

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

American Revolution

What political ideas in the colonies influenced the American Revolution?

Key Stages 4-5 | Empire and Industry 1750-1850

Lesson resource



Introduction

On 4th July 1776, the American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. This declaration of independence from British colonial rule has been explained in terms of anger over taxation, fear of losing rights and liberties, and the idea of fundamental corruption within the colonial administration. This lesson focusses on the political thought that inspired the American Revolution, and the ideas that influenced the decision to declare independence.

Use the documents in this lesson to explore the context for the political thought that inspired the American Revolution.

Suitable for:

KS 4 - 5

Time period:

Empire and Industry
1750-1850

Connections to the Curriculum:

Key Stage 4:

- Edexcel GCSE History:
- British America: Empire & Revolution 1713-83.

Key Stage 5:

- AQA GCE History:
- The origins of the American Revolution, 1760–1776
- Enforcing the Colonial Relationship, 1763–1774
- Ending the Colonial Relationship, 1774–1776
- Edexcel GCE History:
- Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914: The loss of the American colonies, 1770–83.
- OCR GCE History:
- The American Revolution 1740–1796: Causes of the American Revolution.

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Teachers' notes

All documents are provided with transcripts with difficult terms defined in square brackets. Students can work through the questions individually or in pairs and report back to the class. Alternatively, teachers may want to use this lesson in two parts owing to the large number of sources. We would encourage teachers to ask students to explore other original records available online from the links in this lesson.

Finally, although this lesson is aimed at Key Stages 4/5, teachers could use these documents and provide their own questions and/or create simplified transcripts to use with younger students.

Banner image

In 1754, Benjamin Franklin published this political cartoon during the French and Indian War. At the Albany Congress Franklin put forward a plan that the colonies should form a joint congress to defend themselves, a colonial union twenty years before the Revolutionary War. This cartoon, entitled 'Join or Die', shows a snake cut up into eight pieces, each piece representing a different colony. The letters stand for: South Carolina; North Carolina; Virginia; Massachusetts; Pennsylvania; New Jersey; New York; [and] New England. The cartoon was based on a common superstition that a snake would come back to life if its pieces were put together before sunset. American newspapers often published the cartoon. It became a symbol of unity, especially during the Stamp Act crisis in 1765. Conversely, other British cartoonists used the image as a symbol of derision.

Task 1: Sources 1a; 1b

The colonists had several critiques of the Stamp Act. The main problem was that it had been passed without the consent of colonial assemblies. Consent to taxation, which secured property, was seen as a fundamental right of the British Constitution. However, the colonists also levied additional critiques. They believed that the local officials imposing the taxes were doing so to increase their own wealth and were therefore prioritising their own self-interest above the common good. Economic corruption was thus a major concern for the colonists.

In Source 1a, students should note concerns regarding taxation and trade, two key elements in colonial political thought. This was linked to a belief that they had a natural right to the property that they had worked hard for, which could not be taken away without their consent. Such ideas can be seen in the phrase 'life, liberty, and property', which echoed John Locke's own use of the phrase in his arguments about the right of an individual to own the products of his own labour. Students should also discuss the ideas of masters and slaves. For the colonists, a slave was one who was dependent on another – usually a master – for his subsistence. Therefore, when they became dependent on British control of their property through taxes that they had not consented to, they saw themselves as political slaves. This remained separate to chattel slavery because the colonists were white Englishmen who had a right to all the privileges from their native land, not enslaved Africans who were seen as natural slaves.

For Source 1b, Thomas Hutchinson's signs of opulence led to his house being looted by ordinary

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colonists who felt that he was prioritising his own self-interest. He was seen as a symbol of corrupt British authority, and thus became a target for ordinary people to voice their discontent. The idea that rulers should act in the interests of their people is a prevalent idea across political theories, and references to ideas of contract theory and the right to overthrow rulers who did not act in the public good can be linked to John Locke's own arguments in his Two Treatises on Government. Students can note the fact that, when they felt that their representatives were not being heard, the people acted directly, rebelling against signs of economic corruption. Therefore, we can see violence and uprisings even before the first shot was fired in 1775, although it should be noted that many elites distanced themselves from these 'mobbish' actions.

Task 2: Sources 2a; 2b; 2c; 2d

The sources for this task concern opposition to the 'Coercive' or 'Intolerable Acts' of 1774.

In 1688, the people of England petitioned William of Orange – married to the heir of the crown, Mary II – to take the throne. We can see how the English criticised intervention into their liberty and property in Source 2a and the way that the Continental Congress condemned Parliament for threatening their Lives, Liberties, and Properties in source 2c. This latter phrase is taken directly from John Locke's argument that everyone has a natural right, prior to society, to life, liberty, and property. Therefore, there are similar concerns with political despotism and infringements on the people's liberty, but the colonists follow Locke directly.

Source 2b describes the attack on Fort William and Mary in New Hampshire in December 1774. The fort was part of the British defence system manned by soldiers who reported to the Governor appointed by the Crown. For the colony, it was an obvious symbol of oppression. It is useful for students to appreciate that New Hampshire's proximity to Massachusetts Bay Colony also fuelled anti-British sentiment in New Hampshire following the Boston Massacre in 1770, the 1773 Boston Tea Party, and legislation in the form of 'Coercive' Acts or 'Intolerable Acts'.

Finally, it is worth noting that whilst the English Revolutions were directed towards Kings, until 1776, Americans cited Parliament – not King George III – as the source of their grievances. They believed that the King was being manipulated by a corrupt group of ministers, and that he would act in their interests if he could. This can be seen in sources 2c and 2d. Right until independence, the Americans wanted to mend their relationship with the King, as they still fundamentally saw themselves as loyal subjects of the Crown. From the introduction of William of Orange, English citizens also remained loyal; they wanted to change who occupied the throne, but not abolish the monarchy like the regicide of the mid-seventeenth century.

Religious language was also prevalent throughout the Revolution. In Source 2d, we can see the Provincial Congress use their Christian religion in their discussion of God, 'the Righteous Governor of the World', fearing that there had been a divine allowance of a conspiracy against them. This contrasts with their belief in their God-given natural rights.

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Task 3: Source 3

Source 3 describes proceedings by the town of Portsmouth, in New Hampshire. It is an example of popular response. Town meetings were a common feature across eighteenth-century America, and a way for ordinary people to discuss and vote on matters of the day. Only propertied white men were allowed to vote, reflecting the idealisation of landed freeholders in colonial life, but this still allowed a broad segment of free society to participate. We can see in this source the way that the town accepted the measures of the Continental Congress, reflecting the widespread popular participation in decisions of how to respond to British actions.

The town resolves not to participate in gaming and drinking, but instead emphasise industry and frugality. This harkens back to the non-importation agreements of the late 1760s, in which the colonists pressured the British government to repeal duties on trade by refusing to import any goods from abroad. These taxes, known as the 'Townshend Duties' or 'Revenue Acts', were heavily criticised in John Dickinson's *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*. In 1774, the colonists refused to engage in any luxurious activities, which included tea, an item which had been taxed in 1773, and instead focus on hard work to ensure that they grew and made their own goods to maintain their independence from Great Britain. This also linked to concerns about economic corruption and vice during the Stamp Act Crisis, as seen in source 1b. Therefore, ordinary people could not only participate in town meetings, but strive for independence in agricultural or manufacturing spheres.

Task 4: Source 4

This proclamation from the Governor of Georgia reflects debates among the authorities over the legitimacy of popular action, and the controversial place that popular sovereignty played in eighteenth-century political thought. Here we can see the Governor contesting the people's argument that they were protesting grievances, instead asserting that these were 'imaginary'. This was, therefore, a contest over the narrative of opposition to the Coercive Acts, with collective popular action, including town meetings, being seen as riotous exercises against legitimate authority by the elite, against the people justifying their right to voice their opinions and hold their leaders to account.

As representatives of British authority, this condemnation of the people's right of protest would have inflamed the colonists and intensified their belief that they were governed by an arbitrary authority that wanted to quench all opposition to it.

Task 5: Source 5

On the 4 July 1776, America declared her independence from Great Britain. This document emphasised several important political concepts. The idea that 'all men are created equal' emphasised the importance of John Locke's ideas of natural rights from God, and re-iterated American concerns over placing one man in charge in the position of a monarch. Students may wish

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to critique this statement, noting both the existence of slavery in America, and the fact that only propertied men were given political equality. Women, slaves, and poor white men were excluded. Locke's ideas of the importance of consent to government is confirmed in this source. If rulers are unable, or refuse, to secure the people's rights, then the latter have a right to withdraw their consent to the leader and replace him. In this case, rebellion is legitimate. Therefore, the colonists used Locke's idea of legitimate resistance to justify independence and the war that followed.

Finally, despite these Lockean influences, we can see a shift away from his ideas as the Declaration of Independence emphasised 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness', rather than 'life, liberty, and property'. Property was still fundamental to living a life of ease, but the idea of happiness reflected the more modern movement towards pleasure and satisfaction, rather than simply having a right to property.

Task 6: Sources 6a; 6b; 6c

As referenced in Sources 6a and 6b, the American colonists saw themselves as fundamentally British. They believed that they had a shared history with their fellow citizens in the Mother Country, and were entitled to the same rights, liberties, and privileges, guaranteed in the English Constitution and Magna Carta. Having fled from persecution in the seventeenth century, they were ever vigilant against the potential for further arbitrary authority being exercised from across the Atlantic. They thus evoked their British identity and sense of a shared past to warn those at home and abroad against the oppressions that could result when rulers transgressed their constitutional bounds. Consequently, the English Civil War and Revolution were cited as examples of legitimate rebellion by a people whose liberties had been infringed upon by an absolute monarch. They used this shared past to appeal to the British public, in the hopes that they could be mobilised into pressuring their representatives to treat the colonists, their brothers, more leniently.

One difference, as already discussed, is that arguments of corruption in seventeenth-century England were directed towards the monarch. Conversely, until 1776, the Americans focused on Parliamentary, not monarchical, corruption.

The American colonies had a very high literacy rate, and they cherished the ideal of a free press. This created receptive conditions to a flourishing print culture, in which newspapers and pamphlets were circulated with the most recent news of the day, political opinions, and announcements from colonial and imperial leaders.

The press was vital to the spread of political ideas throughout the Revolutionary period. People engaged with events by writing letters to the printers, leading to a 'republic of letters' whereby the public could engage with each other across the pages of their colony's Gazettes. Of course, often it was still the more educated elite who wrote pieces for newspapers, but the middling and lower classes could still read or listen to the articles in local town halls, taverns, or coffee houses.

Here, we can think about the diversity of actors that influence politics: it is not only statesmen and political leaders, but also those on the ground. Printers spread political ideas, with newspapers

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circulating between colonies, which helped to create a sense of colonial unity.

There was also a strong transatlantic print trade, with people like Benjamin Franklin establishing links with printing houses in London. Thomas Paine's two pamphlets, *Rights of Man* and *Common Sense*, were two extremely influential works that inspired the Revolution. They show the importance of the circulation of ideas, with Paine articulating the reasons why opposition to a monarch could be justified. Furthermore, they also reveal the role that British writers played in the development of the American Revolution.

In line with the previous point, Source 6c, the British cartoon engraving by an unknown artist entitled 'The Political Cartoon for the year 1774' from the 'Westminster Magazine', offers a similar perspective to the colonial newspaper sources. It is critical of the British state for ignoring the historical significance of the Constitution and Magna Carta. George III is satirised for saying 'I glory in the name of Englishman'. Teachers can encourage students to explore how the revolutionary war was perceived by different factions in Britain.

Sources

Illustration image: Benjamin Franklin's cartoon warning to the British colonies in America to "Join or Die." Illustration in 'The Pennsylvania Gazette' 9 May 1754. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.

Source 1a: Extract from an article published in the Boston Evening Post on the 28 October 1765, Catalogue ref: CO 5/755 f.391

Source 1b: Extract from inventory property from the house of Thomas Hutchinson. Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Bay, 26 August 1765, Catalogue ref: CO 5/755 f.373

Source 2a: Extract from a letter of invitation to William of Orange to become King, 30 June 1688, Catalogue ref: SP 8/1 f.224v.

Source 2b: Extract from a Deposition [by Captain John Cochran concerning the attack on Fort William and Mary in New Castle, New Hampshire, 29 December 1774, Catalogue ref: CO 5/939 f.64

Source 2c: Extract from the 'Proceedings of the Grand Continental Congress', 5 September 1774, Catalogue Ref: CO 5/939 (3 of 4)

Source 2d: Extract from 'In Provincial Congress, Exeter, New Hampshire, 6 June 1775' by Matthew Thornton, President, Catalogue ref: CO 5/939 f.164

Source 3: Extracts from the New Hampshire Gazette, 8th Day of December 1774, Catalogue ref: CO 5/939

Source 4: A proclamation from Sir James Wright Governor of Georgia, 1774, Catalogue ref: CO 5/663

Teachers' notes

Source 5: Extract from the Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776, Catalogue ref: EXT 9/76

Source 6a: Extract from the Boston Evening Post, 28 October 1765, Catalogue ref: CO 5/755 f.391

Source 6b: Extract from The New Hampshire Gazette, entitled 'Continental Congress to People of Great Britain', 2 December 1774, Catalogue ref: CO 5/939 (2 of 4)

Source 6c: Cartoon engraving entitled 'The Political Cartoon for the year 1774' from the 'Westminster Magazine'. Artist unknown. Image courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Cartoon Prints, British.

Background

The Seven Years' War was fought between Great Britain and France from 1756-1763, primarily on the North American continent. Following the end of the war, in which Britain and her allies were victorious, Parliament passed a series of acts to raise money to pay for the expense of what they saw as a war for the defence of Britain's American colonies.

The Stamp Act was passed in March of 1765, and introduced a tax on paper goods. There was a precedent that the colonial assemblies, being the direct representatives of the colonists, should pass taxation, and therefore the Stamp Act, which was passed by Parliament directly, faced a severe backlash. There were violent riots across the continent, with looting of British officials' homes, like Thomas Hutchinson, Governor of Massachusetts. The rallying cry of 'no taxation without representation' became well-known. Parliament decided to repeal the Act in March 1766.

Later, in 1767, Parliament passed the Townshend Duties, which introduced taxes on multiple commodities, including glass, paper, and tea. In response, complaints were printed in pamphlets and newspapers, including John Dickinson's Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania. The colonists came together to form non-importation associations, in which they boycotted British goods to pressurise Britain to repeal the duties. This action worked and the Act was repealed in March 1770, although a tax on tea remained.

Several other incidents occurred between the repeal of the Townshend Duties and the next series of Acts in 1774. On the 5 March 1770, British soldiers fired into a crowd of Bostonians, killing multiple people. This caused a serious outcry and became known as the 'Boston Massacre'. Moreover, in 1772, the HMS Gaspee, a ship enforcing the Navigation Acts, ran aground off the coast of Rhode Island. It was attacked and set on fire by a group of men protesting the customs laws.

Furthermore, the 1773 Tea Act, intended to bail out the East Indian Company, sparked the Boston Tea Party, which took place on the 16th of December 1773. In this, a group of colonists in Boston dumped 340 chests of Tea into Boston's Harbour.

In response to the Boston Tea Party, Britain passed the Coercive Acts, which came into force in June 1774. This included: The Boston Port Act; The Massachusetts Government Act; The Administration of Justice Act; and the Quartering Act. These closed Boston's Ports, dissolved the Massachusetts Assembly, allowed trials to be moved to other colonies or Great Britain, and made more stringent provisions for the stationing of British troops on the continent. To protest these, the colonists came together in a series of Continental Congresses, in which they debated how best to respond to British Actions.

Alongside the Coercive Acts, in 1774 the Government of Great Britain also passed the Quebec Act, which granted freedom of religion to Catholics living in the province after the British won it from the French following the Seven Years' War. Previously, only Protestants had been allowed to practice their religion. However, this act caused widespread opposition in the colonies. The colonists perceived it as a further extension of illegitimate authority. Given their history as religious refugees, they feared that, once it had taken root in Quebec, Catholicism would move into the colonies and exert papal tyranny over Protestant communities. In their critiques, the colonists emphasised fears

Background

of arbitrary authority and despotism, and the importance of religious liberty. They feared that the enlargement of the territory of Quebec, which had gained lands from New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, would intensify the tyrannical power that would be established there. It was ultimately unlikely that the freedom of religion granted to Catholics in Quebec would have had any negative influence.

Following an increase in tensions, and the outbreak of fighting in 1775, the Americans issued the Declaration of Independence on the 4 July 1776.

Throughout this eleven-year period, the Americans drew on several different political traditions to articulate their grievances against Great Britain. They were influenced by ideas from classical Greece and Rome; Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke, Baron Charles Montesquieu, and David Hume; British actors that theorised about the English Civil War and Revolution; and religious ideas. The documents here make contemporary references to British history including Magna Carta and raise questions over the rights of people and responsibilities of government.

Thomas Paine's pamphlet entitled 'Common Sense', first published in Philadelphia in 1776 after conflict had broken out between the British and colonists, was widely read by Americans and fed into arguments for independence, making the case for equality, independence and a republic. Paired with all these ideological ideas, the colonists also had pragmatic concerns over trade, taxation and religion.

Tasks

Task 1

Source 1a.

Extract from an article published in the Boston Evening Post, 28 October 1765, criticising the introduction of the Stamp Act. Catalogue ref: CO 5/755 f.391

The Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament in March 1765, stated that paper goods in the colonies must carry a royal stamp. Its purpose was to raise revenue to pay for the cost of defending the colonies in the Seven Years War against France, which had ended two years earlier. The colonists saw this as a tax that they had not consented to and was passed without consideration from their colonial assemblies. Therefore, in anticipation of the first stamps arriving in the colonies in November, the colonists rioted against the law.

- Look at this document. What arguments did the colonists use to criticise the Stamp Act?
- Why is the language concerning the rights of colonists significant?
- Why did the colonists see themselves as slaves?
- How does this differ from chattel slavery (enslavement and ownership of human beings as property)?
- Look at the document reference. 'CO' means Colonial Office. Why do you think this document is part of the Colonial Office collections at the National Archives?

Source 1b.

Extract from an eight-page inventory of lost and damaged property from the house of Thomas Hutchinson. Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Bay, 26 August 1765. Catalogue ref: CO 5/755 f.373

Hutchinson wrote to the Secretary of State with an inventory of his goods to request compensation for his losses, totalling, according to the [Colonial Society of Massachusetts](https://www.colonialsociety.org/publications/3297/such-ruins-were-never-seen-america-looting-thomas-hutchinsons-house-time-stamp)¹, £2,218. This source covers part of his claim for goods and furniture.

Look at this list of items taken from Thomas Hutchinson's house, the Governor of Massachusetts, in one of the riots in Boston in August 1765.

- What type of items were 'destroyed or carried away' from Hutchinson's house?
- What was his role as 'Governor'?
- What does this suggest about the people's anger towards their representatives?
- What information does this source infer about the wealth and status of Thomas Hutchinson?
- Why do you think he asked for compensation from the British Government?
- What does this source tell us about the value of inventories as historical documents?
- What does this tell us about popular protest to before the American Revolution?

Tasks

Task 2

Source 2a.

Extract from a letter of invitation to William of Orange to become King, 30 June 1688. Catalogue ref: SP 8/1 f.224v.

The source reflects attitudes to British rights 86 years before the 'Intolerable' or 'Coercive' Acts became law for those in the American colonies.

The Glorious Revolution officially began with the reign of James II in 1685. William of Orange successfully invaded Britain and James II abdicated from the throne in 1688. The Glorious Revolution (1688–89) permanently established the role of Parliament and marked the move from absolute to constitutional monarchy.

- According to this letter, what arguments did the British make to justify asking William of Orange to take over from James II?
- Write a paragraph on the significance of the Glorious Revolution for the British monarchy.

Source 2b.

Extract from a Deposition [statement made by order of the Governor] by John Cochran concerning the attack on Fort William and Mary in New Castle, New Hampshire, 29 December 1774. Catalogue ref: CO 5/939 f.64

Captain John Cochran was assigned to the fort in 1771 and was originally from Londonderry. He was a Loyalist and defended the fort when attacked.

In 1774, the British Parliament passed four acts, which became known as the 'Intolerable' or 'Coercive' Acts. These closed Boston's Port, dissolved the Massachusetts Assembly, moved trials in Massachusetts to Britain, and made provisions for British soldiers stationed on the continent. In response to these acts, colonists across America came together in a series of Continental Congresses to discuss how best to act next.

- Why did Captain John Cochran make this statement do you think?
- Why do you think Fort William in New Hampshire was attacked?
- Why was its capture significant?
- What does the source infer about colonial attitudes towards British rule?
- How does this source contribute to our understanding of the American Revolution?

Tasks

Source 2c.

Extract from the 'Proceedings of the Grand Continental Congress', 5 September 1774. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/939 (3 of 4)

- What grievances did the Continental Congress have with British authority?
- Which laws, passed by the British Government, are especially criticised?
- What are the similarities between these colonial criticisms to British grievances against James II 100 years earlier?

Source 2d.

Extract from 'In Provincial Congress, Exeter, New Hampshire, 6 June 1775' by Matthew Thornton, President. Catalogue ref: CO 5/939 f.164

These resolutions were passed by the provincial congress of New Hampshire, in the town of Exeter.

- How did the Congress see British actions as a conspiracy against them?
- How did the colonists use their British heritage to support their claims?
- What does this source tell us about the use of religion in colonial political thought?

Task 3

Source 3.

Extracts from the New Hampshire Gazette, 16 December 1774. Catalogue ref: CO 5/939 (1 of 4)

A meeting of the town of Portsmouth, New Hampshire concerning their grievances.

Note: dissipation = extravagant or sensual living

- What does this tell us about the role that ordinary people could play in the leadup to the American Revolution?
- How does the disapproval of 'gaming and dissipation' here reflect the colonial reaction against Thomas Hutchinson in Source 1b?
- What does this source infer about colonial political thought?
- What does the headline 'Containing the Freshest ADVICES' suggest?
- Why are newspapers valuable sources for historians?
- What can newspapers tell us that government documents cannot?
- What does this source infer about the general literacy rates of the colonists?

Tasks

Task 4

Source 4.

A proclamation from Sir James Wright, Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief, of His Majesty's Province of Georgia, 1774. Catalogue ref: CO 5/663 f.156

- What is a proclamation?
- Why has the Governor of Georgia made this proclamation?
- What does the source reveal about his role as Governor?
- What does it reveal about the official response to popular protest concerning colonial grievances?
- How does this differ from views of popular protest today?

Task 5

Source 5.

Extract from the Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776. Catalogue ref: EXT 9/76

On the 4 July 1776, the American colonies issued a joint Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson. This laid down their desire to gain independence from Great Britain.

- How did Americans present their reasons for independence?
- Do you think these were different to their actual motivations?
- Can you explain how ideas in the other sources concerning colonial rights and the responsibilities of government are reflected in this passage?
- Are there any differences in the language or phrases used here?

Task 6

Source 6a.

Extract from the Boston Evening Post, 28 October 1765. Catalogue ref: CO 5/755 f.391

The Glorious Revolution mentioned in this source officially began with the reign of James II in 1685. William of Orange successfully invaded Britain and James II abdicated from the throne in 1688. The Glorious Revolution (1688–89) permanently established the role of Parliament and marked the move from absolute to constitutional monarchy.

Tasks

- Why did the American colonists choose to refer to British history?
- Can you see any links in the description of royal power in this source and the other sources?
- Try and explain any differences.

Source 6b.

Extract from The New Hampshire Gazette, entitled 'Continental Congress to People of Great Britain', 2 December 1774. Catalogue ref: CO 5/939 (2 of 4)

- Can you think why the Continental Congress would have written to Great Britain about their history?
- Why did they think that this would further their cause?
- What had they learnt from British history that they did not want to see repeated?
- Consider both sources 6a and 6b. What do they reveal about the role of newspapers like the 'New Hampshire Gazette' and Boston Evening Post in the American revolution?

Source 6c.

Cartoon engraving entitled 'The Political Cartoon for the year 1774' from the 'Westminster Magazine'. Artist unknown. The 'Westminster Magazine' was printed in London, England by T. Wright, Essex Street, Strand, and sold by J. Bew, Paternoster-Row; and other booksellers in Great-Britain and Ireland, 1776-1783. Image courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Cartoon Prints, British.

- Why do you think George III and Lord Chief Justice, Lord William Mansfield are shown riding in horse-drawn carriage towards the edge of a cliff?
- What perspective does this cartoon infer about the relationship between Britain and the American colonies?
- Why are references made in the cartoon to the 'Constitution' and 'Magna Carta'?
- How does this source relate to sources 6a & 6b?
- What is the value of this cartoon for historians for the American Revolution?
- How does the content of this cartoon relate to the 'snake' cartoon that illustrates this lesson?

Source 1a: Extract from an article published in the Boston Evening Post, 28 October 1765. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/755 f.391

Let us also inquire---Do not these measures tend to ruin the mutual affection and good harmony that has been between the inhabitants of Great-Britain & America ? If they persist in it, they have a right to lay on Americans very unequal burthens, in point of trade ; and also have a right to lay on Americans internal taxes (to ease themselves) in what manner and measures they please ; and that they have a right to place over us, at our expence,---and for us to support,--as many placemen and taskmasters as they see fit ; if there must be one rule of trial for them, and another kind of court and manner of trial for the A--ri--ns--at the election of infamous

or M--) if they must be absolute masters, and we wretched slaves, who may neither buy nor sell—nor have any legal securities or remedies, of defence of Life, Liberty, and Property, but upon their terms, to be newly fixed for us as oft as they see fit ! Good

Transcript: Source 1a

...

Let us also enquire Do not these measures tend to ruin the mutual affection and good harmony that has been between the inhabitants of Great Britain & America?

If they persist in it, they have a right to lay on Americans very unequal burthens, in point of trade; and also have a right to lay on Americans internal taxes (to ease themselves) in what manner and measures they please; and that they have a right to place over us, at our expence, and for us to support- as many placemen and taskmasters as they see fit, if there must be one rule of trial for them, and another kind of court and manner of trail for the [Americans] at the election of infamous informers

...

if they must be absolute masters, and we wretched slaves, who may neither buy nor sell – nor have any legal securities or remedies, of defence of Life, Liberty, and Property, but upon their terms to be newly fixed for us as oft as they see fit.

Source 1b: Extract from an inventory of lost and damaged property from the house of Thomas Hutchinson. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/755 f.373

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Furniture destroyed or carried from my house and lost the night after the 26th of August 1765

In the great room below

	a tea table burnt china tea set incomplete	.5. 10	
	12 new walnut chairs all lost except some bottoms	.11.	
	a large walnut table 3.10/ a handsome couch 3.10/	.7.	
	a bed & pillar for the couch & a down of cushions stuffed with feathers & covered with striped sating	.11.	
	2 large family pictures gilt frames	.20.	
	2 smaller size my grandfather & mother	.10.	
	6 large prints newly framed and glazed	.6.	
	Andirons shovel & long broom	.4.	
	large turky carpet	.8.	

In the closet

16.4	7 th dozen china plates	.7. 10	
	a case of china hand knives & forks	.4. 3	
	14 china dishes for table service	.8.	
	blue & white tea set, overplus cups & tea pot with silver nose	.5.	
	Decanter glasses mugs patty pans & other glassware	.5.	
	3 doz. large hard metal plates & large dishes not in common use lost or beat up & spoiled	.7.	
1.5	2 glass sconces at the sides of the mantle piece	.3.	

In the Hall

	2 large sconces with arms	.12.	
4.	2 square mahogany tables 5.6. & 2 small do.	.9. 6. 8	
	3 painted cyl cloths 36/ 2 large glazed prints 27.4. 6		
16.3	7 glazed prints 2.10/ 8 chairs Morocco leather 9.9. 12. 10.		
	3 large busts on the mantle piece stuffed. 3. 6. 8		
	handsome andirons, shovel & long broom	.5.	
4.3	Dutch tea kettle & stand & japan tea chest	.2.	

In the buttsell

1.7	2 very large rich china bowls doll's heads & dishes china chocolate coffee & tea cups	.7.	
	plates at least in value		
	Carpet cut & much damaged	.2. 10	

In the little room

	12 walnut chairs turk. work bottoms & great chair	.9.	
	small chair 10/ very handsome table 6/8	.2. 18	
	walnut desk & shelves & window cushion	.7.	
	round table 10/ palestid andirons shovel & broom	.6. 13. 4	
	a large sconce mahogany frame	.6. 13. 4	
	a very good clock, both clock & case broken & pieces destroyed	.12.	
	a canvas floor cloth new painted	.3.	15. 9. 4

In the Entry

	a down very good cane chairs & great chair	.6.	
	a large walnut table 30/ a large hanging lantern & small lantern 30/	.10.	

243 = 11. 8

Transcript: Source 1b

Furniture destroyed or carried from my house and lost the night after the 25 August 1765

In the great room [parlour] below	[£.S.D.] Pounds, shillings, pence
a tea table & burnt china tea set incomplete	5.10
12 new walnut chairs all lost except some bottoms	11.
a large walnut table	3.10) total 7
A handsome couch	3.10.)
a bed & pillar for the couch & a dozen of cushions stuffed with feathers & covered with striped satin	14.
2 large family pictures gilt frames	20
2 smaller size my grandfather & mother [portraits]	16
4 large prints newly framed and glazed [with glass]	6
Andirons [metal support for logs in a fireplace] shovel & tongs brass	4
large turky [Turkish] carpet	8

In the closet [small study]	[£.S.D.] Pounds, shillings, pence
7½ dozen china plates	7.10
A case of china handle knives & forks	4.3
14 china dishes for the table service	8
Blue & white tea-set, overplus cups & teapot with silver nose	5
Decanters glasses mugs, patty pans & other glassware	5
3 dozen large hard metal plates, 5 large dishes not in common use lost or beaten up & spoilt	7
2 Glass scones [ornamental candle holder attached to the wall] at the sides of the mantelpiece	3
	131.3

Transcript (cont.): Source 1b


In the hall [used for dining]	[£.S.D.] Pounds, shillings, pence
2 large sconces with arms [ornamental candle holder attached to the wall]	12
2 square Mahogany tables 5.6.8. 2 [tables] smallest	9.6.8
3 painted oyl [oil] clothes 36/ 2 large, glazed prints 50	4.6
7 glazed prints 2.10	2.10
8 chairs Morocco leather	9.11.10
5 large busts on the mantel piece at 10/sterling	3.6.8
handsome andirons [metal support for logs in a fireplace], shovel & tongs	5
Dutch tea kettle & stand & japand tea chest. Japanning was a decorative lacquer or coating applied to metal objects and furniture originating in Southeast Asia]	2

In the Buffet [large storage cupboard]	[£.S.D.] Pounds, shillings, pence
2 very large rich china bowls, delft* borders & dishes, china chocolate, coffee & teacups & plates at least in value. Delft* pottery was blue and white glazed pottery made in the city of Delft in the Netherlands and exported all over Europe in 17th & 18th centuries as pottery and tiles.]	7
Carpet ...&much damaged	2.10
	56.19.4

In the little room [used as an office or study]	[£.S.D.] Pounds, shillings, pence
6 walnut chairs turky work bottoms & 1 great chair	9
small chairs 10/ very handsome table 48/	2.18
walnut desk & shelves & window cushion	7
round table 18/. polished andirons shovel &c. 4	4.18
a large sconce Mahogany frame	6.13.4
a very good clock, both clock & case broke to pieces & destroyed	12
a canvas floor cloth new painted	3
	45.9.4

Transcript (cont.): Source 1b

In the entry	[£.S.D.] Pounds, shillings, pence
A dozen very good cane chairs & great chair	6
A large walnut table 30/- a large hanging lantern & a small lantern 50/-	4
	10
	243.11.8

Source 2a: Extract from a letter of invitation to William of Orange to become King, 30 June 1688. Catalogue Ref: SP 8/1 f.224v.

time and of the Difficultys which appear
to us. as to the first, the people
are so generally dissatisfied with the
present conduct of the Governement
in relation to their Religion, Liberty
and Property's (all which have been
greatly invaded) and they are in such
expectation of their prospects being
Dayly worse, that your Hi. may
be assured, there are nineteen parts
of twenty of the people throughout
the Kingdome, who are desirous of
a change, and who woe believe would
willingly contribute to it, if they
had such a protection to countenance
their rising, as could secure them
from being destroy'd, before they could
get to be in a posture able to
defend themselves, it is no lesse certain
that much the greatest part of the
nobility and Gentry are as much dissatisfied
although it be not safe to speake of
many of them before hand, and there
is no doubt, but that some of the

226 SP 8/1

Transcript: Source 2a

... and of the difficulties which appear to us. As to the first, the people are so generally dissatisfied with the present conduct of the Government in relation to their religion, liberties, and properties (all which have been greatly invaded), and they are in such expectation of their prospects being daily worse that your Highness may be assured there are nineteen parts of twenty of the people throughout the Kingdom who are desirous of a change, and who we believe would willingly contribute to it if they had such a protection to countenance their rising as could secure them from being destroyed before they could get to be in a posture able to defend themselves, it is no less certain that much the greatest part of the nobility and gentry are as much dissatisfied although it be not safe to speak to many of them beforehand and there is no doubt...

Source 2b: Extract from a Deposition by John Cochran, 29 December 1774. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/939 f.64

Parley great Numbers assembled on every Side the Fort and in an Instant
 the signal was given for storming whereupon I ordered the Mento fire,
 they instantly discharged the Cannon & small Arms, but the Soldiers being in
 too much Haste they had no Effect, there were upwards of two hundred
 Men to my best Judgement scaled the Walls instantly & others still coming
 forward, it became impossible to withstand such a Multitude, I placed myself
 against the Wall and was pressed upon, but kept them off for a considerable
 Time with my firelock and Bayonet while some more of them overpowered
 the Soldiers and disarmed them. At last Thomas Pukering of Portsmouth
 Mariner jumped from the Wall on my Shoulders and seized Me by the Throat
 calling Me his Prisoner, upon which disengaging myself I knocked him down,
 but falling with him myself the Multitude seized upon Me, disarmed &
 made Me Prisoner, whereupon they gave three Huzzas or Cheers and
 hauled down the Kings Colours; — then one Man whom I did not know
 demanded the Keys of the Powderhouse, I replied they might as well
 ask for my life for I would as soon part with the one as the other,
 I was then hurried into the House and a Guard was kept upon Me
 for about an hour and a half, the Men that guarded Me were —
 John Langdon, George Turner Pinner Long, Benj. Mackay, Robert Barker,
 Daniel Jackson, Richard Champney, John Dennet all of Portsmouth, and
 some more I did not know; During my Confinement under this
 Guard the Powder Magazine was broke open and about one hundred
 Barrels of Powder were carried away leaving only one Barrel behind
 after which they released Me from my Confinement, telling Me I was
 at Liberty & ought to take care of the Powder they had left, and they all
 immediately dispersed; The Deponent also testifies that besides the
 Names already mentioned he also knows among the Multitude at
 the Castle at that Time of taking away the Powder, Nath. Dennet,
 Stephen Mead, Andrew Clark Wanner, William Turnell,
 George Dume, John Palmer, Thomas Pillow & Joseph Ayres
 Plaimaker, John Turnall Coppersmith Benjamin Chubbourn
 Blacksmith John Bellingham Senr all of Portsmouth and
 Stephen Chase of Newcastle. And further saith not.

29th December 1774.

John Cochran

Transcript: Source 2b

Farley great Numbers assembled Every Side the fort and in an Instant the signal was given for storming. Whereupon I ordered the Men to fire. They instantly discharged the cannon & small Arms, but the Soldiers being in too much Haste, they had no Effect, there were upwards of five hundred Men to my best judgement scaled the Walls instantly & Others still coming forward, it became impossible to withstand such a Multitude. I placed myself against the wall and was preyed upon, but kept them off for a considerable Time with my firelock [musket] and bayonet while some more of them overpowered the soldiers and disarmed them; At last Thomas Pickering of Portsmouth, Mariner jumped from the wall on my shoulders and seized me by the throat calling me his prisoner, upon which disengaging Myself I knocked him down, but falling with him Myself. The Multitude seized upon Me, disarmed and made Me Prisoner, whereupon they gave three Huzzar or cheers and hauled down the King's colours- then one man whom I did not know demanded the Keys of the Prisoner house, I replied they might well as ask for my Life for I would as soon part with the One as the other. I was then hurried into the House and a Guard was kept upon Me for about an hour and a half, the men that guarded me were – John Langdon, George Turner, Pierse Long, Benjamin Mackay, Robert Parker, Daniel Jackson, Richard Champney, John Dennet, all of Portsmouth, and some More I did not know. During my confinement this Guard, the Powder Magazine was broke open and about one hundred Barrels of Powder were carried away leaving only the barrel behind After which they released Me from my confinement, telling me I was at Liberty. I designed to go & take care of the Powder they had left, And they all immediately dispersed, the Deponent also testifies that besides the names already mentioned, he also knew among the multitude at the Castle at that time of taking away the Powder, Nathaniel Dennet, Stephen Mead, Andrew Clark, Mariner, William Furnell, George Dame, John Palmer, Thomas Pillon & Joseph Ayres, Shoemaker, John Turnald Coppersmith, Benjamin Chadbourn, blacksmith, John Billingham Senior, all of Portsmouth and Stephen Chase of Newcastle, And further saith not.

29th December 1774

John Cochran

Source 2c: Extract from the 'Proceedings of the Grand Continental Congress', 5 September 1774. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/939 (3 of 4)

Proceedings of the Grand Ar
ASSOCIATION, &c.

WE his Majesty's most loyal Subjects, the Delegates of the several Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Suffex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, deputed to represent them in a Continental Congress, held in the City of Philadelphia, on the fifth Day of September, 1774, avowing our Allegiance to his Majesty, our Affection and Regard for our Fellow-Subjects in Great-Britain and elsewhere, affected with the deepest Anxiety, and most alarming Apprehensions at those Grievances and Distresses, with which his Majesty's American Subjects are oppressed, and having taken under our most serious Deliberation the State of the whole Continent, find, that the present unhappy Situation of our Affairs, is occasioned by a ruinous System of Colony Administration, adopted by the British Ministry about the Year 1763, evidently calculated for enslaving these Colonies, and, with them, the British Empire. In Prosecution of which System, various Acts of Parliament have been passed for raising a Revenue in America, for depriving the American Subjects in many Instances, of the Constitutional Trial by Jury, exposing their Lives to Danger, by directing a new & illegal Tryal beyond the Seas, for Crimes alledged to have been committed in America; and in Prosecution of the same System, several late, cruel, and oppressive Acts, have been passed respecting the Town of Boston and the Massachusetts-Bay, and also an Act for extending the Province of Quebec so as to border on the Western Frontiers of these Colonies, establishing an Arbitrary Government therein, and discouraging the Settlement of British Subjects in that wide extended Country; thus by the Influence of civil Principles and ancient Prejudices to dispose the Inhabitants to act with Hostility against the free Protestant Colonies, whenever a wicked Ministry shall choose so to direct them.

To obtain Redress of these Grievances...

Transcript: Source 2c

Proceedings of the Grand...
ASSOCIATION, &c.

We His Majesty's most loyal Subjects and Delegates of the several Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, deputed to represent them in Continental Congress, held in the City of Philadelphia on the fifth Day of September, 1774, avowing our Allegiance to his Majesty, our Affection and Regard for our Fellow-Subjects in Great Britain and elsewhere, affected with the deepest Anxiety, and most alarming Apprehension at those Grievance and Differences, with which his Majesty's American Subjects are oppressed, and having taken under our most serious Deliberation the State of the whole Continent, find , that the present unhappy Situation of our Affairs, is occasioned by a ruinous System of Colonial Administration, adopted by the British Ministry about the year 1763, evidently calculated for enslaving these colonies, and, with them, the British Empire. In Prosecution of which System, various Acts of Parliament have been passed for raising a Revenue in America for depriving the American Subjects in many Instances, of the Constitutional Trial by Jury, exposing their Lives to Danger, by directing a new & illegal Trial beyond the Seas, for Crimes alleged to have been committed in America; and in Prosecution of the Same system, several late cruel, and oppressive Acts have passed respecting the Town of Boston and the Massachusetts-Bay, and also and Act for extending the Province of Quebec so as to border on the Western Frontier of the colonies, establishing an Arbitrary Government therein, and discouraging the Settlement of British Subjects in that wide extended Country; thus by the Influence of evil Principles and ancient Prejudices to dispose the Inhabitants to act with Hostility against the free Protestant Colonies whenever wicked Ministry shall choose to direct them.

...

Source 2d: Extract from 'In Provincial Congress, Exeter, New Hampshire, 6 June 1775'. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/939 f.164

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES,

EXETER, June 6, 1775. 164

Whereas it has pleased the Righteous GOVERNOR of the World to permit evil Men, on both Sides of the *Atlantick*, to ripen their Plots against the *Liberties* of *America* into Violence, and begin a *Scene of Bloodshed* in this Land; in order to force from us an entire *Surrender of those Blessings of Freedom* which our *Fathers sought, and so dearly purchased, in the Settlement of this Country*. And whereas, with an almost entire Union, it has been thought necessary to raise, within this Colony, a Body of Men for the Purpose of opposing our Enemies in their manifest further *Designs of Violence---*

Transcript: Source 2d

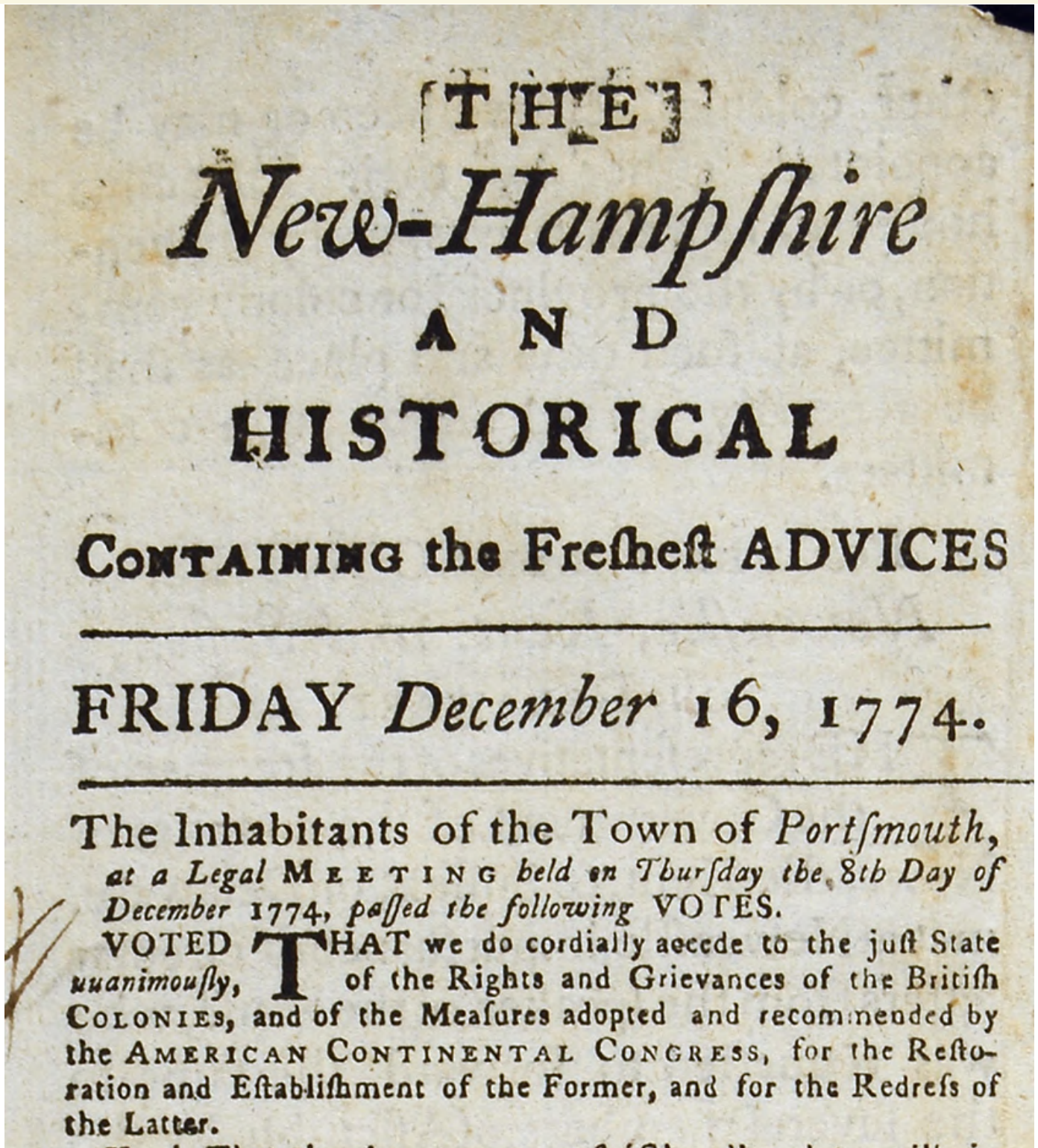
IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

EXETER June 6 1775

Whereas it has pleased the Righteous GOVERNOR of the World to permit evil Men, on both Sides of the Atlantic, to ripen their Plots against the Liberties of America into Violence and begin a Scene of Bloodshed in this Land; in order to force from us an entire Surrender of the Blessings of Freedom which our Fathers sought, and so dearly purchased, in the Settlement of this Country. And whereas, with an almost entire Union, it has been thought necessary to raise, within this Colony, a Body of Men for the Purpose of opposing our Enemies in their manifest further Designs of Violence.

...

Source 3: Extracts from the New Hampshire Gazette, 16 December 1774. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/939 (1 of 4)



Voted, That the Town bear Testimony against the common
 Practice of playing at Billiards and Cards, and also that they dis-
 approve of every other Species of Gaming and Dissipation, recom-
 mending Industry and Frugality, to the Inhabitants as more be-
 coming under the present grievous Oppressions, and Embarrass-
 ments of this Town and Continent.

Transcript: Source 3

The New-Hampshire
AND
HISTORICAL

Containing the Freshest ADVICES

Friday, December 16th ,1774

The Inhabitants of the Town of Portsmouth, at a Legal MEETING held on Thursday the 8th Day of December 1774, passed the following VOTES.

VOTED unanimously, THAT we do cordially accede to the just State of the Rights and Grievances of the British COLONIES, and of the Measures adopted and recommended by the AMERICAN CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, for the Restoration and Establishment of the Former, and for the Redress of the Latter.

...

Voted, That the Town bear Testimony against the common Practice of playing at Billiards and Cards, and also that they disapprove of every other Species of Gaming and Dissipation [extravagant or sensual living], recommending Industry and Frugality, to the Inhabitants as most becoming under the present grievous Oppressions, and Embarrassments of this Town and Continent.

...

Source 4: A proclamation from Sir James Wright, 1774.

Catalogue Ref: CO 5/663 f.156

311
156

G e o r g i a .

B Y H I S E X C E L L E N C Y

Sir JAMES WRIGHT, Baronet,

Captain-General, Governor, and Commander in Chief, of His Majesty's
Province of GEORGIA, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary, of
the same,

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS I have received Information, That, on Wednesday the twenty-seventh Day of July last past, a Number of Persons, in consequence of a printed Bill or Summons, issued and dispersed throughout the Province by certain Persons unknown, did unlawfully assemble together, at the Watch-House in the Town of Savannah, under Colour or Pretence of consulting together for the Redress of publick Grievances, or imaginary Grievances, and that the Persons so assembled for the Purposes aforesaid, or some of them, are, from and by their own Authority, by a certain other Hand-Bill, issued and dispersed throughout the Province, and other Methods, endeavouring to prevail on His Majesty's liege Subjects to have another Meeting, on Wednesday the tenth Instant, similar to the former, and for the Purposes aforesaid; which Summonses and Meetings must tend to raise Fears and Jealousies in the Minds of His Majesty's good Subjects: AND WHEREAS an Opinion prevails, and has been industriously propagated, that Summonses and Meetings of this Nature are constitutional and legal, in order, therefore, that His Majesty's liege Subjects may not be misled and imposed upon by artful and designing Men, I DO, by and with the Advice of His Majesty's Honourable Council, issue this my Proclamation, notifying, that all such Summonses and Calls by private Persons, and all Assembling and Meetings of the People, which may tend to raise Fears and Jealousies in the Minds of His Majesty's Subjects, under Pretence of consulting together for Redress of publick Grievances, or imaginary Grievances, are unconstitutional, illegal, and punishable, by Law: AND I do hereby require all His Majesty's liege Subjects within this Province to pay due Regard to this my Proclamation, as they will answer the contrary at their Peril.

GIVEN under my Hand and the Great Seal of His Majesty's said Province, in the Council-Chamber at Savannah, the fifth Day of August, in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, and in the Year of our LORD One thousand seven hundred and seventy-four.

By His Excellency's Command, }
Tho^s. MOODIE, Dep. Secr. }

J A. W R I G H T.

God save the King.

Transcript: Source 4

G e o r g i a

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Sir JAMES WRIGHT, Baronet,

Captain-General, Governor and Commander in Chief OF His Majesty's Province of GEORGIA,
Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary, of the same,

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS I have received Information, That, on Wednesday the twenty-seventh Day of July last past, a Number of Persons, in consequence of a printed Bill or Summons, issued and dispersed throughout the Province by certain Persons unknown, did unlawfully assemble together at the Watch-House in the Town of Savannah, under Colour or Pretence of consulting together for the Redress of public Grievances, or imaginary Grievances. And that the Persons so assembled for the Purposes aforesaid, or some of them, are, from and by their Authority, by a certain other Hand-Bill, issued and dispersed throughout the Province, and other Methods, endeavouring to prevail on His Majesty's liege Subjects to have another meeting, on Wednesday the tenth Instant, similar to the former, and for the Purposes aforesaid, which Summonses and Meetings must tend to raise Fears and Jealousies in the Minds of his Majesty's good Subjects: AND WHEREAS an Opinion prevails, and has been industriously propagated, that Summonses and Meetings of this Nature are constitutional and legal, in order, therefore, that His Majesty's liege Subjects may not be misled and imposed upon by artful and designing Men, I DO, by and with the Advice of His Majesty's Honourable Council, issue this my Proclamation, notifying, that all such Summonses and Calls by private Persons, and all Assembling and Meetings of the People, which may tend to raise Fears and Jealousies in the Minds of his Majesty's Subjects, under pretence of consulting together for Redress of public Grievances, or imaginary Grievances are unconstitutional, illegal, and punishable, by Law: AND I do hereby require all His Majesty's liege Subjects within this Province to pay due Regard to this my Proclamation, as they will answer the contrary at their Peril.

GIVEN under my Hand and the Great Seal of His Majesty's said Province in the Council-Chamber at Savannah, the fifth Day of August, in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, and in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy-four.

J.A. Wright

By His Excellency's Command

Thomas Moodie Deputy Secretary

God Save the King

Source 5: Extract from the Declaration of independence, 4 July 1776.

Catalogue Ref: EXT 9/76

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness— That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long est-

Transcript: Source 5

...

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundations on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

...

Source 6a: Extract from the Boston Evening Post, 28 October 1765.

Catalogue Ref: CO 5/755 f.391

fore they would part with these liberties? Was not the raising taxes by ship money, &c. without the consent of the good people of England who were to pay them, and arbitrary courts of trial, contrary to the rights of Englishmen and the common usages of the land, principal grievances and causes of the civil war in the reign of Charles I? Were not the unconstitutional arbitrary courts erected, contrary to the English liberty, and usages of the nation; corruption of trials by pack'd juries; the arbitrary taking away and trampling upon the privileges of royal charters, and the refusing to hear petitions and redress grievances---arbitrary suspension of laws and executions legally obtained; among the principal civil grievances in the reign of James II. which caused the glorious revolution? For which the nation needed and

Transcript: Source 6a

...

Was not the raising taxes by ship money, &c, without the consent of the good people of England who were to pay them, and arbitrary courts of trial, contrary to the rights of Englishmen and the common usages of the land, principal grievances and causes of the civil war in the reign of Charles I? Were not the unconstitutional arbitrary courts erected, contrary to the English liberty, and usage of the nation; corruption of trials by pack'd juries; the arbitrary taking away and trampling upon the privileges of royal charters, and the refusing to hear petitions and redress grievances — arbitrary suspense of laws and executions legally obtained; among the principal civil grievances in the reign of James II. Which caused the glorious revolution?

...

Source 6b: Extract from The New Hampshire Gazette, 2 December 1774. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/939 (2 of 4)

Let justice and humanity cease to be the
boast of your nation! Consult your history,
examine your records of former transactions,
nay turn to the annals of the many arbitrary
states and kingdoms that surround you, and
show us a single instance of men being con-
demned to suffer for imputed crimes, un-
heard, unquestioned, and without even the
specious formality of a trial; and that too

Transcript: Source 6b

...

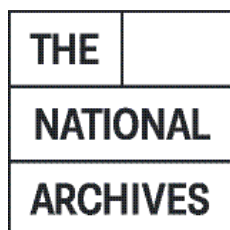
Let justice and humanity cease to be the boast of your nation! Consult your history, examine your records of former transactions, nay turn to the annals [yearly records] of the many arbitrary states and kingdoms that surround you, and shew us a single instance of men being condemned to suffer for imputed [responsible for] crimes, unheard, unquestioned, and without even the specious [misleading] formality of a trial...

Source 6c: Cartoon engraving entitled 'The Political Cartoon for the year 1774'. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.



Visual description: Source 6c

George III, and Lord Chief Justice, Lord William Mansfield are shown riding in horse-drawn carriage towards the edge of a cliff. Behind the carriage, a man stands holding a collection of papers saying: 'places', 'pensions' and 'reversions'. The horses are labelled 'Pride' and 'Obstinacy' and gallop over the British constitution and Magna Carta. The king holds a document which says: 'I glory in the name of Englishman.' A winged mythical creature with the head and body of a man and the ears and tail of a horse or goat flies above holding a heavy bag labelled 'National Credit'. 'America' is shown in flames in the distance across a stretch of water.



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Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

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Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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