

## Intro to the Declaration of Independence

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LIBERTY FIRST  
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# INTRO TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

## Introduction

Our founding documents not simply written in 1776, but were a result of a heritage spanning over \_\_\_\_\_ years.

This heritage includes 5 Liberty Charters

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The Boston Tea party not simply about excessive \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember the “pernicious design” described in the Grand \_\_\_\_\_ of 1641:

The slide features a red title box at the top with the text "Grand Remonstrance 1641". Below the title, on a teal background, is a list of six grievances, each preceded by a blue arrowhead. To the right of the list is a historical painting depicting a large assembly of men in 17th-century attire, likely the House of Commons during the English Civil War.

- ▶ Corruption of the Courts
- ▶ Infiltration of Foreign Law
- ▶ Diminishing Property Rights of the People
- ▶ Control of the Church
- ▶ Fiat Money Controlling Monetary System
- ▶ Disarming the People While

**History repeats itself. And ignorance of history leads to the same pitfalls.**



Sam Adams said in his *Treatise the Natural Rights of the Colonists*: “No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and virtue is preserved. On the Contrary, when People are universally

\_\_\_\_\_, and debauched in their \_\_\_\_\_, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders.”

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First, Taxation without \_\_\_\_\_. The colonists were being denied their right of representation in Parliament.

Parliament assured the colonist that individuals in Parliament had \_\_\_\_\_ to represent them.

When people who make the \_\_\_\_\_ don't live under or aren't bound by the laws they make, then they can't be said to truly \_\_\_\_\_ you.

To recoup the debt of the French and Indian Wars, the Crown tried to recoup the war debt through certain taxes.



Stamp taxes on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were particularly offensive to the colonists.

The Crown also \_\_\_\_\_ the purchase of certain items from certain suppliers.

To check for stamped papers and contraband items, agents were using hand-written warrants called \_\_\_\_\_.

These Writs of Assistance were essentially \_\_\_\_\_ searches, that provided no due process as directed in the Magna Carta.



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## Meet James Otis Jr.

These warrantless searches often resulted in violators being shipped to \_\_\_\_\_ to be tried under foreign law.

Some of the abuses beside excessive taxation that prompted the Declaration in 1776 were:



Not About Taxes...Not about Tea

- Legislation Without Representation
- Mandated Purchases
- Warrantless Searches
- Denial of Due Process
- Foreign Courts & Foreign Law

James Otis Jr. was an \_\_\_\_\_ by trade.

He was supposed to enforce the Writs of \_\_\_\_\_.

Yet he knew that these warrantless searches were a violation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of 1215, and the principles of English Law and the rights guaranteed to Englishmen.



**James Otis Jr. decided to stand up for what is right even if he had to stand alone.**



**James Otis Jr. was attacked and ridiculed by many around him.**

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James Otis, Jr.

"I can sincerely declare that I cheerfully submit myself to every odious name for conscience' sake; and from my soul I despise all those whose guilt, malice, or folly has made them my foes. Let the consequences be what they will, I am determined to proceed."



In February 1761, a full 15 years before the Declaration. Several men seek out James Otis Jr. to fight against the Writs of Assistance.

Notes:



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## James Otis Jr. Leads the Way

The moment James Otis Jr. took the case and quit his post, he was charged with \_\_\_\_\_.

He risked his reputation, his life and livelihood without knowing that he would make any difference in the struggle.

With boldness and courage, he declares, "Let the \_\_\_\_\_ be as they may, I am determined to \_\_\_\_\_."

James Otis, Jr. declares these Writs of Assistance to be,

"the worse instrument of \_\_\_\_\_ power, the most destructive of English \_\_\_\_\_ and the fundamental principles of law, that ever was found in an English law-book."



James Otis Jr. argues against the Writs of Assistance for 5 hours in the Boston State House.

The court made no decision but took the matter under consideration.

The court was packed and in the crowd were future framers including \_\_\_\_\_,

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John Adams who took notes that day described James Otis Jr. years later:

*“Otis was a flame of Fire! With the promptitude of Clasical Allusions, a depth of Research, a rapid Summary of Historical Events and dates, a profusion of legal Authorities, a prophetic glare of his eyes into futurity, and a rapid Torrent of impetuous Eloquence, he hurried away all before him; American Independence was then and there born. The seeds of Patriots and Heroes to defend the non sine Diis animosus infans, to defend the vigorous Youth, were then and there sown. Every man of an immense crowded Audience appeared to me to go away, as I did, ready to take up Arms against Writs of Assistants. Then and there was the first scene of the first Act of Opposition to the arbitrary Claims of Great Britain. Then and there the child Independence was born. In fifteen years, i.e. in 1776, he grew up to manhood, and declared himself free.”*

The arguments and ideas Otis presented continued to be circulated in pamphlets years after and continued to raise awareness to the violations of the people’s liberty.



The first Committees of \_\_\_\_\_ in Boston were formed 3 years later in Boston, to disseminate truth and prevent the government from “\_\_\_\_\_ the judgment of men.”



## The Coercive Acts

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Several Laws were known as the Coercive Acts because they attended to force compliance among the American colonists.

The Crown described the colonists as radicals and selfish. The media attacked many of the framers and while the alternative media of pamphleteers promoted the principles of liberty.



The colonists and The Sons of Liberty carried out protests against the oppressive acts such as the stamp taxes, by conducting mock hangings and funerals.

As a result of the mock hangings the tax collectors refused to do their jobs.

The Crown sent \_\_\_\_\_ to intimidate the colonists and quell unrest.

To house and provide for the troops the Crown and Parliament passed \_\_\_\_\_ Act.

March 22, 1765 Parliament passed \_\_\_\_\_ Act.

The Stamp Act dictated that certain goods must have the tax stamp. The Sons of Liberty made their own stamp with had the picture of a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to further intimidate the tax collectors.

The resistance to the stamp act was so fierce that the King repealed the Stamp Act and the people celebrated, but the \_\_\_\_\_ Act said the crown could pass any law it needed.

## Declaratory Act~ March 18, 1766


...Parliament assembled, had, hath, and of right ought to have, full power and authority to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to bind the colonies and people of *America, subjects of the crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatsoever.*

And be it further declared and enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all resolutions, votes, orders, and proceedings, in any of the said colonies or plantations, whereby the power and authority of the Parliament of *Great Britain* to make laws and statutes as aforesaid is denied, or drawn into question, are, and are hereby **declared to be, utterly null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.**

As a result of the protests and unrest in Boston, the Boston Port Act essentially blockaded the Boston Harbor.



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*An act to discontinue, in such manner, and for such time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of goods, wares, and merchandise, at the town, and within the harbour, of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America.*

**Boston Port Act**

Became Law: March 31, 1774  
Enforced: June 1, 1774

The East \_\_\_\_\_ Trading Company was targeted because it was the government mandated tea company.

After the Boston Tea Party the Company was reimbursed by the John Hancock and the colonists for their losses.

The Crown and Parliament continued to squeeze the colonist by passing the Intolerable Acts.




The statue of \_\_\_\_\_ in New York didn't last long after the colonists realized that things were getting worse.

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## Governor Gage, Penelope Barker & Lists of Grievances

General Thomas Gage  
Gov. Massachusetts

In May of 1774 General Thomas Gage was appointed military Royal Governor over Massachusetts. Gage would become very aggressive in the efforts to control the colonist and subdue their "seditious" behavior. He was going to enforce the "Coercive Acts" upon the colonists whether they liked it or not.



General Gage was told by the Crown to \_\_\_\_\_ the colonists. He decided instead to confiscate ammunition and powder.

The Crown restricted importation of arms except by obtaining a \_\_\_\_\_.

Governor Gage restricted public meetings by requiring a \_\_\_\_\_ for public meetings contrary to their rights as Englishmen.

A Tea Party of colonial women was gathered by a lady named \_\_\_\_\_ at the home of Elizabeth King in Edenton, North Carolina.

These ladies signed a petition of boycott saying, "We will purchase no English-made goods until the laws that have \_\_\_\_\_ our people shall be repealed."



"Maybe it has only been men who have protested the king up to now. That only means we women have taken too long to let our voices be heard. We are signing our names to a document, not hiding ourselves behind costumes like the men in Boston did at their tea party. The British will know who we are."

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Many of the ladies who boycotted English-made goods risked life and livelihood, because they were tied to men who made their living as English \_\_\_\_\_.

Troops march into Charleston, South Carolina to seize the \_\_\_\_\_.



20, 000 armed colonists march into Boston in response to Gage's provocations.

Paul Revere was \_\_\_\_\_ 3 times during his ride and was helped by others to escape.

As Revere announced that the regulars were coming he was met with calls from the sentinel to keep \_\_\_\_\_!

July 1776, the Declaration was issued as a list of \_\_\_\_\_ against George III.

The declaration demonstrated how the King had violated the principles of the 1100 Charter of Liberties and the provisions of the Magna Carta of 1215, The 1628 Petition of Right, The Grand Remonstrance of 1641 and the 1688 English Bill of Rights.

Those violations included Legislation without \_\_\_\_\_, mandated \_\_\_\_\_, warrantless searches, denial of \_\_\_\_\_, imposition of foreign courts, and disarming the people, and suppression of free speech.

### NOTES: