

Newspapers, Pamphlets, and Other Texts from the Colonies

Readings

For fire and water are not more heterogeneous than the different colonies in North America. Nothing can exceed the jealousy which they possess in regard to each other... Were they left to themselves there would soon be a civil war from one end of the continent to the other, while the Indians and Negroes would impatiently watch the opportunity of exterminating them all together.

- Rev. Andrew Burnaby, 1760

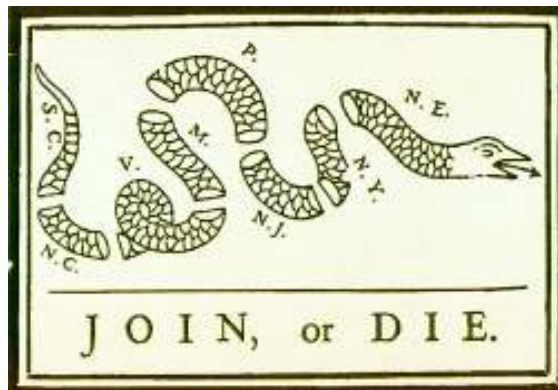
A colonist cannot make a button, a horseshoe, nor a hobnail, but some snooty ironmonger or respectable buttonmaker of England shall bawl and squall that his honor's worship is most egregiously maltreated, injured, cheated, and robbed by the rascally American republicans.

- *Boston Gazette*, 1765



We have called this a burthensome tax, because the duties are so numerous and high... that it would be totally impossible for the people to subsist under it... We further [believe] this tax to be unconstitutional. We have always understood it to be a grand and fundamental principle of the constitution, that no freeman should be subject to any tax to which he has not given his own consent.

- Resolution of the Town of Braintree, Massachusetts, 1765



If we view the whole of the conduct of the ministry and parliament, I do not see how any one can doubt but that there is a settled fix'd plan for enslaving the colonies... View now the situation of America: loaded with taxes from the British parliament... our charters taken away [and] our assemblies annihilated, governors and councils appointed by royal authority without any concurrence of the people... the lives and property of Americans entirely at the disposal of officers more than three thousand miles removed from any power to control them.
- Reverend Ebenezer Baldwin, 1774

The New Englanders by their canting, whinings, insinuating tricks have persuaded the rest of the Colonies that the Government is going to make absolute slaves of them.
- Nicholas Cresswell, 1774



Questions

1. Identify whether each reading is being written from a patriot or a loyalist point of view. Briefly explain your answers in 1-2 sentences.
2. List the reasons that patriots are upset with the English government. Write a quote from the readings that describes each reason.
3. What does the phrase "no taxation without representation" mean? How does this relate to the readings?
4. How do loyalists portray the views and actions of the patriots? Explain your answer.
5. Do you believe that the patriots' point of view is reasonable or overblown? Use quotes to explain/support your answer.