CHAPTER 10

THE BRITISH TIGHTEN THEIR CONTROL. (1763-1766)

Why did hard feelings develop between colonists and the British?

STUDY

As you read the chapter, make a list of the different British laws. Then write down how the colonists responded to each of them.

HINT

Pontiac, a chief of the Ottawa nation, organized the Native Americans of the Ohio valley in a last-ditch war against the settlers moving west.

Looking at Key Terms
- Pontiac's War
- Proclamation of 1763
- Navigation Acts
- Sugar Act
- Parliament
- Stamp Act
- Stamp Act Congress
- Sons of Liberty

Looking at Key Words
- import: to bring goods into a country in order to sell them
- smuggle: to bring goods into a country illegally
- representative: an official elected to act and speak for others
- boycott: to refuse to buy, sell, or use goods from a particular person, business, or country
- repeal: to cancel
West of the 13 colonies lay a rich land. The soil was fertile. Beautiful forests stretched for miles. Great rivers cut through the forests. It seemed a perfect place for colonists to settle. They had only to cross the Appalachian Mountains. Then they could spread west as far as the Mississippi River.

1 The British Stop Colonists from Moving Beyond the Appalachians.

Why did the British forbid colonists to move westward?

After the British victory in the French and Indian War, the region west of the Appalachian Mountains seemed open for settlement. French control had ended. Settlers from the 13 colonies expected that they could move west. Some planned to hunt for furs. Others wanted to become farmers there. However, events did not go as the settlers had expected.

Pontiac's War Native Americans living west of the Appalachians distrusted the British. Many had been allies of the French. After the war, the British raised the prices of goods traded to Native Americans. Native Americans felt cheated. They also feared that the British colonists would take their lands. The French had agreed that Native Americans owned the land. The British did not.

Many British colonists began to settle in the Ohio Valley. They cut down forests to make farms. Settlers and Native Americans clashed several times. Some Native Americans wanted to fight back.

By 1763, these Native Americans found a leader. He was Pontiac, an Ottawa chief. He spoke out against the settlers. Pontiac was skilled at winning allies. Soon, the Chippewa, Delaware, Shawnee, Miami, and Huron joined Pontiac.

In May 1763, Pontiac's War began. At first, the Native Americans were successful. Eight British forts fell within weeks. Pontiac’s victories threatened settlements in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland.

However, Pontiac ran into trouble. His forces failed to capture Detroit, the most important British fort in the region. Some of Pontiac’s allies stopped fighting. By December, the fighting was over. More than 4,000 Native Americans and settlers had died.

Closing the frontier Pontiac’s War worried the British. They had just fought an expensive war with France. If colonists moved westward, it might cause more wars with Native Americans. The British did not want any more costly wars.

There was another reason that the British did not want settlers west of the Appalachians. These settlers would be too far away for the British to control. The settlers might start making all sorts of products. These products could compete with goods made in Britain.

To control settlement, the British government issued the Proclamation of 1763. A proclamation is an official announcement. It said that colonists could not settle on land between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River. It also said that Native Americans owned the land that they lived on.

Angry responses The Proclamation of 1763 made colonists furious. Several colonies had claimed land west of the Appalachians. Some people already owned land there. They expected to sell it to small farmers at a profit. The Proclamation made this impossible.

Settlers who planned to go west were the angriest of all. Many just ignored
the Proclamation. Settlers by the thousands moved west from Virginia and North Carolina. Towns grew up along the Tennessee and Kentucky rivers. No proclamation could stop the westward movement of American colonists.

1. Who was Pontiac?
2. What was the Proclamation of 1763?

2 Britain Makes the Colonists Pay New Taxes.

*How did the colonists respond to new taxes?*

Great Britain had many problems after its victory over France. The French and Indian War was very expensive and left Britain with huge debts. Between 1754 and 1763, Britain’s debt doubled.

**Money problems** The British government had to pay these debts. However, it could not keep raising taxes in Britain. Taxes in Britain were already very high and taxpayers were complaining. After the war was over, they demanded lower taxes.

Many people in Britain wanted the 13 colonies to pay their fair share. They believed that the colonies had not helped enough during the French and Indian War. They argued that the colonies had gained the most from the war. However, each colony sent money and troops only when it was in danger. British soldiers fought to protect all the colonies. But Britain paid most of the costs of the war.

British taxpayers also thought that the colonies should cover their own costs. The colonies had been expensive to govern.
By the mid-1700s, those costs were rising. The British had to organize the land that they had won from the French. Conflicts between settlers and Native Americans continued. More soldiers were needed to defend these territories. They had to be paid. Pontiac’s War was also costly. The British government was spending more and more money on its American colonies.

A hated solution  King George III of Britain wanted to keep tight control over the 13 colonies. In 1763, he named a new leader of the British government. This leader was George Grenville, an expert on money matters.

Grenville disliked the American colonists. He said that they behaved like spoiled children. George III and Grenville believed that the colonists should pay more of their own expenses. They decided to enforce some laws that had long existed.

These laws were the Navigation Acts. The Navigation Acts had been passed in the 1660s to control trade. They required the colonists to sell only to Britain such products as cotton, sugar, indigo, and tobacco.

The acts also limited what products could be made in the colonies. The British government wanted the colonists to buy goods only from Britain. It wanted to strengthen British companies.

The colonies also imported goods from Europe, Africa, and Asia. To import is to bring goods into a country. The Navigation Acts required goods to go through Britain first. Then they could be shipped to the colonies.

For a century, the colonists had ignored the Navigation Acts. Instead, they smuggled goods into the colonies. To smuggle is to bring goods into a country illegally. Smugglers do not pay taxes on their goods. So the British collected very little money.

This made Grenville furious. In 1763, he sent navy warships to catch colonial smugglers. He had two goals. He wanted colonists to pay more taxes. He also wanted to show the colonists that Britain still controlled the 13 colonies.

Grenville also sent customs officers from Britain to colonial ports to collect the new taxes. This upset the colonists. They felt that the British were taking away their rights.

More taxes  Britain’s next step was to pass the Sugar Act of 1764. The Sugar Act did several things. It added
give British soldiers food and housing. Grenville sent 10,000 soldiers from Britain. They were supposed to defend the western frontier. However, most of them stayed in the eastern cities. Many colonists suspected that the soldiers were really sent to control the colonies.

The Stamp Act The British were not satisfied. They wanted the colonists to pay even more taxes. The British announced the Stamp Act of 1765.

The Stamp Act taxed legal and other documents. It listed over 50 items to tax. Each item needed a stamp to show that the tax had been paid. These items included marriage licenses, land deeds, and wills. Even newspapers, playing cards, and dice were taxed. The tax ranged from one cent on newspapers to $10 on college diplomas.

The Stamp Act was a different kind of tax. Before, when Britain had taxed imports, only merchants paid import taxes. Colonists had paid import taxes indirectly by paying higher prices for taxed goods. But the Stamp Act put a direct tax on all colonists. Anyone who bought one of the items listed had to pay the tax.

Colonial outrage The Stamp Act angered many colonists. They said that it went against British legal tradition. In Britain, voters had some control over taxes. Voters elected their own representatives. A representative is an official elected to act and speak for others. Representatives made up the Parliament, the British lawmaking body. It was Parliament that passed the Stamp Act.

The colonists argued that this taxation without representation went against their rights as British citizens. Because they did not elect representatives to Parliament, they had no
say in these new taxes. So the colonists said that Parliament had no right to tax them. They believed that only their colonial assemblies should have the right to tax them directly. Thus, their slogan was “No taxation without representation.”


Many colonists refused to accept the Stamp Act. They decided to meet to discuss what to do. They felt that the colonies had to unite against the act. Each colony was asked to send representatives to a meeting. Nine colonies sent representatives. The meeting was called the **Stamp Act Congress.**

The Stamp Act Congress sent letters to King George III and Parliament. In the letters the colonists demanded that both the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act be repealed. The colonists also argued that Parliament had no right to tax the colonies.

The colonists also **boycotted** British goods. To boycott is to refuse to buy, sell, or use goods from a particular person, business, or country in the hope of forcing change. Colonial merchants promised not to deal with British goods. Colonists did not buy taxed goods. Trade with Britain slowed. British businesses began to suffer.

**Sons of Liberty** A new group of colonists formed to protest the Stamp Act. The group was called the **Sons of Liberty.**

British tax collectors faced the anger of the colonists. Sometimes, they were beaten and “drummed out” of a town. Hands and feet bound, this tax collector will be carried out of town and dumped on a road.
The Sons of Liberty were very strong in Massachusetts. Samuel Adams was a leader of the Sons of Liberty in Boston. He was a member of the Massachusetts assembly. Although Adams had been a tax collector, he often helped poorer people by not making them pay their taxes. In 1765, Adams asked these people to help the Sons of Liberty. Many rushed to join.

The Sons of Liberty used newspaper advertisements and articles to protest the Stamp Act. They organized marches and demonstrations. They burned piles of stamps in town squares.

Marchers sometimes turned into mobs. There were a number of riots. Angry crowds smashed the offices of stamp tax collectors. The property of some people who cooperated with the British was destroyed. Mobs attacked the houses of government officials. The house of the governor of Massachusetts was burned.

The Sons of Liberty also threatened British stamp officials. Angry colonists threw stones at British tax collectors. Mobs poured hot tar over some officials and covered them with feathers. This was painful and embarrassing.

A victory for the colonies The British could not enforce the Stamp Act. Most colonists refused to use the stamps. Newspapers and other products were bought and sold without the stamps.

In March 1766, the British Parliament repealed, or canceled, the Stamp Act. Colonists celebrated. However, Parliament said that it had the right to pass laws to govern the colonies. This would soon mean more trouble.

1. What was the Stamp Act?
2. Who were the Sons of Liberty?
How did colonists protest new British taxes?

Dressed as Native Americans, Boston colonists boarded British ships in 1773 and destroyed valuable tea. This “Boston Tea Party” angered the king.

Looking at Key Terms
- Townshend Acts
- Daughters of Liberty
- Committee of Correspondence
- Intolerable Acts
- Boston Tea Party

Looking at Key Words
- duty: a tax put on goods for sale
- massacre: the cruel killing of a great number of people
- intolerable: too terrible to bear
- declaration: an official announcement
- militia: a group of citizens who act as soldiers in an emergency
The people of Boston were furious. In June 1768, the British seized a ship called the Liberty. Customs officials said it was used for smuggling. The officials worried that colonists would take the ship back by force. So it was towed out of Boston harbor and anchored next to a British warship. There the Liberty was safe. But the officials were not. Mobs attacked them, and their homes were damaged. The frightened officials fled Boston. It was clear that the colonists were serious about their dispute with Britain.

1 The Colonists Protest New Taxes.

How did the colonists object to the Townshend Acts?

The repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766 was a victory for the colonists. But the victory did not last long. The British Parliament found another way to tax colonists.

New taxes In 1767, Parliament passed a new set of taxes and rules called the Townshend Acts. These acts put taxes, called duties, on several products imported from Britain. Goods such as cloth, paint, glass, and paper were taxed. The British also placed a tax on tea.

British officials were sent to Boston to collect all import taxes in the colonies. Boston was a center of smuggling. People in Boston strongly opposed new British taxes.

The Townshend Acts gave the new tax collectors a great deal of power. The tax collectors could search the homes and businesses of colonists for smuggled goods. These searches could take place without any warning. The tax collectors did not even have to go to a judge for permission.

A storm of protest The colonists protested the Townshend Acts. New England newspapers attacked the acts, saying that the acts violated the law.

By 1768, tempers in the colonies were hot. The Massachusetts assembly called on King George to repeal the Townshend Acts. It also asked other colonial assemblies to join the protest.

Virginia's assembly was the first to follow Massachusetts. The assemblies of

Reading a Chart. Which act placed a tax on legal papers in the colonies? Why did these taxes come after the end of the French and Indian War?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Act</td>
<td>1764</td>
<td>taxed sugar and molasses coming from the West Indies to the colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartering Act</td>
<td>1765</td>
<td>forced colonists to provide food and housing for British troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamp Act</td>
<td>1765</td>
<td>taxed newspapers, almanacs, playing cards, and all legal papers in the colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townshend Act</td>
<td>1767</td>
<td>taxed manufactured goods shipped to the colonies, such as paper, glass, and paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea Act</td>
<td>1773</td>
<td>allowed British East India Company to sell tea directly to colonies: made imported tea cheaper, hurting colonial merchants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meanwhile, demonstrations were taking place in the streets. Like several other cities and towns, Boston had a tree called the “Liberty Tree.” In March 1768, the Sons of Liberty met at the Liberty Tree. Suddenly, it looked as if two British officials were hanging from the tree. A crowd gathered, and some people cheered. In fact, what looked like British officials were only dummies. This fake hanging did not hurt anyone. But it showed how angry the colonists were.

**Boycott!** Another form of protest did hurt the British. The colonists boycotted British goods. The boycott started in Boston. It quickly spread to the other large colonial ports.

Boycotting was not easy. Colonists wanted British goods, especially cloth and tea. The **Daughters of Liberty** came to the rescue. These colonial women opposed the Townshend Acts. They convinced people not to buy British goods.

The Daughters of Liberty spoke out against drinking tea. They suggested coffee. Some women made their own tea from local herbs. However, many colonists enjoyed imported tea too much to give it up. Instead, they smuggled in Dutch tea.

The Daughters of Liberty also refused to buy British cloth. They asked women to make their own cloth. Cloth made at home was called homespun. The Daughters of Liberty wore only homespun cloth and held cloth-making contests.

As opposition to the British rose, colonial women decided not to buy British cloth. Colonial women began to make their own cloth. Soon many colonists proudly wore clothing that had been spun at home.
Soon, many colonists proudly wore homespun cloth. In fact, the boycott actually helped poorer colonial women and their families. They earned money making cloth. This money no longer went to the British. The Daughters of Liberty made the boycott of British cloth successful.

The boycott badly hurt British merchants. Colonists hoped that it would make the British government repeal the Townshend Acts. But it would take a tragedy to make the British change their minds.

1. What were the Townshend Acts?
2. Who were the Daughters of Liberty?

2. The Boston Massacre Worsens Feelings Between the Colonists and the British.

How did the Boston Massacre make the situation in the colonies worse?

In 1768, when colonists protested the Townshend Acts, Britain sent more soldiers to Boston. The soldiers often did not get along with the citizens of Boston. The colonists felt that the soldiers were interfering in their lives. Sometimes, they insulted soldiers they met on the streets or in stores.

Bad feelings The British soldiers knew they were disliked. They, in turn, were rude to the citizens of Boston. The soldiers often played or sang a song called “Yankee Doodle.” The people of New England thought the song was dis-
On a March evening in 1770, Crispus Attucks and four other colonists were shot by British troops. Anti-British feelings grew strong when people in other colonies found out about this “Boston Massacre.”

Respectful. Tension built up between the colonists and the soldiers.

On the night of March 5, 1770, the mood in Boston was ugly. A crowd gathered outside the customs house. Colonists surrounded the ten British soldiers who were guarding the customs house. One of the leaders of the crowd was Crispus Attucks, an African American sailor. He was a member of the Sons of Liberty. He and the other colonists began to insult the soldiers.

People in the crowd yelled at the British soldiers. They also threw mud, snowballs, oyster shells, and rocks. The crowd grew larger and angrier. Crispus Attucks shouted that the soldiers would not dare shoot.

Suddenly, a fight broke out. Attucks grabbed a gun from one of the soldiers. He cried out for the crowd to attack. The crowd surged forward, and the British soldiers were frightened. The officer in charge tried to keep the soldiers calm. But one of the nervous soldiers shouted “Fire!” First one and then the other soldiers fired into the crowd.

When the smoke cleared, Crispus Attucks and four other colonists lay dead. Most of those killed had not attacked the soldiers. They were only standing nearby watching.

The people of Boston were outraged. Blood had been spilled in their streets. They called the event the Boston Massacre. A massacre is the cruel killing of a great number of people. News of the Boston Massacre spread quickly through the colonies.

Crispus Attucks and the other colonists killed were heroes to the Americans. They were the first to die for freedom from British rule. Anti-British feelings grew as the news spread.

A murder trial Angry citizens in Boston wanted the soldiers arrested and put on trial. Others talked about attacking all British soldiers in the city. Many demanded that British troops leave Boston. The British official in charge in Boston wanted to avoid further violence. He removed British soldiers from the city. He also agreed to
put the soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre on trial.

The soldiers had a surprising defender. John Adams was well known in Boston. He strongly supported the rights of the colonists against the British. However, Adams thought that everyone deserved a fair trial. He also wanted to show that the Americans believed in justice for all, including British soldiers. So Adams served as the soldiers’ defense lawyer. Through his arguments, most of the soldiers were found innocent.

Repeal of the Townshend Acts
The Boston Massacre had one positive result. The boycott against British goods had hurt the British. Now, this violence convinced the British government to repeal some taxes. In April 1770, most of the Townshend duties were repealed. But the duty on tea was not. The tea tax continued to be a sore spot between the British and the colonists.

One strong supporter of independence was Mercy Otis Warren.

Warren was a writer who criticized the British. Her poems and plays made fun of British officials. Warren also mocked colonists who were still loyal to the British. Her work was widely read in the colonies. Warren also held political meetings in her home. There, Samuel Adams and John Adams discussed plans to resist the British. Warren was unusual. Women were not expected to take part in politics at that time.

In 1773, Warren helped set up the Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence. Its job was to make sure that news from Massachusetts reached the other colonies. Soon every colony set up a committee of correspondence. These committees helped unite the colonists against the British.

Crisis over tea Trouble broke out in 1773. The British Parliament passed the Tea Act. The act let the British East India Company decide which colonial merchants could sell their tea. Colonists did not want anyone telling them whom they could do business with. They soon let the British know how they felt.

Boston Tea Party On December 16, 1773, three tea ships from India were docked in Boston harbor. Thousands of colonists protested. They demanded that the ships leave without unloading. The British governor ordered the ships to stay. When word of this order reached the crowd, there was an uproar.

Dressed as Native Americans, a band of colonists stormed onto the ships. They worked quickly, smashing chests of tea and tossing them overboard. Soon, more than 340 chests of valuable tea floated in Boston harbor. The events of that night became known as the Boston Tea Party.
Angry colonists also kept East India Company tea from being unloaded in New York and Philadelphia. However, after the Boston Tea Party, King George III and the British government felt that the colonists had to be punished.

**Harsh punishment**  In 1774, Parliament passed a series of acts to punish the colonists. One act closed the port of Boston. No ship could enter and no ship could leave. Another took away most of Massachusetts’s right of self-government. A third act made much of the land west of the Appalachians part of Canada.

The colonists had never been angrier. Many who had supported the British now turned against them. They called these acts the **Intolerable Acts.** 

**Intolerable** means something that is too terrible to bear. The colonists decided to work together to defend themselves.

**A call for united action**  The colonies sent representatives to a meeting called the First Continental Congress. The Congress met in Philadelphia in September 1774. Every colony except Georgia was present.

Samuel Adams was there. So was Patrick Henry, a lawyer from Virginia. Another Virginian at the Congress was George Washington.

The First Continental Congress called for a boycott of all British goods. But the Congress went much further than a boycott. It passed a **declaration,** or official announcement, saying that the colonists had the right to govern themselves. The declaration also said that many of the laws that Parliament had passed since 1763 were illegal.

The First Continental Congress knew that its struggle with Britain was just beginning. It told each colony to set up a **militia.** A **militia** is a group of citizens who act as soldiers in an emergency. It also called for another meeting if the British did not end the Intolerable Acts. Britain and its 13 American colonies were about to split.

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1. **What were the Committees of Correspondence?**
2. **What were the Intolerable Acts?**

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**KEY IDEAS**

- The Townshend Acts drove the British and the colonists farther apart.
- Tensions finally led to violence and death in the Boston Massacre.
- The Tea Act angered the colonists. In protest, they staged the Boston Tea Party.
- Britain punished the colonists with the Intolerable Acts.
- The Intolerable Acts caused the colonists to unite in the First Continental Congress. It declared the colonists had important rights. The Continental Congress also started a boycott of all British goods.