

Examine the causes of American war of Independence.

1. Introduction:

The Newland discovered by Cristopher Columbus was made a battle-ground by Portugese, Spanish, French and British. Other countries from Europe also participated in tug of war of acquiring this newland, its wealth, and glory. However, Britian got a greater chance to establish its colonies there. Further, French and British war of Seven years, which led to the Treaty of Paris 1763, founded grounds for American war of Independence. The last nail in the coffin was British mercantilist policies and numerous acts imposed on its colonies to regenerate wealth and pay war debts. All these events contributed significantly in the formation of United States of America.

2. Attitude of Americans: Overview here

Americans people who

migrated from England shared a sense of homeland in America. They were religious refugees, tired of intolerant English policies. When they reached America with their families, they found a great religious and constitutional liberty there.

3. Attitude of British:

British believed that America was their colony and colonists settled there to fulfill the interests of their motherland. Britain then made Royal Colonies like Virginia, New York, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Plymouth. The king was the sole lawgiver and authority over these colonies, and governors and military commanders were also English officials. Thus, colonies were reluctant ^{to} ~~for~~ self-government and viewed that they should manage their affairs.

"The colonists had left their right behind when they left England." - English colonial administrator Sir Edmund Andros.

Make elaborating headings

4. Anglo-French war a root cause of war of Independence:

Anglo-French was a bloodiest war between the two colonial powers, which England won with the help of its colonies. The colonies sacrificed their lives to attain the victory of its motherland. But, after the war Britain imposed certain taxes on colonies to bear the debt of war. On the other hand, colonies felt that they can unite and defend themselves against any threat, and this view strengthened their morals to self government. Moreover, colonies were dependent on British crown for their protection against French colonies. After the war France was expelled out of America, leading to absence of any threat to colonies. So, colonies felt no need to further exploit themselves under British crown.

5. Mercantilism and Navigation Acts imposed on colonies:

According to British empire the colonies only existed to profit their

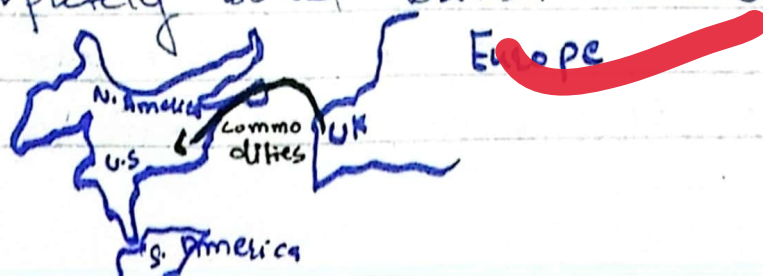
motherland. Colonies were kept to be fully controlled and not given the right of industrial production. They were bound to export expensive goods from England and its colonies. Along with this, a certain number of taxes, duties and acts were introduced to further augment the resentment of colonies.

(a) Navigation Act of 1651:

This act provided that all goods exported to the colonies must be carried in British ships. This adversely impacted Dutch interests.

(b) Enumerated commodities Act of 1660:

This act listed certain commodities like sugar, tobacco, cotton and indigo, which should only be exported from England and its colonies. In coming years the list was further expanded to completely bound British colonies.



(c) The Staple Act 1663:

According to this act European Exports to American colonies must be brought to English ports and then be reshipped after the payment of duty.

(d) The Duty Act 1673:

This act was aimed to enforce all previous acts through custom collectors.

(e) The Enforcement Act 1696:

This act provided the checking and registration of colonial ships to prevent smuggling. Even custom officers can seize those ships and unlawfully take goods against the interests of colonics.

(f) The Molasses Act 1733:

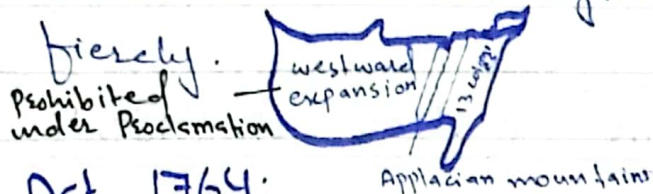
This molasses act was a law, which imposed a prohibitive duty of six pence a gallon on rum and five set shillings a hundred weight of

sugar imported from foreign colonies of west indies



(g) Proclamation of 1763:

British empire paused the settlements of people in American colonies for short period to bring peace. These prohibited westward expansion across Appalachian mountain. This act angered the masses fiercely.



(h) The Sugar Act 1764:

The sugar act ~~was passed~~ with a view to collect revenue as well as stop colonial smuggling from

West Indies. Duty on foreign molasses was reduced and on refined sugar was increased. Taxes on indigo, silk, coffee and goods were increased.

(i) The Quartering Act 1765:

Colonies were required to provide shelter and food to British soldiers. The burden of supporting troops was shifted from British to colonies.

(j) The Stamp Act 1765:

"Stamp act will affect the printers more than anybody." - Benjamin Franklin, American Founding Father

England passed this act to raise revenue from official documents, newspapers, property documents, dice, and pamphlets. Everyday life was disrupted and regular businesses and paperwork halted. Resultantly illiteracy and poverty increased. People started protesting with a slogan of "No taxation without Representation."

This is a rather superficial analysis. You need to dig further deeper. Add analysis from books, articles. Add relevant quotations as well. You have got potential Good luck!

(K)

Townshend Acts 1767:

These acts were introduced to on daily use things which were imported from England. It was not followed by colonists like Stamp Act.

(L)

Boston Massacre:

People started protesting in Boston, and a group of nervous soldiers fired into mob killing three, and inciting violence.

(M)

Tea Act and Boston Party 1773:

British East India company was failing in Asia, so tea act introduced to sell it in colonies but colonists threw tea of 15000 \$ in Boston port calling it "Boston Tea Party".

6.

Conclusion:

America's war of independence was not a sudden incident but it was fueled for decades through British mercantilist policies. These policies angered the colonies and British lost their ^{semi} discovered wealth with dirty hands in mud. Thus, ~~E~~ passing through sunny days America revolted and emerged as great nation.