**Lecture 6: Revolution & Thomas Paine**

1. What sparked the revolution?
   1. Philosophical cultural change known as The Enlightenment
      1. Main figures: Spinoza (1632–1677), John Locke (1632–1704) Voltaire (1694–1778) and physicist Isaac Newton (1643–1727).
      2. Scientific Revolution overturned many traditional concepts (astronomy, anatomy, etc) and introduced new perspectives on nature and man's place within it.
         1. Debunked Divine Right of Kings, introducing ideas like consent of the governed, and government as a rational and mutually beneficial contract.
         2. The Enlightenment flourished until about 1800, after which the emphasis on reason gave way to Romanticism's emphasis on emotion, and a Counter-Enlightenment contributed to Literary Romanticism
   2. Legal: British Declaratory Act (1766),
      1. Said that Britain had the right to bind America in all cases whatsoever.
         1. Britain declared that it could pass a law saying ANYTHING it wanted, any tax, rule exception, anything, Magna Carta be damned.
            1. Magna Carta 1215 charter required King to respect certain liberties and accept that his will was not arbitrary

No "freeman"could be punished except through the [law of the land](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_the_land), a right that still exists.

* + - * 1. Wasn’t all that legal, and they got away with it because the colony wasn’t England.
      1. Meant they could nullify any law or rule made by colonists by/for themselves and override any of their judgments or elections & install their own people
      2. Meant they could be punished outside the law of the land—for revenge, or identity reasons, or whatever
    1. Colonists had no right to represent themselves in Parliament in England
       1. Nobody argued for their interests, so they got trampled
  1. Practical:
     1. Harassment by British Soldiers who took over people’s houses & ate everything
        1. Also a bit trigger happy
           1. Boston massacre 1770 shot into an unarmed crowd killing 5
  2. Taxation: paid plenty import/export taxes, but got very little for it that they could see.
     + 1. Boston Tea Party 1773 was a tax protest—threw entire tea cargo into the sea, ruining it. They opposed the tax on tea.
          1. British punished them by ending self-government in Massachusetts
       2. Also restricted who colonists could trade with—basically just mother country, so they couldn’t get real market prices for their exports.

1. Paine: Bio
   1. Poor son of a corsetmaker in England
      1. Runs away as a teenager, but comes back and goes to work on the corsets & later works for the gov’t as a tax collector.
   2. Gets married, she dies in childbirth
      1. Remarries, later divorced (maybe due to indiscretions)
   3. Arrives in America 1774, age 37 with a letter recommending him to Ben Franklin
      1. Franklin puts him to work as a journalist
   4. Volunteered in the revolutionary army
      1. Got donations and loans from France to fund the revolution (king hated England)
   5. Floundered later in life
      1. Harshly criticized Christianity in a very devout time
      2. 7 people came to his funeral & nobody knows where his bones are
2. Paine: 2 revolutionary ideas
   1. Ordinary people can indeed make sound judgments on major political issues
   2. Popular wisdom (common sense) is readily apparent to anyone.
      1. Continental Enlightenment thinkers believed that common sense could refute the claims of traditional institutions.
         1. For Paine "common sense" was a weapon to delegitimize the monarchy and overturn prevailing ideas, especially about Church & State.