Chapter 7 Key Terms

Republicanism: Political theory of representative government, based on the principle of popular sovereignty, with a strong emphasis on liberty and civic virtue. Influential in the eighteenth-century American political thought, it stood as an alternative to monarchical rule.

radical Whigs: Eighteenth-century British political commentators who agitated against political corruption and emphasized the threat to liberty posed by arbitrary power. Their writings shaped American political thought and made colonists especially alert to encroachments on their rights.

Mercantilism: Economic theory that closely linked a nation’s political and military power to its bullion reserves. Mercantilists generally favored protectionism and colonial acquisition as a means to increase exports.

John Hancock – amassed a fortune by evading the Navigation Laws (smuggling)

George Grenville – Prime Minister who aroused resentment of colonists by ordering the British navy to start strictly enforcing the Navigation Laws, securing passage of the Sugar Act, the Quartering Act, and the Stamp Act.

Sugar Act (1764): Duty on imported sugar from the West Indies. It was the first tax levied on the colonists by the crown and was lowered substantially in response to widespread protests.

Quartering Act (1765): Required colonists to provide food and quarters for British troops. Many colonists resented the act, which they perceived as an encroachment on their rights.

stamp tax (1765): Widely unpopular tax on an array of paper goods, repealed in 1766 after mass protests erupted across the colonies. Colonists developed the principle of “no taxation without representation” which questioned Parliament’s authority over the colonies and laid the foundation for future revolutionary claims.

admiralty courts: Used to try offenders for violating various Navigation Acts passed by the crown after the French and Indian War. Colonists argued that the courts encroached on their rights as Englishmen since they lacked juries and placed the burden of proof on the accused.

“virtual representation” – Grenville claimed that every member of Parliament represented all British subjects (even those in America who had never voted for a member of Parliament)

Stamp Act Congress (1765): Assembly of delegates from nine colonies who met in New York City to draft a petition for the repeal of the Stamp Act. Helped ease sectional suspicions and promote intercolonial unity.

nonimportation agreements (1765 and after): Boycotts against British goods adopted in response to the Stamp Act and, later, the Townshend and Intolerable Acts. The agreements were the most effective form of protest against British policies in the colonies.

Sons of Liberty: Patriotic groups that played a central role in agitating against the Stamp Act and enforcing non-importation agreements.

Daughters of Liberty: Patriotic groups that played a central role in agitating against the Stamp Act and enforcing non-importation agreements.

Declaratory Act (1766): Pass alongside the repeal of the Stamp Act, it reaffirmed Parliament’s unqualified sovereignty over the North American colonies.

Townshend Acts (1767): External, or indirect, levies on glass, lead, paper, paint, and tea, the proceeds of which were used to pay colonial governors, who had previously been paid directly by colonial assemblies. Sparked another round of protests in the colonies.

Boston Massacre (1770): Clash between unruly Bostonian protestors and locally stationed British redcoats, who fired on the jeering crowd, killing or wounding eleven citizens.

Crispus Attucks – “mulatto” ringleader of mob jeering British soldiers – one of the first to die in the Boston Massacre

George III – king of Great Britain, tired to assert power of British monarchy, surrounded himself with “yes men”

Samuel Adams – political agitator and organizer of rebellion, ultrasensitive to infractions of colonial rights, organized the committees of correspondence in Massachusetts (1772)

committees of correspondence (1772 and after): Local committees established across Massachusetts, and later in each of the thirteen colonies, to maintain colonial opposition to British policies through the exchange of letters and pamphlets.

Boston Tea Party (1773): Rowdy protest against the British East India Company’s newly acquired monopoly on the tea trade. Colonists, disguised as Indians, dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor, prompting harsh sanctions from the British Parliament.

“Intolerable Acts” (1774): Series of punitive measures passed in retaliation for the Boston Tea Party, closing the Port of Boston, revoking a number of tights in the Massachusetts colonial charter, and expanding the Quartering Act to allow for the lodging of soldiers in private homes. In response, colonists convened the First Continental Congress and called for a complete boycott of British goods.

Quebec Act (1774): Allowed the French residents of Quebec to retain their traditional political and religious institutions, and extended the boundaries of the province southward to the Ohio River. Mistakenly perceived by the colonists to be part of Parliament’s response to the Boston Tea Party.

First Continental Congress (1774): Convention of delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies that convened in Philadelphia to craft a response to the Intolerable Acts. Delegates established the Association, which called for a complete boycott of British goods.

The Association (1774): Non-importation agreement crafted during the First Continental Congress calling for the complete boycott of British goods.

Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 1775): First battles of the Revolutionary War, fought outside Boston. The colonial militia successfully defended their stores of munitions, forcing the British to retreat to Boston.

Hessians: German troops hired from their princes by George III to aid in putting down the colonial insurrection. This hardened the resolve of the American colonists, who resented the use of paid foreign fighters.

Marquis de Lafayette – wealthy French noblemen, served in American army, gave $200,000 of private funds to American cause

Valley Forge (1777 – 1778): Encampment where George Washington’s poorly equiped army spent a wretched, freezing winter. Hundreds of men died and more than a thousand deserted. The plight of the starving, shivering soldiers reflected the main weakness of the American army – lack of stable supplies and munitions.

Baron von Steuben – German drill master, trained Continental Army how to march and use bayonets

Lord Dunmore – royal governor of Virginia, issued proclamation promising freedom for slaves in Virginia who ran away and joined the British Army, 300 runaways joined “lord Dunmore’s Ethiopian Regiment”