

Name _____ Date _____

The Path to Revolution, 1763–1776

Part A

For homework, research the events leading to the American Revolution, and complete the chart below. Start at the bottom to work toward the Revolution. Explain why both 1776 and 1763 were turning points in American history.

Significance of 1776 as a Turning Point

British Action	Rationale	Colonial Reaction	Rationale
Lexington and Concord		Paine's "Common Sense"	
Coercive or "Intolerable" Acts		boycott, convening First Continental Congress	
Tea Act		protest, Boston Tea Party, boycott	

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British Action	Rationale	Colonial Reaction	Rationale
Townshend duties		boycotts, petitions, newspaper attacks	
Repeal of Stamp Act and passage of Declaratory Act		rejoicing over repeal; ignoring Declaratory Act	
Quartering Act <i>or</i> <u>Mutiny</u>		protest in assemblies	
Stamp Act		petitions, boycott, violence	
Currency Act		smoldering resentment	

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British Action	Rationale	Colonial Reaction	Rationale
Sugar Act		Boston experimented with boycotts	
Proclamation of 1763		resentment and failure to comply	

Significance of 1763 as a Turning Point

Part B

From your readings and your completed chart, answer the following questions:

1. *"The Americans have made a discovery, or think they have made a discovery, that we mean to oppress them; we have made a discovery, or think we have made a discovery, that they intend to rise up in rebellion against us. We know not how to advance; they know not how to retreat."* Edmund Burke¹

a. What kind of "advance" or adjustment might the British have made to halt the escalation of the colonial rebellion?

b. What kind of retreat would the colonists have had to make to be acceptable to Britain?

1. Stephan Thernstrom, *A History of the American People*, Vol. 1 (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984), p. 144.

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2. *How does your completed chart help to explain the lack of meaningful compromise between Britain and the colonies in the years between 1763 and 1776?*

3. *Was the dominant concern of the colonists economic or political? Explain your answer.*

4. *From your readings and your chart, what role do you believe each of the following played in producing wide-based support for independence in the colonies?*
 - a. *Inept British officials, such as Charles Townshend or George Grenville*

 - b. *Dedicated radicals, such as Samuel Adams and Patrick Henry*

 - c. *Responsible moderates, such as John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson*

5. *Now try to write your own one- or two-sentence thesis on the causes of the American Revolution.*