

Time, Continuity, and Change:

The Events and Voice of Government and Independence

Join, or Die	1754 – Political cartoon drawn by Benjamin Franklin, and was first published in the Pennsylvania Gazette on May 9 th , 1754. An image of a snake cut into eights, each segment labeled with the initials of one of the American colonies/regions, with New England being the head (NE represented as one segment rather than the four colonies it was at the time). The cartoon appeared along with Franklin's editorial about the "disunited state" of the colonies, and emphasized his belief of the importance of colonial unity. According to the BBC, "...the 'Join, or Die' political cartoon is believed to be the first of its kind in America."
Sugar Act	1764 – 1764: Parliament, desiring revenue from its North American colonies, passed the first law specifically aimed at raising colonial money for the Crown. The act increased duties on non-British goods shipped to the colonies.
Stamp Act	1765 – 1767: Parliament's first serious attempt to assert governmental control over the colonies. Taxed nearly every piece of paper that passed through the colonies, including newspapers, dice, playing cards, and legal documents. Produced the first cry of, "No taxation without representation". Repealed in 1767 and replaced by the Townshed Act.
Townshed Act	1767; A series of taxes passed by Parliament. Replaced the Stamp Act after colonist rebelled and rioted, eventually boycotting British goods.
The Tea Act	1773: Final spark to the revolutionary movement in Boston. Reduced tax on imported British Tea, giving British Merchants an unfair advantage in selling their tea in America. American colonist condemned the act and many boycotted.
The Boston Massacre	March 5, 1770: During a party in Boston, a man began harassing a British soldier who was on patrol at the party to ensure no one got violent. The soldier fled for help, and returned with a group of soldiers. One of the soldiers was eventually hit with a club, and as he fell to the ground his weapon discharged, causing the other soldiers to think they had been a command to fire, and they began to shoot into the crowd of people. Five men were killed that night, and another died two weeks later from his injuries.
Boston Tea Party	December 16, 1773: In direct protest of British tax policies, 50 members of the political organization The Sons of Liberty, dressed up as Mohawk Indians, boarded British merchant ships, and

	dumped over 92,000 pounds of British East India Company Tea into the Boston Harbor.
Quartering Act	1774: Required American colonist to provide British soldiers with any needed accommodations and housing. It also mandated that colonists had to provide food for any British soldiers in the area, and since the number of soldiers often outnumbered the amount of houses – the act stated that soldiers could also house in other buildings such as barns and inns.
First Continental Congress	September 5, 1774 – October 26, 1774: A meeting of delegates from the 13 colonies. The Congress was not formed in order to govern, but to act as a gathering of ambassadors/delegates who will adopt resolutions and protests. The Continental Congress eventually declares a universal ban on the import or consumption of all British goods as well as exports to Britain.
Articles of Confederation	1776 – 1788: The Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, on November 15, 1777 and ratification was finalized on March 1, 1781. Under the articles the states remained independent, with Congress serving as a last resort on appeal disputes. Congress was also given authority to coin money, make treaties/alliances, and maintain the armed forces. However, overall the central government under the AOC was ineffective and weak.
Congress Adopts Declaration of Independence	July 4, 1776: Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence, officially approving it as America's statement of independence from Great Britain.
Constitutional Convention	May 15, 1787 – September 17 1787: Originally intended to revise the Articles of the Confederation, many delegates attended (such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton) with the intention to not simply change the AOC, but to create a new government altogether. The result of the Convention was the creation of the U.S. Constitution.