Seeds of Revolution

Part 2: The Navigation Acts to The Townshend Act
Revolutionary Thinking

• Social Contract (John Locke)
  – IDEA: legitimate state authority must be derived from the consent of the governed
    • MEANING: Governments get their power from the people, not the other way around
  – IDEA: should the government abuse the rights of the governed, it was the natural responsibility of the people to rise up and overthrow their leaders
    • MEANING: If the government no longer fits the needs of the people, it is the peoples duty to rebel and overthrow the government.
Power of Religion

• Religious Right (Ben Franklin and John Adams)
  – IDEA: All men are created equal
    • MEANING: No one is born special
  – IDEA: There is no Divine Right of kings
    • Kings are not chosen by God
  – IDEA: Wicked laws should be disobeyed
    • Just because it is a law does not mean it is good.
The Navigation Acts and Writs of Assistance

• Made it so all goods were transported to Europe on British Ships
  – Done so King could ensure all taxes were paid
  – Extended so customs officials could search homes, warehouses, and ships without reason.
Resisting Navigation Acts

- Illegally – American merchants smuggled goods
- Legally – James Otis, a Boston Lawyer, fought that law saying it was against their constructional rights
  - He did not win
No Taxation

• April 1764 – King imposes 3 pence per gallon tax on Molasses
• Colonists outraged because they were getting taxed but did not have representation in Parliament to voice their concerns
Without Representation

• Currency Act – Banned printing of paper money, made it impossible for colonists to pay off debt
• Quartering Act – Required colonists to house Soldiers in their homes and feed them
Stamp Act

• March 1765 – Stamp Act
  – Required tax stamps on all paper products in the Colonies
    • Every official document needed a stamp

• Colonists outraged and sent grievance to king
  – Colonist start boycotting British goods
  – Benjamin Franklin warns of Rebellion
  – Stamp Act eventually repealed
Townshend Act

- Import tax on Paper, Lead, Paint, Glass, and Tea
- “No Taxation without Representation”
  - Colonists still angered by lack of representation
  - Boycotting of British goods
  - Smuggling Increased