

How can power and control lead to conflict?

Roles:

Narrator 1	Narrator 2	King George III	English Parliament Speaker	
Colonist #1	Colonist #2	Colonist #3	British Soldier #1	British Soldier #2
Samuel Adams	Paul Revere	Tax Collector		

Narrator 1: Since 1607 when the first colony was established, England's 13 colonies in America have mostly been taking care of themselves. Each colony was able to make its own laws and the colonies got along with England pretty good.

Narrator 2: People in the colonies traded goods, considered themselves to be English, and would help the army in times of war. Over time however, the relationship between the colonies and England has begun to change....

Colonist #1: I see why people on the other side of an ocean should get to order us around. The way we live here in the colonies is completely different than how people in England live.

Colonist #2: Yeah thats true, but I still feel loyal to England, even if our way of life is different.

Narrator 1: The year is 1763. An expensive war between England and the French has just ended in America. While England has defeated the French and their Indian allies, it has come at great cost.

Narrator 2: England spent a huge sum of money on the war and now wants to make some of its money back, while also keeping peace in America in the future so that the English army does not have to defend the colonies again soon.

King George III: My banks are near empty due to this war with these devilish French! Perhaps I shall order the colonies to contribute funds to pay for this war and maintain my army along th western frontier....hmm...yes....what a brilliant idea....i dont like to brag but yes.....hmm...if the shoe fits....I am quite smart indeed. I shall issue new taxes!

Colonist #1: What is this guy talking about?

Colonist #2: I think he wants us to pay new taxes to help support the English army....

English Parliament Speaker: I do hereby propose that, in the year of our 1763, we do indeed issue a proclamation that, in addition to new taxes, no colonists shall move past the Appalachian Mountains, so that we may keep peace with the Indian population west of the mountains.

Colonist #3: So now we have to pay taxes AND we aren't allowed to claim any land west of the mountains?

Colonist #2: This is ridiculous, we didnt start that war, why should we have to pay for it?

Colonists #1: Nobody on the other side of the ocean should be telling me where I can live! I will do what I please!

Narrator 1: The colonists are angry. They have been told they must pay new taxes to pay off England's war debt and they are not allowed to move further west.

Narrator 2: After mostly taking care of themselves for the past 150 years, the colonists now find the English army, tax collectors, and English government officials pressuring them. Many colonists are unhappy.

King George IIIr: It seems as though keeping my armies in the American colonies is becoming quite expensive.....MORE NEW TAXES, PARLIAMENT SPEAKER, MAKE IT SO!

English Parliament Speaker: The parliament does hereby declare the Stamp Act of 1765. All colonists must place a special certified stamp on all written documents. Colonists must purchase these stamps themselves.

Narrator 1: The colonists are very angry with the Stamp Act. Stamps must be placed on everything marriage licenses, newspapers, playing cards and many other written documents

Colonist 1: This is insane, I have to put a stamp on my deck of playing cards? Just another money grab by the King!

Colonist 2: So what happens if I refuse to buy stamps? Is the King going to send the redcoats to come get me? I doubt it. Im not buying any! I didnt get to vote or give my opinion on this stupid law, so I wont listen to it!

Samuel Adams: My friends, we, the Sons of Liberty, also strongly oppose these new taxes. Join us, and we will show the King how we feel!

Colonist 3: Look Sam, these new taxes are pretty awful, but I'm not trying to get into trouble

Paul Revere: Then the King will continue to trample and tread on you with his unfair laws!

Narrator 1: Samuel Adams and Paul Revere are members of a group called the Sons of Liberty

Narrator 2: The Sons of Liberty decide that they must take extreme action to show the King and parliament how unhappy they are. They break into homes of stamp makers and burn the stamps. They also make dummies that look like tax collectors and burn them in the streets and hang them from trees.

Narrator 1: At the same time, many colonists take less aggressive action. They stop buying English goods.

Colonist 1: Im not buying anything British until these unbelievable taxes are removed from us!

Narrator 2: English merchants lose much money during this time and beg the parliament to remove the new taxes. The King and parliament reluctantly agree and remove the Stamp Act.

King George III: Perhaps I can save some money by stationing my troops in the houses of the American colonists, that way I will not have to feed or house them. Yes...another brilliant idea of mine. Parliament speaker! Make it so!

English Parliament Speaker: I do hereby declare the Quartering Act of 1765, all colonists must house any British troop if they are ordered to do so, colonists shall provide food, transportation, and beer to the King's soldiers, along with anything else they require.

British Soldier #1: Mate, this is brilliant! Now these colonials will have to do our laundry!

British Soldier #2: Quite right mate, I cant wait to sleep in a warm bed in one of these houses instead of cramming into the barracks

Colonists #1: I am so NOT feeding, clothing, and especially GIVING BEER TO SOLDIERS IN MY HOUSE.

Colonist #2: Yeah I already have to provide for my own family and now I have to provide for soldiers to? I cant afford it!

Narrator 1: The British government continues to pass new taxes on everything from tea to glass to paper to paint. Another law gave tax collectors the power to go into homes and search for taxable items

Colonist #3: Hey, real talk bruh, you step in my house uninvited, me and you are gonna have a problem.

Tax Collector: I am simply trying to do my job sir, now please step aside before I have these soldiers escort me in!

British Soldier #1: Unless you want me eating all your food and drinking all your beer, you better move, you colonial scum.

Narrator #2: The colonists boycott British goods again. The British respond by removing all taxes except for the tax on tea. Many colonists are unhappy with the King and the laws they are being forced to obey.

Narrator #1: Meanwhile, the King and many in England are disturbed that the colonists seem to no longer be listening to them and following every rule without question. There seems to be conflict ahead.....