The Declaratory Act
March 18, 1766

Background: The American Colonies Act 1766, commonly known as the Declaratory Act, was an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, which accompanied the repeal of the Stamp Act 1765.

1 AN ACT for the better securing the dependency of his Majesty's dominions in America upon the crown and parliament of Great Britain.

2 WHEREAS several of the houses of representatives in his Majesty's colonies...have of late, against law, claimed to themselves, or to the general assemblies...the sole and exclusive right of imposing duties and taxes upon his Majesty's subjects in the said colonies...

3 BE IT DECLARED....That the said colonies...in America have been, are, and of right ought to be subordinate (inferior)... and dependent upon the imperial crown and parliament of Great Britain;

4 AND that the King's majesty...and commons of Great Britain, in parliament assembled, right ought to have, full power and authority to make laws...of sufficient force and validity to bind the colonies and people of America, subjects of the crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatsoever.

5 AND be it further declared ...That all resolutions (legislative opinions), votes, orders, and proceedings, in any of the said colonies...whereby the power and authority of the parliament of Great Britain, to make laws and statutes...is denied..or drawn into question...are hereby declared to be, utterly null and void (have no legal effect) to all intents and purposes whatsoever.