

**Document A (ORIGINAL)**

*Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal, 7 October 1765*

To the Inhabitants of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay.

MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN,

AWAKE!—Awake, my countrymen, and, by a regular & legal opposition, defeat the designs of those who enslave us and our posterity. . . . [S]hall you, the descendents of Britain, born in a Land of Light, and reared in the Bosom of Liberty—shall you commence cowards, at a time when reason calls so loud for your magnanimity? . . . This is your duty, your burden, your indispensable duty. Ages remote, mortals yet unborn, will bless your generous efforts, and revere the memory of the saviors of their country. . . .

I exhort you to instruct your representatives against promoting by any ways of means whatsoever, the operation of this grievous and burdensome law. Acquaint them *fully* with your sentiments of the matter. . . . They are clothed with power. . . . to be faithful guardians of the liberties of their country. . . . Happy, thrice happy should I be, to have it in my power to congratulate my countrymen, on so memorable a deliverance; whilst I left the enemies of truth and liberty to humble themselves in sackcloth and ashes.

*Source: This letter appeared in the Boston-Gazette newspaper on October 7, 1765.*

## Document B (ORIGINAL)

*Boston-Gazette Supplement, 27 January 1766*

*From a late London Paper.*

. . . .The occasion of the riotous behavior of the Bostonites is peculiarly remarkable. Had the Parliament taxed their small beer an half penny a quart, the tax would then have been most severely felt . . . and an improper conduct on such an occasion had been less a matter of surprise. . . . But in the present case, *the tax to be levied affects none of the necessities of life; will never fall upon many of the poor.* . . Even a very poor person cannot be much hurt by paying a shilling or eighteen pence when he is married, puts his son for apprentice to a trade, or when he makes his will. The tax on newspapers concerns only a very few—the common people don't purchase newspapers. Is it not surprising then that the mob should be so much alarmed by the apprehension of a tax by which they are to be so little affected. . . even before the tax is begun to be levied?

*Source: This letter was written in a London newspaper and then published in the Boston Gazette Supplement two months after the Stamp Act went into effect.*

## Document C (ORIGINAL)

*Philadelphia January 13<sup>th</sup> 1766*

My Lords,

The colonists have been insulting His Majesty, saying that the Stamp Act is unconstitutional and oppressive.

It is obvious to many people here that the Presbyterians are at the head of these riots. They are opposed to Kings in general. The leaders of the Presbyterians fill every newspaper with inflammatory letters, so that the minds of the common people are kept in a continual state of anger that will obviously lead to violence. No one dares write anything in a newspaper that would actually calm the people down. Doing so would put the writer's life and fortune in danger.

I am convinced the Presbyterians want nothing less than to throw off their allegiance and obedience to his Majesty. They want to form a Republican Empire in America. They desire to be the Lords and Masters themselves. I am threatened daily both by people on the streets and by anonymous letters sent in the mail. There is a mob of several thousand people from New Jersey, New York, and New England that wants to harm me it seems.

I conclude by praying that the Almighty of America to the Crown of Britain, by destroying the seeds of rebellion and by punishing the ringleaders of these riots.

*Source: The following is an excerpt from a letter written by John Hughes, the Stamp distributor in Philadelphia, to his bosses in London. It was Hughes' job to collect the tax on stamps.*