

The Restoration:

The Restoration took place in the mid-1600s and at this time King Charles II became ruler of Britain. He was restored as king after years of military rule and fighting. After the man in charge during the military rule, Oliver Cromwell, died, Charles II was restored as long as he agreed to forgive his enemies and promoted religious toleration. After Charles II regained the throne, more colonies were created and the government tried to tighten control over them. This is important because the English monarchy was reestablished and more colonies were started. This helped shape American and British history. Since Charles II and his brother James II disliked representative government, the Restoration also led to the Dominion of New England and less freedom for the colonial assemblies.

Dominion of New England:

The Dominion of New England was formed in the late 1600s by James II. The Dominion of New England consisted of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Plymouth, New York, and the Jerseys. James II consolidated them to control their unruly behavior and uncooperative trade and religious practices. The Dominion regulated land and trade and it limited the amount of representative government. After news of the Glorious Revolution in England reached colonists, they arrested Dominion leaders including the governor, Sir Edmund Andros. The Dominion government crumbled and old colonial leaders took control. This is important because the failure of the Dominion of New England helped change the attitudes of some British officials and America was left on its own for a period of time, allowing self-government to grow in America. Americans figured out that resisting the Dominion of New England and not getting punished meant that they were different than the British and could fight to get their way.

The Glorious Revolution:

The Glorious Revolution took place in the late 1600s in England. Charles II and his brother James II became more openly Catholic, to the horror of the citizens. English politicians asked William of Orange and his wife Mary to intervene, causing James II to flee. They created a limited monarchy in which Parliament had to be summoned annually, all bills had to be signed, and traditional liberties needed to be respected. Assemblies rose to power during this time in the colonies, and the Dominion of New England was destroyed after word of the Glorious Revolution reached Anglo-Americans. This is important because Anglo-Americans, after hearing about the Glorious Revolution, rose up against the representatives in the colonies and got more control over themselves, learning in the process that they could get away with revolutions and rebellions.

Mercantilism:

Mercantilism was based on the trade of items from the colony to the mother country in order to make that country more self-sufficient. In the mid-1600s, the British government passed a series of navigation acts that limited trade to other countries. The Navigation Acts began to cause tension between England and the American colonies. These acts limited trade to British ships, restricted the exports of goods unless they passed through England or Scotland, encouraged people to different jobs in order to be more economically diverse, and forbade Americans to compete with large-scale British manufacturers. In short, these acts regulated trade and allowed England to tax the colonies. England wanted to be more self-sufficient in order to hurt their rivals' markets and to improve their own. They used products from their American colonies and pushed for their colonies to use products from them. This is important because it caused Britain and America to become more self-sufficient, which helped America in the future. Because of this, the economies of Britain and America also improved. Conflicts between the two also arose.

The Wealth of Nations:

The Wealth of Nations is a book written by Adam Smith, a man who lived in Scotland. The book was written in the late 1700s and was about economics. In his book, Smith proposed that a free-market economy would be best. It stood up to mercantilism, the common system of economy at the time. Nations began to take his advice and saw improvements in their overall economies. This book was important because it included ideas that brought economics to where they are today.

The Enlightenment:

The Enlightenment was a cultural movement that started in Europe but came to America, especially seaboard cities, in the mid-1700s. Intellectuals in the colonies drew inspiration from Enlightenment thinkers and ideals. They believed that they could have confidence in anything backed by human reason, but should be skeptical of beliefs with little or no science and logic to support them. Benjamin Franklin embodied the Enlightenment and he organized groups of thinkers together. The groups hoped to one day be like the Royal Society in London, which was made up of great British and American thinkers. Thus, the Enlightenment, at first, strengthened the ties between Britain and America. Intellectuals also believed during this time that there was a rational creator that did not intervene with the universe He created. Enlightenment ideas, like those of John Locke, also influenced the colonies. Locke believed that people had the right to life, liberty, and property and if their government did not deliver these rights people could resist. This is important because thinkers like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin contributed more to society and helped America grow and prosper. People began to question things and used Enlightenment ideas to justify their actions.

The Great Awakening:

The Great Awakening was a revivalism of Christianity that spread throughout all of British North America in the mid-1700s. Ministers of this time stressed the emptiness of material comfort, the corruption of human nature, the fury of divine wrath, and the need for repentance. Leaders at this time were Jonathan Edwards, Gilbert Tenant, and George Whitefield, and they worked to get a strong emotional response from their congregations instead of just engaging their intellects. Whitefield was a very overpowering and moving Calvinist speaker who hoped to use emotions in his own voice to get strong emotional responses. Whitefield inspired many to seek salvation, even some of his critics. He helped convince thousands of people to join churches due to his speeches. The Great Awakening made a split in Protestantism between the New Lights (revivalists) and Old Lights (rationalists), and the two groups did not get along. The Great Awakening is important because it started the decline in influence of certain groups (including Quakers), caused new colleges to be created, drew blacks and natives in and caused more of them to convert to Protestantism, gave more prominence to religious women, and promoted religious toleration between the New Lights. These factors would continue to affect religious beliefs in America and shape its history. The Great Awakening itself also caused people to question authority and later their government.

The Albany Plan of Union:

The Albany Plan of Union was written by the Albany Congress (led by Benjamin Franklin) in the mid-1700s. During the French and Indian War, the Albany Congress was called in Albany, New York to devise a plan of action. In hopes of preventing enemy attacks, the congress called for a colonial confederation. However, this plan was rejected. Colonists believed that this plan, called the Albany Plan of Union, was too restrictive. They couldn't agree on taxes, which shows that colonists disliked them and worried about them. On the other hand, Britain thought the plan gave colonists too much freedom and independence. To Britain, having all of the colonies under one government made the colonies too

powerful. The Albany Plan is important because it inspired some parts of the Articles of Confederation. It was the colonists' first attempt at uniting under one government.

The French and Indian War:

The French and Indian War, also known in Europe as the Seven Years' War, took place in the mid-1700s. The war was mainly fought (in the colonies) between the American colonists, French-Canadian colonists, and their native allies (Britain and France fought each other in Europe). The French, hoping to gain more land and more opportunity, attempted to take control of the Ohio Valley and Western Pennsylvania. They wanted this land because they believed it to be theirs in the first place (both France and England claimed the land belonged to them). The French started building forts, prompting the colonists to send George Washington to talk to the French and natives. This confrontation went badly and started the French and Indian War. General Braddock was sent to the French fort of Fort Duquense, but they were ambushed and many were killed. William Pitt got more Americans involved by promising to pay for the war. Under the leadership of James Wolfe, Montreal and Quebec were taken by the British. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris, with the British and Spanish gaining parts of France's North American claims. The war was important because the English and Americans had a new series of patriotism and felt connected. Despite these new feelings of loyalty, the English imposed taxes on the colonies, which in part led to the Revolutionary War.

The Stamp Act Congress:

The Stamp Act Congress met in New York in the mid-1700s after the Stamp Act was imposed. Representatives came to New York from nine colonies. The Stamp Act Congress met because they wanted to discuss the Stamp Act, which had outraged many colonists. The Stamp Act was an internal tax that was placed on all paper products by the prime minister, George Grenville. The members of the Stamp Act Congress agreed that external taxes that did not directly affect colonists could be imposed by Parliament, but internal taxes such as the Stamp Act could not be passed by Parliament. They determined that local officials should be in charge of directly taxing the colonists. William Pitt, a member of Parliament, agreed with the colonies and objected to the tax as well. Overall, the Stamp Act Congress (and the colonists in general) thought Parliament couldn't impose the Stamp Act because colonists weren't represented in Parliament. Grenville defended the act by claiming that Parliament represented everyone from the entire British Empire. This "virtual representation" was one of the major complaints of the colonies. The Stamp Act Congress is important because it was the first Congress that brought members from multiple colonies together to discuss problems. It signified an attempt by the colonies to unite, which would one day lead to the American Revolution.

Committees of Correspondence:

Committees of Correspondence were formed all around the American colonies by colonial legislatures. Originally forming in Boston in the mid-1700s, these committees formed so that important legislatures and important and influential individuals could communicate throughout the colonies. Because of this, the issue of British injustices in the colonies did not fade and propaganda circulated through the colonies. The committees were important because they united the colonies, kept issues alive and discussed, and spread ideas and propaganda. When the colonies became connected and united in this way, they became stronger and able to fight back.

Intolerable Acts:

The Intolerable Acts consisted of the Coercive Acts and the Quebec Act. These acts were passed by Parliament in the mid-late 1700s. The Coercive Acts affected all of the colonies, but mainly Massachusetts due to the colony's rebellious nature. Essentially, Massachusetts was being punished for

the Boston Tea Party. The Coercive Acts closed Boston Harbor, revoked the Massachusetts charter, and expanded on the Quartering Act. The new Quartering Act allowed soldiers to be housed in empty private buildings. The Quebec Act gave land that Americans hoped to inhabit to Quebec. Furthermore, the official religion of Quebec became Catholicism and let some small debates be decided by French-style courts. This made colonists feel threatened. These acts are important because the colonists believed that they violated their rights. Colonists are forced to cooperate and stick together, eventually leading to the meetings of the Continental Congress.