

SS.7.C.1.3

Describe how English policies and responses to colonial concerns led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence.

These actions by Great Britain made Colonists very angry:

Proclamation of 1763

colonists may not move into lands they just won in the French & Indian War

Stamp Act (1765)

A tax on lots and lots of things to pay debts from the French & Indian War

Declaratory Act (1766)

Parliament did repeal the Stamp Act, but also declared it could pass any laws and any taxes it wanted for the colonies

colonists have no representation in parliament

Townshend Acts (1766)

Import duties (taxes) made many goods brought into America more expensive

One of the acts gave British officials power to search businesses & homes

Tea Act (1773)

another tax

gave the British East India Tea Company a monopoly (no competition)

Coercive Acts (1774) – a.k.a. "Intolerable Acts"

Passed by Parliament to punish Boston for the Tea Party

closed the port of Boston until colonists paid for the destroyed tea

took away self-government for Massachusetts

quartering act - allowed soldiers to stay on private property

Royal officials accused of crimes could have their trials

This is what the Colonies did in response:

First Continental Congress (September & October, 1774)

asked Britain to respect colonists' rights as promised by the English Bill of Rights

Second Continental Congress (1775 - 1781)

produced the Declaration of Independence

stayed in business to run the war for independence, until replaced by the Articles of Confederation