

#2. The Patriots or Sons of Liberty: We Want our Rights!

Americans resented the English Trade laws:

1. It forbade colonists from trading certain products, like sugar and cotton, with any country other than England. The colonists wanted the freedom to trade with whom they wanted to make more money.
2. The colonists did not want to pay the taxes charged for using the English ports to deliver the goods.

Because colonists began to rebel and protest against taxes and the policies of Britain, they were deprived of the following rights:

1. The British were threatening to shut down any printing presses for writing and speaking out against the King and his policies. There was no freedom of speech and press.
2. When colonists in Boston protested, British troops closed down the ports so that no trading was allowed. Merchants were losing money.
3. Colonists were forced to house and feed the troops. It was like martial law.
4. There was the "Boston Massacre" when British soldiers opened fire and killed some colonists who were protesting their presence in the colonies.
5. Parliament (Britain's government) created courts in the colonies without juries. The judge had the final say and treated colonists as guilty until proven innocent. The colonists felt this was unfair. In British courts, accused persons were treated as innocent until proven guilty.
6. Parliament issued the "Declaratory Act" which stated that Parliament had the power to make laws for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever."
Colonists were losing the power to govern and make laws for themselves.