

SUGAR (MOLASSES) ACT

- The British government passed the Sugar Act in 1764. The Sugar Act put a **duty** (tax on imported goods – goods being brought into the colonies) on several products, including molasses, coffee, and wine. It hurt the colonists economy because they traded with the French and the Dutch. It also called for the harsh punishment of **smugglers** (people sneaking these products into the colonies illegally).
- Colonial merchants, who sometimes traded in smuggled goods, protested. In general, the colonists were angry because the Sugar Act was passed without speaking to colonist's government and increased the price of sugar/molasses. This was one of the first instances in which colonists wanted a say in how much they were taxed.

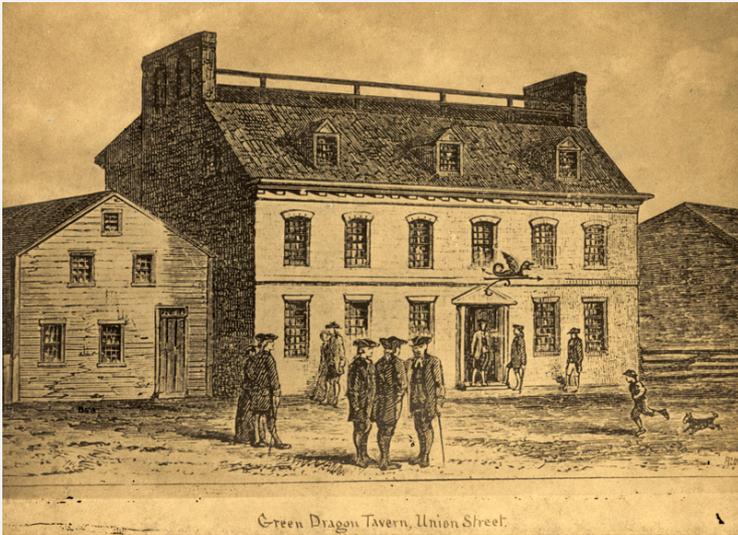


QUARTERING ACT

One year after the Sugar Act was passed, the British government passed the Quartering Act in 1765.

The purpose of the Quartering Act was to save money. To enforce the Proclamation of 1763, Britain kept about 10,000 soldiers in the colonies. The act required the leaders of the colonies to create barracks (camps) and give supplies for the British troops. The colonists were to pay for the cost of housing the troops, some even had to keep the troops in their homes if the other areas were full.

Later, taverns (modern day meeting place/bar) and inns were required to house the troops. Colonial governments responded by refusing to use money to support the troops. One colony that ignored the act was New York! The colonists protested angrily. Once again, the colonists complained that the British government was violating their rights.



STAMP ACT

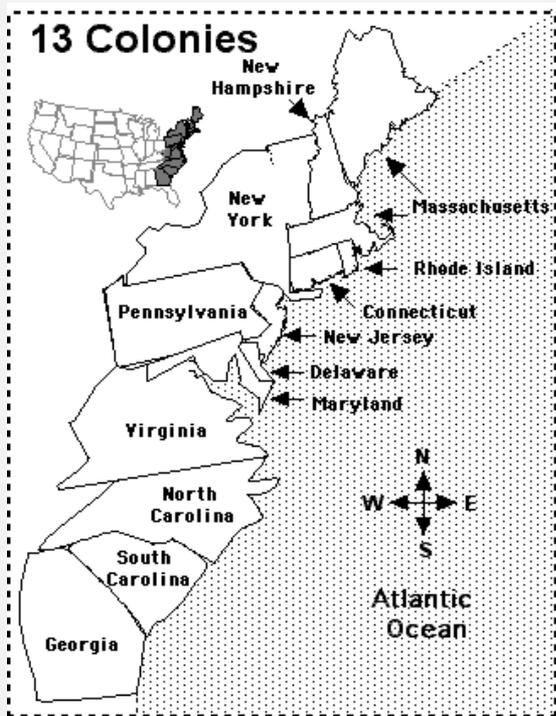
- The Stamp Act was also passed in 1765. The Stamp Act required that all colonists buy special tax stamps for all kinds printed materials (anything to do with paper!). The stamps had to be placed on newspapers, wills, licenses, insurance policies, land titles, contracts, and other documents. Protests against the Stamp Act were widespread. The colonists began **boycotting (refusing to buy)** certain products. The purpose of this act was the pay to keep the British soldiers in the colonies for defense.
- Most of the colonies united to help fight the French during the French and Indian War and this is another time they join together. They sent a **petition (a written request to a government)** to the British government demanding the end of the Sugar Act and Stamp Act. The protests actually worked! In 1766, the British government **repealed (took away)** the Stamp Act. However, at the same time it passed the **Declaratory Act**, which said the British government had total authority over the colonies.



Examples of some of the British stamps



Colonists rioting and protesting the Stamp Act



TOWNSHEND ACTS

The British wanted to find a way to tax the colonists without angering them. As a result, they passed the Townshend Acts of 1767. The Townshend Acts stated that Great Britain would no longer tax products or activities inside the colonies. It would only tax products that were being brought into the colonies (imported finished goods). New taxes were put on imports of paper, paint, lead, glass, and tea.

The Townshend Acts set up a system to enforce the new tax. To help officers find smuggled (enters illegally) goods, they were allowed to use writs of assistance – court orders that allowed officials to make searches without saying for what they were searching. Many colonists saw these writs and the searches as another violation of their rights.