

NATION: Causes of the Revolutionary War

English laws make colonists angry— will there be war?

Here is a look at the acts [laws] made by England:



Proclamation of 1763: This English law will not let colonists settle [move or live] west of the Appalachian Mountains. The English hope to stop war with the Indians by not letting the colonists move into the Indians' land. Colonists who want to move west are angry.



Sugar Act (1764): Imported [coming into the country] molasses is taxed. The only molasses not taxed is that from the British West Indies.



Currency Act (1764): Colonists are told not to print money. They must use English currency [money].



Stamp Act (1765): Colonists must buy stamps from England. The stamps must be put on all legal papers and other printed papers.



Quartering Act (1765): This act makes colonists give the English soldiers food and shelter at no cost.



Stamp Act Taken Away (1766): Protesting by colonists makes England repeat [take away] the Stamp Act.



Writs of Assistance (1765): Colonists are smuggling [bringing in goods without the government knowing]. That way they won't be taxed. England wants to cut down on smuggling. **Search warrants** [called **Writs of Assistance**] make it legal for English soldiers to come into the homes of colonists to look for smuggled goods.



Townshend Act (1767): England puts more taxes on goods coming into America, including tea, lead, glass, and paint.



Townshend Acts Repealed: Tax on Tea Kept (1770): The colonists **boycott** [don't buy] English goods to show they do not like the taxes. England takes away the Townshend Act taxes. But England keeps the tax on imported tea.



Tea Act (1773): The British East India Company can sell tea to colonial merchants who belong to the company. These merchants can sell tea cheaper than other merchants.



Intolerable Acts (1773): England feels it must punish colonists for the "tea party." England closes Boston Harbor until the tea is paid for. English soldiers will stay in the Boston area for a while to keep an eye on the colonists.

