

# *World Shaking Ideas*



*And the March  
Toward Colonial  
Rebellion*

# *The Enlightenment*



- **Rejection of Superstition**
- **Search for “Rational” explanations for phenomena**
  - **Synonym for “The Enlightenment”?**  
**The Age of Reason**
  - Searching for **Natural Laws**
- **THE great symbol of the Age of Reason:**
  - **Isaac Newton**

# *The Enlightenment*



- **Isaac Newton**
  - **Principia Mathematica**
    - Action -Reaction
    - Universal Gravity
    - Search for **Natural Laws**
- **Social Sciences**
  - **Thomas Hobbes**
    - **Social Contract Theory of Government**
    - **The Government gives order to the People**
    - **The People give obedience to the Government**

# *The Enlightenment*

- **Social Sciences (Continued)**
  - John Locke
    - **Adopted Hobbes' Social Contract Theory**
    - **Natural Rights**
      - **Life, Liberty, Property**
    - **The People will obey the Government**
    - **Government must protect Natural Rights of the People**
    - **If Government fails to protect Life / Liberty / Property,**  
**The People can create a new Government that will**

# *The Enlightenment*

- **Social Sciences (Continued)**
  - **Economic Theory:**
    - **Mercantilism**
      - **General:** An Economic theory / system that the interest of the state is superior to the economic interest of any individual or business
      - **One Specific:** Colonies exist solely for the benefit of the Mother Country by providing:
        - **Source of Raw Materials**
        - **Market for Manufactured Goods**

# *The Enlightenment*

- **Social Sciences (Continued)**
  - **Economic Theory:**
    - **Mercantilism**
      - **Another Specific: The Goal of Mercantilism is to increase the wealth and power of the Mother Country**
      - **Another Specific: One implication of mercantilism**

It is in the Empire's best interest if the Mother Country provides the defense for its own colonies

# *Mercantilism in Practice*

**The American Colonies were loyal to England but:**

- **Dutch goods were considerably cheaper**
- **England “abandoned” the colonies :**
  - **1648-1660 : The Commonwealth Period**
- **After the Restoration (of Charles II)**
  - **Navigation Acts**
    - **All trade had to be on English ships w/ English crews**
    - **Some raw materials could only go to England**
    - **All goods shipped to colonial ports had to go through a port in England**

# *Mercantilism in Practice*



- **England “abandoned” the colonies Again:**
  - **1685-1688 : James II vs, Parliament**  
**(Glorious Revolution)**
- **William & Mary will attempt to re-establish enforcement of the Navigation Acts**

# *Effects of Mercantilism*

- **The periods of English “abandonment” lead to:**
  - periods of colonial economic independence
- **The periods of renewed enforcement lead to periods of increasing:**
  - colonial resistance / disobedience / smuggling
  - colonial resentment
    - stifling colonial businesses esp. manufacturing
    - **Gouging** by British manufacturers - a captive market
    - **Lowballing** by British tobacco purchasers - high profits
      - low leaf prices > unpaid farm debts - inherited

# *The American Revolution*



**Underlying Causes**

# *Underlying Causes of the American Revolution*



- **Growing sense of colonial military security**
- **Distance between the government and the governed**
- **Misunderstandings**
- **Horrible misjudgements by British government**
- **Longstanding resentments of mercantilist policy**
- **The “American Character”**

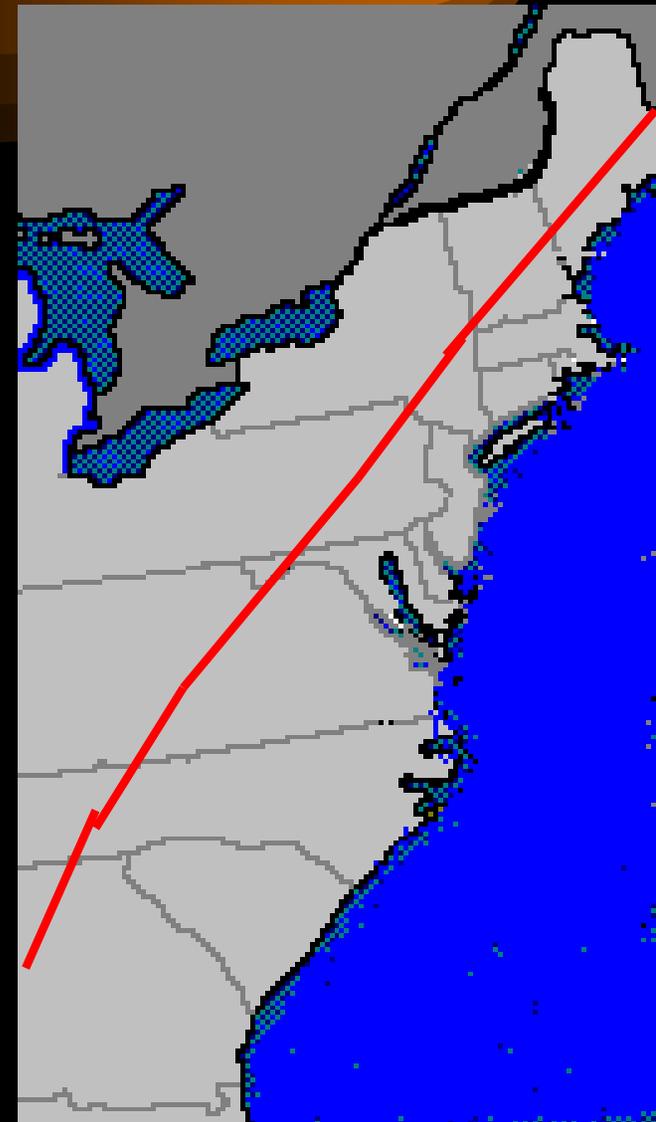
# *Growing Sense of Colonial Military Security*

- **First Battle of Louisbourg**
- **Second Battle of Louisbourg**
- **Third Battle near Fort Duquesne**
- **The Treaty of Paris of 1763**
  - **No more France in North America**
  - **The Closest French Possession:**
    - **Haiti**

# *Distance between the Government and the Governed*

The new PM - George Grenville was concerned about:

- The national debt
  - England did not want to spend any more money protecting the colonies
  - **Royal Proclamation of 1763:**
    - forbid colonists from moving west of the crest of the Appalachian Mtns.

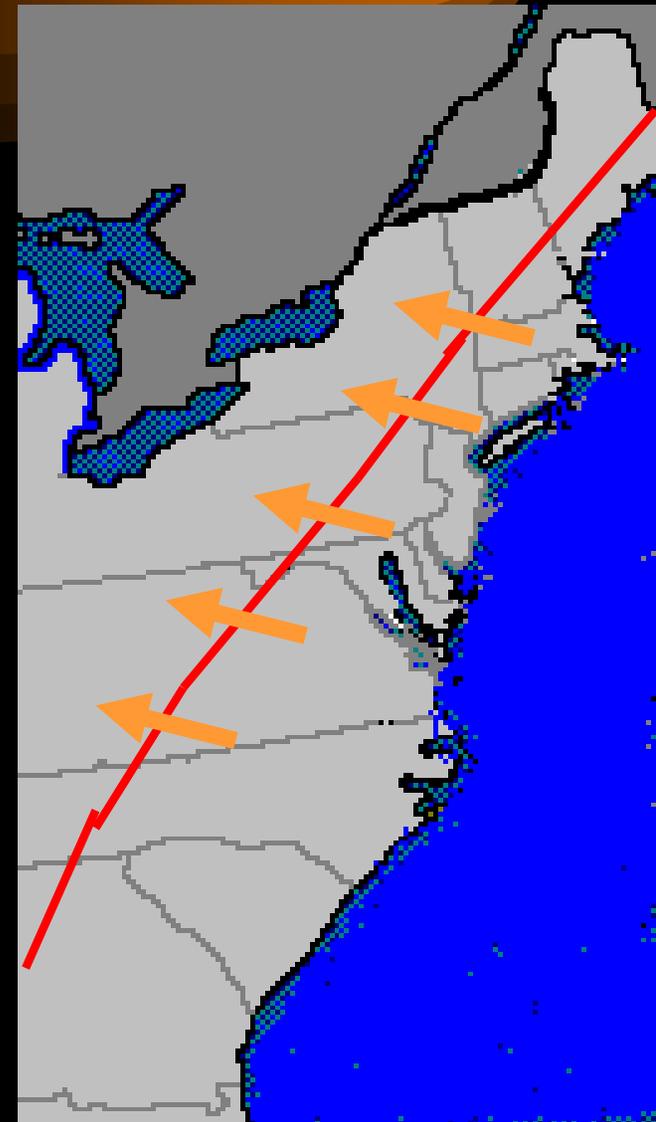


# *Distance between the Government and the Governed*

**The King forbids colonists from moving west of the crest of the Appalachian Mtns. Because it would cost money to:**

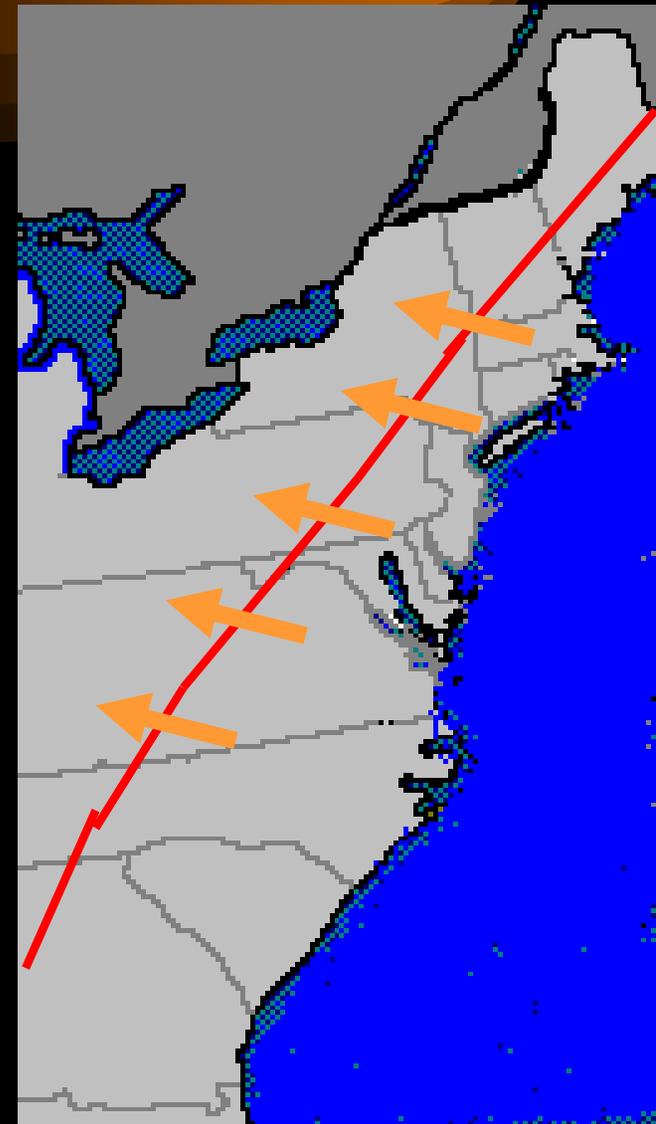
**Protect them from the Native Americans**

**As in Bacon's Rebellion before, the colonists crossed into Indian land any way.**



# *Distance between the Government and the Governed*

- Colonists learn that England cannot stop them from disobeying
- They learn (**not the first or last time**) the crown is not responsive to colonial interests and priorities.



# *Misunderstandings*

Distance also makes misunderstandings more likely

Kings like **Standing Armies**

**Army prepared to fight immediately when called**

Subjects do not like large standing armies because:

They have to pay more taxes

Parliament after the Seven Year's War will pass

**The Quartering Act -**

- Required the colonial legislature to pay for the housing and feeding of troops stationed in that colony

# *Misunderstandings*

**King's and Parliament's purpose:**

- To be prepared for another major war as quickly as possible
- To keep the troops away from the public and voters in England to hide the costs of the army from **THEM**

**The Colonists perceived the King's and Parliament's purpose as**

- Use the army as an intimidation of of the colonists

# *Misunderstandings*

**A second example of Misunderstandings:**

**After the Treaty of Paris of 1763, England will struggle to welcome several thousand Frenchmen in New France (Canada/Quebec) as new English citizens.**

**To help the French make the adjustment, the Parliament creates a colonial charter along lines familiar to Frenchmen:**

- **The Quebec Act**

# *Misunderstandings*

## **King's and Parliament's purpose:**

- **To give the French speaking English citizens a government which was like the one they had enjoyed before.**

## **The Colonists *perceived* the King's and Parliament's purpose:**

- **The Quebecers are denied 1) a representative assembly and 2) trial by jury**
- **The Crown must be preparing to deny these rights to the rest of the colonies**

# *Horrible Misjudgments by the British Government*

The debt problem pushed George Grenville to

- **Change Policy regarding colonists' payment for their own protection**
  - Sugar Act
  - Quartering Act
  - Stamp Act

**Important concept in English Law:**

**The crown may tax all citizens for purpose of regulating trade**

**i.e., The Navigation Acts are acceptable**

# *Horrible Misjudgments by the British Government*

The Navigation Acts are acceptable, but

It is illegal to tax citizens for the purpose of raising government **revenue** without their consent.

- Those who pay taxes must be represented in the Parliament

The colonists felt that their rights as citizens were being violated

Stamp Act Congress

“Taxation without Representation is Tyranny”

Sons of Liberty - Samuel Adams

# *Horrible Misjudgments by the British Government*

- **Attempts to punish the colonies**

**To prove who was in charge:**

- **The Declaratory Act**

- **The Townshend Acts**

- **Tariffs on colonial imports into England**

- **a violation of mercantilist principles**

- **Trial of offenders by admiralty courts**

- **Closing the NY assembly for non-payment under the Quartering act**