

STUDENT DOCUMENT SET #2
UNDERSTANDING LOYALISTS AND PATRIOTS

DOCUMENT D: ADDRESS [EXCERPT] TO THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY BY THE MENNONITES AND BRETHREN, NOVEMBER 1775.

Note: Alarmed by the increasing threats of war, two religious sects, the Mennonites and the Brethren, addressed the colonial Pennsylvania Assembly in the hope that the assembly would recognize their opposition to war while stating what they were willing to do if war should occur.

The Advice to those who do not find Freedom of Conscience to take up Arms, that they ought to be helpful to those who are in Need and distressed Circumstances we receive with Cheerfulness towards all Men of what Station they may be — it being our Principle to feed the Hungry and give the Thirsty Drink. — We have dedicated ourselves to serve all Men in every Thing that can be helpful to the Preservation of Men’s Lives but we find no Freedom in giving or doing, or assisting, in any thing by which Men’s Lives are destroyed or hurt.

We beg the Patience of all those who believe we err in this Point. We are always ready, according to CHRIST’s Command to Peter, to pay the Tribute, that we may offend no Man, and so we are willing to pay Taxes, and to render unto Caesar those Things that are Caesar’s, and to God those Things that are God’s, although we think ourselves very weak to God his due Honor, he being a Spirit and Life, and we only Dust and Ashes. . . .

This Testimony we lay down before our worthy [Pennsylvania] Assembly, and all other Persons in Government, letting them know that we are thankful as above-mentioned, and that we are not at Liberty in Conscience to take up Arms to conquer our Enemies, but rather to pray to God, who has Power in Heaven and Earth, for US and THEM.

Source:

Pacifists’ appeals in the American revolution (2013). America in class: Mennonites & Brethren. National humanities center. <http://americainclass.org/sources/makingrevolution/rebellion/text5/religiouspacifists.pdf>

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DOCUMENT E: LEADING BOSTONIANS WAR ABOUT THE BRITISH THREAT TO THE COLONISTS LIBERTIES, GEORGE READ, 1774

Note: Britain responded to the Boston Tea Party with outrage. Convinced that rebels in Boston had to be taught a lesson, Parliament passed several laws that the colonists called the "Intolerable Acts." In the following letter, three leading Bostonians, serving on the town's Committee of Correspondence, warn other colonists about the dangers that British actions posed to their liberties and how the colonies might respond.

The Alarm which the British Act of Parliament, for shutting up the Port of Boston, had occasioned among us, makes it a matter of duty on this Committee to contribute as far as they may, to a general Union of Sentiments and Measures in the Colonies, as the most effectual method of relief, not only from the present encroachments on the Rights of the Inhabitants of Boston, but from future Attempts of the like kind.

We consider each Colony on this Continent as parts of the same Body, and an attack on one is to affect all. The people of Boston are singled out on this occasion by the British Ministry for Apparent Reasons.....Experiment will be made on each Colony in turn, if this should happen, there would be an End to American Freedom for a Century at least.

Imports and Exports are things undoubtedly within the power of the Americans, and they are [have] become of great Consequence to Britain, a total cessation of both, as to that Kingdom, for a time, would not only alarm in turn, but procure application for our relief...

The Conduct of the British Parliament on this occasion, so derogatory of the character which that Senate once had, needs no Comment, a Shadow of Justice, a Cloak of Power used for America's Scourge indicates the necessity of a Congress of Deputies from the several Colonies to determine and agree upon further measures for Redress of present or future Grievances; and we are Confident that if such a proposal shall be made by any one of the principal Colonies the Representatives of the People here will adopt it and embrace the first opportunity of carrying it into Execution....

Source:

Read, G. (1774). Leading Bostonians war about the British threat to the colonists liberties. Digital history.

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=124

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**DOCUMENT F: JOSEPH GALLOWAY'S [EXCERPTS] SPEECH TO
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 28, 1774**

Note: Joseph Galloway served as a delegate from Pennsylvania to the First Continental Congress in 1774. By 1776, Galloway left the colonies for England. In the following speech to the Continental Congress, Galloway defends Great Britain's actions toward the colonies.

...I will therefore call your recollection to the dangerous situation of the Colonies from the intrigues of France, and the incursions of the Canadians and their Indian allies, at the commencement of the last [French and Indian] war. None of us can be ignorant of the just sense they [Great Britain] then entertained of that danger, and of their [the colonies'] incapacity to defend themselves against it, nor of the supplications [pleas/requests] made to the Parent State for its assistance, nor of the cheerfulness with which Great-Britain sent over her fleets and armies for their protection, of the millions she expended in that protection, and of the happy consequences which attended it.

In this state of the Colonies it was not unreasonable to expect that Parliament would have levied a tax on them proportionate to their wealth, and the sums raised in Great Britain [for this war]... The Colonies cannot claim the protection of Britain upon any principle of reason or law, while they deny its supreme authority. Upon this ground the authority of Parliament stands too firm to be shaken by any arguments whatever; and therefore to deny that authority, and at the same time to declare their incapacity to be represented, amounts to a full and explicit declaration of independence.

...I therefore beseech you, by the respect you are bound to pay to the instructions of your constituents, by the regard you have for the honor and safety of your country, and as you wish to avoid a war with Great-Britain, which must terminate, at all events in the ruin of America, not to rely on a denial of the authority of Parliament...

Source:

Galloway, J. (1774). Joseph Galloway's speech to continental congress, September 28, 1774. Library of Congress. <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/rebelln/galloway.html>