

#1. Loyalists: King George III and his friend

You are King George III, ruler of the British Empire.

You are proud to be the ruler of such a great empire, and you take an active role in governing it. You feel your colonies are subject to the laws of England and that Parliament can enact laws that the colonists must obey. The British empire has provided the colonies with protection and a profitable trading partner for over 100 years.

Your empire was faced with a large debt in 1763-several million dollars must be collected to pay for the French and Indian War and other various debts. Faced with this problem, you look for new ways to raise revenues. So, among other things, you decided to tax the colonies in America.

The reaction by the colonists to the taxes and other restrictions the empire enacted has angered you. You view the acts of rebellion as treasonous and criminal and ungrateful. You expect loyalty from colonists to the empire, and you are prepared to take the measures necessary to ensure it.

Lord Frederick North:

- The colonists have become violent rebels.
- Because they refused to pay taxes, they have tarred and feathered tax collectors.
- British goods have been stolen or dumped in the harbor.
- British ships have been burnt.
- Colonists have refused to obey laws and respect authority.
- British troops are needed to maintain law and order.