

British Liberties Under Attack

“These resolutions, carried into execution, the colonies cannot help but consider as a manifest violation of their just and long enjoyed rights. For it must be confessed by all men that they who are taxed at pleasure by others cannot possibly have any property, can have nothing to be called their own. They who have no property can have no freedom, but are indeed reduced to the most abject slavery . . .”

Stephen Hopkins, *The Rights of the Colonies Examined* (1765)

“Those who are taxed without their own consent, expressed by themselves or their representatives, are slaves. We are taxed without our own consent, expressed by ourselves or our representatives. We are therefore—SLAVES.”

John Dickinson, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* (1767-68)

ROUSE! STAND! And take the ALARM! You are now in eminent danger of losing (after many other losses) the life, soul, and capitol of all your right and liberties: Namely, the power of not only making, placing, or paying, your own GOVERNOR, but now of paying your JUDGES, who are, or should be, the guardians of your laws, and the pillars of your political life. The plan is laid, the foundation is fixed, to make them dependant for place and payment, upon the arbitrary will, and power of the British ministry; upon that power that has for years been seeking the destruction of your RIGHTS. If you suffer this, then farewell the olive branch that has so sweetly spread; and the peaceful Dove that has hovered so long over you; for then you and your children are Slaves at once.

“The British Bostonian” (Pseudonym), *The American Alarm* (1773)

PARLIAMENTan act has made
That will distress and ruin trade.
To raise a tax as we are told
That will enslave both young and old.
Look our poor Boston, make a stand,
Don't suffer any Tea to land;
For if it once gets footing here,
Then Farewell Liberty most dear.

“A Zealous Daughter of Liberty” (Pseudonym). Untitled Poem,
The Massachusetts Spy (2 December 1773)

“For it is the republican and not the monarchical part of the constitution of England which Englishmen glory in, viz. the liberty of choosing a house of commons from out of their own body—and it is easy to see that when republican virtue fails, slavery ensues. Why is the constitution of England sickly, but because monarchy hath poisoned the republic, the crown hath engrossed the commons?”

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)