

MINI DBQ - MOVING TOWARDS REVOLUTION

Directions: Analyze each document and compose a fully-developed short answer to each question.

DOCUMENT A: Letters of Joseph Warren to Arthur Lee

Joseph Warren, a Boston physician, was a prominent radical and Samuel Adam's right hand man. He was killed at Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War. Arthur Lee of Virginia was practicing law in Virginia and acting as joint agent, with Benjamin Franklin, of the Massachusetts Assembly.

Boston, February 20, 1775

Dear Sir,

... It is time for Britain to take some serious steps towards a reconciliation with her colonies. The people here are weary of watching the measures of those who are endeavouring to enslave them: they say they have been spending their time for ten years in counteracting the plans of their adversaries. They, many of them, begin to think that the difference between [them] will never be amicably settled; but that they shall always be subject to new affronts from the caprice of every British minister. They even sometimes speak of an open rupture with Great Britain, as a state preferable to the present uncertain condition of affairs. And although it is true that the people have yet a very warm affection for the British nation; yet it sensibly decays. They are loyal subject to the King but they conceive that they do not swerve from their allegiance by opposing any measures taken by any man or set of men to deprive them of their liberties. ...

It is not yet too late to accommodate the dispute amicably. But I am of opinion that, if once General Gage should lead his troops into the country, with design to enforce the late Acts of Parliament, Great Britain may take her leave, of at least of the New England colonies, and if I mistake not, of all America. ...

Boston, April 3, 1775

Dear Sir,

... If America is a humble instrument of the salvation of Britain, it will give us the sincerest joy; but if Britain must lose her liberty, she must lose it alone. America must and will be free. The contest may be severe; the end will be glorious. We would not boast, but we think, united and prepared as we are, we have no reason to doubt of success, if we should be compelled to the last appeal; but we mean not to make that appeal until we can be justified in doing it in the sight of God and man. Happy shall we be if the mother country will allow us the free enjoyment of our rights, and indulge us in the pleasing enjoyment of aggrandizing her.

QUESTION- According to the first letter, who is responsible for taking actions to repair the relationship between England and her colonies?

QUESTION- According to the first letter, how do the colonists view themselves in relation to England? What action could change that?

QUESTION- How has the author's opinion of the relationship between England and her colonies changed from the first letter to the second letter?

DOCUMENT B: Massachusetts Government Act

This is one of a series of laws passed as Parliament's response to the Boston Tea Party.

20 May 1774

An Act for the better regulating the Government of the Provinces of the Massachusetts Bay in New England.

[Whereas, the method of electing the Councillors of this Province... hath, for some time been past such as had the most manifest tendency to obstruct and in great measure defeat the execution of the laws; to weaken the attachment of His Majesty's well-disposed subjects in the said Province to His Majesty's government, and to encourage the ill-disposed among them to proceed even to act of direct resistance to and defiance of His Majesty's authority.

...Be it therefore enacted [that so much of the said Charter] is hereby revoked...

The Council, or Court of Assistance of the said Province for the time being, shall be... nominated and appointed by His Majesty.

QUESTION- What did this law do to the colonial government of Massachusetts?

DOCUMENT C: Quebec Act

22 June 1774

...be it enacted... That all the territories, islands and countries in North America belonging to the Crown of Great Britain, bounded... rivers that empty themselves into the St. Lawrence River... through Lake Champlain, ... Lake Ontario and the river commonly called Niagara; and thence along by the eastern and south-eastern bank of Lake Erie, ... the western boundary strike the Ohio; ... and along the bank of the said river, westward to the banks of the Mississippi... and hereby, during His Majesty's pleasure, annexed to and made part and parcel of the Province of Quebec...

And... it is hereby declared, that His Majesty's subjects professing the religion of the Church of Rome of and in the said Province of Quebec, may have, hold and enjoy the free exercise of the religion of the Church of Rome, subject to the King's Supremacy... and that the clergy of the said Church may hold, receive and enjoy their accustomed dues and rights with respect to such persons only as shall profess the said religion.

QUESTION- How did the Quebec Act change the political makeup of the English colonies?

QUESTION- What did the Quebec Act grant on the issue of religion?

DOCUMENT D: Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress

14 October 1774

Whereas, since the close of the last war, the British Parliament, claiming a power, of right, to bind the people of America by statutes in all cases whatsoever, hath, in some acts, expressly imposed taxes on them, and in others, under various pretences, but in fact for the purpose of raising a revenue, hath imposed rates and duties payable in these colonies, established a board of commissioners with unconstitutional powers... not only for collecting the said duties, but for the trial of causes merely arising within the body of a country. ...

And whereas, in consequence of other statutes, ... standing armies kept in times of peace. ... colonists may be transported to England, and tried there upon accusations for treason and misprisions, or concealments of treasons committed in the colonies; ...

And whereas, in the last session of Parliament ... [the Boston Port Act, Massachusetts Government Act, the Administration of Justice Act and the Quebec Act were all passed] ... All which statutes are impolitic, unjust and cruel, as well as unconstitutional, and most dangerous and destructive of American rights.

And whereas, Assemblies have been frequently dissolved contrary to the rights of the people, when they attempted to deliberate on grievances; and their dutiful, humble, loyal and reasonable petitions to the Crown for redress, have been repeatedly treated with contempt by His Majesty's ministers...

DOCUMENT E: Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress (continued)

The good people of the several colonies of [NH, Mass-Bay, RI, Conn, NY, NJ, Pa, Del, Md, Va, NC and SC] justly alarmed at these arbitrary proceedings of Parliament and administration have severally elected, constituted and appointed deputies to meet, and sit in general Congress, in the city of Philadelphia, in order to obtain such establishment, as that their religion, laws and liberties may not be subverted. ... That the inhabitants of the English Colonies in North America, by the immutable laws of nature, the principles of the English Constitution, and the several charters or compacts, have the following rights;

- I. That they are entitled to life, liberty and property and they have never ceded to any sovereign power whatever, a right to dispose of either without their consent.
- II. That our ancestors, who first settled these colonies, were ... entitled to all the rights, liberties and immunities of free and natural-born subjects within the realm of England.
- III. That by such emigration they by no means forfeited, surrendered or lost any of those rights, but that they were and their descendants now are entitled to the exercise and enjoyment of all such of them...
- IV. That the foundation of English liberty, and of all free government, is a right in the people to participate in their legislative council; and as the English colonists are not represented, and from their local and other circumstances, cannot properly be represented in the British Parliament...
- V. That the respective colonies are entitled to the common law of England, and more especially to the great and inestimable privilege of being tried by their peers of vicinage, according to the course of that law.
- VIII. That they have a right peaceably to assemble, consider of their grievances, and petition the king...
- IX. That the keeping a standing army in these colonies in times of peace, without the consent of the legislature of that colony in which such army is kept is against the law.

QUESTION- Which colony was not represented in the First Continental Congress?

QUESTION- List three claims (rights) the colonists state have been suppressed by the British government.

DOCUMENT F: Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress (continued)

Resolved, that the following Acts of Parliament are infringements and violations of the rights of colonist; and that the repeals of them is essentially necessary, in order to restore harmony between Great Britain and the American colonies:

Also the three Acts passed in the last session of Parliament, for stopping the port and blocking up the harbour of Boston, for altering the charter and government of the Massachusetts Bay, and that which is entitled 'An Act for the better Administration of Justice'.

Also the Act passed the same session for establishing the Roman Catholick religion in the Province of Quebec, abolishing the equitable system of English laws...

Also the Act passed the same session for the better providing suitable quarters for officers and soldiers in His Majesty's service in North America.

QUESTION- List three actions taken by Parliament that the colonists resolve are an infringement upon the rights of colonists.