From Protest to Independence

Trace how British policies and colonial ideas led to revolution.

8.C.1 "Analyze the foundations of the United States of America by examining the causes, events, and ideologies which led to the American Revolution..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two examples of colonial self-government and circle two British policies that limited colonial choices. Then number three details that show a chain from war debt to colonial protest.

Who Should Make the Rules?

1. Before the French and Indian War, many British colonists made decisions close to home. Elected colonial assemblies set some local taxes, while New England town meetings let eligible residents debate local issues. Britain often left these practices alone, an unofficial approach called salutary neglect. Yet Parliament's Navigation Acts required trade on British or colonial ships and directed some goods through British ports. These rules served mercantilism, the idea that colonies should enrich the mother country. Colonists grew used to governing themselves even while Britain controlled important parts of their economy.

2. The French and Indian War changed this uneasy balance. Britain defeated France in North America in 1763, but the war left Britain heavily in debt. Parliament argued that colonists should help pay for their defense and imposed the Stamp Act, a tax on printed materials. Britain also issued the Proclamation of 1763, restricting colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains in American Indian territories. The boundary aimed to reduce conflict, but settlers seeking land resented it. Many colonists objected that Parliament taxed them without elected colonial representatives in Parliament.

3. Colonists answered with boycotts of British goods and written protests, including the Stamp Act Resolves, which challenged taxes imposed without colonial consent. Britain repealed the Stamp Act, but later taxes and trade rules renewed the dispute. After the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, limiting Massachusetts self-government. Colonial delegates met at the First Continental Congress to coordinate resistance. Inspired in part by John Locke's ideas about natural rights and consent, the Declaration of Independence argued in 1776 that government must protect rights and that people may change a government that violates them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did salutary neglect and the Navigation Acts pull colonists in different directions?

2. Explain two different reasons Britain's decisions after the French and Indian War angered colonists.

3. How did boycotts and the Stamp Act Resolves challenge British policy in different ways?

4. How did Locke's ideas help colonists justify changing their government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence speech as a colonial delegate in 1776. Use two events or policies from the passage to explain whether independence is justified, and acknowledge Britain's reason for one policy.

ANSWER KEY

From Protest to Independence

GRADE 8 · 8.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two examples of colonial self-government and circle two British policies that limited colonial choices. Then number three details that show a chain from war debt to colonial protest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did salutary neglect and the Navigation Acts pull colonists in different directions?	**Salutary neglect let colonists practice local self-government, while the Navigation Acts restricted their trade to benefit Britain.**
2	Explain two different reasons Britain's decisions after the French and Indian War angered colonists.	**Colonists objected to Parliament's tax without colonial representatives in Parliament. Settlers seeking western land also resented the Proclamation of 1763.**
3	How did boycotts and the Stamp Act Resolves challenge British policy in different ways?	**Boycotts withheld purchases of British goods, while the Resolves made a written challenge to taxes imposed without colonial consent.**
4	How did Locke's ideas help colonists justify changing their government?	**Locke's ideas linked government to consent and the protection of natural rights. The Declaration argued that people may change a government that violates those rights.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fellow delegates, Britain says the Stamp Act helped pay the debt from a war fought partly to defend the colonies. Yet Parliament taxed our printed materials without representatives chosen by us. We answered with boycotts and written protests, but the dispute did not end. After the Boston Tea Party, the Coercive Acts limited Massachusetts self-government instead of settling our complaints. A government should protect people's rights and govern with their consent. Because these policies ignored our voice and weakened local rule, I support independence.

Accept other supported explanations that connect colonial practices or British policies to trade, representation, rights, or self-government. The speech may argue against independence if it uses two passage details, explains its position, and acknowledges a British rationale.