

PATHWAY TO THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

British Action	British Rationale	Colonial Action	Colonial Rationale
Proclamation of 1763	Provided a temporary measure to gain time to devise a more permanent solution to conflict between Indians and settlers. Settlers were not to cross over into the Ohio Valley until land policies were developed.	Resentment and failure to comply to the law.....Pioneers such as Daniel Boone would move westward	Colonists saw the Proclamation as an attempt to “hem them in” and keep them under British control....Land west was also looked as the colonist’s birthright for the “American Dream”
Writs of Assistance 1763	Unrestricted search warrants to search for colonial smuggled goods to enforce the Navigation Acts. Gave British Navy and Custom officials absolute power of “search and seizure”	Would continue smuggling and accuse British of violating their rights	Believed their rights as Englishmen had been violated.....Due process and right to privacy were guaranteed in the English Bill Rights
Sugar Act of 1763	Replaced the Molasses Act of 1733, and actually lowered the tax on sugar and molasses (which the New England colonies imported to make rum as part of the triangular trade) from 6 cents to 3 cents a barrel, but for the first time adopted provisions that would insure that the tax was strictly enforced; created the vice-admiralty courts; and made it illegal for the colonies to buy goods from non-British Caribbean colonies and pay off war debt.	Experimented with boycotts.	Colonists believed Britain had no right to tax for revenue without the colonists having representation in Parliament.
Currency Act of 1764	Required colonists to pay British merchants in gold and silver, rather than inflated colonial paper currency.	Smoldering resentment and refusal to pay.	Mercantilism had created a chronic trade deficit for the colonies....The British were asking the impossible in demanding payments in gold or silver when colonial resources were continually being drained.
Stamp Act of 1765	British legislation required that all legal or official documents used in the colonies, such as wills, deeds and contracts, had to be written on special, stamped British paper. First “direct tax” colonists paid to England and was used to help pay for the war debt and protect the colonies.	Petitions, protests, boycotts, non-importation agreements, radical groups such as “Sons of Liberty” which organized violent protests.....Stamp Act Congress representatives appeal to Parliament to repeal Stamp Tax	Britain had no right of taxation without representation and no offenders should be tried in admiralty courts without juries. *British Parliament would repeal the Stamp Tax in 1766.