

DOCUMENT G: THE PRESENT STATE OF VIRGINIA, BY HUGH JONES, 1724.

Note: Some colonists believed that the colonies were so divided and dependent on Great Britain that they would never be able to be independent. Reverend Hugh Jones of Virginia had one such opinion.

There can be no room for real apprehension of danger of a revolt of the plantations [colonies] in future ages: Or if any of them should attempt it, they might very easily be reduced [defeated] by the others; for all of them will never unite with one another. For though all the plantations [colonies] agree in this –that they all belong to and depend entirely upon Great Britain – yet they have each views different from one another and as strenuously pursue their separate interests by various and distinct methods.

Besides, they can't possibly be without Great Britain, to which they owe their being at first made colonies, and afterwards have been always supported, maintained and employed by it. They can't live without this mart [market] for their manufactures and market, for supply of goods that they want; where they have a great interest, from whence they are descended, to which they are united by blood, religion, language, laws, and customs, and also they have and may always expect to find greater favour and encouragement and protection in England, than from any other nation in the world.

The plantations [colonies] cannot possibly subsist without some trade, correspondence, union, and alliance in Europe, and absolute necessity obliges them to fix these perpetually in Great Britain....

Source:

Jones, H. (1724). The present state of Virginia. National humanities center.
<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/american/text5/independence.pdf>

DOCUMENT H : ACCUSATIONS THAT THE BRITISH ARE PLOTTING TO DEPRIVE AMERICANS OF THEIR LIBERTIES, BY CHARLES THOMSON, 1769

Note: Charles Thomson came to Philadelphia as a young schoolmaster. During the 1765 Stamp Act Crisis, Thomson became a significant figure in local politics, organizing resistance to the act in Philadelphia. Here, Thomson, writes that British actions were part of a plot to deprive Americans of their liberties.

First the parliament claims a right to levy taxes upon the Americans without their consent;...they declare that they have a power to make laws to bind them in all cases whatever: By another act they suspend the legislative authority of an American Assembly for daring to dispute their commands.... The army, which was left in America after the late war under the pretense [fake reason] of securing and defending it, is now publicly declared to be for the purpose of enforcing obedience to the authority of Parliament. The remonstrances [pleas] and Petitions of the Assemblies in favor of their rights, and against these claims of Parliament, are treated as sedition [treason against Great Britain] and the attempts of the people to procure [get] a redress of grievances [acknowledgement of their complaints] are deemed rebellion and treason: and, in order to intimidate the colonies, an antique, obsolete law is revived and the crown addressed to send for persons accused of treasonable practices in America & try them in England.

How much further they may proceed is uncertain; but from what they have already done the colonies see that their property is precarious & their liberty insecure. It is true the impositions already laid are not very grievous; but if the principle is established, and the authority, by which they are laid, admitted, there is no security for what remains. The very nature of freedom supposes that no tax can be levied on a people without their consent given personally or by their representatives.

Source:

Thompson, C. (1759). Accusations that the British are plotting to deprive Americans of their liberties. Digital history.com.
https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=118#:~:text=Here%2C%20Thomson%2C%20writing%20as%20a,plot%20to%20deprive%20Americans%20of

DOCUMENT I: ANONYMOUS LETTER: PENNSYLVANIA PACKET OR THE GENERAL ADVERTISER, JANUARY 2, 1775

***Note:** The following letter was sent by an anonymous writer to the Pennsylvania Packet, a newspaper, in the hope that the writer's letter would be published. It was published on January 2, 1775. As rebellion and talk of war was brewing, the letter was intended to remind colonists of all that Great Britain had done for them.*

My Friends and Countrymen, . . .

[T]his once desert and howling wilderness has been converted into a flourishing and populous country. . . But, has this not been owing to the manner in which the colonies have been treated from the beginning? Is it not from the readiness which Great Britain has ever shewn to encourage our industry and protect us from foreign injuries, that we have attained this growth? If so, surely some returns of gratitude, such as becomes a free and liberal people, are justly due for favors received. . .

. . . The peace and security we have already enjoyed under her [Great Britain's] protection, before the mistaken system of taxation took place, must make us look back with regret to those happy days whose loss we mourn, and which every rational man must consider as the golden age of America. . .

Let us then, my friends and countrymen, patiently avoid all inflammatory publications that, and such as are disrespectful to our most gracious Sovereign [king], still looking forward with an anxious hope to a happy termination of our present disputes, and a cordial reconciliation with our mother country. . .

Source:

Anonymous. (1775). Letter published in Dunlap's Pennsylvania packet or general advertiser. Library of Congress.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2006567047/>