

## I.E.13

### People's Revolutions

# The Boston Tea Party – From British Taxes to American Independence

Ein Beitrag von Dr. Bernhard Klewitz



Am 16. Dezember 1773 protestierten amerikanische Kolonisten gegen eine durch das britische Parlament auferlegte Teesteuer, indem sie im Hafen von Boston Teekisten von Schiffen ins Wasser warfen. England reagierte mit Strafgesetzen, schloss den Bostoner Hafen und forderte Entschädigung für den verdorbenen Tee. Die nachfolgenden Auseinandersetzungen führten zur amerikanischen Unabhängigkeit.

#### KOMPETENZPROFIL

**Klassenstufe:** Klasse 10

**Dauer:** 7-8 Stunden

**Kompetenzen:** Umgang mit Primär- und Sekundärquellen, Sozialkompetenz, interkulturelle Kompetenz

**Thematische Bereiche:** Siebenjähriger Krieg, Amerikanische Revolution, Amerikanischer Unabhängigkeitskrieg

**Medien:** Texte, Dokumente, Bilder, Landkarte, Karikatur

## Auf einen Blick

### 1. Stunde

**Thema:** One War, Two Continents: The Seven Years' War and The French and Indian War (1756–1763)

**M 1** **The Seven Years' War – A Transatlantic Conflict**

**M 2** **Native Americans and the French and Indian War**

**Inhalt:** Die Lernenden setzen sich mit dem Siebenjährigen Krieg als Vorgeschichte zur amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitsbewegung auseinander und beleuchten diesen auch aus einer indigenen Perspektive.

### 2./3. Stunde

**Thema:** The Boston Tea Party

**M 3** **Not My Cup of Tea – The Tea Trade in North America**

**M 4** **The Boston Tea Party**

**Inhalt:** Die Schülerinnen und Schüler verstehen die Besteuerung der Kolonien als Triebfeder der Entfremdung vom Mutterland und zeichnen Hintergründe und Ereignisse der Boston Tea Party nach.

### 4.–7. Stunde

**Thema:** Aftermath of the Party

**M 5** **Beyond the Party – On the Way to Independence**

**M 6** **The Intolerable Acts of 1774**





**M 7** **Convincing the Loyalists – Patrick Henry's *Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death***

**M 8** **From Conflict to War – The Battles of Lexington and Concord**

**M 9** **Local Support and British Defeat**

**Inhalt:** Die Lernenden identifizieren die verschiedenen Eskalationsstufen auf dem Weg zum Unabhängigkeitskrieg.

### Erklärung zu den Symbolen

	Dieses Symbol markiert differenziertes Material. Wenn nicht anders ausgewiesen, befinden sich die Materialien auf mittlerem Niveau.	
		
einfaches Niveau	mittleres Niveau	schwieriges Niveau

## Native Americans and the French and Indian War

M 2

### Tasks

1. Describe why the Native Americans initially supported the French, but, after the end of the war, changed sides. Explain the consequences.
2. Imagine you are a British settler. Some of your fellow colonists lost their lives in the war against the French and the Native Americans. With the French troops out of the way, you thought you could finally explore all the newly gained land. But then you read the Royal Proclamation of 1763. Discuss in class how the settlers must have felt.

### Who Is the Lesser Evil? – Native Americans During the French and Indian War

When the British fought the French for North America in the Seven Years' War, the Indians fought on the side of the French. The French were traders but not occupiers of Indian lands, while the British clearly coveted their hunting grounds and living space. [...] When that war ended in 1763, the French, ignoring their old allies, ceded to the British lands west of the Appalachians. The Indians therefore united to make war on the British western forts [...] Under orders from British General Jeffrey Amherst, the commander of Fort Pitts gave the attacking Indian chiefs, with whom he was negotiating, blankets from the smallpox hospital. It was a pioneering effort at what is now called biological warfare. An epidemic spread among the Indians.

Despite this, and the burning of villages, the British could not destroy the will of the Indians, who continued guerilla war. A peace was made, with the British agreeing to establish a line at the Appalachians, beyond settlements would not encroach on Indian territory. This was the Royal Proclamation of 1763, and it angered American settlers. [...] why most of the Indians fought for England during the Revolution. With their French allies, then their English allies, gone, the Indians faced a new land-coveting nation – alone. The Americans assumed now that the Indian land was theirs.

Zinn, Howard: *A People's History of the United States*. 1472. ed. 1995. New York: Perennial Classic 2001.

### Excerpt: The Royal Proclamation of October 6, 1763

We do further declare it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure, for the present as aforesaid, to reserve under our Sovereignty, Protection, and Dominion, for the use of the said Indians, all the Lands and Territories not included within the Limits of Our said Three new Governments, or within the Limits of the Territory granted to the Hudson's Bay Company, as also all the Lands and Territories lying to the Westward of the Sources of the Rivers which fall into the Sea from the West and North West as aforesaid.

And We do hereby strictly forbid, on Pain of our Displeasure, all our loving Subjects from making any Purchases or Settlements whatever, or taking Possession of any of the Lands above reserved, without our especial leave and Licence for that Purpose first obtained.

Given at our Court at St James's the 7th Day of October 1763, in the Third Year of our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING

Royal Proclamation, October 7, 1763

Online URL: [www.ushistory.org/us/9a.asp](http://www.ushistory.org/us/9a.asp) [zuletzt abgerufen am 13.07.2022]

## M 5

## Beyond the Tea Party – On the Way to Independence

The Boston Tea Party would not be of such significance if it had not been for a series of other major events leading up America's independence.

**Task 1**

Research the events below online at: <https://raabe.click/SevenEvents>

1. The Stamp Act (March 1765)
2. The Townshend Acts (June–July 1767)
3. The Boston Massacre (March 1770)
4. The Boston Tea Party (December 1773)
5. The Coercive Acts (March–June 1774)
6. Lexington and Concord (April 1775)
7. British attacks on coastal towns (October 1775–January 1776)

**Task 2**

With the help of your research in Task 1 and the words below, complete the blanks in the chart.

Conflicts between British and Colonists
The colonies were run by the British Board of Trade, the Royal Council and the Parliament.
However, the colonies had _____ in which they had some legislative power.
_____ did not want the British government to run their affairs.
To cover the costs of the _____, the Parliament passed _____ like the Stamp Act (1765).
Tensions grew and the colonies organized the _____ (Philadelphia 1774) where they discussed responses to the British oppression.
In the battles of _____ the colonists fought the British.
The Second Continental Congress formed an army with _____ as commander in chief. It was supported by foreign soldiers, especially from _____.
After a British defeat in 1778, _____ granted diplomatic recognition to the American state.
In the Treaty of Paris (_____) King George III. accepted the independence of the colonies and gave them control over the territories from the _____ to the Mississippi River.
In 1787, the American constitution was adopted and George Washington becomes the first _____.
Appalachian – Lexington and Concord (April 1775) – Seven Years' War – merchants in port cities – George Washington – First Continental Congress – tax laws – assemblies – France (x 2) – 1783 – president

## The Intolerable Acts of 1774

M 6

### Task 1

Read the text and explain what the Intolerable Acts of 1774 were and how they influenced the lives of the colonists.

### The Intolerable Acts of 1774

The British government had enough of the American colonists resisting taxation. In early 1774, the Minister Lord North announced the so-called "Coercive Acts": a set of laws designed to punish the colony of Massachusetts.

The first act closed the Boston harbor – a rather severe measure, seeing as the livelihood of many Bostonians was dependent on the trade with overseas. The second act, the so-called Massachusetts Government Act, replaced almost all local politicians with officials appointed by British government. The town meetings – the last institution in which Bostonians could decide on their own matters – were reduced to only one meeting per year. The third act effectively removed jurisdiction. Up until this point, the courts in the colonies were allowed to try royal officials in America. With the new law however, the English had the option to move these trials to Great Britain. This made it almost impossible for colonists to protest their mistreatment by means of the law. The fourth act, the Quartering Act, was about housing British troops, seeing as the colonial administration was very reluctant with doing so. The new law allowed royal soldiers to occupy buildings anywhere in the colonies if there weren't enough barracks for them. Many locals feared that the soldiers could take over their private homes. To the Americans, they were known as the "Intolerable Acts". Taxes could be ignored, the new laws however could not.

### Task 2

The caricature below was drawn by Paul Revere, a member of the Sons of Liberty. Analyze its meaning.

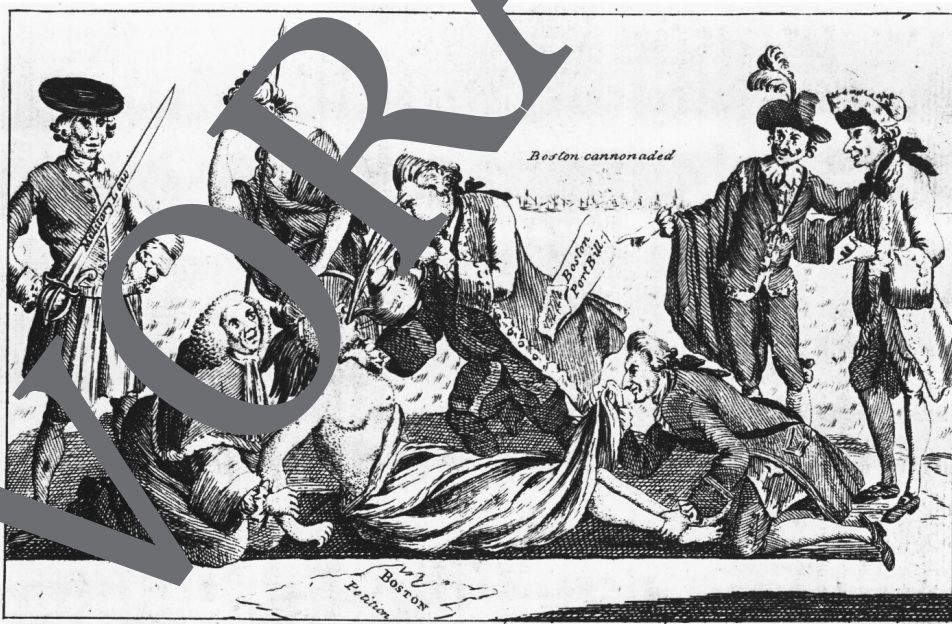
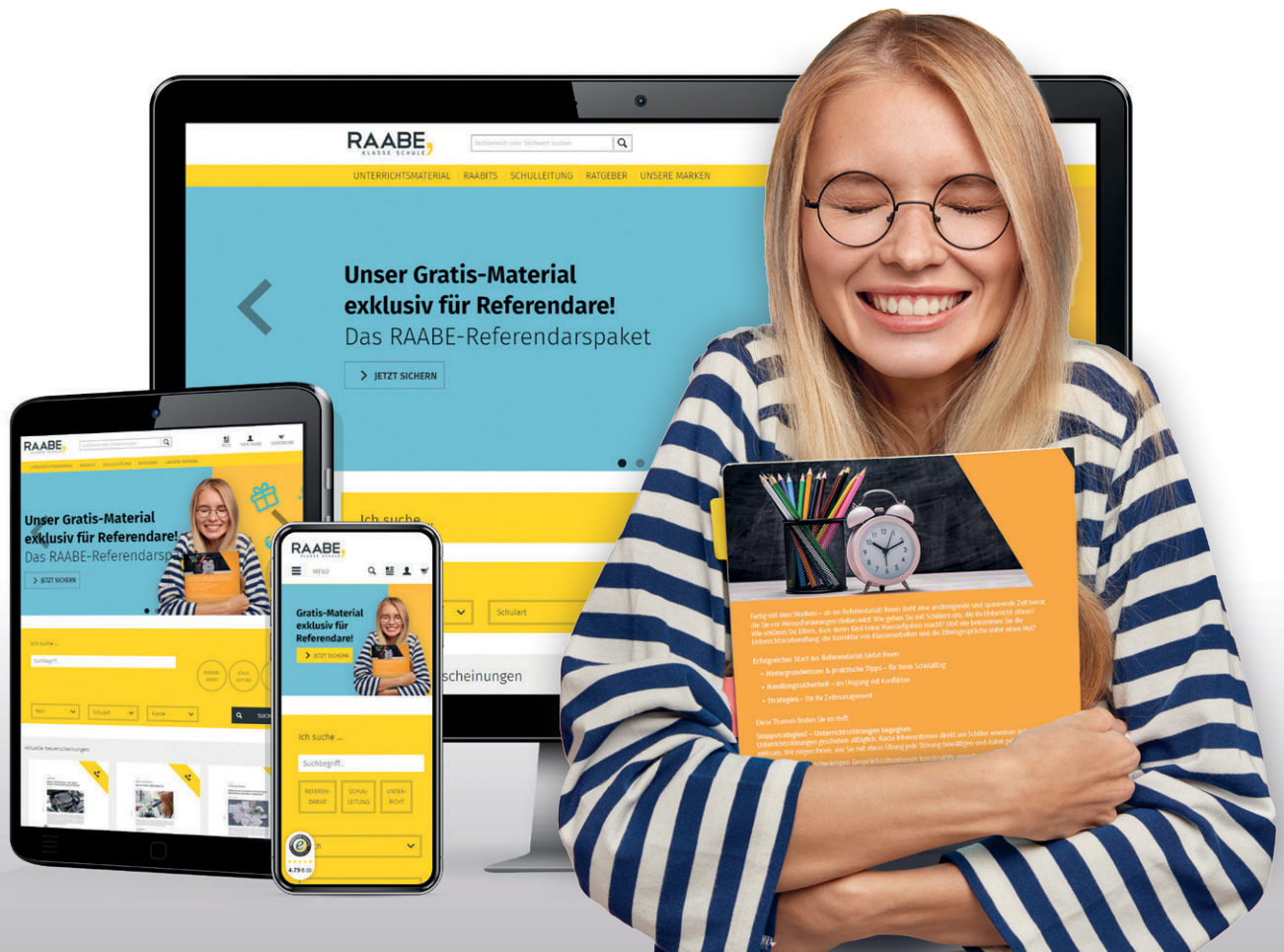


Bild: gemeinfrei/Wikimedia Commons

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