

## HOW DID AMERICA COME TO BE AN INDEPENDENT NATION?

- I. An Overview of EVENTS Leading to American Independence
  - A. The “PARSONS’ cause” of 1759
    - 1. VIRGINIANS paid Anglican clergy in TOBACCO
    - 2. Crop SHORTAGES in 1755 and 1758 caused sharp RISE in VALUE
    - 3. The House of Burgesses voted to TEMPORARILY pay in CASH
    - 4. Ministers COMPLAINED to the king, who OVERTURNED the decision of the House of Burgesses
  - B. George III became king in 1760
    - 1. Proclamation of 1763, denied colonists ACCESS to the western lands
    - 2. The STAMP Act
  - C. Charles Townsend became Chancellor of the Exchequer (Secretary of TREASURY) in 1767
    - 1. Implemented an indirect tax on goods IMPORTED
    - 2. Claimed authority to try CUSTOMS dodgers without a JURY
    - 3. Tax on TEA to aid the British East India Company
    - 4. Resulted in the “BOSTON TEA PARTY”
  - D. 1774: The COERCIVE Acts, or (more popularly by the colonists) “the INTOLERABLE Acts”
    - 1. Made Massachusetts a MARTYR for JUSTICE
    - 2. Provoked the formation of the First CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
  - E. Four thousand troops OCCUPY BOSTON
    - 1. 700 are sent to Lexington to arrest JOHN HANCOCK and SAM ADAMS

2. Met by 70 MINUTEMEN
  3. Troops moved on to Concord to seize a MUNITIONS store
- F. A lot happened in 1775
1. July 5, the “OLIVE BRANCH Petition”
  2. July 6, the “Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of TAKING UP ARMS”
  3. August, the “Proclamation of Rebellion” declared the colonists TRAITORS
  4. December, the “Prohibitory Act” cut off all British TRADE with the colonies
- H. The crucial year: 1776
1. Crown hired MERCENARY troops to INVADE the colonies
  2. July 4, Continental Congress adopted the “Declaration of INDEPENDENCE”

## II. The PEOPLE Involved in Securing Our Independence

- A. Summarizing what happened to the SIGNERS
1. FIVE were captured and TORTURED to death as traitors
  2. TWELVE had their homes ransacked and burned
  3. NINE fought and died from wounds or hardships
- B. Summarizing what KIND of men they were
1. Twenty-four were LAWYERS and JURISTS (judges)
  2. Eleven were MERCHANTS
  3. Nine were owners of large PLANTATIONS
  4. FIFTY-TWO were deeply committed CHRISTIANS, and the other four were DEISTS
- C. Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson professed to be followers of JESUS CHRIST
- D. John Adams, John Quincy Adams, and John Jay served as president of the American BIBLE SOCIETY