The British empire had largely left the American colonies to self-government during the period of salutary neglect. The French-Indian War changed this. The British imposed their rule once again on the colonies, creating tension escalating to war.

With the victory of the British in the Seven Years War, over the French, British territory was expanded into Canada as well as out past the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River. Fighting together, both groups were disillusioned. The British soldiers saw the colonists as cowardly, never allowing a colonial officer past the rank of captain. The colonists viewed the soldiers as barbaric, rude, and for the first time, not invincible.

The colonists began expanding past the Appalachian Mountains with the end of the war into Native American territories. Conflict erupted with Pontiac's Rebellion. In response, the British passed the Proclamation of 1763, which prohibited the colonists...
it was intended as a temporary measure while relations with the Native Americans calmed. The colonists, however, saw it as permanent, and an unwarranted law against the land they felt was earned in the war.

Tensions increased from here. The British had accumulated debt from the war that they felt the colonists should help pay off, as the war had benefitted them. The Molasses Act was passed, taxing sugar as it came into the colonies from the West Indies. As time went on, the Stamp Act, taxing legal documents, paper products, and the Quartering Act requiring colonists to house and feed British soldiers, tensions quickly grew, especially over the soldiers. The Navigation laws restricted trade with nations other than Britain, requiring colonial ships to stop in a British port for middlemen fees before traveling to other nations. Tensions quickly grew, as smuggling was rampant. The soldiers were the greatest.

Colonists boycotted taxed goods in protest, either doing without or making their own.
The colonists believed they no longer needed to be present, as the French had left. North America was no longer a threat. The soldiers, further, may have enforced the taxes, unwanted laws, posed undesired behavior to colonial children, and competed for already scarce jobs.

The Townshend Acts were then passed. Taxing tea, lead, paint, and glass — all necessary for building homes & continuing the traditional tea custom in the New World. After much protest, as well as the tar & feathering, the taxes were repealed on all goods except tea. Also, the Declaratory Act was passed establishing the right of the British to tax the colonists.

With the tea tax remaining, the British gave a monopoly on tea to the East India Company. With the monopoly, the tea with its tax was cheaper than smuggled tea. The colonists in protest of the trickery, refused to drink it, boycotting the tea. In Boston, Samuel Adams & his followers, the Sons of Liberty
Depressed as Native Americans, they climbed aboard tea ships in the harbor and dumped the boxes of tea into the harbor. The British were outraged. Their royal governor refused to let the ships leave while the colonists refused to allow them to be docked. The King closed Boston Harbor & refused to allow trade until the tea was paid for. Closing the harbor did serious damage as roads were too rough for long distance travel. As the Bostonians remained to

Soon after, the protests dissolved into fighting. Colonists antagonized soldiers in Boston, throwing rocks killed snowballs & ice chunks. The British fired an accidental shot causing an open fire, 5 colonists were killed in the Boston Massacre.

A cartoon of this was drawn by John Hancock & published throughout the colonies as propaganda against British control. Thomas Paine's novel "Common Sense" spread the idea for its advocacy of self-sovereignty.
The tensions continued in 1774 as the British soldiers in Boston were sent to Lexington & Concord to arrest John & Samuel Adams. Fighting broke out with the opening battle of the war.

Meanwhile, the Continental Congress was called in Philadelphia. They issued the Olive Branch petition for increased self-government & establishment of peace. The contrast between the rebelling colonists and declaration of British servitude caused the British to deny the petition.

Finally, in 1776, the Congress decided war was official, & attempts for peace were hopeless. The Declaration of Independence was issued & signed. It officially declared war on Britain, as well as showed the French the colonists' firm position in hopes of gaining aid. The Declaration also rallied the remaining colonists behind the cause for independence. George Washington was put in charge of the army. The American Revolution officially began.
led to the collapse of relations between the American colonies and Great Britain, escalating from protest to full war.