What drove the British colonists to declare their independence by 1776, and fight a war against their “mother country” — a nation that was the most powerful economic and military power on Earth?

Guiding Questions:
❖ What long term factors contributed to colonial feelings of separation from England?
❖ What did Parliament do following the French & Indian War that ignited patriots’ passions against Great Britain?
❖ How did colonists resist British authority and taxation before the outbreak of war and the Declaration of Independence?
The Colonial Setting: 1763

- Influences on the Colonies:
  - Economy:
  - Own representative assemblies
  - Raise their own taxes
  - Enlightenment:
  - Citizens have
  - Seemingly endless amounts of "open" & profitable land

The Heritage of War (1760)

- Peace of Paris: British empire spans the globe
- Colonies prosper, war both unites and divides
- Colonists trading with the enemy
- Warrants: "instruments of slavery"

Western Lands

- Attempt to recognize sovereign Indian tribes
- Colonists' interest?
Grenville and the Stamp Act

❖ Head of Treasury in England
❖ Problems of imperial finances:
  ❖ HUGE govt. debt = of annual budget
  ❖ Solution?

❖ Response in the Colonies
  ❖ John Locke’s Two Treatises on Government (1690)
  ❖ “no taxation without representation”
  ❖ Parliament →
  ❖ Protest in the Colonies