

# Repealing Townshend Acts

Why were the colonists unperturbed that the tax on tea was not repealed with the Townshend duties?

Loyalists

- happy to pay and do their civic duty (get it? by paying the duty...)
- Patriots had other methods

• Smuggling Dutch tea

X

- Making own
- Substituting chocolate or coffee

#### Tea Tax

What was the British government trying to accomplish with the Tea Tax?

They were trying to save the British East India Company from bankruptcy by giving them a monopoly on tea in the colonies. Because the East India Company had so much tea to sell (over 17 million pounds), it's tea was cheaper than smuggled Dutch tea.

### Reaction to the Tea Tax

#### What upset the colonists about the Tea Tax?

They were concerned about what Britain might decide to control next. If the government was giving out monopolies, what would ensure that merchants could stay in business.

Also, while Parliament was concerned about the health of a British company, they did not seem to understand that the colonists were frustrated about their lack of say in the government, not the taxes.

### It's (Tea) Party Time!



## Intolerable Acts (1774)

Called the Coercive Acts by the British, they were intended to punish the colonists for their behavior.

- Closed the port of Boston
- Suspended local colonial government in Massachusetts – government taken over by British officials
- No free assembly in Massachusetts
- British soldiers accused of murder would not be tried in colonies
- Troops sent to enforce (Quartering Act still in effect)

## Colonial Response

#### Colonists were not coerced...

- Merchants closed shops rather than sell British goods
- Tea Parties were held in other colonies
- Food and supplies were sent to Massachusetts

#### Virginia was especially supportive

- "An attack on one of our sister colonies is an attack made on all British America."
  - -VA resolution in support of MA

# September, 1774 – Representatives from 12 colonies met in Philadelphia

- Georgia needed help from British soldiers because the Creek were expressing their displeasure of being forced off their land
- Decided to send a message to King George explaining why they were so upset but clearly expressing their loyalty (leads to Olive Branch Petition in 1775)
- Organized a new boycott on almost all British goods until Intolerable Acts were repealed; would meet in May if demands were not met

## First Continental Congress