

## *Transcript: Part Two, Episode One-Trouble With England*

He's Matthew, He's Mike. Welcome back to Keep Liberty Alive. So, the colonies were expanding. Being so far from England, it was difficult for the English government to control what was going on with the colonists. Many colonists thought that they should be self-governing. England passed a bunch of laws regarding the colonies, and the colonies sought to evade those laws. This, of course, led to conflict. Welcome to Part Two, Episode One-Trouble with England.

The colonies were producing many goods, with the help of slave labor, of course. According to English law, those goods could only be transported on English ships and could only be shipped to England, regardless of where they were going. Which means if you wanted to ship something to Spain, you first had to go through England, which was more costly and time consuming. So the colonists were shipping it direct anyway and the English passed more laws to stop it. They passed the Wool Act of 1699 to keep colonies from shipping wool to other colonies. They passed the Hat Act of 1732 to keep the colonies from exporting hats and to keep a limited number of apprentices. They passed the Iron Act of 1750, which kept them from building mills, forges, and iron plants. The British kept the colonists from issuing paper currency in New England in 1751 and the rest of the colonies in 1764. All of these acts were basically unenforced because there was no one to enforce them. So the colonies were, for the most part, insubordinate. This all changed in 1763 when the British decided to house British troops in North America. They also started an Anglican Church in New England to exert more authority over the churches in the colonies, which was something the colonists were wary of. The British troops sent to the colonies were originally intended to be supported by the colonies, therefore taking the financial burden off of England. Which meant that the colonies were paying to support the troops that were enforcing these laws against them. The British also sent many more troops than were necessary to DEFEND the colonies. All of this, understandably, was resented by the colonists. In 1763, England sent the British Navy to enforce the trading laws and to collect customs taxes that before were not being collected. This put a serious dent in trade. In 1764, Parliament passed more taxes on the colonies to pay for British troops. The colonists began to start protesting those taxes. One of these taxes, the Sugar Act of 1764, placed a duty on molasses and also created a Naval Court to prosecute those that violated the trade rules or didn't pay the taxes. In 1765, the Stamp Act came along. The Sugar Tax wasn't bringing in enough revenue so more was required. They taxed legal documents, newspapers, and licenses. Next was the Quartering Act of 1765, which required colonists to house British troops, often in their own homes, and supply all their needs. The British were asserting more authority in the colonies and didn't expect much resistance. However, the colonists felt that they were having taxes levied upon them without having a voice in Parliament to fight them. Which, of course, led to the famous phrase, "Taxation without Representation." The colonists were not happy with these taxes, which they felt were too much and unconstitutional. They destroyed many of the stamps that were intended to be used, they stopped buying British goods, many stopped paying their British creditors, and they openly defied English authority. When new men came into authority in Parliament, they sided with the Americans and repealed the Stamp Act. However, they stated that the colonists should have followed English law and therefore passed the Declaratory Act in March 1766, which stated that the authority of Parliament would be the same in the colonies as it was in Britain. Although the colonists were not entirely satisfied with the repeal of the Stamp Act, they generally reaccepted British authority, for the time being.

But once again leadership changed in Parliament, and once again, along came more taxes. Tea, glass, lead and paper. They also set up the American Board of Customs Commissioners in Boston, November 1767. They passed the Suspending Act in May 1767, which kept the New York legislature from doing any business until it complied with the Quartering Act. Three more naval courts were created in Boston, Philadelphia, and Charleston in 1768. They also limited American expansion that same year. The colonists once again became unhappy. The British enforced all of these duties, even for minor violations, which in many cases, led to ships and cargo being seized, and that put a big crimp in the American economy. The colonists became even more unhappy with British rule. This led to some minor physical violence, which in turn led to more English troops and tighter control. In 1770, new leadership in Parliament decided to remove the troops from Boston and most of the new taxes, except for the one on tea. The very day that these repeals were submitted, March 5, 1770, tension between British troops and Bostonians led to what would be called the Boston Massacre. Boston civilians were throwing stones and ice at British troops and the troops responded by killing five Bostonians. This obviously created even more tension between England and the Colonies. The British troops were charged and tried for murder but had a hard time finding a lawyer to defend them. (As there were not many fans of the British) Eventually they were defended by John Adams, who, although he was not a fan of the British, believed that they should be given fair trial, especially when the penalty for murder was execution. He did his job and all of the British soldiers were found not guilty of murder, however two of them were found guilty of manslaughter, which led to them being branded on the thumbs as first offenders.

All of these things greatly soured relations between the British and the American Colonists. The Colonists were already upset with what they viewed as too much and unfair taxation. This and other skirmishes with England had some talking of independence.

