



AMERICAN HISTORY

JOHN DICKINSON



Name: _____

Date: _____

Multiple Choice

1. What were the Townsend Acts of 1767 designed to do?
 - a) Regulate trade within the colonies
 - b) Raise revenue from taxes on items such as tea and paper
 - c) Provide funding for the colonial militias
 - d) Allow colonists to elect representatives to Parliament
2. Who was known as the "Penman of the Revolution"?
 - a) Samuel Adams
 - b) John Dickinson
 - c) Benjamin Franklin
 - d) Patrick Henry
3. What was the primary purpose of John Dickinson's "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania"?
 - a) To advocate for violent rebellion against Britain
 - b) To explain why taxation without representation was unconstitutional
 - c) To call for immediate independence from Great Britain
 - d) To support the Declaratory Act
4. Which action did John Dickinson strongly advocate in response to British taxation policies?
 - a) Direct rebellion and revolt
 - b) Formation of a colonial army
 - c) Peaceful resistance through boycotts and petitions
 - d) Seeking alliances with France and Spain
5. What was the significance of Dickinson's distinction between taxes for trade regulation and taxes for revenue generation?
 - a) It argued that all taxes were unconstitutional
 - b) It suggested that only revenue taxes were a violation of colonial rights
 - c) It stated that all British taxation policies were acceptable
 - d) It supported the authority of Parliament over the colonies



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6. How did the colonists protest the Stamp Act and other similar acts?
 - a) By declaring war on Britain
 - b) By organizing non-importation agreements and living simply
 - c) By inviting Parliament members to visit the colonies
 - d) By writing directly to King George III

7. Why did Dickinson warn about the "danger of precedent"?
 - a) It could lead to colonies becoming more dependent on British goods
 - b) It could result in the permanent loss of colonial self-governance
 - c) It could encourage colonies to rebel prematurely
 - d) It might cause economic instability in Britain

8. What did Dickinson mean by "We are taxed without our consent. We are therefore slaves"?
 - a) Colonists had no choice but to accept British rule
 - b) Taxation without representation violated the fundamental right to liberty
 - c) Colonists should reject all forms of taxation
 - d) Slavery in the colonies was a growing concern

9. What role did unity among the colonies play in Dickinson's writings?
 - a) He believed it was irrelevant to their success
 - b) He saw unity as essential for effective resistance against British policies
 - c) He thought unity could only be achieved through military alliances
 - d) He downplayed the importance of unity in favor of individual action

10. What economic argument did Dickinson present against the Townsend Acts?
 - a) They were beneficial only to the colonies
 - b) They were necessary to fund British infrastructure
 - c) They undermined colonial commerce and independence
 - d) They helped create economic equality between Britain and the colonies



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1. Why do you think John Dickinson preferred peaceful resistance, like boycotts and petitions, instead of directly calling for rebellion against Great Britain? Do you think this was an effective approach? Why or why not?
2. The colonists had to give up certain goods, like tea and luxury items, as part of their resistance to British taxes. What would you be willing to give up for a cause you believe in, and how would that make a difference?
3. John Dickinson warned about the “danger of precedent,” meaning that allowing one unfair law could lead to even worse ones. Can you think of a situation in your life or in history where standing up early might have stopped something worse from happening?
4. Unity among the colonies was essential for their resistance to British policies. Why do you think it’s so hard for groups of people to work together for a common goal? How can they overcome those challenges?
5. Dickinson said, "We are taxed without our consent. We are therefore slaves." Why did he compare taxation without representation to slavery? Do you think that’s a fair comparison? Why or why not?





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Answer Key:

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. c
5. b
6. b
7. b
8. b
9. b
10. c

