what if he doesn't?

Bridge to Revolution

# The downward spiral

## First Continental Congress

1<sup>st</sup> CC is a *reaction*

Meeting of delegates from “13 different countries”

To unite, or not to unite?

“Massachusetts’ problem”

It’s up to delegates from Massachusetts to convince the rest to back them.

Bridge to Revolution

# The downward spiral

## First Continental Congress

A who's who among colonial leaders...

John Adams

Samuel Adams

John Jay

Thomas Mifflin

Benjamin Harrison V

George Washington

Patrick Henry

John Dickinson

Caesar Rodney

Peyton Randolph

...all get together for the first time

**Philadelphia**

**September-October, 1774**

Bridge to Revolution

# The downward spiral

## First Continental Congress

Philadelphia: big city, centrally located

In Carpenter's Hall, the first United States government meets

Delegates trickle in from all 13 colonies



Bridge to Revolution

# The downward spiral

## First Continental Congress

John Adams arrives from Boston after two-week journey

At age 39, had never been 100 miles from home

Everyone but Adams is a wealthy businessman, planter, or landowner

Adams successfully argues that the other colonies should back Massachusetts against the king



## First Continental Congress

# RESOLUTIONS

1. The 13 colonies will back Massachusetts politically and militarily
2. National boycott (result in **97% drop** in British imports)
3. The colonies will raise a collective army
4. A formal petition to the king

## First Continental Congress

“May the sword of a  
parent never be  
stained by his child.”

*1st CC delegates  
October 26, 1774*