

## Question # 02

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### 1) Introduction

The revolution was affected before the war commenced. American revolution commenced because of many factors.

Some of these factors arose due to the British policies that crippled the freedom of people. The policies varied from taxation to the governance.

Americans were exploited by the British colonialists. They used it for the sake of generating wealth which is called Mercantilism. The other factors were the ideas emanating from enlightenment and various other intellectuals.

### 2) Americans were fed up of Britain's colonial oppressive policies

British imposed oppressive policies which generated the hate in the minds and hearts of people, fuelling the fire for revolution.

Following are some British oppressive colonial grievances, British debt from French and Indian war, lack of colonial self-government, British representation,



lack of representation, trade restrictions, role of disliking mercantilism.

## 2.1) Colonial Grievances

The American colonists felt increasingly resentful of British policies, including taxation without representation, restrictions on trade, and the Quartering Act, which required them to house the British soldiers. This generated the hate in the minds and hearts of Americans which sowed the seeds of revolution.

## 2.2) British debt from French and Indian War

Britain's costly involvement in the French and Indian War led to increased taxation on the colonies to pay off the war debt. Colonists saw this as unjust and burdensome. It generated the revolution in the hearts and minds of people.

## 2.3) Lack of Colonial Self-Government

The British imposed direct rule and control over the colonies through measures like Stamp Act and Intolerable Acts, eroding colonial self-governance and local autonomy. It generated the seeds of revolution in the hearts and minds of people.



### 2.4) British Repression

The British response to colonial protests, such as the use of force in events like the Boston Massacre and the Closure of Boston Harbor, solidified and fueled the call for independence. It generated hate for British and it also became the cause of American revolution before revolution.

### 2.5) Lack of representation

The slogan "No taxation without representation" encapsulated the colonists' frustration with being taxed by the British Parliament without having any direct representation in the body.

### 2.6) Trade Restrictions

Mercantilism, an economic theory that emphasized a favorable balance of trade and the accumulation of wealth, led to British policies that restricted colonial trade to benefit the mother country. The Navigation Acts and other trade regulations limited colonial economic independence. It also generated the hate and it sowed the seeds of revolution in the hearts and minds of people. It later turned into war of independence.



## 2.7) The Role of Disliking the Mercantilism

The policy of Mercantilism imposed economic constraints, made them dependence, limited opportunities and unequal benefits played the biggest role in generating the feelings of revolution in the hearts and minds of people.

### Role of British Oppressions in generating feelings of Revolution

- Colonial Grievances
- British Debt from French and Indian War.
- Lack of Colonial self-government
- British Repressions
- Lack of Representation
- No taxation without representation
- Trade restrictions
- Mercantilism

Figure: British oppressive policies that Generated feelings of revolution in the hearts and minds of people



3) Ideas of reason and enlightenment generated feelings of revolution in the hearts and minds of people

The writings of prominent authors, influence of enlightenment ideas like individual liberty and rights, social contract theory, the experience of self-government, republicanism and popular sovereignty played important role in creating the revolution in the hearts and minds of people before the actual revolution.

### 3.1) The writings of Prominent authors

The authors like Thomas Paine who wrote *Common Sense* and many authors did propaganda against the government of Colonialists generated the ideas for independence. The writings of the likes of Thomas Paine played major role in this. It created the revolution in the hearts and minds of people before actual revolution.

### 3.2) Emphasis on Individual Rights and Liberty

Enlightenment thinkers such as Locke and Rousseau developed the concept of the social contract, which



suggested that legitimate governments are formed through the consent of the governed and exist to protect the rights of citizen.

Moreover, John Locke emphasized the natural rights of individuals including life, liberty, and property. These ideas influenced American colonial thought, as colonists began to question the authority of British rule and advocate for their rights as individual.

**3.3) The Experience of Self-government**  
The colonists achieved the experience of self-government and imposition of British authority was not acceptable to them. They wanted to ~~accept~~ form their own government. This generated the feelings of revolution in the hearts and minds of people.

### **3.4) Republicanism and Popular Sovereignty**

Enlightenment ideas about republican government, where political authority is derived from the people, had a profound impact on the development of American revolutionary thought. Concepts of popular sovereignty, where ultimate power resides with people,



informed the establishment of the new American nation.

#### 4) Conclusion

The American revolution came in the hearts and minds of people before actually happening.

If it came because of the various factors like

The British policies of generating wealth through the Mercantilism and various other oppressive acts. Moreover, the

progressive ideas also played an important role in generating the revolution in the hearts and minds of people.