

Britain's King George III enjoyed the support of only about one-fifth of the American colonists. Those colonists became known as Loyalists.

11.2 Who Were the Loyalists and Patriots?

When colonists began arguing over independence, thousands of them chose to become Loyalists. The Loyalists included many kinds of people.

Some Loyalists were rich landowners. They feared that Patriot mobs might take their property.

Some Loyalists were governors who had been appointed to their jobs by King George III. They liked their government, and they felt that it was their duty to make sure that British laws were obeyed in the colonies.

Other Loyalists were religious leaders who believed that the king's power came from God. Many of them were members of the Church of England, Britain's official church. They believed that it was wrong to oppose the king. They told their followers, "You have a duty to be loyal to the church and to the king!"

Loyalists gave many arguments against independence. Still, only about one-fifth of the colonists became Loyalists.

About two-fifths of the colonists became Patriots. Many of them were merchants who lived in and around the city of Boston. They were angry about British taxes on goods such as tea and cloth. The taxes hurt their businesses because many colonists refused to buy the taxed goods.

Some Patriots were lawyers. They fought in the courts against British laws that they thought were unfair. They believed that the colonists should have more say in making laws that directly affected them.

Other Patriots were farmers or people who worked at crafts such as printing, shipbuilding, and making clothes. They agreed with Patriot leaders who said that independence would bring more freedom and riches to the colonies.

In the rest of this chapter, you will learn about three Loyalists and three Patriots. As you read about these people, think about why they felt the way they did. What reasons did each give for being a Loyalist or a Patriot?

11.3 Thomas Hutchinson: A Loyalist Governor

Thomas Hutchinson was a Loyalist who lived in Massachusetts. He was a dedicated official who was named royal governor of Massachusetts in 1771. Over time, Hutchinson became one of the most hated men in the colonies because he always sided with the British against the Patriots.

Hutchinson was a thin, serious man who rarely smiled. He didn't like to show much feeling. Even though he was a successful businessman, he didn't wear fancy clothes. Instead, he liked to wear a simple black coat and hat.

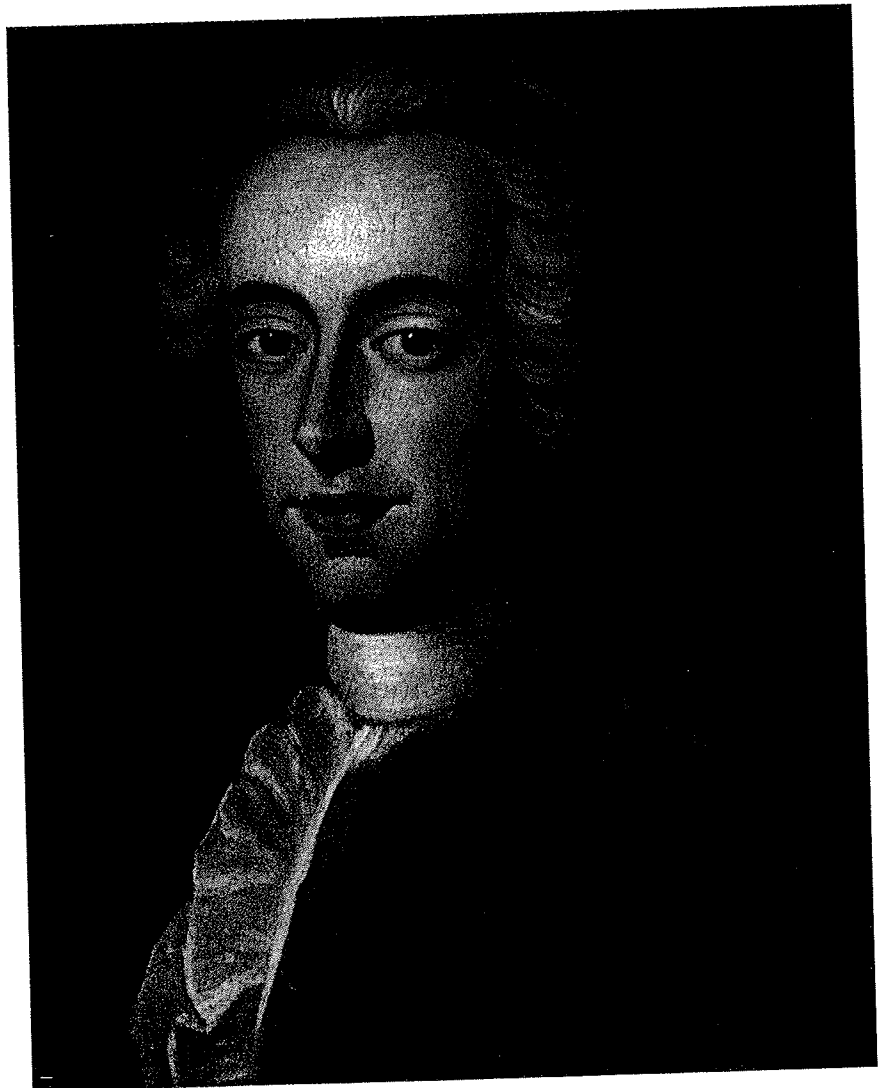
As an official serving the king, Hutchinson believed firmly in enforcing British laws such as the Stamp Act and the law that closed Boston Harbor for a time. Patriots were so angry about the Stamp Act that one night an angry mob burst into Hutchinson's house. The mob stole money and broke furniture. They also destroyed his prized collection of books. From then on, Hutchinson was a bitter enemy of the Patriots.

As a Loyalist, Hutchinson argued against independence for several reasons. He said that the colonies needed Britain to help protect them against other countries. He argued that the colonists could not govern themselves without Britain to guide them. And he said that the king knew what was best for the colonists because he was wiser and more experienced.

In 1773, Patriots embarrassed Hutchinson by printing some letters that he had written to the British government. The letters said that Britain should be even more strict with the colonists. When colonists read the letters in the newspaper, nearly everyone turned against him.



Thomas Hutchinson was a Loyalist. As governor of Massachusetts, he enforced British laws that were unpopular among the American colonists.



11.4 Jonathan Boucher: A Loyalist Religious Leader

Reverend Jonathan Boucher was a British religious leader who used his sermons (speeches in church) to spread his Loyalist beliefs.

Boucher first came to the colonies as a young man in 1759. Later, he went back to Britain and became a priest in the Church of England. After returning to America, he became a well-known religious leader in the colony of Maryland.

Many people liked being around Boucher because he was intelligent and full of charm. He usually dressed simply, in dark suits and a priest's collar. He was balding and usually wore spectacles (glasses).

Even though he dressed plainly, Boucher was full of energy and ambition. He was a forceful man who was comfortable talking in front of large groups. As a minister, he used his talents to argue for the Loyalist cause.

Boucher preached that the king's power came from God. He said that Christians had a special duty to obey British laws because disobeying the king was like disobeying God.

Boucher also argued that colonists should obey the laws for their own good. He said that British laws made life safer and better for most colonists.

Finally, Boucher warned that actions for independence were dangerous because they could lead to a war with Britain. Such a war would hurt thousands of people much more than living with a few bad laws.

Boucher's Loyalist sermons made some Patriots so angry that they threatened to kill him. Realizing that he was in danger, Boucher began keeping loaded pistols nearby when he gave his sermons.



Jonathan Boucher was a British religious leader who lived in Maryland. He used his sermons to spread Loyalist beliefs.



11.5 Lord Dunmore: Loyalist Governor of Virginia

John Murray, known as Lord Dunmore, was one of the fiercest Loyalist leaders. "Lord Dunmore" was his British title as the head of an important family in Britain. In 1771, King George III named Dunmore royal governor of the colony of Virginia.

Dunmore was a proud and rich man. He dressed in fancy clothes that showed off his wealth and importance. He was stubborn, strict, and bad-tempered. And he was very loyal to Britain.

It was Britain, Dunmore said, that created the colonies and continued to protect them. For these reasons Britain had a right to rule the colonies and to make them pay taxes on British goods.

Dunmore also argued that independence was a mistake because Britain knew what was best for the colonies. And he strongly believed that the colonists had a duty to obey British laws. The colonies, he said, were part of Britain. Colonists who would fight against the king were **traitors**.

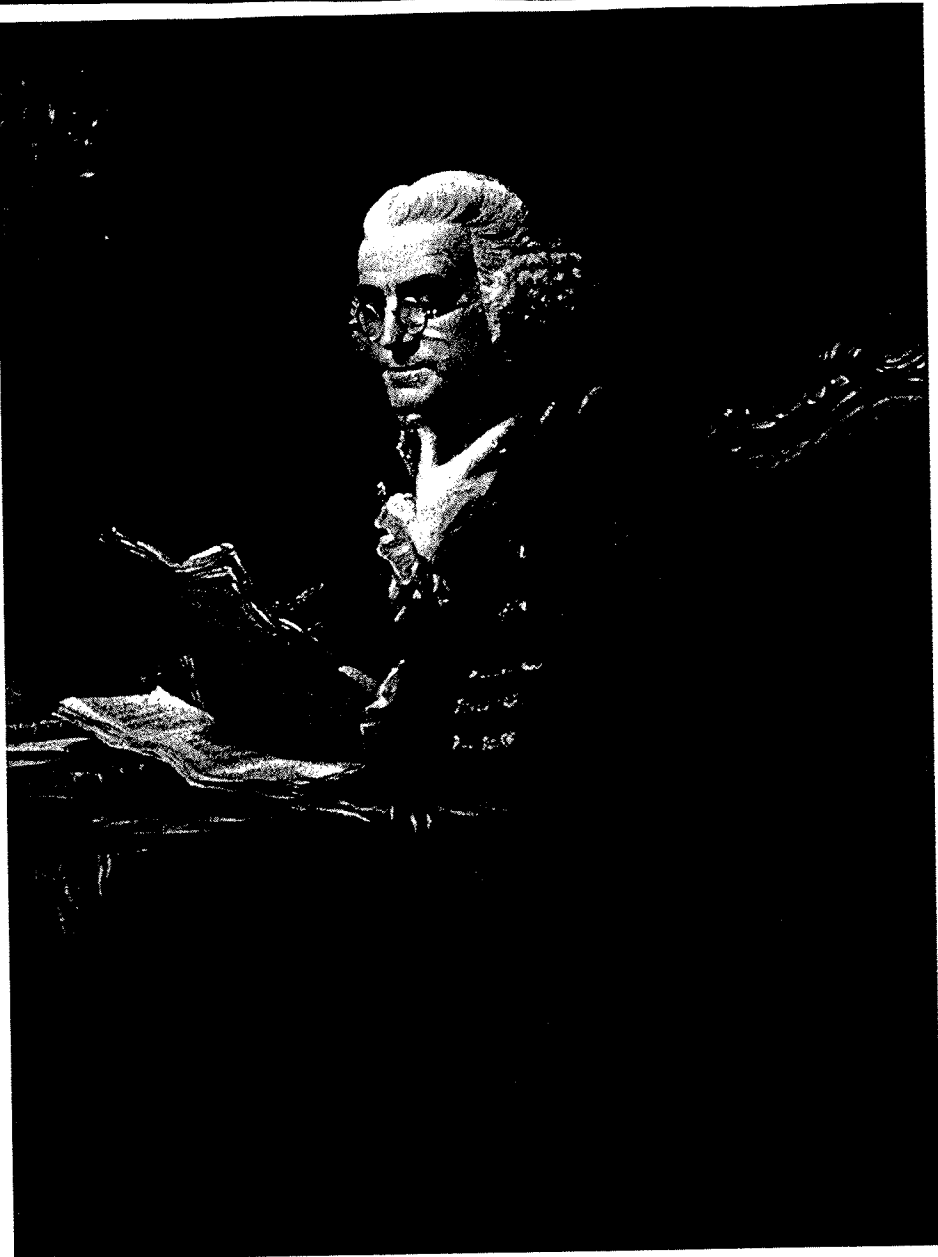
As governor, Dunmore thought that being tough would frighten the colonists into accepting British rule. Instead, his firm actions only angered many people in Virginia. Worried for his safety, Dunmore moved his family onto a British warship in June 1775. Then he collected a number of boats and began attacking Patriots' homes and plantations along the James River. He even promised to free any slaves who fought with him against the Patriots. At least 800 African Americans answered his call.

In the end, Dunmore's actions only made the Patriots more popular. Because of Dunmore, many Neutralists began to think that independence might be worth fighting for after all.



John Murray, known as Lord Dunmore, was a fierce Loyalist leader. He launched a naval attack against the homes of Patriots along the James River in Virginia in 1775.

traitor: a person guilty of acting against his or her own country



Benjamin Franklin was one of the most respected Patriots in America. At first he tried to reach agreements with Britain, but, by 1775, he fully supported independence.



11.6 Benjamin Franklin: The Thoughtful Patriot

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most respected Patriots in America. Franklin was not in favor of independence right away. Instead, he hoped that Britain would start to treat the colonies more fairly. But when that didn't happen, Franklin sided firmly with the Patriots.

Franklin had many talents. He was a successful writer, printer, inventor, and scientist. As a citizen of Philadelphia, he helped to establish a library, a hospital, and a college.

Although he was an important man in the colonies, Franklin often dressed in plain suits. He sometimes wore spectacles. He was known to wear two caps over his gray hair to keep warm in winter.

People liked and admired Franklin. He was knowledgeable, funny, and wise. He had a talent for staying calm when other people

were angry. He was especially good at helping people to understand one another's ideas during arguments.

From 1757 to 1775, Franklin used his talents as the colonies' representative to the British government in England. Patiently, he tried to persuade Britain to stop making laws that the colonists thought were unfair. He did succeed in helping to get the government to repeal (cancel) the Stamp Act. But Britain continued to pass unfair laws. So, Franklin returned home and became a Patriot leader.

Franklin favored independence for several reasons. He thought that Britain would continue to make unfair laws. He also believed that the colonists should no longer trust England. Finally, Franklin believed that the colonists had the ability to govern themselves. By 1775, he was ready to help them prove that he was right.

11.7 Mercy Otis Warren: Patriot with a Pen

Mercy Otis Warren was a Patriot writer from Massachusetts. She wrote plays and poems supporting independence. She also held lively meetings in her home where Patriots discussed their ideas. Her husband James attended the meetings as well.

Warren was thin and dark-haired. She spoke in a low, firm voice. Her favorite color was blue, and she liked to wear blue dresses and bonnets with lace trimming.

Even as a girl, Warren loved reading, writing, and discussing politics. After she married James, they began reading the newspaper together. They became upset by Britain's harsh treatment of the colonies. They felt that taxes were too high and that workers were paid too little. Warren also believed that women should have the right to vote and to be elected to positions in government.

In her writing and discussions, Warren made several arguments in favor of independence. She said that Britain's laws and taxes were unfair. Families in the colonies had a hard time earning enough money to pay for expensive British goods. She also said that Britain was too far away to understand the colonists' needs and daily lives. For this reason, the colonies would be better off with their own government. And she disliked the fact that Britain did not allow women to take part in politics. She believed that women would have more rights if the colonies were independent.

Warren used her writing talent to express her ideas. Two of her plays cleverly attacked the Loyalists. Her writings helped to encourage many people in Massachusetts to become Patriots.



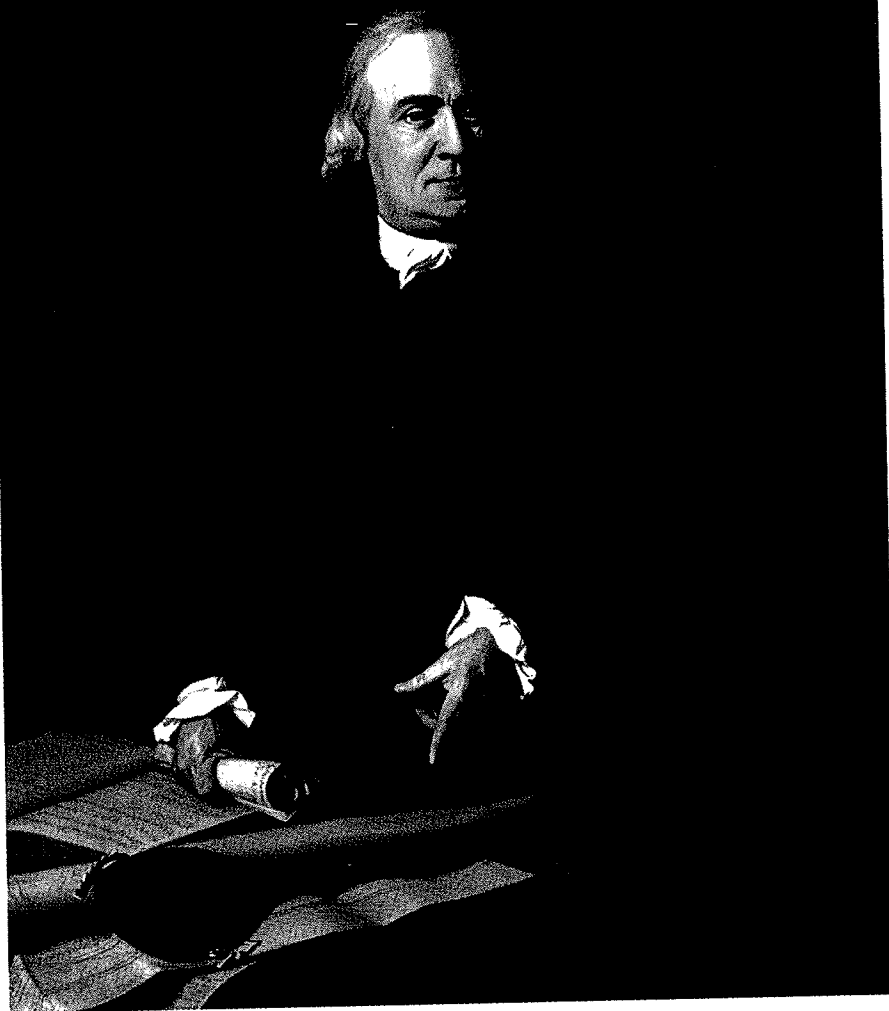
Mercy Otis Warren was a Patriot writer from Massachusetts. She wrote plays and poems supporting independence.



Bequest of Winslow Warren, Courtesy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Samuel Adams was one of the leading Patriots in Massachusetts. In 1765, he organized the Sons of Liberty. The Sons actively encouraged colonists to disobey British laws.



Deposited by the City of Boston, Courtesy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

11.8 Samuel Adams: True Patriot

Samuel Adams was one of the leading Patriots in Massachusetts. Adams believed that the British were terrible, unfair rulers. He called on the colonies to break away from Britain and to fight for their independence.

Adams was always interested in politics. As a college student at Harvard University in Massachusetts, he wrote a paper on people's right to fight against unfair government. Other local Patriots saw him as a leader, and by the mid 1760s he was a full-time politician.

Adams spoke in a low, careful voice, often rubbing his chin in thought. Like many other men at that time, he wore a powdered white wig over his brown hair. He believed so much in fighting for independence that he wore a military coat and hat every day. He only took them off when he went to bed!

Adams argued for independence in newspaper articles, speeches, and town meetings. He believed that colonists couldn't afford to pay such high taxes on British goods. He also said it was unfair that the king chose governors for the

colonies. The colonists, he argued, should be able to elect their own governors. In addition, Adams believed that the colonists should have the power to change unfair laws. If Britain refused to give them this power, then they should become an independent country.

In 1765, Adams helped to organize a group of Patriots called the *Sons of Liberty*. The Sons encouraged colonists to disobey laws like the Stamp Act. In 1773, Adams and the Sons led the Boston Tea Party to protest British taxes on tea. Before long, Samuel Adams was working day and night to help the colonies win their independence.

11.9 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you read about six important colonists who had different ideas about independence. You used a T-chart to identify these six colonists as either Loyalists or Patriots.

Loyalists argued that the colonies should remain loyal to Britain and the king. Many kinds of people became Loyalists. Some, like Thomas Hutchinson and Lord

Dunmore, were royal governors who believed in Britain's right to make and enforce laws for the colonies. Some, like Jonathan Boucher, were religious leaders who believed that the colonists had a duty to obey the king. Some were rich landowners who were afraid of losing their property.

Patriots wanted the colonies to become independent. Some, like Benjamin Franklin, became Patriots only after giving up hope that Britain would change its actions toward the colonies. Others, like Mercy Otis Warren and Samuel Adams, started out by angrily protesting against British laws and taxes. Before long, Patriots such as these were openly calling for independence.

In 1775, many colonists were not ready to take such a bold step. How did most colonists become convinced to support independence? Read on to find out.



The Sons of Liberty raising a Liberty Pole in 1776.