TEACHING DEMOCRACY WEBINAR SERIES
No Taxation Without Representation?
August 15, 2012

Primary Sources Selected by
Alan Taylor, Professor of History, UC Davis

Successors shall appoint to receive such accounts; and will take no fee, reward, or profit for the execution or performance of the said trust, or the business relating thereto, from any person or persons, other than such as shall be allowed by His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, or by some other person or persons under him or them to that purpose authorized.

And be it further exacted by the authority aforesaid that, if any person or persons shall sign ... in any of the said colonies or plantations, or in any other part of His Majesty's dominions, any matter or thing for which the vellum, parchment, or paper is hereby charged to pay any duty, before the same shall be marked or stamped with the marks or stamps to be provided as aforesaid, or upon which there shall not be some stamp or mark resembling the same; or shall sign ... any matter or thing upon any vellum, parchment, or paper that shall be marked or stamped for any lower duty than the duty by this act made payable in respect thereof; every such person so offending shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of £10. . . .

And be it further exacted by the authority aforesaid that if any person shall forge, counterfeit, erase, or alter any such certificate, every such person so offending shall be guilty of felony, and shall suffer death as in cases of felony without the benefit of clergy. . . .

And be it further exacted by the authority aforesaid that all forgeries and penalties incurred after the 29th day of September, 1765, for offenses committed against an act passed in the fourth year of the reign of His present Majesty, entitled "An act for granting certain duties in the British colonies and plantations in America. . . ." and for offenses committed against any other act or acts of Parliament relating to the trade or revenues of the said colonies or plantations, shall and may be prosecuted, sued for, and recovered in any court of record, or in any Court of Admiralty, in the respective colony or plantation where the offense shall be committed, or in any Court of Vice-Admiralty appointed or to be appointed, and which shall have jurisdiction within such colony, plantation, or place (which Courts of Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty are hereby respectively authorized and required to proceed, hear, and determine the same) at the election of the informer or prosecutor. . . .

And be it further exacted by the authority aforesaid that all the offenses which are by this act made felony, and shall be committed within any part of His Majesty's dominions, shall and may be heard, tried, and determined before any court of law within the respective kingdom, territory, colony, or plantation where the offense shall be committed, in such and the same manner as all other felonies can or may be heard, tried, and determined in such court.

**DECLARATIONS OF THE STAMP ACT CONGRESS**

*Stamp Act Congress*

The members of this congress, sincerely devoted, with the warmest sentiments of affection and duty to his Majesty's person and government; inviolably attached to the present happy establishment of the Protestant succession, and with minds deeply impressed by

a sense of the present and impending misfortunes of the British colonies on this continent; 
... make the following declarations, of our humble opinion, respecting the most essential 
rights and liberties of the colonists, and of the grievances under which they labour, by 
reason of several late acts of Parliament.

I. That his Majesty’s subjects in these colonies, owe the same allegiance to the 
Crown of Great Britain, that is owing from his subjects born within the realm, and all 
due subordination to that august body, the Parliament of Great Britain.

II. That his Majesty’s liege subjects in these colonies are entitled to all the inherent 
rights and liberties of his natural born subjects within the kingdom of Great Britain.

III. That it is inseparably essential to the freedom of a people, and the undoubted 
right of Englishmen, that no taxes should be imposed on them, but with their own con- 
sent, given personally, or by their representatives.

IV. That the people of these colonies are not, and from their local circumstances, 
cannot be represented in the House of Commons in Great Britain.

V. That the only representatives of the people of these colonies, are persons chosen 
therein, by themselves; and that no taxes ever have been, or can be constitutionally im- 
posed on them, but by their respective legislature.

VI. That all supplies to the Crown, being free gifts of the people, it is unreasonable 
and inconsistent with the principles and spirit of the British constitution, for the people 
of Great Britain to grant to his Majesty the property of the colonists.

VII. That trial by jury is the inherent and invaluable right of every British subject 
in these colonies.

VIII. That the late Act of Parliament, entitled, An Act for granting and applying 
certain Stamp Duties, ... by imposing taxes on the inhabitants of these colonies, and the 
said Act, and several other Acts, by extending the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty 
beyond its ancient limits, have a manifest tendency to subvert the rights and liberties of 
the colonists.

IX. That the duties imposed by several late Acts of Parliament, from the peculiar 
circumstances of these colonies, will be extremely burdensome and grievous, and from 
the scarcity of specie, the payment of them absolutely impracticable.

X. That as the profits of the trade of these colonies ultimately centre in Great 
Britain, to pay for the manufactures which they are obliged to take from thence, they 
eventually contribute very largely to all supplies granted there to the Crown.

XI. That the restrictions imposed by several late Acts of Parliament, on the trade 
of these colonies, will render them unable to purchase the manufactures of Great Britain.

XII. That the increase, prosperity and happiness of these colonies, depend on the 
full and free enjoyment of their rights and liberties, and an intercourse with great 
Britain, mutually affectionate and advantageous.

XIII. That it is the right of the British subjects in these colonies, to petition the king 
or either house of Parliament.

Lastly, that it is the indispensable duty of these colonies to the best of sovereigns, 
to the mother country, and to themselves, to endeavor by a loyal and dutiful address to 
his Majesty, and humble applications to both houses of Parliament, to procure the re- 
peal of the Act for granting and applying certain stamp duties, of all clauses of any 
other Acts of Parliament, whereby the jurisdiction of the admiralty is extended as aforesaid, 
and of the other late Acts for the restriction of American commerce.

On Monday, August 26th, the mob, with much noise and shouting, were so 
dark a great company of people, that the usual notice of their 
Mr. Paxton’s house (where we had 
and finding before it that 
the house was his; that he had never 
drink a barrel of punch.

they had drunk the punch 
Admiralty, broke into it, 
among which were all the 
bonfire and there burned 
from thence they went to 
his house and destroyed 
cash. This house was 
elegance. But the grand

The lieutenant governor 
against him, but being con- 
regard to the Stamp Act, 
would not attack him, and 
that the mob were com- 
tained to stay in the house, 
declared she would not stay 
got him away, which was 
mob had got into the house 
for him to murder him, and 
to work with a rage scarce 
moveable was destroyed in 
worth carrying off, among 
ility of family plate, etc.

But the loss to be made
possess a large and valuable 
been gathering all his lifetime, 
valuable papers of a public 
related to the history and 
present and was the only ob-
retrievable as it is to himself, 
this province for 130 years.