

# *World Shaking Ideas*



*And the March  
Toward Colonial  
Rebellion*

# *The Enlightenment*



- **Rejection of Superstition**
- **Search for “Rational” explanations for phenomena**
  - **Synonym for “The Enlightenment”?**  
**The Age of Reason**
  - Searching for **Natural Laws**
- **THE great symbol of the Age of Reason:**
  - **Isaac Newton**

# *The Enlightenment*



- **Isaac Newton**
  - **Principia Mathematica**
    - Action -Reaction
    - Universal Gravity
    - Search for **Natural Laws**
- **Social Sciences**
  - **Thomas Hobbes**
    - **Social Contract Theory of Government**
    - **The Government gives order to the People**
    - **The People give obedience to the Government**

# *The Enlightenment*

- **Social Sciences (Continued)**
  - John Locke
    - **Adopted Hobbes' Social Contract Theory**
    - **Natural Rights**
      - **Life, Liberty, Property**
    - **The People will obey the Government**
    - **Government must protect Natural Rights of the People**
    - **If Government fails to protect Life / Liberty / Property,**  
**The People can create a new Government that will**

# *The Enlightenment*

- **Social Sciences (Continued)**
  - **Economic Theory:**
    - **Mercantilism**
      - **General:** An Economic theory / system that the interest of the state is superior to the economic interest of any individual or business
      - **One Specific:** Colonies exist solely for the benefit of the Mother Country by providing:
        - **Source of Raw Materials**
        - **Market for Manufactured Goods**

# *The Enlightenment*

- **Social Sciences (Continued)**
  - **Economic Theory:**
    - **Mercantilism**
      - **Another Specific: The Goal of Mercantilism is to increase the wealth and power of the Mother Country**
      - **Another Specific: One implication of mercantilism**

It is in the Empire's best interest if the Mother Country provides the defense for its own colonies

# *Mercantilism in Practice*

**The American Colonies were loyal to England but:**

- **Dutch goods were considerably cheaper**
- **England “abandoned” the colonies :**
  - **1648-1660 : The Commonwealth Period**
- **After the Restoration (of Charles II)**
  - **Navigation Acts**
    - **All trade had to be on English ships w/ English crews**
    - **Some raw materials could only go to England**
    - **All goods shipped to colonial ports had to go through a port in England**

# *Mercantilism in Practice*



- **England “abandoned” the colonies Again:**
  - 1685-1688 : James II vs, Parliament  
(Glorious Revolution)
- **William & Mary will attempt to re-establish enforcement of the Navigation Acts**



# *Effects of Mercantilism*

- **The periods of English “abandonment” lead to:**
  - periods of colonial economic independence
- **The periods of renewed enforcement lead to periods of increasing:**
  - colonial resistance / disobedience / smuggling
  - colonial resentment
    - stifling colonial businesses esp. manufacturing
    - **Gouging** by British manufacturers - a captive market
    - **Lowballing** by British tobacco purchasers - high profits
      - low leaf prices > unpaid farm debts - inherited

# *The American Revolution*



**Underlying Causes**

# *Underlying Causes of the American Revolution*

- **Growing sense of colonial military security**
- **Distance between the government and the governed**
- **Misunderstandings**
- **Horrible misjudgements by British government**
- **Longstanding resentments of mercantilist policy**
- **The “American Character”**

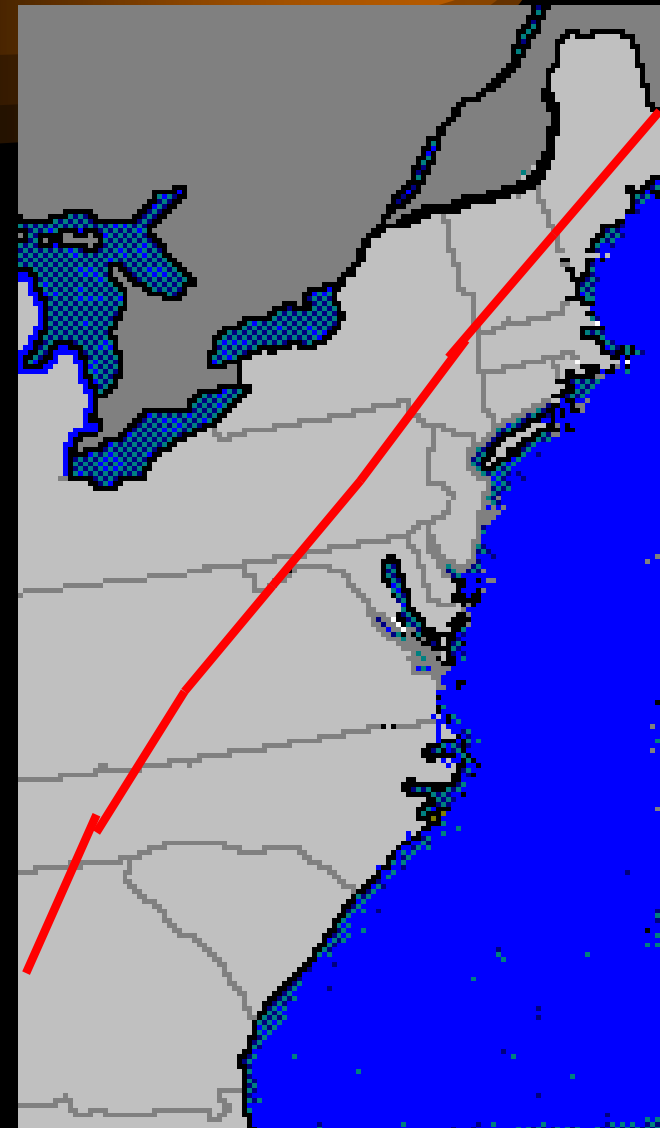
# *Growing Sense of Colonial Military Security*

- **First Battle of Louisbourg**
- **Second Battle of Louisbourg**
- **Third Battle near Fort Duquesne**
- **The Treaty of Paris of 1763**
  - **No more France in North America**
  - **The Closest French Possession:**
    - **Haiti**

# *Distance between the Government and the Governed*

The new PM - George Grenville was concerned about:

- The national debt
  - England did not want to spend any more money protecting the colonies
  - **Royal Proclamation of 1763:**
    - forbid colonists from moving west of the crest of the Appalachian Mtns.

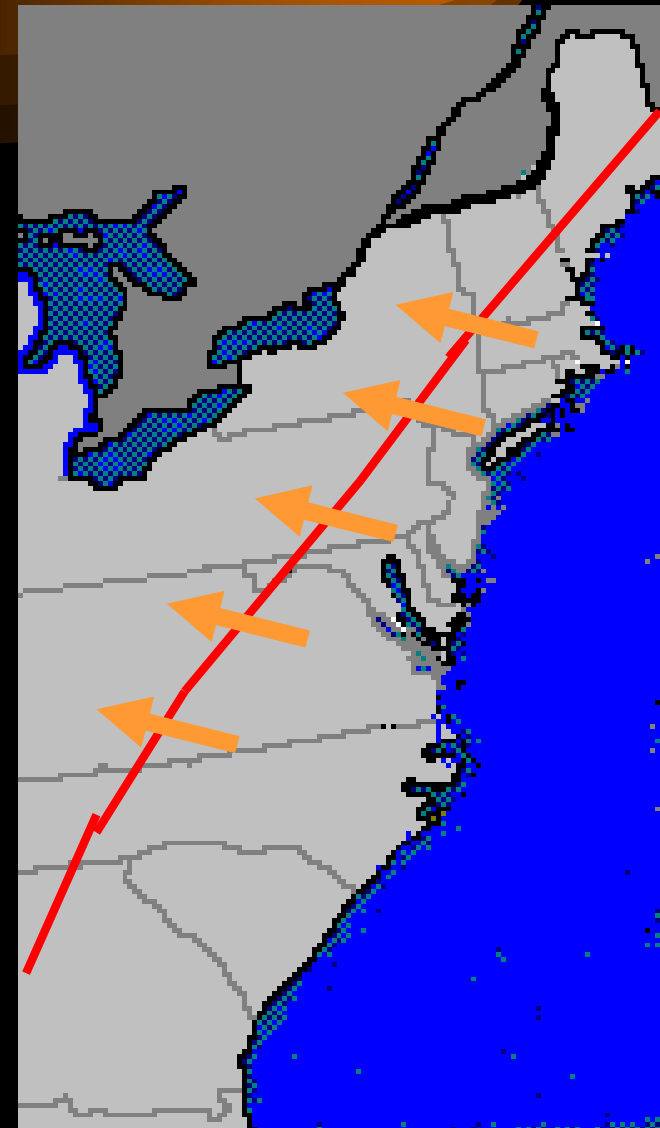


# *Distance between the Government and the Governed*

**The King forbids colonists from moving west of the crest of the Appalachian Mtns. Because it would cost money to:**

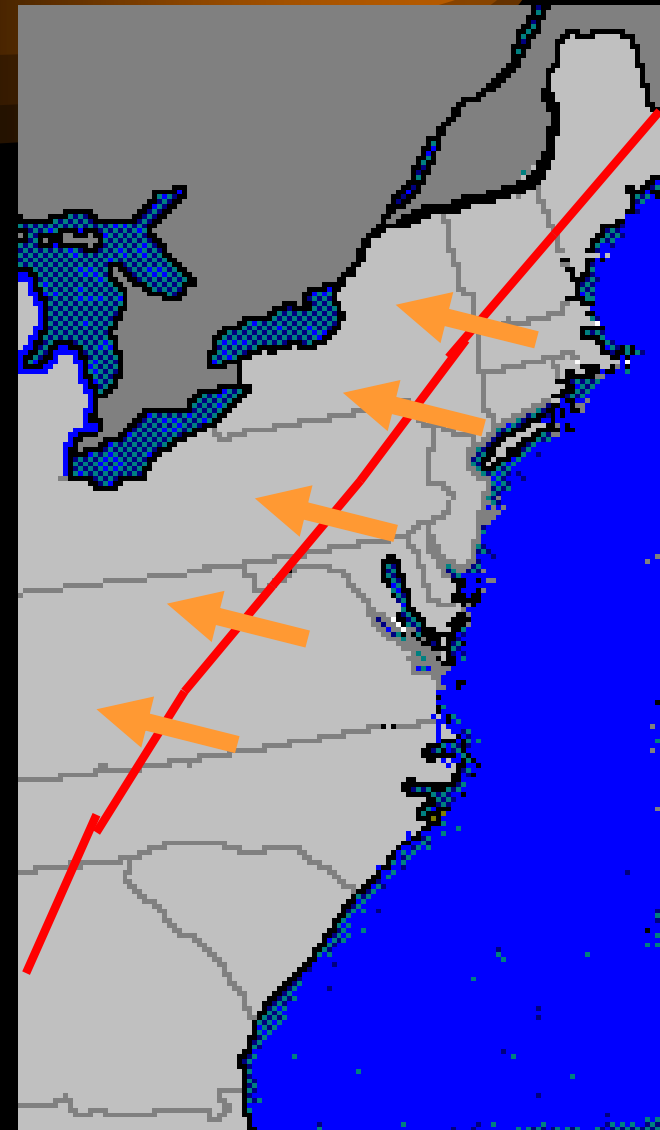
**Protect them from the Native Americans**

**As in Bacon's Rebellion before, the colonists crossed into Indian land any way.**



# *Distance between the Government and the Governed*

- Colonists learn that England cannot stop them from disobeying
- They learn (**not the first or last time**) the crown is not responsive to colonial interests and priorities.



# *Misunderstandings*

Distance also makes misunderstandings more likely

Kings like **Standing Armies**

**Army prepared to fight immediately when called**

Subjects do not like large standing armies because:

They have to pay more taxes

Parliament after the Seven Year's War will pass

**The Quartering Act -**

- Required the colonial legislature to pay for the housing and feeding of troops stationed in that colony



# *Misunderstandings*

**King's and Parliament's purpose:**

- To be prepared for another major war as quickly as possible
- To keep the troops away from the public and voters in England to hide the costs of the army from **THEM**

**The Colonists perceived the King's and Parliament's purpose as**

- Use the army as an intimidation of of the colonists

# *Misunderstandings*

**A second example of Misunderstandings:**

**After the Treaty of Paris of 1763, England will struggle to welcome several thousand Frenchmen in New France (Canada/Quebec) as new English citizens.**

**To help the French make the adjustment, the Parliament creates a colonial charter along lines familiar to Frenchmen:**

- **The Quebec Act**

# *Misunderstandings*

## **King's and Parliament's purpose:**

- **To give the French speaking English citizens a government which was like the one they had enjoyed before.**

## **The Colonists *perceived* the King's and Parliament's purpose:**

- **The Quebecers are denied 1) a representative assembly and 2) trial by jury**
- **The Crown must be preparing to deny these rights to the rest of the colonies**

# *Horrible Misjudgments by the British Government*

The debt problem pushed George Grenville to

- **Change Policy regarding colonists' payment for their own protection**
  - Sugar Act
  - Quartering Act
  - Stamp Act

**Important concept in English Law:**

**The crown may tax all citizens for purpose of regulating trade**

**i.e., The Navigation Acts are acceptable**

# *Horrible Misjudgments by the British Government*

**The Navigation Acts are acceptable, but**

**It is illegal to tax citizens for the purpose of raising government **revenue** without their consent.**

- Those who pay taxes must be represented in the Parliament**

**The colonists felt that their rights as citizens were being violated**

**Stamp Act Congress**

**“Taxation without Representation is Tyranny”**

**Sons of Liberty - Samuel Adams**

# *Horrible Misjudgments by the British Government*

- **Attempts to punish the colonies**

**To prove who was in charge:**

- **The Declaratory Act**

- **The Townshend Acts**

- **Tariffs on colonial imports into England**

- **a violation of mercantilist principles**

- **Trial of offenders by admiralty courts**

- **Closing the NY assembly for non-payment under the Quartering act**