

The Not-So Famous Patriots of the American Revolution

Supplement to Lesson 22: A New British Policy

OPTIONAL LESSON

Lesson Overview

In this lesson students will take on the role of community members in colonial Worcester, Springfield, or Plymouth, Massachusetts. The year is 1774 and the British Parliament just passed the Massachusetts Government Act, which, among other things, outlaws town meetings. Despite that, these townspeople (the students) are meeting to discuss how to respond to being deprived of the right to self-government.

Each town meeting will decide on a response to the Massachusetts Government Act.

Instructional Objectives

Students will

1. Understand that common people were political players who made strategic decisions and took historically significant actions.
2. Recognize the role the common people (such as farmers) played in toppling British authority.
3. Identify the Massachusetts Government Act as an event leading up to the American Revolution.

Materials:

- Role cards for town meeting
- Massachusetts Government Act Situation Worksheet
- Additional activity sheet; A Short Play

Credit:

This lesson was adapted from materials developed by Ray Raphael as seen in his book *The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord*. New York; New Press, 2002. Special thanks to Gwen Oien for her work.

Quick Background for the Teacher

“Common people” are all those who do not enjoy the special privileges coming from wealth, prestige, or political power. Most residents of Massachusetts were common people.

1. The Massachusetts Government Act did the following:
 - Outlawed town meeting unless approved in advance by the Crown-appointed governor
 - Allowed the King to appoint the 36 members of the Council, without any approval by the voting people. The Council is the upper house of the legislature, the Governor’s Cabinet, and the administrative arm of the Massachusetts provincial government.
 - Permitted the Governor to appoint all Massachusetts sheriffs, judges, and officials of the court without the approval of the people. These are the people who could put people in jail or take their property!
 - Stated that the Crown-appointed officials would elect all jurors.



In other words, 150 years of self-government in Massachusetts has gone down the drain!

2. The people of Worcester, Springfield, Plymouth and every other town in Massachusetts have been holding town meetings ever since the towns were founded.
3. All members of each community are used to worshipping together. The “meetinghouse,” where this meeting takes place, is also the church.
4. According to the Charter of 1691 that has been governing the colony until now, Council members are chosen by the people’s elected representative, jurors are chosen in town meetings, and sheriffs and judges must be approved by elected Council members.
5. The people of Massachusetts consider themselves to be British citizens.
6. Many citizens are familiar with John Locke’s “social contract” theory of government, which states that people form governments for their own protection.
7. When the British passed the Stamp Act and the Townsend Acts, colonists boycotted British goods. Those acts were later repealed.
8. The County Court will be convening in your town in three weeks. This is the first ever court session with judges appointed according to the new act.
9. Colonists use the courts all the time to solve problems and settle disputes. Many people in your town have recently been sued in court. If the new judges who decide these cases turn out to be corrupt, there is no way to remove them from office!
10. Two of the new council members are from your county.
11. The new governor of Massachusetts is Thomas Gage, who also serves as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in North America.
12. There are 3,000 British soldiers stationed in Boston.
13. 95% of the population lives outside of Boston, in small towns such as yours.



Procedure:

1. Introduce the topic and give the necessary background for understanding the Massachusetts Government Act. For example,

Did you know that the Battle of Lexington was not really the beginning of the American Revolution? The first “revolution,” or overthrow of an existing government, happened the year before, when common farmers from throughout Massachusetts toppled all British authority.

We don’t usually hear about this story because common people are not often taken seriously. They should be! We will take their actions seriously by placing ourselves in their places. How would *you* have responded if you were a farmer in Massachusetts who had just lost the power to vote?

2. Divide the class into three groups: Worcester, Plymouth and Springfield, Massachusetts. Each member of the group is given a card with an identity on it. All but one will be males since only widows who owned property could vote (but there were not very many of those). The participants will be mostly farmers, with a couple of merchants or craftsmen. No more than two in each town can be wealthy. All will own at least a small amount of property.
3. Hand out the situation worksheet. Read, review, and discuss as a class. Ask students to think about the situation from the point of view of their role. They may want to make a few notes for later.
4. Have the groups separate and discuss the problem each in his or her character. The group may choose a moderator. The moderator must recognize any speaker.

Alternatively, you may want to only have one group—that is, the whole class—represent one town. In this case, the teacher can act as the moderator. There will be only one speaker at a time. The speaker will stand up while addressing the meeting. No person can speak more than once on the same issue without asking permission from the rest of the meeting.

5. What reaction will your town take? As a group, determine your town’s reaction to the Massachusetts Government Act. The people of the town meeting must think about how the British might respond, and how you might respond to their response.
6. After the groups have come to a decision, have each group share the town’s course of action. Discuss what they think will be the response from the British.

Individual assignments and assessments:

Students can write up and defend their chosen courses of actions. Some writing might focus on the decision-making process, on either the individual or collective level.



Conclusion:

It is important to emphasize that what the real people chose to do represented only possible responses, as opposed to guessing “right.” Students should discuss how and why they came to their decisions. Hopefully they weighed what they (that is, their characters) wanted against what they thought might be possible. This is key to political decision-making!

Conclude by sharing what really happened after the Massachusetts Government Act was passed, and by repeating the basic message: everybody, not just the famous leaders, makes important political decisions that affect their own lives. That’s how our nation was founded!

Additional activity

Consider having students act out this scene between Levi Preston and a historian, many years after the War was over.

Many years later, after the war was over and the United States had become a strong, independent nation, a historian named Mellon Chamberlain interviewed Levi Preston, a veteran of the Battle of Concord about his role in the Revolutionary War. By then Levi Preston was an old man. The text below is a record of their conversation. The language here is slightly updated. The original is in the in-depth background resource for teachers, in this lesson.

INTERVIEWER: Why did you fight in the War? Were you oppressed by the Stamp Act?”

LEVI PRESTON: No, I never saw one of those stamps, and always understood that Governor Bernard put them all in Castle William. I am certain I never paid a penny for one of them.

INTERVIEWER Well, what about the tea-tax?

LEVI PRESTON: Tea-tax! I never drank a drop of the stuff; the boys threw it all overboard.

INTERVIEWER: Then I suppose you had been reading Harrington or Sidney and Locke (*these are all philosophers*) about the eternal principles of liberty.

LEVI PRESTON: Never heard of ‘em. We read only the Bible, The Catechism, Watts’ Psalms and Hymns, and the Almanack.

INTERVIEWER: Well, then, what was the matter? What did you mean in going to fight?

LEVI PRESTON: Young man, what we meant in going for those Redcoats was this: we always had governed ourselves, and we always meant to. They didn’t mean we should.



Massachusetts Government Act Situation Worksheet

Location:

Worcester, Springfield, Plymouth, or Concord Massachusetts, 1774.

Situation:

The British Parliament has just passed the “Massachusetts Government Act.” This act has four key elements:

1. It outlaws town meetings (unless approved by the King-appointed Governor).
2. It allows the King to appoint the 36 members of the Council, without any approval by the people. The Council is the upper house of the legislature, the Governor’s cabinet, and the administrative arm of provincial government.
3. It permits the Governor to appoint all sheriffs, judges, and officials of the courts without the approval of the people.
4. It states that Crown-appointed officials will select all jurors for court trials.

This is terrible news!! Citizens of Massachusetts Colony have held town meetings to govern themselves as long as the towns themselves have existed. It’s bad enough that the King of England chooses the Massachusetts Governor; now the Governor gets to choose the judges and juries of court cases, and the sheriffs of the towns! What if he picks dishonest people? What if he picks his friends who will punish anyone who doesn’t support the King?

Directions:

You will meet in a town meeting to decide on a response to the Massachusetts Government Act. The rules of New England town meetings apply: The first item of business is to choose a moderator. The moderator must call on any speaker. There is only one speaker at a time. Although the majority rules, make every effort to have everyone agree.

Read over your role card so you know the character whose opinion you will represent at the meeting. Consider their point of view and what they might have to say in this terrible situation. As you read through the “Things to Consider” below, think about how each item either changes or reinforces your position at town meeting.



Things to Consider:

1. The people of Worcester, Springfield, Plymouth, and every other town in Massachusetts have been holding town meetings ever since the towns were first founded.
2. Everyone is used to worshipping together. The “meetinghouse,” where this meeting about politics takes place, is also the church.
3. Before the Massachusetts Government Act, Council members were always chosen by the people’s elected representative, jurors were chosen in town meetings, and the elected Council approved sheriffs and judges.
4. The people of Massachusetts still consider themselves to be British citizens.
5. Many citizens agree that people form governments for their own protection.
6. When the British passed the Stamp Act and the Townsend Acts, colonists successfully boycotted British goods. Those acts were later repealed (cancelled).
7. The County Court will be meeting in your town in only three weeks. This is the first ever court session with judges selected according to the new Massachusetts Government Act.
8. Colonists use the courts all the time to solve problems and settle disputes. Many people in your town have been sued in court. If the new judges who decide these cases turn out to be corrupt, there is no way to remove them from office!
9. Two of the new council members are from your county.
10. The new governor of Massachusetts is Thomas Gage, who also serves as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in North America.
11. There are 3,000 British soldiers stationed in Boston.
12. 95% of the population of Massachusetts Colony lives outside of Boston, in small towns such as yours.



What Really Happened after the Massachusetts Government Act was Passed

In all of Massachusetts outside of Boston, people decided to shut down the government.

From mid-August through mid-September of 1774, tens of thousands of plain folk from rural Massachusetts, mostly farmers—participated in a spontaneous uprising.

In Worcester, 4,622 militiamen from 37 surrounding communities lined both sides of Main Street on the day the court was supposed to meet, while the Crown-appointed officials walked the street, hats in hand, reciting their resignations thirty times each so all could hear. At that time, Worcester only had 300 citizens.

In Springfield, Plymouth, and all the county seats, the same thing happened. The people in Plymouth were so excited by what they had done that they tried to move Plymouth Rock to the center of town, but it was too heavy!

The people also made all the Crown-appointed Council members resign. In some cases they visited Council members' houses in great numbers (2,000 to Timothy Paine, 4,000 to Thomas Oliver). In other cases, they simply walked out of church when a Council member walked in, and that was enough to get the point across. All Council members either resigned or fled.

Not a single juror in Massachusetts agreed to sit on a jury.

The people continued holding town meetings. The Governor couldn't do anything about this in most places. For example, in Salem, MA he arrested seven men who had called a town meeting, but he was forced to release them when 3,000 angry farmers marched on the jail.

They had no special leaders. The people voted at every stage. As one annoyed British Loyalist wrote in his diary, "Government has devolved upon the people, and they seem to be for using it."

(For the full story, see *First American Revolution* by Ray Raphael. For a shorter version, see the last section in chapter 1 of *People's History of the American Revolution* by Ray Raphael.)



A Short Play

Many years later, after the war was over and the United States had become a strong, independent nation, a historian named Mellon Chamberlain interviewed Levi Preston, a veteran of the Battle of Concord about his role in the Revolutionary War. By then Levi Preston was an old man. The text below is a record of their conversation.

INTERVIEWER: Why did you fight in the War? Were you oppressed by the Stamp Act?

LEVI PRESTON: No, I never saw one of those stamps, and always understood that Governor Bernard put them all in Castle William. I am certain I never paid a penny for one of them.

INTERVIEWER Well, what about the tea-tax?

LEVI PRESTON: Tea-tax! I never drank a drop of the stuff; the boys threw it all overboard.

INTERVIEWER: Then I suppose you had been reading Harrington or Sidney and Locke (*these are all philosophers*) about the eternal principles of liberty.

LEVI PRESTON: Never heard of 'em. We read only the Bible, The Catechism, Watts' Psalms and Hymns, and the Almanack.

INTERVIEWER: Well, then, what was the matter? What did you mean in going to fight?

LEVI PRESTON: Young man, what we meant in going for those Redcoats was this: we always had governed ourselves, and we always meant to. They didn't mean we should.

This interview is quoted in Thomas A. Bailey and David M. Kennedy, eds., *The American Spirit: United States History as Seen by Contemporaries* (Lexington: D. C. Heath and Co., 1994).



FARMER

You are concerned because the first court session with the new judges appointed by the new Governor is going to take place in only three weeks. You are scheduled to appear in court for a land dispute with your neighbor. Your neighbor is still loyal to the King, and against any revolutionary protests. Will the judge favor him just because he is a Loyalist?

FARMER

You were recently sued in court and appreciated the judges' and jurors' fair ruling. You are not happy at all about having these unknown judges and juries hear local cases. In the past, juries were always chosen at town meeting. What if these new juries are crooked? How can we remove them from office?

You think the local people should make sure the courts don't open in three weeks. But how?



MERCHANT

You are outraged because as long as your town has existed, it has held town meetings. How can the King take that right away? After all, aren't you all British citizens too? It just doesn't make sense. You remind the other citizens that after the Stamp Act and the Townsend Acts were passed, colonists boycotted British goods and made them cancel those acts. Why not protest again?

MERCHANT

You are angry about this new Act. How can the courts be fair when the Governor appoints the judge and jury? After all, the Governor is the Commander-in-Chief of the British army!

On the other hand, there are 3,000 British troops stationed nearby in Boston. If you protest and do something drastic, what if they march on our town? What if, in retaliation, your store is shut down? Let's not be too hasty!



BLACKSMITH

You are very angry that the Governor will appoint the judges and jury. If you went to court and lost, an unfair judge and jury could rule that you lose your home and property to the King! You have to think about your family and their needs. What would they do if you couldn't support them?

You say, "Let us march on the courthouse! Let's march on the courthouse so the judge and juries cannot hold court!"

WEALTHY MERCHANT

You think that banning town meeting is against your rights as a British citizen. But you feel it's realistic to think that if you decide to protest, people will get arrested. You don't want to go to jail!

You also point out that two of the council members are from your community. They are your neighbors. You don't want to offend your own neighbors! Maybe if we don't protest the King will see that we have learned our lesson and he will repeal the Act.



WIDOW

Women do not usually get to vote but you are an exception. Since your husband's death, you own his land and that gives you voting rights. You say,

“How can we trust that the officials appointed by the Governor will be honest? We have always appointed our own officials. The Governor is only interested in protecting his own job. He will always do what the King wants him to do, not what's best for us! We must protest!”

VISITING NEIGHBOR

You are glad the government is finally getting strict with these rebellious townspeople.

Now that things are being done properly at last, order will return, Boston will open its harbor again, and everything will go back to normal.



In Depth Background Resource for Teachers

NOTE: A complete narrative of the events featured appears in Ray Raphael, *The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord* (New Press, 2002).

The following is an excerpt from Ray Raphael, *Romancing the Revolution: Stories that Hide our Patriotic Past* (New Press, 2004).

In fact, the American Revolution did not begin with “the shot heard round the world.” It started more than half-a-year earlier, when tens of thousands of angry patriot militiamen ganged up on a few unarmed officials and overthrew British authority throughout all of Massachusetts outside of Boston. This powerful revolutionary saga, which features Americans as Goliath instead of David, has been bypassed by the standard telling of history. By treating American patriots as innocent victims, we have suppressed their revolutionary might. Our nation came into being because people stood up for themselves and their own best interests.

On December 16, 1773, patriots dressed as Indians dumped 742 chests of tea, worth £15,000, into the Boston Harbor. Although we take considerable pride in recounting the story today, in the years that followed Americans never celebrated the event, and they certainly didn’t call it a “tea party.” While some patriots rejoiced at the boldness of the affair, they could hardly capitalize on this act of vandalism in their propaganda. The East India Company could easily be perceived as the victim, not the antagonist, and even many patriots thought the company should be recompensed for destroyed property.

But when the King and Parliament retaliated for the destruction of tea with four extreme measures labeled “Coercive Acts,” the colonists did indeed become oppressed. They were handed a “victim” card, and they played it liberally. Renaming the measures the “Intolerable Acts,” radical patriots garnered much support for their cause.

The story of the Coercive Acts and the response they triggered can be told two ways. According to the standard version, the first and most important of the measures was the Boston Port Bill, which prohibited all commerce to and from Boston. Parliament intended to isolate Boston and starve its rebellious residents into submission, but this plan backfired when other colonists sprang to the aid of their brothers and sisters. United behind the suffering Bostonians, other colonists heaped aid on their beleaguered friends and braced themselves for a Revolution.

Today, this Americanized adaptation of the “Good Samaritan” is repeated again and again in accounts of the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. It feeds the notion of a perfect America: our nation was founded by the world’s nicest people, with neighbor aiding neighbor from the very start. But revolutions do not generally stem from acts of charity, and this one was no exception. Our nation came into being because people stood up for themselves and their own best interests.

There is an alternate narrative, although it has rarely been told in the past hundred and fifty years. According to this version, it was not the Boston Port Bill but one of the other coercive



measures that turned most Massachusetts citizens into revolutionaries. The Massachusetts Government Act, passed a month after the Port Bill, dictated that people could no longer come together in their town meetings without permission from the Crown-appointed Governor, and they could not discuss any items the Governor had not approved. The act further stipulated that the people's elected representatives would no longer determine the Council, which comprised the upper house of the legislature, the Governor's cabinet, and the administrative arm of provincial government. Also, elected representatives no longer had the power to approve or remove judges, juries, or justices of the peace — the local officials who could put people in jail or take away their property.

After a century-and-a-half of local self-government, citizens of Massachusetts were suddenly deprived of the power of their votes. The Massachusetts Government Act affected not only the five percent of the populace who resided in Boston, but also the ninety-five percent who lived in towns and villages clear across the colony. Common farmers feared that judges, no longer responsible to the people, might be corrupted and foreclose on land for the slightest debts. The new act eliminated the sovereignty of the people of Massachusetts and threatened their economic solvency.

But the people would not allow it. They refused to be disenfranchised.

The Massachusetts Government Act was due to take effect on August 1, 1774. The first court under the new provisions was scheduled to sit in remote Berkshire County, on the western edge of the Province, but the court never met. When the Crown-appointed officials showed up for work on August 16, they found themselves shut out of the Great Barrington courthouse by 1,500 committed patriots.ⁱⁱ

Two weeks later, in Springfield, 3,000-4,000 patriots marched "with staves and musick" and again shut down the court. "Amidst the Crowd in a sandy, sultry place, exposed to the sun," said one observer, the judges were forced to renounce "in the most express terms any commission which should be given out to them under the new arrangement."

In Cambridge three days later, 4,000 patriots forced the Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts to resign his seat on the Council. Responding to rumors that the British army had fired and killed six patriots, an estimated 20,000-60,000 men from throughout the countryside headed toward Boston to confront the Redcoats. In some towns, nearly every male of fighting age participated in the "Powder Alarm," as it was called.

Governor Thomas Gage, who was also Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in North America, had vowed to make a stand in Worcester, where the court was scheduled to meet the following week. After the Powder Alarm, however, Gage changed his mind and let the judges fend for themselves. On September 6, 1774, 4,622 militiamen from 37 surrounding communities gathered in Worcester (a town with fewer than 300 citizens) to depose the Crown-appointed officials. The insurgents lined both sides of Main Street as the officials, in a ritualistic display of humiliation and submission, were forced to walk the gauntlet, hats in hand, reciting their recantations thirty times each so all the people could hear.



As in Great Barrington, Springfield, and Worcester, patriots shut down the governmental apparatus in Salem, Concord, Barnstable, Taunton, and Plymouth— in every county seat outside Boston. From the time the Massachusetts Government Act was supposed to take effect, no county courts, which also functioned as the administrative arm of county governments, were allowed to conduct any business under British authority. According to merchant John Andrews, rebels in Plymouth were so excited by their victory that they attempted to remove Plymouth Rock (the one on which their fore-fathers first landed, when they came to this country) which lay buried in a wharf five feet deep, up into the center of the town, near the court house. The way being up hill, they found it impracticable, as after they had dug it up, they found it to weigh ten tons at least.

Meanwhile, all the Crown-appointed Counselors were told by their angry neighbors to resign. The few who refused were driven from their homes and forced to flee to Boston, where they sought protection from the British Army.

In direct violation of the new law, the people continued with their town meetings. When Governor Gage arrested seven men in the capital of Salem for calling a town meeting, three thousand farmers immediately marched on the jail to set the prisoners free. Two companies of British soldiers retreated — and throughout Massachusetts meetings continued to convene. According to one account,

“Notwithstanding all the parade the governor made at Salem on account of their meeting, they had another one directly under his nose at Danvers, and continued it two or three hours longer than was necessary, to see if he would interrupt ‘em. He was acquainted with it, but reply’d — “Damn ‘em! I won’t do any thing about it unless his Majesty sends me more troops.”

By early October 1774, more than half a year before the “shot heard round the world” at Lexington, Massachusetts patriots had seized all political and military authority outside of Boston.

Throughout the preceding decade, patriots had written petitions, staged boycotts, and burnt effigies — but this was something new. In the late summer and early fall of 1774, patriots did not simply *protest* government, they *overthrew* it. Then, after dismissing British authority, they assumed political control through their town meetings, county conventions, and a Provincial Congress.

One disgruntled Tory from Southampton summed it all up in his diary: “Government has now devolved upon the people, and they seem to be for using it.”

When the Boston Port Bill took effect, other colonists passed the hat for relief, held days of prayer and fasting, and called for conferences to talk things over.ⁱⁱⁱ These were common forms of political action in British North America. When the Massachusetts Government Act took effect, the people of Massachusetts shut down the government and prepared for war. This was the stuff of revolution. The people of Massachusetts forcibly overthrew the old regime and began to replace it with their own.^{iv}

The traditional telling, which states that the “American Revolution” started at Lexington, con-



ceals this momentous and historic transfer of political power. If the “shot heard round the world” was the *beginning* of the American Revolution, we have no way of accounting for the revolution that preceded it.

The traditional story masks the people’s vibrant dedication to their own political survival. Many years later, Mellon Chamberlain asked Levi Preston, a veteran of the Battle of Concord, why he had become a revolutionary:

“Were you not oppressed by the Stamp Act?”

“I never saw one of those stamps, and always understood that Governor Bernard put them all in Castle William. I am certain I never paid a penny for one of them.”

“Well, what then about the tea-tax?”

“Tea-tax! I never drank a drop of the stuff; the boys threw it all overboard.”

“Then I suppose you had been reading Harrington or Sidney and Locke about the eternal principles of liberty.”

“Never heard of ‘em. We read only the Bible, The Catechism, Watts’ Psalms and Hymns, and the Almanack.”

“Well, then, what was the matter? And what did you mean in going to the fight?”

“Young man, what we meant in going for those Redcoats was this: we always had governed ourselves, and we always meant to. They didn’t mean we should.”^v



Notes and References

ⁱ Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999), 108-133.

ⁱⁱ The story of the 1774 overthrow of British authority throughout Massachusetts, outlined in the following paragraphs, is told in Ray Raphael, *The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord* (New York: New Press, 2002).

ⁱⁱⁱ Much is made in many narratives about the “Day of Prayer and Fasting” held in Virginia, the most populous colony, on June 1, 1774. Supposedly, this revealed how devoted the Virginians were to the people of Massachusetts, since it caused the British to disband the Virginia House of Burgesses. In fact, many Virginians were acting according to self-interest, not charity, when they decided on this course. The previous year, growers of tobacco (the basis of Virginia’s economy) had announced that by 1775 they would withhold their crops from the market. They hoped that British merchants would then buy tobacco at higher prices, anticipating the shortage to come. Since many tobacco planters were in debt, however, they feared that creditors would take them to court in retaliation, and if their scheme failed, the courts could seize their property.

Supporting Boston with a “Day of Prayer and Fasting” and a pledge to boycott British trade solved all their problems. Not only did these actions give their market manipulation a patriotic cover, but they also caused the British government to dissolve the Legislature, and since the Legislature had not yet authorized the court fees, that meant the courts would have to close as well. The planters’ plan worked like a charm: tobacco prices soared in anticipation of future shortages, while growers sold out their crops before nonexportation was scheduled to take effect. Meanwhile, no British merchants could take any Virginians to court for unpaid bills.

Boston had asked other colonies to withdraw trade from both Britain and the West Indies. For the reasons above, Virginia planters were more than willing to comply with respect to Britain, but they refused to end their lucrative trade with the Indies. Similarly, South Carolina went along with much of the boycott, but they insisted on an exemption for rice, their main money-maker. These actions, traditionally touted as sympathetic gestures of support, had decidedly self-serving overtones. [Woody Holton, *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 115-129.]

^{iv} A “revolution,” according to the *Random House Webster’s College Dictionary*, is “a complete and forcible overthrow and replacement of an established government or political system by the people governed.” By this definition, the people of Massachusetts staged a textbook example of a revolution.

^v Quoted in Thomas A. Bailey and David M. Kennedy, eds., *The American Spirit: United States History as Seen by Contemporaries* (Lexington: D. C. Heath and Co., 1994), 1: 143.

