

# T2AR

The Second American Revolution  
A Series by Robert J Cristiano PhD

## T2AR: The Second American Revolution

October 15, 2011

By Robert J. Cristiano, PhD

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/top-stories/t2ar-the-second-american-revolution/>

The American Revolution did not begin on July 4, 1776, nor did it end that day. The grievances of a people built over many years. King George passed the Proclamation of 1763 that stated colonists could not move westward over the Appalachian Mountains. In 1764, he passed the Sugar Act that led to the famous plea, “No taxation without representation”. In 1765, King George imposed the Stamp Act. The imposition of a heavy tax burden on the colonists by politicians far removed from their daily life was the precursor of what became the American Revolution a decade later. The revolution, whose seeds were planted in the 1760’s, did not end until October of 1781 when a peace treaty was signed in Paris, France.

The American people are in a restive state resembling the mood of their ancestors two hundred fifty years ago. In November of 2010, the American people voted in more than 60 new Representatives in the largest election wave since 1948. In a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released on October 13, 2011, 74% of Americans believe the nation was “off on the wrong track.” If the election were held today, the Senate and the Presidency would flip to the Republican column in yet another “wave” election.

They say those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it. The similarities of the events leading to the first American Revolution have led the author to conclude that the Second American Revolution may have already begun. Neither the Proclamation of 1763 nor the Sugar Act started the first American Revolution. But, history reveals that these acts triggered a series of events that led to the “shot heard round the world” on the greens of Lexington and Concord a decade later.

A new series for *The Californian Political Review* entitled “T2AR” (The Second American Revolution) will explore the similarities of events a quarter millennium ago to the events unfolding today. This is the first article in that series. The author is convinced that history will record the 2008 Tarp and 2009 Stimulus bills that triggered trillions of dollars of unsustainable spending and debt are comparable to The Intolerable Acts of 1774. The fact that the Tea Party movement derived its name from the Boston Tea Party of 1773 is not coincidental.

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# T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 2

October 19, 2011

By Robert J. Cristiano, PhD

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/top-stories/t2ar-the-second-american-revolution-part-2/>

President Barack Obama has attempted to raise taxes on the rich, those making more than \$250,000 per year, each year of his presidency. He believes they must pay their fair share even though the top 1% already pay 38.02% of all federal taxes and the top 10% pay 69.94% of all taxes (National Taxpayers Union). In 1999, the top 1% paid 36.18% of federal taxes, therefore the tax burden of the top 1% has actually increased – despite the infamous Bush tax cuts that so bother the President.

In the 1765, King George imposed the Stamp Act on the colonies. Tax stamps had to be put on 54 kinds of papers, from playing cards to newspapers. The payments varied from one cent on a newspaper to ten dollars on a college diploma. The payments had to be made in gold or silver. Patrick Henry of Virginia was outspoken about the taxes stating that Parliament passed the taxes but no colonists served in Parliament. James Otis, a Boston lawyer coined the phrase, “No taxation without representation”. Delegates sent a letter to Parliament demanding the tax be rescinded. The response was even more taxation. In 1767, the British imposed the Townsend Act on glass, tea, paper and paint. In response, Americans formed the Sons of Liberty whose motto was Join or Die. They harassed the tax collectors to such a degree that the British were forced to send 40,000 troops to the colonies to assist with the tax collection. Worse they informed the colonists that the British troops would live in the homes of the colonists, an action that infuriated the colonists.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, Congress passed The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, using \$700 billion to bail out American banks. On January 24, 2009, the Young Americans for Liberty in New York State organized a “Tea Party” to protest the bail out and obesity taxes proposed by New York Governor David Paterson. On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 passed spending \$800 billion on “Stimulus”. Two days later, CNBC Business News editor Rick Santelli ranted against the “Porkulus” bill and a government plan to refinance mortgages for irresponsible borrowers. He called for a new Tea Party. Within 24 hours, plans for Tea Party tax protests swept the nation.

Tea Party supporters protest Crony Capitalism that sends billions to companies whose owners are heavy political contributors. They feel disconnected from their elected representatives in Washington as their ancestors did 250 years ago. The result of their frustration may feel like a Second American Revolution as even more entrenched politicians are sent packing.

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# Sons of Liberty: The Tea Party Movement

October 25, 2011

By Robert J. Cristiano, PhD

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/top-stories/sons-of-liberty-the-tea-party-movement/>

## T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 3

The Tea Party movement that began in 2009 took its name from a famous chapter of American history – The Boston Tea Party. That famous act of civil disobedience was the culmination of the heavy hand of King George and a Parliament imposing oppressive taxation upon a hard-working people.

In the late 1760's, King George sent 40,000 British troops to America to assist his tax collectors. In 1770, British soldiers fired on a group of unarmed colonists in Boston who were throwing snowballs at them. Five colonists were killed in what became known as The Boston Massacre. As penalty for the murders, two soldiers had their thumbs branded with a hot iron. While some taxes were repealed, the Townsend Act that imposed a tax on tea, remained.

In 1773, fifty members of the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Indians, boarded British ships and tossed 342 chests of tea into the harbor. One of these rebels was Paul Revere and their action became forever known as The Boston Tea Party. Historians point to this act as the catalyst to the American Revolution.

Conservative Americans in 2009 took their name from the Sons of Liberty and their famous act of frustration with their government. But then as now, many Americans did not share their views. Many of the colonists, known as Loyalists, sided with King George



and were appalled at the lawbreakers. Some offered to pay for the damage. Like their predecessors, Tea Party members have accused of being nuts, racist, haters, and worse. Their support is far from universal.

The similarities of 1773 to 2011 are striking. Instead of comprehending why the colonists were frustrated with his existing taxes, King George responded by imposing even more taxes on the

colonies. The new acts of hostility towards his colonies came to be known as The Intolerable Acts and pushed the colonists closer to war.

President Obama has ignored the pleas of millions of Americans who openly protest high taxes, wasteful spending and excessive borrowing. Like King George, Obama has proposed higher taxes on “millionaires and billionaires” as his response.

In 1774, all of the American colonies except Georgia sent representatives to Philadelphia to determine how to respond to The Intolerable Acts. This gathering was called the First Continental Congress.

*SEE ALSO:*

[T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 2](#)

[T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 1](#)

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# An Insensitive and Oppressive Government

November 4, 2011

By Robert J. Cristiano, PhD

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/top-stories/an-insensitive-and-oppressive-government/>

## **T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 4**

In 1774, much like today, there was no clear plurality of opinion. Loyalists believed the colonies owed fealty and allegiance to the Crown. Others sided with the Sons of Liberty and believed the time for loyalty had passed. Many spoke the unspeakable and talked of a break from an insensitive and oppressive government. King George did little to support his loyal subjects. In response to the Boston Tea Party, King George imposed on the colonies four harsh measures that became known as The Intolerable Acts. These new laws became the trigger that changed public sentiment and launched America's War of Independence.

**The Boston Port Act** closed the port of Boston until the tea destroyed by the Sons of Liberty was paid back. With this law, King George punished his loyal subjects along with rebellious colonists. **The Massachusetts Government Act** caused the Massachusetts government to be taken over by the British Parliament. All positions had to be appointed by the King. **The Administration of Justice Act** moved trials of accused royal officials to Great Britain or other colonies. Colonists could not afford to travel to Great Britain to testify in a trial. George Washington believed British officials would use the new law to escape justice and called this the "Murder Act". **The Quartering Act**, the least offensive of the four, clarified the ability of the British to house British soldiers in vacant buildings. It neutralized a myth that the British were housing soldiers in people's homes against their will.

Instead of listening to the complaints of his colonists, King George and the Parliament treated colonists like unruly children imposing harsher and harsher penalties. Slowly, over a period of years, public sentiment shifted. Fewer and fewer Loyalists remained. Many returned to England but many more joined the ranks of those clamoring for independence from an unsustainable relationship.

The present day Congress has an approval rating of 12%, according to a recent New York Times/CBS News poll. The vast majority of the American public no longer believes Congress responds to the needs of average Americans. From the right, the Tea Party movement has already impacted the 2010 election with a change of more than 60 Representatives. Now, from the left, comes the Occupy Wall Street movement. Both represent a primal scream against an insensitive and oppressive government. Like their predecessors in 1774, the majority no longer believe their government represents them.

SEE ALSO:

[T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 3](#)

[T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 2](#)

[T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 1](#)

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## Ballots Instead of Bullets

November 6, 2011

By Robert J. Cristiano, Ph.D.

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/top-stories/ballots-instead-of-bullets/>

### T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 5

As we watch the evening news, our television screens are filled with young Americans encamped from Washington to Seattle in various Occupy tent cities. They are linked instantly via smart phones, Facebook, Twitter and other social media. They are protesting, as the Tea Party protested in 2010, a government seriously out of touch with its citizens.

In 1775, colonists frustrated with the oppressive government of King George began organizing. Farmers and blacksmiths practiced military actions with wooden guns. Some brought their hunting weapons. Without telephones or telegraph, they developed a rapid grass roots communication system using riders on horseback to spread the word. They were called Minutemen because they could be mobilized in a minute if the need arose.



On April 18, 1775, British troops were ordered to Concord to find guns and powder hidden by the colonists. They also planned to arrest Sam Adams and John Hancock, thought to be hiding in Lexington. At midnight, Paul Revere raced on horseback to warn citizens from Boston to Lexington that 700 British troops were on the march. At dawn, on the greens of Lexington, British troops fired upon the local militia. The first shot fired came to be known as “The Shot

Heard ‘Round the World”. Outnumbered, they fell back to Concord where 500

Minutemen gathered at the North Bridge. In a famous battle and the first victory of the American Revolution, the Minutemen defeated three companies of the King's troops and inflicted serious damage as they chased the troops back to Boston.

Two hundred and thirty-five years later, another shot heard round the world was fired in Massachusetts. On January 19, 2010, Scott Brown won the special election for Ted Kennedy's Senate seat, becoming the first Republican elected to the U.S. Senate from Massachusetts in 38 years. The election took the 60th Senate seat from the Democrats removing their filibuster-proof majority for the first time since Obama's election in 2008.

The close election in Massachusetts was decided by the entry of a new force in American politics – The Tea Party Express – who raised money nationally to buy television ads for Brown. A week before the general election, Brown was able to raise \$1.3 million in one 24-hour period from over 16,000 donors.

The parallels are there between the American Revolution and the Second American Revolution. The first shots have been fired, this time by voters using ballots instead of bullets.

*SEE ALSO:*

[\*\*T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 4\*\*](#)

[\*\*T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 3\*\*](#)

[\*\*T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 2\*\*](#)

[\*\*T2AR: The Second American Revolution, Part 1\*\*](#)

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