**Document 1: Transcript of the Albany Congress**

*Seven colonies—*[*Connecticut*](https://www.britannica.com/place/Connecticut/Cultural-life)*,*[*Maryland*](https://www.britannica.com/place/Maryland-state/Cultural-life)*,*[*Massachusetts*](https://www.britannica.com/place/Massachusetts/Cultural-life)*,*[*New Hampshire*](https://www.britannica.com/place/New-Hampshire-state/History)*,*[*New York*](https://www.britannica.com/place/New-York-state/Government-and-society)*,*[*Pennsylvania*](https://www.britannica.com/place/Pennsylvania-state/Government-and-society)*, and*[*Rhode Island*](https://www.britannica.com/place/Rhode-Island-state/Cultural-life)*—sent delegates to the conference*

*Same day*, p.m. Motion “that the Commissioners deliver their opinion whether a Union of all the Colonies is not at present absolutely necessary for their Security and defence” passed unanimously. DeLancey proposes building two forts in Indian country to protect Indians; Board determines to proceed on this question after considering some method for colonial union. Committee appointed “to prepare and receive Plans or Schemes for the Union of the Colonies and to digest them into one general Plan for the Inspection of this Board.”

*Tues. July 2*, a.m. “After the debates held on the plan of an Union, it was moved; if the Board should proceed to form the plan of a Union of the Colonies, to be established by an Act of Parliament. Whereupon it was moved to put the previous question, which passed in the negative. The Question was then put, whether the Board should proceed to form a plan of a Union of the Colonies to be established by Act of Parliament which passed in the affirmative.

**Plan** of a Proposed Union of the Several Colonies of Masachusets-bay, New Hampshire, Coneticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jerseys, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, For their Mutual Defence and Security, and for Extending the British Settlements in North America.

That humble Application be made for an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, by Virtue of which, one General Government may be formed in America, including all the said Colonies, within and under which Government, each Colony may retain its present Constitution, except in the Particulars wherein a Change may be directed by the said Act, as hereafter follows.

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| President General | That the said General Government be administred by a President General, To be appointed and Supported by the Crown, and a Grand Council to be Chosen by the Representatives of the People of the Several Colonies, met in their respective Assemblies. |
| Grand Council. |
| Election of Members.  First Place of Meeting | That within  Months after the passing of[2](https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-05-02-0104#BNFN-01-05-02-0104-fn-0031) such Act, The House of Representatives in the Several Assemblies, that Happen to be Sitting within that time or that shall be Specially for that purpose Convened,[3](https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-05-02-0104#BNFN-01-05-02-0104-fn-0032) may and Shall Choose Members for the Grand Council in the following Proportions, that is to say.  Who shall meet for the first time at the City of Philadelphia, in Pensilvania |

**Document 2: Navigation Acts**



**Document 3: *Letters from a Pennsylvania Farmer (1767)***

*In twelve essays widely read in colonial newspapers and soon printed as a pamphlet, John Dickinson urged firmer American resistance to Britain’s increased restrictions and discouraged the complacency exhibited by Americans after the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766.*

*The son of a prominent Quaker family, John Dickinson (1732-1808) was born on his family’s tobacco plantation in Maryland. A lawyer and colonial legislator, he served in the First and Second Continental Congresses but refused to sign the Declaration of Independence because he believed the colonies were not ready to sever themselves from Great Britain. Nonetheless, he fought against the British as an officer in the Pennsylvania Militia and after the Revolution played a significant role in the life of the nation.*

FROM my infancy I was taught to love humanity and liberty. Enquiry and experience have since confirmed my reverence for the lessons then given me. Benevolence toward mankind excites wishes for their welfare, and such wishes endear the means of fulfilling them. These can be found in liberty only, and therefore her sacred cause ought to be espoused by every man, on every occasion, to the utmost of his power.

THESE being my sentiments, I am encouraged to offer to you, my countrymen, my thoughts on some [recent] transactions that appear to me to be of the utmost importance to you. I venture at length to request the attention of the public, praying that these lines may be read with the same zeal for the happiness of *British America* with which they were wrote.

WITH a good deal of surprise I have observed that little notice has been taken of an act of Parliament as injurious in its principle to the liberties of these colonies as the Stamp Act was: I mean the act for suspending the legislation of New York.

THE assembly of that government complied with a former act of Parliament requiring certain provisions to be made for the troops in America in every particular, I think, except the articles of salt, pepper and vinegar. In my opinion they acted imprudently, considering all circumstances, in not complying so far as would have given satisfaction, as several colonies did. But my dislike of their conduct in that instance has not blinded me so much that I cannot plainly perceive that they have been punished in a manner pernicious to American freedom and justly alarming to all the colonies.

IF the Parliament may lawfully deprive New York of any of her rights, it may deprive any or all the other colonies of their rights; and nothing can possibly so much encourage such attempts as a mutual inattention to the interests of each other. To divide, and thus to destroy, is the first political maxim in attacking those who are powerful by their union.

He certainly is not a wise man who folds his arms and reposes himself at home, viewing with unconcern the flames that have invaded his neighbor’s house, without using any endeavors to extinguish them.

**Document 4: The Boston Massacre**

*A* Boston merchant John Tudor, was in the midst of the stirring events in the New England metropolis from 1732 to 1793. The soldiers involved in the so-called massacre were indicted for murder, defended by John Adams, and were acquitted, though two of them declared guilty of manslaughter and received light punishments.

  ON Monday evening the 5th current, a few minutes after 9 o'clock a most horrid murder was committed in King Street before the Customhouse door by 8 or 9 soldiers under the command of Captain Thomas Preston, drawn off from the main guard on the south side of the Townhouse.  
  
    This unhappy affair began by some boys and young fellows throwing snow balls at the sentry placed at the Customhouse door. On which 8 or 9 soldiers came to his assistance. Soon after a number of people collected, when the Captain commanded the soldiers to fire, which they did and 3 men were killed on the spot and several mortally wounded, one of whom died the next morning. The Captain soon drew off his soldiers up to the main guard, or the consequences might have been terrible, for on the guns firing the people were alarmed and set the bells a-ringing as if for fire, which drew multitudes to the place of action. Lieutenant Governor Hutchinson, who was commander-in-chief, was sent for and came to the council chamber, where some of the magistrates attended. The Governor desired the multitude about 10 o'clock to separate and go home peaceably and he would do all in his power that justice should be done, etc. The 29th regiment being then under arms on the south side of the Townhouse, but the people insisted that the soldiers should be ordered to their barracks first before they would separate, which being done the people separated about one o'clock. Captain Preston was taken up by a warrant given to the high Sheriff by Justice Dania and Tudor and came under examination about 2 o'clock and we sent him to jail soon after 3, having evidence sufficient to commit him on his ordering the soldiers to fire. So about 4 o'clock the town became quiet. The next forenoon the 8 soldiers that fired on the inhabitants were also sent to jail.

Tuesday A.M. the inhabitants met at Faneuil Hall and after some pertinent speeches, chose a committee of 15 gentlemen to wait on the Lieutenant Governor in council to request the immediate removal of the troops. The message was in these words: That it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that the inhabitants and soldiery can no longer live together in safety; that nothing can rationally be expected to restore the peace of the town and prevent blood and carnage but the removal of the troops; and that we most fervently pray his honor that his power and influence may be exerted for their instant removal. His honor's reply was, "Gentlemen I am extremely sorry for the unhappy difference and especially of the last evening," and signifying that it was not in his power to remove the troops

The above reply was not satisfactory to the inhabitants, as but one regiment should be removed to the castle barracks. In the afternoon the town adjourned to Dr. Sewill's meetinghouse, for Faneuil Hall was not large enough to hold the people, there being at least 3,000, some supposed near 4,000, when they chose a committee to wait on the Lieutenant Governor to let him and the council know that nothing less will satisfy the people, than a total and immediate removal of the troops out of the town.

**Document 5:** ***The Mother Country: A SONG by* Benjamin Franklin**

We have an old Mother that peevish is grown,

She snubs us like Children that scarce walk alone;

She forgets we’re grown up and have Sense of our own;

*Which nobody can deny, deny,*

*Which no body can deny.*

If we don’t obey Orders, whatever the Case;

She frowns, and she chides, and she loses all Patience, and sometimes she hits us a Slap in the Face,

*Which nobody can deny*, &c.

Her Orders so odd are, we often suspect

That Age has impaired her sound Intellect:

But still an old Mother should have due Respect,

*Which nobody can deny*, &c.

Let’s bear with her Humours as well as we can:

But why should we bear the Abuse of her Man?

When Servants make Mischief, they earn the Rattan,

*Which nobody should deny*, &c.

Know too, ye bad Neighbours, who aim to divide

The Sons from the Mother, that still she’s our Pride;

And if ye attack her we’re all of her side,

*Which nobody can deny*, &c.

We’ll join in her Lawsuits, to baffle all those,

Who, to get what she has, will be often her Foes:

For we know it must all be our own, when she goes,

*Which nobody can deny, deny,*

*Which nobody can deny.*

-1765-

**Document 6: The Boston Tea Party**

John Andrews

*British ships arrived in Boston in November 1773, with 342 chests of tea. The Bostonians refused to let the tea be unloaded. Governor Thomas Hutchinson demanded the duty be paid anyway and made the ships sit in the harbor. Samuel Adams and his friends disguised as Indians and threw a “party.” John Andrews wrote this account to a relative…*

THE house was so crowded that I could get no further than the porch. I found the moderator was just declaring the meeting to be dissolved. This caused another general shout out-doors and inside, and three cheers. What with that and the consequent noise of breaking up the meeting, you'd have thought the inhabitants of the infernal regions had broken loose. For my part I went contentedly home and finished my tea, but was soon informed what was going forward. As I could not believe it without seeing for myself, I went out and was satisfied. The Indians mustered, I'm told, upon Fort Hill, to the number of about two hundred, and proceeded, two by two, to Griffin's wharf, where Hall, Bruce, and Coffin's vessels lay.

Coffin's ship had arrived at the wharf only the day before, and was freighted with a large quantity of other goods, which they took the greatest care not to injure in the least. Before nine o'clock in the evening every chest on board the three vessels was knocked to pieces and flung over the sides. They say the actors were Indians from Narragansett. Whether they were or not, to a transient observer they appeared such. They were clothed in blankets, with their heads muffled and copper colored faces. Each was armed with a hatchet or axe or pair of pistols. Nor was their dialect different from what I imagine the real Indians to speak, as their jargon was nonsense to all but themselves.

Not the least insult was offered to any person, except to Captain Connor, a livery-stable keeper in this place, who came across the ocean not many years since. He ripped up the lining of his coat and waistcoat under the arms, and, watching his opportunity, he nearly filled them with tea. When detected he was handled pretty roughly. The people not only stripped him of his clothes, but gave him a coat of mud, with a severe bruising into the bargain. Nothing but their utter aversion to making any disturbance prevented his being tarred and feathered.