Chapter 4: The Empire in Transition (Part 2) (Page 109 on)

LOOSENING TIES

A Tradition of Neglect

- Increased English involvement in colonies = not going to be easy – colonists resistant to taxation and English policies
- English saw the colonies in terms of stronger trade, but people like William Pitt and Ben Franklin began to see it as the land itself was of value to the empire
  - Support population, it could produce taxes, and the imperial splendor
- English didn’t end up giving up Canada to France in exchange for Guadeloupe, most commercial island in West Indies
- Conflict over who would control westward expansion – lots of tension
- Britain’s war debt
  - High taxes in England to pay the government
  - Defending American settlements on Indian border added lots of cost
  - England decided that they had to do their system of taxation without cooperation from colonial government
- King George III takes the throne
  - Very determined to be active and responsible monarch
  - Removed stable coalition of Whigs who had governed the country for a time
  - In their place, he made a new coalition that was uneasy
  - Psychological problems – suffered disease that made him have spontaneous rants of insanity
  - Even when he was rational, he was still immature and insecure
- George Grenville appointed Prime Minister by George III
  - Bro-in-law to William Pitt
  - Did not share Pitt’s view – he thought the colonists should follow laws and procedures that England will put on them

The British and the Tribes

- Proclamation of 1763
  - Prohibited settlers to expand west across the Appalachian Mts. (designed to minimize risk of losing western trade due to Indians)
  - Gave England control over westward expansion
  - Conflicts might be minimized b/c of slow, orderly progress
  - Tribes wary of it at first, but many groups succumbed to it, trying to get the best possible deal concerning land
  - White settlers continued to keep expanding west little by little, defeating the purpose of the Proclamation
The Colonial Response

- Mutiny Act of 1765
  - Colonists required to provision and maintain Regular British troops now permanently placed in America
  - Grenville ministry trying to gain more power and authority
- Sugar Act of 1764
  - Designed to stop illegal sugar trade between continental colonies
  - Strengthened duty of sugar
  - Established vice-admiralty courts to try accused smugglers
- Currency Act of 1764
  - Colonial assemblies have to stop issuing paper money – they must retire on schedule all the paper money already in circulation
- Stamp Act of 1765
  - Tax on printed documents (newspapers, almanacs, pamphlets, deeds, wills, licenses)
- Colonists didn’t resist these new acts effectively
- Paxton Boys
  - From Pennsylvania
  - 1763
  - Demanded for relief from colonial taxes and for money to help them defend themselves from Indians
- Regular Movement
  - North Carolina
  - 1771
  - Farmers of Carolina upcountry in opposition of local sheriffs who collected the high taxes
  - Began to resist tax collection by force eventually
  - Governor William Tryon organized force of militiamen to fight them – Battle of Alamance – 9 on each side killed
- The new policies created common grievances among basically all colonists
- Grenville program did something to antagonize everyone (remember, he’s the Prime Minister at this point in time)
- 1763: economic bust! – postwar depression. England pouring money into colonies to finance fighting
- Political Consequences of Grenville Program
  - Many people took an active interest in political affairs

STIRRINGS OF REVOLT

The Stamp Act Crisis

- Effects of the Stamp Act
o Impacted ALL Americans unlike the Sugar Act
o Printers had to buy stamps for their newspapers and publications
o Merchants and lawyers had to buy them for their ships' papers and legal documents
o It was obnoxious to the colonists because it was England’s way of raising money in the colonies w/o their consent
o Virginia House of Burgesses calls colonists to action
  ▪ Hoped to challenge the power of tidewater planters who (in alliance with the royal governor) dominated Virginia politics
o Patrick Henry
  ▪ May 1765: Made speech to HOB (House of Burgesses) that if the policies weren’t changed, George III may lose his head (cue cries of “Treason!”)
  ▪ Introduced a set of resolutions that said that America should only be taxed by their own representatives, not by England
o James Otis
  ▪ Called for intercolonial congress for action against the tax
  ▪ October 1765: met in New York, 9 colonies represented – made petition to the king, just neglected to show that the colonists should only be taxed through their own assemblies
o Sons of Liberty
  ▪ 1765 summer – Boston: men in “sons of liberty” terrorize stamp agents and burn stamps
  ▪ Intimidated colonists who were wary of joining the boycotting of British goods
o English merchants begged Parliament to get rid of Stamp Act in fear of their loss of colonial markets
o March 18, 1766: Stamp Act repealed (marquis of Rockingham convinced the king to do it)

**Internal Rebellions**

- New York Hudson valley: great estates were given to small farmers – farmers fight over ownership of land
- Vermont: farmers challenge landowners and took up arms and demanded ownership of land they worked

**The Townshend Program**

- King got rid of the Rockingham ministry (they kept persisting that backing down from taxing the colonists would lead gov’t to increase taxes on English)
- Replaced them with William Pitt (who was friend to colonists but he suffered mental illnesses to do any real good)
- Leadership of administration pretty much went to Charles Townshend
- Mutiny (Quartering) Act of 1765
  o Required colonists to provide shelter and supplies for British troops
Colonists hated this – it was now mandatory and it was dumb how they did it without our consent

- **Townshend took action:**
  - 1) disbanded New York Assembly until the colonists obeyed the Act
  - 2) levied new taxes (Townshend Duties) on goods from England to colonies: lead, paint, paper, tea
  - Ben Franklin kept trying for the distinction between “internal” and “external” taxes – that didn’t happen

- **Massachusetts takes action:** circulated a letter calling for colonial gov’ts to stand against acts and taxes from Parliament
- **Lord Hillsborough, secretary of colonies,** circulated his own letter saying that assemblies endorsing the previous letter would be dissolved
- **Townshend established new board of directors in America** – his hope was that the new board would stop the rampant corruption in the colonial customs houses

**Colonial Boycotts**
- Boycotted goods that were mentioned in the Townshend Duties
- Homemade domestic products fell into fashion when English luxuries were being boycotted

- **1767:** Townshend dies – new Prime Minster becomes Lord North – he repealed all of the Townshend Duties except tea

### The Boston Massacre

- British soldiers were poorly paid and treated so they competed with colonists for jobs – clashes became frequent
- March 5, 1770: crowd of dockworkers, “liberty boys” and others began pelting sentries at the customs house with rocks and snowballs
- Captain Thomas Preston lined up troops to protect it
- In midst of this, British soldiers fired into the crown, killing 5 people
- Samuel Adams – leading figure in fomenting public outrage of Boston Massacre
  - Argued that “England = corruption. Only in America could public virtue survive”

### The Philosophy of Revolt

- Ideas that would support the Revolution
  - Drawn from religious sources or from political experiences in the colonies
  - Most important: “radical” ideas of those in Great Britain who stood in opposition of their government
    - Included Scots, “country Whigs”
  - Ideas from John Locke
  - Many people saw English constitution as the greatest thing ever – it distributed power among monarchy, aristocracy, and common people
By mid 17th century: English and Americans began to see the constitution in danger – monarchy gaining so much power that it couldn’t be checked

English constitution wasn’t written a written document or fixed set of unchangeable rules

Americans were opposite: plans of government were written on paper and they were wary to change – drew inspiration from colonial charters

“No taxation without representation” – main principle

“Virtual representation”: multiple areas are “represented” in Parliament even though they don’t have any representatives from those areas

“Actual Representation”: each thing represented had its own representative, wasn’t just generally represented like with virtual rep.

Such ideas shows clear distinction b/w England and America

The Tea Excitement

- Even though Townshend Duties were repealed, customs commissioners were still there harassing the merchants and seamen and illegally took merchandise

- Writing and talking: spreading revolutionary sentiment alive
  - Leaflets, books, pamphlets
  - Ordinary people absorbed these new ideas and helped spread them as well as the intellectually strong people

- Occasional acts of rebellion
  - Colonists take British revenue ship on Delaware River
  - 1772: Rhode Island: set British schooner Gaspee on fire

- Tea Act of 1773
  - Said that Britain’s East India Company the right to export its merchandise directly to the colonies without paying the navigation taxes that were imposed on the colonial merchants
  - East India Co. had a hard time selling their tea in England so they did this
  - Co. could now monopolize the colonial tea trade

- Colonists’ reactions - anger
  - Colonial merchants feared being replaced and bankrupted by a powerful monopoly
  - Revived American passions about “no taxation without representation”
  - Didn’t like how East India Co. didn’t have to pay the normal customs duties like the colonists – put them on a serious disadvantage
  - Responded by boycotting – this helped bond the people together

- Daughters of Liberty
  - Women helped fan colonial resentments in the 1760s a lot
  - Women = mobilized and determined

- Boston Tea Party
  - December 16, 1773
3 sets of 50 men dressed as Mohawk Indians went aboard the 3 ships Boston refused to turn back and dumped the tea into the harbor

**Results**
- Parliament decided on policy of coercion just for Massachusetts – Boston’s port was closed in four acts of 1774
- These Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts) followed up with Quebec Act
  - Provide civil government for French-speaking Roman Catholic inhabitants of Canada and Illinois country
  - Coercive acts brought resistance up and down the east coast

**COOPERATION AND WAR**

**New Sources of Authority**

- Organizations were forming to provide a basis for an independent government, to get people thinking that way
- Samuel Adams
  - Helped organize the Sons of Liberty
  - Called convention of delegates from towns of colony to sit in place of the General Court which the governor had dissolved
  - 1772: most effective new group: committees of correspondence which Adams inaugurated
- Virginia established first intercolonial committees of correspondence – declared that Intolerable Acts menaced the liberties of every colony and called for a Continental Congress (first Continental Congress)
  - Delegates from each colony except Georgia
  - September 1774 in Carpenter’s Hall in Philadelphia
  - 5 major decisions
    - 1) rejected plan of colonial union under British authority (a lot like the Albany Plan)
    - 2) they endorsed statement of grievances whose tortured language reflected the conflicts among the delegates between modernists and extremists
    - 3) approved series of resolutions that let the colonists make military preparations against attack from the British
    - 4) agreed to nonimportation, nonexportation, and nonconsumption – meaning stop trade with Britain
    - 5) agreed to meet next spring – keep this thing going
- Parliament in London during winter of 1774
  - Lord Chatham (William Pitt) wanted the troops to leave America
  - Edmund Burke called for repeal of Coercive Acts
  - Lord North wins favor: series of measures known as the Conciliatory Propositions
Said that colonists would tax themselves at Parliament’s demand (so Parliament isn’t directly taxing them anymore)
- Didn’t reach America until after the first shots of the American Rev. began

Lexington and Concord
- “Minutemen”: farmers and townspeople training to become this to prepare to fight on a minute’s notice
- General Thomas Gage in Boston thought that the Americans wouldn’t dare actually fight
  - Still hesitant when he got orders to arrest rebel leaders Sam Adams and John Hancock – known to be around Lexington
  - He heard that the minutemen had gunpowder in Concord (close to Boston) so he decided to act – April 18, 1775
  - Sent 1,000 soldiers out from Boston on to Lexington and Concord
- William Dawes and Paul Revere set out to warn villages and farms
- When British troops got to Lexington, several minutemen were ready and opened fire – some died
- British at Concord: discover that Americans hastily removed the gunpowder supply – British burned what was left
- “shots heard around the world”
- Different accounts of who actually fired the first shots
- Effects: rally colonists to the rebel cause