Rising Tensions Between the American Colonies & Britain

Guiding Question: Why does the saying “no taxation without representation” explain why the American Colonists were upset with the British Parliament and eventually lead to the American Revolution?
The Proclamation of 1763

After the French & Indian War the British Parliament (government) faced 2 problems:

1. How to protect the American Colonists from frontier Natives seeking revenge
2. Huge war debt

Parliament passes the Proclamation Act of 1763 to keep the colonists safe:

- All colonists who had moved west of the Appalachian Mts. had to move back east until treaties could be signed with the Indian Nations. Check #1
As for the War debt...#2

Sugar Act of 1764

- In order to pay the **French and Indian War debt** AND pay for the military to **protect** the colonies Natives, French, & Spanish threats, Parliament passed the **Sugar Act of 1764**.

  *Taxes on molasses & sugar imported to colonies*
Taxation without Representation

• Many colonists were upset with this new tax because they had no say in Parliament.

• Colonial Leaders protested “No Taxation Without Representation.”

• The Sons & Daughters of Liberty formed. These groups used violence boycotts, & protests against tax collectors to show colonial support against Parliament’s taxes.
Stamp Act of 1765

- To raise EVEN MORE revenue, England passed the **Stamp Act of 1765**:
  - Anyone wanting to buy paper items such as: newspapers, pamphlets, licenses, legal documents, & playing cards had to pay for an **official stamp** to be placed on them
- In 1766 the Stamp Act was **repealed** when the colonies formed the **Stamp Act Congress** & proved to Parliament that the act **violated their rights as British citizens.**
Parliament repealed the Stamp Act BUT then passed the **Declaratory Act**.

The **Declaratory Act** stated, “Parliament had the authority to make laws for the colonies in all cases whatsoever.”

Meaning: **Parliament makes ALL the rules for the colonies, NOT the colonists!**
The Townshend Acts of 1767

• Placed a duty (tax) on imported glass, lead, paint, paper & tea to pay military in the colonies.

• To enforce this tax, tax collectors were granted **Writs of Assistance** (search warrants) to cargo ships or warehouses to catch smugglers.

• Large scale boycotts & protests occurred by the colonists.

• Parliament sent British troops to patrol Boston & protect the tax collectors.
The Boston Massacre

- Boston colonists were NOT happy about British troops patrolling THEIR city!
- On March 5, 1770, tensions between Bostonian colonists & British soldiers erupted.
- British soldiers were guarding a warehouse. A crowd of colonists gathered & threw snowballs & shouted insults.
• Suddenly one of the soldiers fired into the crowd killing Crispus Attucks, an African American, & four others.

• The Sons of Liberty spread the news of the “Boston Massacre” throughout the colonies using the Committee of Correspondence & began using negative political propaganda against the British!
To lower tensions in the colonies, Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts but kept the **TAX ON TEA**.

In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act which required all tea be bought from the British East Indian Tea Company.

The British East India Tea Company would have a monopoly on the tea trade & be able to pay off its debts...**NO $$$ for colonists!**
The Boston Tea Party

- To protest the Tea Act, the Sons of Liberty, disguised as Natives, snuck aboard 3 cargo ships at anchor in Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773.
- They dumped 90,000 pounds of tea into the harbor.
- British East Indian Tea Company and British Parliament were VERY UPSET!
THE DESTRUCTION OF TEA AT BOSTON HARBOUR.
The Intolerable Acts / Coercive Acts of 1774

As punishment for the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts (the colonies called them the Intolerable Acts) in 1774:

– Shut down Boston harbor until the destroyed tea was paid for by the colonists.
– Massachusetts charter canceled & made into Royal colony – dissolved colonial government.
– All Royal official's trials would be held in England NOT in the Colonies. (British officials have ultimate power)
– The Quartering Act was passed which required colonists to house & feed British soldiers.
– General Thomas Gage became the new governor of Massachusetts – appointed by Parliament.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>COLONIAL RESPONSE</th>
<th>BRITISH REACTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>Molasses Act (1733)</strong> placed duties on rum, sugar, and molasses imported from foreign countries.</td>
<td>Colonists protested the act and smuggled goods to avoid paying duties.</td>
<td>The act was not strictly enforced.</td>
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<td>The <strong>Sugar Act (1764)</strong> replaced the Molasses Act and was aimed specifically at raising revenues from the colonies.</td>
<td>Colonists protested the act and called for a boycott on items with duties.</td>
<td>After asking colonists for a plan to pay military expenses and not receiving one, Prime Minister proposed the Stamp Act. Colonial government strictly enforced duties.</td>
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<td>The <strong>Stamp Act (1765)</strong> required colonists to purchase a stamp for newspapers, pamphlets, legal documents, and other items.</td>
<td>Colonists formed Sons of Liberty, boycotted goods, and used violence to frighten tax collectors; Stamp Act Congress asked Parliament to repeal the act.</td>
<td>Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in March 1766, then issued the Declaratory Act.</td>
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<td>The <strong>Quartering Act (1765)</strong> required colonists to supply British forces in the colonies with housing, bedding, and other needs.</td>
<td>Colonists defied the act.</td>
<td>The act was allowed to expire in 1770.</td>
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<td>The <strong>Townshend Acts (1767)</strong> placed duties on imported glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea; made it easier for tax collectors to get writs of assistance.</td>
<td>Colonists used boycotts, colonial legislatures circulated a letter protesting the acts, and the Sons of Liberty attacked homes of tax collectors.</td>
<td>Soldiers were sent to Boston, October 1768; colonists were killed in Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770; most of the acts were repealed by Parliament, March 5, 1770; troops removed from Boston; soldiers involved in Boston Massacre were tried in court.</td>
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<td>The <strong>Tea Act (1773)</strong> kept in place duties on imported tea and allowed the British East India Company to export directly to the colonies.</td>
<td>Colonists used boycotts and propaganda, held the Boston Tea Party, and destroyed tea shipments in some colonies.</td>
<td>Parliament passed the Intolerable Acts.</td>
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<td>The <strong>Intolerable Acts (1774)</strong> closed Boston Harbor; canceled Massachusetts’s charter; moved trials of colonial officials to Britain; allowed new Quartering Act and Quebec Act, which gave Canada control of the Ohio region.</td>
<td>Colonists called for large-scale boycotts, published propaganda, and convened the First Continental Congress.</td>
<td>The act was repealed in 1778.</td>
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Writing Prompt: Describe three main causes of the American Revolution.