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**The First Continental Congress : A Step Towards  
New America's Political Stability**

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## **Dedication**

We would like to dedicate this dissertation to our parents whose unwavering support has been a constant source of strength through our years of effort, who never lost hope in our career and who continuously gave us the inspiration to be who we are today.

To our teachers Dr.youcef Kouider , Dr.AsmaNesba , Dr.MounaHezbri who gave every bit of effort into shaping us and building us to be the students of tomorrow.

To our comrades and classmates who cheered us behind the scenes and in the front rows when no one else did and who gave us words of wisdom that let us overcome all the hard challenges of life.

LaibNadjiba

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We are extremely grateful for our parents who gave us support prayers and love throughout the years of our struggle

## **Abstract**

Freedom and independence represent the dream of everyone on the earth .The American colonies marched on these ideals through various means, whether diplomatic or military, to achieve independence and establish a self-reliant nation .In this context, the efforts of the American people against British rule emerged prominently with the First Continental Congress which served a significant milestone in the history of the independence movement. The speeches of the leaders who faced challenges with strong resolve , demonstrated their readiness to sacrifice for the realization of the American people's dream of freedom and achieving their dignity. In fact , through these efforts and sacrifices, they succeeded in rescuing the dream of the American people and achieving independence from British rule. Thus, the flag of freedom now flies high over the United States, under a new unified rule, bearing the motto "**Freedom or Death,**" reflecting the values of the American people and their determination for independence and dignity.

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# **General Introduction**

## ***Research plan***

### **1. Background of the Study**

The period of the First Continental Congress in 1774 was held from September 5 to October 26, 1774, in Philadelphia, marks a pivotal moment in the history of the United States of America as well as , it embodied a significant milestone in the nation's journey towards independence and political stability .This assembly of delegates from twelve of the thirteen American colonies (excluding Georgia) was a response to the British Parliament's enactment of the Coercive Acts, also known as the Intolerable Acts, which aimed to punish the colonies, particularly Massachusetts, for the Boston Tea Party. These acts galvanized colonial resistance and led to the unification of the colonies in opposition to British rule. This research aims to explore the role of the First Continental Congress in shaping the political evolution of the United States and effecting changes that influenced the structure of government and national identity.(Bryn O'Callaghan .An Illustrated history of the USA: p 26.27 30.).

### **2. Statement of the Problem**

The immediate problem addressed by the First Continental Congress was the perceived overreach and oppressive nature of British governance. The delegates sought to create a unified response to the British measures, balancing the need for a collective colonial stance without completely severing ties with Britain. This delicate situation posed the problem of fostering unity among diverse colonies with varying interests and levels of radicalism.

Centres on assessing the congress 's role in shaping early American political stability aims to examine the impact and significant of the first continental congress's decisions and action

in establishes a stable political formwork for the emerging untied states the study seeks to evaluate the congress contribute to the trajectory of the American colonies pursuit of independence and its influence on subsequent political development ultimately , it aims determine to extend to which to first continental congress advanced political stability during this transformative period in American history .

### **3. Research Question**

How did the First Continental Congress contribute to the political stability and eventual independence of the American colonies?

### **4 .Hypothesis**

The hypothesis of this study is that the First Continental Congress established key principles and practices of cooperation and collective action among the colonies, which were essential for the subsequent political stability and success in achieving independence from Britain.

### **5. Methodology**

This research employs a historical analysis methodology, it is a research method for studying past events to understand their contexts and developments . it involves gathering information from historical sources utilizing primary sources such as letters, official records, and contemporary accounts from the period of the First Continental Congress. Secondary sources, including historical analyses and interpretations by modern historians, also is used to provide context and support the analysis. The study focuses on the proceedings of the congress, the resolutions passed, and the broader impact on colonial unity and resistance.

The study is divided into three chapters. All of them are mainly theoretical in nature, but the third chapter includes a small practical part. In the first chapter entitled .The

conflict between colonies and U.K ,we discussed the political and economic conditions experienced by the colonies and the reason for the establishment of the first conference . While the second chapter we investigated the beginning of the American revolution and the independence . Third chapter , we analyzed the roles of the key figures who attempt to find solutions to resolved the conflict between the colonies and the British Government . Moreover , in conclusion , we summarized the extent to which the congress Achieved its goals in attaining independence and building a self –sufficient nation.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **CHAPTER ONE: Political and economic Background of colonies**

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## Introduction

In the late of 18<sup>th</sup> century .the American colonies found themselves increasingly at odds with the British Empire. Tensions had been simmering for years, fuelled by disputes over taxation, representation, and colonial autonomy. However, it was the passage of the Intolerable Acts by the British Parliament in response to the Boston Tea Party that ignited the flames of rebellion. These oppressive measures, including the closure of the port of Boston, the dissolution of the Massachusetts colonial government, and the quartering of British troops, struck at the heart of colonial self-governance and civil liberties. Across the colonies, outrage spread like wildfire, uniting Americans in a common cause against British tyranny .Amidst this fervor, the First Continental Congress emerged as a beacon of hope for those yearning for freedom and justice. In September 1774, delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies gathered in Philadelphia, representing a diverse array of interests and backgrounds but united in their determination to resist British oppression. Assembled in the historic Carpenters' Hall, these delegates embarked on a historic journey, engaging in impassioned debates, strategic deliberations, and the formulation of a collective response to the Intolerable Acts. Through eloquent speeches, fiery rhetoric, and diplomatic manoeuvring, they sought to forge a path forward for the colonies, one that would uphold their rights, preserve their liberties, and pave the way for a brighter future .The proceedings of the First Continental Congress laid bare the stark reality facing the colonies: a choice between submission to tyranny or defiance in the name of freedom. In the hallowed halls of Carpenters' Hall, amidst the echoes of history, the stage was set for a momentous chapter in the American story— one of struggle, sacrifice, and ultimately, triumph.

## **Political and economic Background of colonies**

### **1. Britain and French War**

The North American conflict in a larger imperial war between Great Britain and France known as the Seven Years' War. The French and Indian War began in 1754 and ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1763 (Milestone in the history of U.S foreign relations).The war provided Great Britain enormous territorial gains in North America, but disputes over subsequent frontier policy and paying the war's expenses led to colonial discontent, and ultimately. Both French and British imperial officials and colonists sought to extend each country's sphere of influence in frontier regions.

In North America, the war pitted France, French colonists, and their Native allies against Great Britain, the Anglo American colonists, and the Iroquois Confederacy, which controlled most of upstate New York and parts of northern Pennsylvania. In 1753, prior to the outbreak of hostilities, Great Britain controlled the 13 colonies up to the Appalachian Mountains, but beyond lay New France, a very large, sparsely settled colony that stretched from Louisiana through the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes to Canada. The border between French and British possessions was not well defined, and one disputed territory was the upper Ohio River valley . The French had constructed a number of forts in this region in an attempt to strengthen their claim on the territory. British colonial forces, led by Lieutenant Colonel George

Washington, attempted to expel the French in 1754, but were outnumbered and defeated by the French (global war p 43 ). When news of Washington's failure reached British Prime Minister Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle, he called for a quick undeclared retaliatory strike. However, his adversaries in the Cabinet outmanoeuvred him by making the plans public, thus alerting the French Government and escalating a distant frontier skirmish into a full-scale war from June 19 to July 11 In 1754, twenty-one delegates from seven of Britain's North America colonies including: Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New

York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island met with Iroquois Indians. Other native groups including the Mohawks were also in the meeting. (Bielinski, par 2) The convention was one of the first large meetings in which colonists met together to discuss diplomacy regarding defence in reaction to the French's advance and creating an alliance among the colonies.

## **2. Albany congress 1754**

In Albany, colonists were known for their close minded attitude toward others, but eventually this changed. (Bielinski, par 4) After the conference, the colonists of Albany found similarities that they shared with the other colonists as well as similar goals among them. The idea was to put into effect the "plan of union" written by **Benjamin Franklin. This plan would allow every colony to appoint a representative to attend in a continental congress moderated by a royal governor. In the "plan of union" by Franklin, 25 points are outlined of which the colonies must follow it .**

Many of the characteristics of the Albany Congress of 1754 are reminiscent to that of the first continental congress that would meet years later. For the first time ever the colonists were meeting together and, settling their differences, decided to create a permanent organization which would handle any further issues regarding the colonies.

## **3. The UK's injustices in the Colonies**

During the Indian war and the crisis of Britain .UK has committed many outrageous practices against the colonists. These practices had touched almost every aspect of the colonists' life. Which led them gradually to protest and refuse the UK existence in the colonies. The Britain apply some forcing acts

### **3.1. The Stamp Act:**

The Stamp Act ,seen as a significant injustice by the UK government against the colonies in 1756 . this law intended to raise money to cover and to address financial deficits following the French and Indian war. However, it faced a huge wave of outrage and rejection

by the colonists. After the end of the French and Indian war 1760s, Britain suffered significant material and human losses . In order to recover and so to support the troops in the colonies, it passed several bills to collect taxes. **on March of 1765 George Grenville ,who was the Prime Minister of Great Britain at that time, Submitted The Stamp Act requires colonists to use stamped paper for all documents; ship's papers, legal documents, licenses, newspapers, other publications, and even playing cards.**

despite its financial goals , it sparked widespread anger among colonists .who sought fair treatment rather than democratic right . (Botta, 1845). This dissatisfaction led to protests ,starting with verbal objections and escalating to violent acts against stamp distributors . Therefore the colonists responded to the stamp Act with peaceful protests and demonstrations initially. Expressing their rejection of law through writing in news papers and advertisements .as the anger escalated .protests turned into violent acts ,with attacks on the homes of stamp distributors and government officials .they also engaged in boycott campaigns against British products, negatively impacting British trade .these protests and popular pressure led to the resignation of most stamp distributors and the formation of the first continental congress runny spread out of the bill, which encouraged the colonists to take actions .issues several petition to the king and parliament expressing the colonists rejection of taxation without interpretation.

At this case , they manifested their protest against the stamp act through words; mainly in newspapers and magazine . Then, they went violent; by attacking the stamp distributors' houses, along with other officials. By the end of October 1765 “all but two of the stamp distributors had resigned, usually in order to save their lives and property” (Middlekauff, 2005, p.99).

The unrest persisted across the colonies , led by factions in the north and south with the Sons of Liberty, declaring "No taxation without representation represented in Parliament. Accompanied by significant ,embargo campaign against British good . Resulting the urgent meeting of the delegates of the American provinces, on what was known as The Stamp Act

Congress, or First Congress of the American Colonies. On Monday, the 7th of October, 1765, the meeting was held and Timothy Ruggles was elected president (Botta, 1845).

following this , the congress issued multiple petitions, addressing the matter of political underrepresentation in front of the king and parliament ; where they lacked representation, emphasizing mainly their rejection of them being taxed by whoever, except by themselves. In response, “the ministry, who had been the authors of the restraints imposed on American commerce, and of the stamp act, had received their demission” (Botta, 1845, p. 75).

Thus, the journey to repeal the Stamp Act commenced amidst various intense debates in the parliament. However crucial question of how, and especially by giving away on the stamp act, did the ministry ever expect to collect taxes in America? Question regarding how the ministry intended to collect taxes in America Particularly after conceding on Stamp acts remained unanswered by the repealed supported despite this the repealed was eventually approved by march 1766.....(Middlekauff, 2005, p.99).

The bill was named the declaratory act to uphold parliament's aims at safeguarding the dignity of the kingdom for both the colonies and Britain.

### **3.2. The Boston Massacre:**

Boston Massacre was a pivotal event in American history marked by a clash between British soldiers and colonial civilians. The tension between the American colonies and British authority was already high due to issues such as taxation without representation and the presence of British troops in Boston to enforce unpopular policies. On the evening of March 5, 1770, a confrontation erupted between a group of colonists and British soldiers stationed near the Customs House in Boston. five casualties resulted from the incident as result, The death of Crisp Attucks, Samuel Gray, James Caldwell, Samuel Maverick and Patrick Carry by a group of British soldiers (York, 2010) was called later the Boston massacre. The event was heavily marketed as massacre by leading patriots such as Paul Revere and Samuel Adams . British troops

had been stationed in the province of Massachusetts Bay since 1768 to support crown appointed officials and enforce unpopular parliamentary legislation. The colonists were angered by the presence of British troops and began taunting and provoking them. In the chaos that ensued, the soldiers, feeling threatened, fired into the crowd, killing five colonists and injuring several others. The event was heavily publicized by American patriots, who portrayed it as a brutal attack on innocent civilians by British oppressors. Propaganda and exaggeration spread quickly, depicting the soldiers as callous murderers and the event as a deliberate massacre. However, the British perspective painted a different picture, arguing that the soldiers acted in self defence in response to a hostile and unruly mob. The soldiers were put on trial, and their defence was led by prominent lawyer John Adams, who later became the second President of the United States. Adams successfully argued that the soldiers were provoked and acted in self-defence, leading to the acquittal of most of the soldiers, while two were convicted of manslaughter and received reduced sentences. Despite the legal outcome, the Boston Massacre further inflamed tensions between the American colonies and Britain, solidifying colonial resentment and fuelling calls for independence. It became a rallying cry for American patriots and contributed to the growing momentum of the revolutionary movement leading up to the American Revolutionary War.

### **3.3 .The Intolerable Acts:**

The Intolerable Acts, also known as the `Coercive Acts' (Carp, 2010), were a series of four laws passed by British parliament to punish the colony of Massachusetts bay for the Boston tea party

#### **3.3.1. The Boston Port Act:**

It was the first of these five laws, enacted in March 31, 1774, and it was aimed at direct punishment for the Boston Tea Party that occurred in December 1773. On May 10, 1773, the parliament passed the Tea Act, which placed a tax of three-pence on every pound of tea that entered an American port (Carp, 2010). The tax on tea had existed since the passing of the Townshend Acts. However, keeping this tax, although

the repeal of the rest, was a message from Parliament of its right to tax the colonies. In addition, The Act was aimed to be a bailout policy to rescue the British East India Company from the debt, since it was suffering great deal financially as a result of the smuggled tea imported from Dutch sources, unstable political and economic issues in India, and European markets were weak due to the huge amount of debts from the French and Indian War among other factors (The Tea Act, n.d.)

This act let a large shipment of 342 cases of tea was thrown into in Bostonharbour by American rebels in protest against the British tea act and oppressive British taxation policies . On May 20<sup>th</sup> of the same year king George granted his royal assent to law .this low authorize the Royal Navy to blockade officially the port of Boston commenced on 1 June 1774 effectively closing Boston's port to commercial traffic and prohibiting exports to foreign ports or provinces . only imports deemed essential of British army and necessary goods such as fuel and wheat, were permitted . the law stipulated that the port would remain closed until Bostonians compensated the east India company for the destroyed tea, until the colony demonstrated obedience to British laws and until British goods could be safely traded in the harbour once again However if Bostonians refused to pay compensation to the east India company or if the king remained dissatisfied the blockade would continue . .this closure significantly impacted Boston's economy and served as a warning to other colonies about the consequences of defying British authority Lord North, the Prime Minister at the time, presented the bill to Parliament, entitled "An act to discontinue, in such manner, and for such time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of goods, wares, and merchandise, at the town, and within the harbour, of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts's bay, in North America" (Halsey, 1904, p. 126).

### **3.3.2.The administration of justice act:**

This act was passed on May ,20.1774 . in order to guarantee a more trials to the crown than the prejudices of local juries. The parliament enact the bill . "an act for the impartial

administration of justice in the cases of persons questioned for any acts done by them in the execution of the law or for the suppression of persons questioned for any acts done by them in execution of the law or for the suppression of riots and tumults , in the province of the Massachusetts ,s Bay " The administration of justices act allowed British officials accused of committing crimes in the American colonies to be tried in Britain or other colonies rather than facing trial locally , as a result , the law weakened local governance and angered Americans due to its interference in their local affairs and violation of their right ." (Halsey 1904-p144)

### **3.3.3.The Massachusetts government acts:**

It was a pivotal legislation in colonial America posed significant challenges to the concept of representative government in the colony. Passed by the British parliament on 20 may 1774 amidst in Massachusetts the act aimed to preserve the peace and good order of the province as perceived by British authorities

The importance of this law lies in its radical changes to the local governance system in the colony where the role of the previous council , previously an elected body with the governor's approval was transformed into appointments by the crown additionally .The new governor was granted extensive authority to select judges and county sheriffs.( Carp, 2010) , leading to a loss of confidence in the judiciary's independents . furthermore restricting town meetings to once a year with requirement for any additional meetings , resulted in limiting the freedom of assembly and expression for local residents escalating tensions in the colony.

### **3.3.4. The Quebec acts:**

In the province of Quebec great Britain acquired territories from France under the treaty of Paris in 1763 the law established the government structure of the province by creating a governor supported by a legislated council . which had aimed to assimilate the French Canadian population under English law . the law maintained the system of oversight over land ownership and French civil law , while introducing English With Quebec act the law extended the borders

of the province of Quebec southward to Ohio river additionally the act granted the free exercise of the religion of the church of Rome , as the territory was home to a large French catholic majority espies establishing English criminal law the act allowed French civil law to remain in place , which excluded trial by jury the governor and legislative body by the Quebec act were crown appointed positions with compete authority over the colony . at the time of wide spread religious iterance ,many protestant colonist shuddered at the prospects of tolerating Catholicism in north America . (Morgan, 2013),The spread of Quebec' s low let the colonies angered and American feared that parliament would force them to accept the same type of government .

### **3.3.5.The Quartering Act of 1765:**

The last Act of the main coercive acts for provide suitable quarters for officers and soldiers in the colonies. The Quartering Act of 1765 (when Grenville was Prime minister) was given royal assent on may 15, 1765 and provided that Great Britain would house its soldiers in American barracks and public houses as by the mutiny act 176 5 , but if its soldiers outnumbered the housing available would quarter them in inns , livery stables, ale ,houses , virtually the houses of persons selling of rum . brandy, strong water, cider. taverns, and vacant buildings. If the numbers required in "uninhabited houses outhouses, barns or other buildings" colonial feeding authorities were required to pay the cost of housing and feeding these solid. The act only increased the stress and hatred that already existed between them. It eventually, will appear that the Quartering Act was one of the reason of the American revolution. (Middlekauff, 2005)

## **4. The First Continental Congress**

In responses to the passage of the coercive acts of 1774 by parliament which America colonist viewed oppressive, twelve out of the thirteen colonists sent representatives to Philadelphia except Georgia. During the autumn of 1774 the first continental congress covenanted to address pressing issues. from September 5 until its dissolution on October 26 in carpenter's hall in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, the delegates of colonies met to discuss American

future under Growing British aggression and the Boston Massachusetts and tea party. In, the congress grappled with the primary concerns: what was the basis of American rights? and how should they be defended? (Middlekauff, 2005).

Peyton Randolph of Virginia, as the first president of the congress he played a crucial role in facilitating discussion among the delegates and in organizing the proceeding the congress he helped to maintain order and guide the delegates toward consensus on important issues related to colonial grievance against British rule John Adams, Samuel Adams, George Washington Patrick Henry and John Jay ....they represented the various colonies and played pivotal roles in shaping early America history. Whereas, The decision of vote it was each colony would have one vote was made after the discussion, and it aimed to ensure parity among colonies irrespective of their size or populace and preserve unity among the colonies, large and small.

The Congress started its activities by issuing a directive the 'Suffolk Resolves', which adopted on September 9, 1774 by the leaders of Suffolk adopted in Massachusetts were a pivotal response to the intolerable acts, called for resistance against British oppression, and advocated for the establishment of independent revolutionary governments. Thomas Gage fortified Boston Neck a strategic location that connected Boston to the mainland, as part of his defensive measures during the Siege of Boston. This fortification was a response to American forces actions, including the fortification of Dorchester Heights which posed a threat to the British troops in Boston (Morgan, 2013). These resolves represented a drastic opposition taken against British authority. They denounced the Coercive Acts and urged resistance by withholding tax payments and organizing a colonial militia. Within a few weeks the delegates devised a grand scheme for halting all trade with Britain. The members of the congress argued about the details of the program, for, as they discovered, the southern colonies worried that colonial resistance too quickly implemented might cost them the sale of the annual harvest of tobacco and rice. But for all the grumbling about the particular needs of local economies, they accepted a complex package containing provision for non-importation, non-consumption, and no exportation, a plan

(known as the Association) as radical in its implications for the American people as any passed by any legislature during the nation's entire history (Morgan, 2013). Non-importation went into effect on December 1, non-consumption, which the delegates described as 'an effectual security for the observation of no importation,' started on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1775, and non-exportation was put off until September 1<sup>st</sup>. 1775 The association, a colonial organization, called for the election of committees in every town and city across the colonies. These committees were authorized to inspect customs house records and publicly name individuals who violated the Association's policies in local newspapers, as a result, those who defied the Association were socially and economically ostracized from their communities. By the following year the fighting spread beyond Britain and Colonies. It had grown into a full-scale war. On July 2, 1776 the continental congress finally took that many Americans believed was inevitable. It cut all political ties with Britain and declared that these united colonies are and of right ought to be, out to be, free and independent states." Two days later" . on July 4, it issued the declaration of independence.

### **Conclusion**

The coercive acts and the decision imposed by Britain on America colonies, which increased tensions, pushed the thirteen colonies toward seeking liberation, as the inhabitants felt targeted. Consequently, this situation led to the necessity of forming a legislative council and appointing representative from each colony to demand freedom and those efforts began to move towards revolution. With the dominance of the America dreams concept, at all the colonies became eager for the light of freedom following this event future based on the values of democracy and self-government.

## **CHAPTER TWO:**

## **Chapter Two: The Beginning of American Revolution and the Independence**

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## **Introduction**

The first and second continental congress was a meeting of delegates chosen from the thirteen colonies .The Second Continental Congress, which convened in May 1775, was a seminal event in American history, marking a decisive step towards independence and the formation of a new nation. Building on the efforts of the First Continental Congress, delegates from all thirteen colonies gathered in Philadelphia in response to escalating tensions and the outbreak of armed conflict at Lexington and Concord. This Congress faced the formidable task of coordinating the colonial war effort, managing relations with Britain, and eventually moving towards declaring independence. This chapter analyzes these meetings, The Second Continental Congress, and tries to figure out what are the conditions that urged them to be held, and what are the big unified decisions these meetings carried out. It, also, follows the steps that led to the Constitution, from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitutional Convention, in which the US Constitution was drafted, and we will look the events and achievements of the second congress and the battle of Lexington and Concord ,Declaration of independence ,Articles of Confederation ,and Government and Constitution. To understand the United States of America, start with the Constitution. Written over 200 years ago, whenever the nation was first being established out of the 13 British colonies.

## **The Beginning of American Revolution and the Independence**

### **1-The Battles of Lexington and Concord:**

The Battles of Lexington and Concord signalled the start of the American Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775. The British Army set out from Boston to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock, rebel leaders, in Lexington. They also

wanted to destroy the colonists' storage of weapons and ammunition in Concord. Both cities were located in Massachusetts.

The British commander, Colonel Francis Smith, realized the American militia was rapidly growing and it was time to retreat. Once they decided to do so, they started their long march back to the city of Boston. The Americans continued to gain forces and to attack and harass the British during their retreat. The British lost 73 men and 174 were wounded by the time they reached Boston. The Americans lost 49 men and 41 were wounded. The Battles of Lexington and Concord marked the start of the

American Revolution. Thousands of militiamen surrounded Boston, and the Americans felt successful in fighting the British, giving them the courage to continue to unite and fight. By late December 1775, aware at last of the brave actions taken by Congress, the British ministers were prepared to issue war orders, but George III stayed their hand temporarily, asking them to reflect on the matter for a month. During January the cabinet refused suggestions by William Legge, Lord Dartmouth, the American secretary, for measures ductility and the recommendation of William Pitt, Lord Chatham, to open negotiations with the Continental Congress. The ministry did make a plan, it would be known as the North Peace Plan, that would have abandoned parliamentary taxation of America in return for a pledge that the colonials would appropriate sufficient revenue to meet their defence and other governmental responsibilities. The Battle of Lexington was a small fight that can hardly be called a battle. It is important though because it is where the Revolutionary War started. There were only around 80 American Militiamen, led by Captain John Parker, in the town when the British arrived, About 25% of the men were related to Parker. They were up against a much larger British force, about 700 men, led by Major John Pitcairn. Neither of the sides actually planned to fight, but in the midst of the confusion, a

1188gunshot went off forcing the British to attack. Some of the colonists were killed and the rest fled. While the peace plan was readied for public consumption, the cabinet agreed to send an additional 3500 men, four regiments together with several hundred marines, on January 27, 1775, Dartmouth, at the behest of the North government, directed General Gage, Commander-in-Chief, to use force to seize the ringleaders behind the Massachusetts protest, an action that would constitute a signal for hostilities .On April 19 Gage put into operation a plan with twin objectives. He sent out a force of nine hundred men to capture John Hancock and Samuel Adams, two of the principal provocateurs who were thought to be in Lexington, about a dozen miles northwest of Boston. The detachment was then to proceed to Concord, five or six miles further west, and destroy an arsenal that contained stocks of rebel weaponry and powder.

An hour or so before midnight on April 18, while the sleepy British soldiers who were to undertake the mission were pulling on their heavy wool uniforms and gathering their arms, Paul Revere and other dispatch riders set out from Boston to alert Lexington and Concord, and other towns throughout the hinterland. “A bell was rung and three small companies of Concord militiamen combined in the village. These companies were minutemen, prepared to be ready on a minute’s notice”

Because of these warnings, the British advance force under Major John Pitcairn encountered armed militia when he arrived in Lexington. Pitcairn ordered the militia to disarm, but they only dispersed across Lexington Green. During the embarrassment , a short walk out, probably from behind a stone wall. It was called the ‘shot heard around the world’ by Ralph Waldo Emerson in his poem Concord Hymn. The gunshot was the first shot of the American Revolution and the start of the war, although no one is actually sure who fired the first shot or if it was an American

or British soldier. The British responded with a volley and bayonet charge into the militia, killing eight and wounding ten, while one British regular was wounded. When order was at last restored and the regulars had secured Lexington, they began the search for Hancock and Adams. But It was futile. At length, the British troops marched to the city of Concord, meeting no resistance along the way or when they entered the village. Pitcairn's troops searched Concord, finding only little in either supply depots because the townspeople had ample warning to hide their supplies. Nevertheless, the regulars destroyed what ordnance they found.

Colonel James Barrett, who was the head of Concord's militia, could wait no longer, when smoke from the centre of Concord was seen, for it appeared as if the regulars were torching the village, though in reality they were burning wooden gun carriages found in the supply depot. He ordered the men to load their weapons and marched them toward the North Bridge. There, they found the regular posted on the opposite side. Firing began, and soon three British soldiers fell and nine officers and men were wounded, for the Americans showed little more discipline this time. Fighting spread as the British retracted the 18 miles back to Boston, followed by increasing numbers of militiamen, who fired at them from behind stone walls and houses along the route. Luckily for the British. General Percy arrived in Lexington, who escorted the retracting British troops back to Boston, sending out flanking parties and pouring artillery fire on the attacking militia as they travelled. As a result, "the British had received 273 casualties; the Americans, 95". The Battles of Lexington and Concord marked the start of the American Revolutionary war. The British Army's infantry, nicknamed "redcoats" (but dubbed "lobster backs" and sometimes devils by the colonists), had occupied Boston since 1768 and had been augmented by naval forces and marines to enforce the Intolerable Acts. General Thomas Gage, the military

governor and commander-in-chief, still had no control over Massachusetts outside of Boston, where the Massachusetts Government Act had increased tensions between the Patriot (Whig) majority, and the Loyalist (Tory) minority. Gage's plan was to avoid conflict by removing military supplies from the Whig militias using small, secret and rapid strikes. This struggle for supplies led to one British success and then to several Patriot successes in a series of nearly bloodless conflicts known as the Powder Alarms. Gage considered himself to be a friend of liberty and attempted to separate his duties as Governor of the colony and as General of an occupying force. Edmund Burke described Gage's conflicted relationship with Massachusetts by saying in Parliament, "An Englishman is the invalid test person on Earth to argue another Englishman into slavery."

The colonists had been forming militias of various sorts since the 17th century, at first primarily for defence against local native attacks. These forces were also called to action in the French and Indian War in the 1750s and 1760s. They were generally local militias, but there was communication and some coordination at the provincial level. When the political situation began to deteriorate, these existing connections were put to use by the colonists for the purpose of resistance to the military threat.

## **2-The Second Continental Congress:**

The first and second continental congress was a meeting of delegates chosen from the thirteen colonies that first convened in 1774 and again in 1775 in Philadelphia.

The First Continental Congress adjourned in October 1774 after agreeing to call a second gathering if circumstances warranted. Following the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April of 1775, the delegates met again at Philadelphia on

May 10 for what became known as a second continental congress. Although lacking any legal authority, the Second Continental Congress began to govern. The members “voted to raise a regular army” (Morgan, 2013, p. 59), choosing George Washington as its commander. The delegates discussed several processing issues some called for war with Britain while others insisted that peace should still be sought .once again ,compromise would be needed .while they did not vote to openly rebel against the Crown ,the representative expressed their growing dissatisfaction with George III and parliament .The delegates decide to request that each of the 13 colonies drafts a new state constitution ,and the large militia besieging Boston was declared the continental Army ,since the "Soldiers "were all New England should be named commander given command since he was one of the Adams' candidate was 43.He wasn't too old to function ,but not too young to command respect .He had a leading figure in the colonial resistance for several years and had more military experience than any other American .He was Virginia left the room so the others could discuss openly .George Washington was unanimously voted the leader of the continental Army .In July congress sent the Olive Branch petition to George III as a final attempt to avoid conflict .It blamed parliament for the war and asked George III to call off the fighting for peace talks .John Adams was disgusted by the document but signed it anyway .George III refused the petition and the Royal Navy to blockade the colonies .He also authorized parliament to live 18,000 German Hessians from Europe .George III was an enemy of American liberty .As general Washington began to put his staff together in preparation to depart for Boston ,news of a major battle and British atrocities in and around the city began to trickle in Benjamin Franklin, who had left Britain to take a seat in continental congress , wrote one of his companions back in London "MR . Strahan you are a member of parliament and one of that majority which has doomed

my country to destruction you have begun to town our towns and number our people .Look upon your hands! they are stained with the blood of your relations !you and I were long friends .You are now my enemy and I'm yours ,B Franklin" (Reading Through ,History P55 ).

The Second Continental Congress issued the Olive Branch Petition restating the colonists'

loyalty to the king and asking for peace. King George III rejected it and issued the Proclamation of Rebellion instead, declaring the colonies in rebellion. In May of 1775 The second continental congress convened in Philadelphia .The agenda for this meeting altered quite dramatically as a result of the events in Boston .Rather than coordinate a boycott ,the congress found itself with a war effort to organized against Britain on June 14<sup>th</sup> ,a continental Army was authorized .Despite these developments ,a significant portion of the Congress favored avoiding war and reconciling with Britain .Many still considered themselves Loyal British subject and desire to change the nature of the relationship with Britain rather than sever it .

Even as it prepared to wage war, Congress believed that reconciliation was still possible, and denied any intent to be disloyal to the British Crown. Congress on December 22, 1775, word of the American Prohibitory Act reached America, eliminating the idea of reconciliation. This measure, sent up by Britain as part of its program for war, aimed at shutting down American commerce. In return, Congress responded by throwing open its ports to ships from outside the British Empire.

The second continental congress actually possessed the authority to declare independence, it was more of revolutionary committee than a central government, the congress could declare war and negotiated with foreign powers (Benjamin Franklin

was sent to France in 1776 to gain support), but was greatly limited in its capacity to raise funds or impose laws upon individual states.

### **3-Declaration of Independence:**

In June 1776 the Second Continental congress formed a committee consisting of John Adams of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia Robert R. Livingston of Oregon, and Roger Sherman of connective. This" committee of five" was formed to draft a suitable Declaration of Independence .The declaration of dependence is a document written by the Continental Congress of thirteen American colonies declaring their independence from British rules. It outlines their reasons for separation and asserts their rights as independent states. The **Declaration of Independence**, adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, is the formal statement announcing the American colonies' break from British rule. The document, authored primarily by Thomas Jefferson, outlines the philosophical justification for independence and lists the grievances against King George III that prompted the colonies to seek self-governance. The declaration begins by explaining the need for a people to dissolve political ties with another nation and asserts the right to independence based on the laws of nature and God. It emphasizes that respect for mankind's opinions requires them to declare the reasons for their separation. By the late spring of 1776, Congress faced difficult choices: fight on alone, knowing that America lacked the resources to win the war, or declare independence and seek massive French assistance (Morgan, 2013). The choice was clear. Independence was an idea whose time had come. Additionally, the appearance of the Common Sense, written by Thomas Paine on January 9, 1776, paved the way for the declaration by convincing the colonists that independence was not only necessary but desirable. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry

Lee presented the resolution regarding offering independence for the American colonies in the Second Continental Congress to be debated on. Meanwhile, a committee, of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston, was allotted to draft the declaration, in case of the approval. The committee voted for Thomas Jefferson to do the job.

By July 4, 1776, the Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, which assailed King George for, among other things, “waging war against us” and for “transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to complete the works of death, desolation & tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages.” The Declaration defined itself as a unifications of colonies, each of which is an independent state.

It states that all men are created equal and endowed with unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments are established to secure these rights, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed. When a government becomes destructive to these ends, the people have the right to alter or abolish it and establish a new government. The declaration lists numerous grievances against the King, highlighting his refusal to pass necessary laws, obstructing justice, imposing taxes without consent, dissolving representative bodies, maintaining standing armies in peacetime without consent, and other actions aimed at establishing absolute tyranny over the colonies.

The colonists repeatedly petitioned for redress of their grievances, but their petitions were met with repeated injury. The declaration asserts that a ruler characterized by tyranny is unfit to govern a free people. After exhausting all peaceful means of redress and receiving no justice from the British Crown or the British people, the colonies declare themselves free and independent states, absolved

from all allegiance to the British Crown. The declaration closes with a pledge of commitment to the cause, with the signatories mutually pledging to each other their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.

### **Signers of the Declaration of Independence**

#### ***Maryland:***

Lyman Hall

Samuel Chase

George Walton

William Paca

#### ***North Carolina:***

Thomas Stone

William Hooper

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Joseph Hewes

#### ***Virginia:***

John Penn

George Wythe

#### ***South Carolina:***

Richard Henry Lee

Edward Rutledge

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Lynch, Jr.

Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Arthur Middleton

Francis Lightfoot Lee

#### ***Massachusetts:***

Carter Braxton

Samuel Adams

#### ***Pennsylvania:***

John Adams

Robert Morris

Robert Treat Paine

Benjamin Rush

Elbridge Gerry

Benjamin Franklin

John Hancock

***New Hampshire:***

Josiah Bartlett

Matthew Thornton

William Whipple

***Rhode Island:***

Stephen Hopkins

William Ellery

***Connecticut:***

Roger Sherman

Samuel Huntington

William Williams

Oliver Wolcott

John Morton

George Clymer

James Smith

George Taylor

James Wilson

George Ross

***Delaware:***

Caesar Rodney

George Read

Thomas McKean

***New York:***

William Floyd

Philip Livingston

Francis Lewis

Lewis Morris

***New Jersey:***

Richard Stockton

John Witherspoon

Francis Hopkinson

John Hart

Abraham Clark

## **4-Articles of confederation:**

The Articles of Confederation served as the first constitution for the United States, establishing a loose alliance of independent states. Americans, wary of strong central authority after overthrowing a king, designed the Articles to keep most power in the hands of the states.

The first paragraph of the Articles of Confederation introduces the document and its signatories. It states that on November 15, 1777, delegates of the United States in Congress agreed to establish a perpetual union among the thirteen states. The confederation is formally named "The United States of America." This document is a blueprint. Its seven sections (or Articles) detail the core components of how the framers wanted the government to run the country. Single Legislative Branch, the government under the Articles consisted of one branch a legislative branch called Congress, made up of delegates from each of the 13 states. Congress's primary role was to make laws. There is no Executive Branch to avoid concentrating power, there was no executive branch, leaving no single authority to enforce laws. No Federal Court System The absence of a federal judiciary meant there was no mechanism to resolve disputes between states. The States. This article defines the relationship between the states and the federal government. It suggests that all the states are equal to each other and should respect each other's laws and the judicial decisions made by other state court systems . Amendment. Future generations can amend the Constitution if the society so requires it. Both the states and Congress have the power to initiate the amendment process. Debts, Supremacy, Oaths. Article VI determines that the US Constitution, and all laws made from it are the 'supreme Law of the Land. Ratification. This article details all those people who signed the Constitution, representing the original 13 states.

Powers and Limitations of Congress The congress Powers Could declare war and appoint military officers. And its Limitations Lacked the power to tax, making it difficult to raise funds. and Could not regulate trade between states. they Needed approval from 9 of the 13 states

to pass laws, resulting in a slow legislative process. they Could not impose tariffs, leading to economic challenges as states created their own trade laws and currencies.

There is Problems Faced congress like : "Debt" Without the power to tax, Congress struggled to pay off national debt and support a military. "**Trade**" Different state trade laws and currencies complicated interstate commerce and "**Protection** "The inability to fund a military left the nation vulnerable to foreign threats. Spain and Britain exploited this weakness by restricting trade and maintaining military presence in contested areas. Land Ordinance of 1785 Congress successfully organized the Northwest Territory, providing a plan for national growth . Shays' Rebellion a revolt by farmers in Massachusetts highlighted the weaknesses of the Articles, as Congress could not muster a military response. This rebellion underscored the need for a stronger central government. The failure of the Articles to provide a robust framework for governance led to a convention in Philadelphia, where delegates drafted a new constitution, resulting in the United States Constitution. This new document aimed to create a more balanced and effective federal government.

The Articles of Confederation, America's first constitution, established a loose alliance of independent states with a weak central government. Ratified in 1781, the Articles granted limited powers to the federal government, primarily leaving authority with the states. Key successes included the Treaty of Paris (1783) ending the Revolutionary War, the Land Ordinances promoting western settlement, and rights protections. However, the Articles had significant weaknesses: no executive or judiciary, no power to tax, difficulties in amending the document, and economic and military limitations. Recognizing these flaws, the 1787 Constitutional Convention replaced the Articles with the U.S. Constitution, creating a stronger federal system with

## **5- The government and the Constitution :**

A Constitution is a collection of rules and principles which set out how a state will be governed , It forms the framework for all decisions made by every government official . It is important because it ensures that those who make decisions on behalf of the public fairly represent public opinion.

The inadequacy of the Articles of Confederation to rule the country in the 1780s urged the Congress to move. Delegates gathered in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House in the summer of 1787 to revise the Articles, which led to the framing of the Constitution.

In the first days of the Convention, the delegates elected George Washington as a chairman, and William Jackson as its secretary. They also agreed on how the Convention will be ruled (Beeman, 2009).

As the framers of the Constitution were about to start their work, they were faced by a troublesome dilemma. The pivotal idea behind the colonists' rejection of British monarchical system was the belief that governmental power was aggressive, and dangerous. In order to protect liberty and avoid tyranny, the framers believed government should be kept relatively weak and it should be close to the people, which means those entrusted with power could be closely watched.

The government and constitution of the United States are based on the principles outlined in the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution, ratified in 1788, serves as the supreme law of the land, providing the framework for the federal government's structure, powers, and limitations. It establishes the separation of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, ensuring a system of checks and balances. Additionally, the Constitution outlines the rights and freedoms of individuals through the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, safeguarding principles such as freedom of speech, religion, and due process. The government operates under the principles of federalism, with powers divided between the national government and the individual states. The Constitution also delineates the amendment process, allowing for changes to be made in response to the evolving needs of the nation. Overall, the

U.S. government and constitution are designed to uphold democratic governance, protect individual liberties, and provide for the common welfare of the American people

The convention started discussing and voting on proposals presented by the delegates. The Virginia Plan, which “was largely Madison's handiwork” (Beeman, 2009, p. 87), was presented to the Constitutional Convention by Edmund Randolph, who was the governor of Virginia at that time, on May 29, 1787. In this plan, James Madison divided the national government into three branches; legislature, executive, and a court system.

Many of the delegates found Madison's proposal shockingly different. Thus, debates upon this division, among other points, took long time. They argued on the way the states will be represented in the congress; whether they will have equal representation or representation according to population. When Madison, in his plan, intended to give more populous states more power, by more representation in Congress, than less populous states, the small states fought against the idea. They feared to be overpowered in Congress.

In order to solve this dispute, The Convention chose a committee by ballot, the grand committee, to work out a compromise. It delivered a report referred to as the Connecticut Compromise or the Great Compromise, in which it divided the Congress into upper house, equality of representation, and lower house, according to population with one representative for every 40,000 inhabitants.

After more than a year of debating, discussing, and voting on numerous disputes; the government structure, levying taxes, the Bill of Rights, and the slavery issue among other things, the first nine states of the whole thirteen agreed to ratify the final proposal of the Constitution on June 21, 1788, to go into effect on March 4, 1789 . It consist of a preamble seven of articles and 27 amendment . It sets up a federal system by dividing power between the national and state government by separating power among three independent branches "the executive , the legislative and justifiable ,the executive branch ,the president ,enforces national laws ,the

legislative branch ,the congress make national laws ,and the judicial branch ,the supreme court and interprets laws when deciding legal disputes in federal courts.

balanced powers between the national and state governments.

## **Conclusion**

After years of British domination, the colonists finally tasted the freedom. After many bills aimed for persecution, like the Stamp and the Intolerable Acts, they objected. Apparently, these Acts only motivated them to stand up to the UK, and to resist its tyranny. Although the lack of resources, they fought and with insistence they won. The Second Continental Congress was instrumental in shaping the course of American history. It successfully managed the colonies' collective defense, appointed George Washington as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and made the momentous decision to declare independence from Britain. The adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, symbolized the birth of a new nation committed to liberty and self-governance. The actions and resolutions of the Second Continental Congress laid the groundwork for the United States' establishment and the principles of democracy and freedom that would define it. New nation was born with new Constitution, that imposes a democratic system. It divided the government into three branches, Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary, and enabled the check and balances system to prevent any part of government of becoming too strong and maybe oppressive.

## **CHAPTER THREE:**

**Chapter three: The influence of the leaders on the political stability of  
America**

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## **Introduction**

The first continental congress marked a turning point in the history of the American revolution. where the representatives from twelve colonies convened to address grievances against British rule and coercive acts. During this historic gathering, the leaders exchange their views and make sharp decisions in the face of British oppression. in the corridors of this congress the words and speech of these leaders translated the sacrifices and hardships of the colonists into historic words carrying a message of freedom and unity .

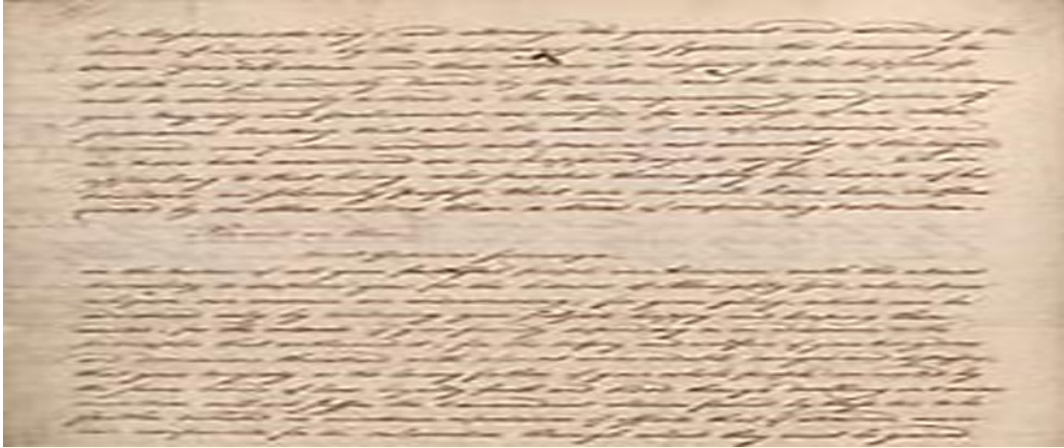
The inspirational quotes of its leaders reflected unwavering determination and commitment achieving independence and bearing responsibility for the future of the new nation.

In this chapter we explore some prominent leaders and notable quotes from the leaders of the first continental congress ,examining their significance and enduring impact on the course of American history .

### **The influence of the leaders on the political stability of America**

#### **1-Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790):**

Franklin's role in the continental congress was dynamic . it included his diplomatic efforts where he contributed to securing crucial French support for the American revolution and legislative activities , where he helped draft key documents like the declaration of independence.



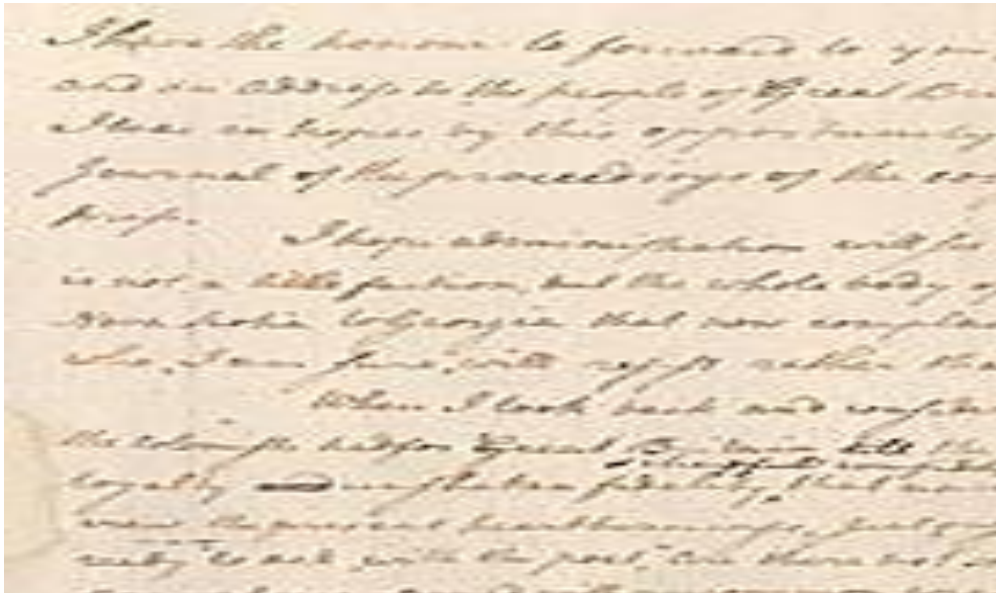
*petition of the first conational congress to king George III October 26<sup>th</sup>.1774*

*Page 2 Manuscripts document in the hand of timothy ISION Matalack .*

*Manuscript Division Library of Congress -18-*

*Benjamin Franklin Submits this Petition to the Continental Congress, October 26, 1774:* The petition shows the efforts made by Benjamin Franklin and other delegates to demand rights and equality from the British government .

The petition expresses the desire of the American colonies to resolve issues peacefully and in cooperation with Britain. Franklin's skills in diplomacy and negotiation are evident, as he knew how to communicate with British authorities in a way that preserved the interests of the colonies. The document was sent during the American revolution aimed to persuade the king of peaceful resolution to conflict with the American colonies , he emphasized the possibility of maintaining friendly relations while securing American Independence . In spite of the efforts Franklin the document ultimately failed to achieve its intended goal .



***Charles Thomson (1729-1824) to Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790 )***

***November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1774. Manuscript letter . LIBERTY OF CONGRESS -19-***

-The letter shows appreciation for the assistance provided by Franklin and the other delegates in an attempt to resolve disputes between the colonies and Britain.

-The letter reflects awareness of the difficult situation facing the American colonies and the hope for British support in resolving the conflicts.

- In Congress, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1776 :The decision to form an airborne camp to defend New Jersey and to appoint Franklin to the consultation committee on defense reflects the colonies' determination to defend their rights and protect themselves.

-The decision demonstrates the colonies' readiness to take any necessary actions to protect themselves from external threats.

- Franklin's role as a leading figure in the Congress is highlighted, as he was appointed to work on an important committee for consultation on defense.

## **2-Samuel Adams( 1722-1803):**

Samuel Adams was a prominent figure in the First Continental Congress and among the Sons of Liberty, playing a significant role in raising awareness of the rights of American colonies and organizing resistance against the oppressive policies of the British Empire. He believe The idea of no taxation without representation in articles and speech , he attacked the British government's claim that it had the right to tax the colonists.(Bryn O'Callaghan. An illustration .1990. p 27)

Samuel Adams used Boston massacre to stir up American opinion against the British. he wrote a lot of letters which inaccurately described the happening as an unprovoked attack on a peaceful group of citizen . He sent out copies to all the colonies . Adams' letters and revere's picture were seen by thousands of people through the colonies and together, they did a great deal to strengthen opposition to British rules .

Arthur lee was a diplomatic agent representative the interest of American revolution. He received a letter from Samuel

***MY DEAR SIR:**[ The edict of the British Parliament, commonly called the Boston Port Act, came safely to my hand. For flagrant injustice and barbarity, one might search in vain among the archives of Constantinople to find a match for it. But what else could have been expected from a Parliament too long under the dictates and control of an Administration which seems to be totally lost to all sense and feeling of morality, and governed by passion, cruelty.....] Adams ,J.( 1774, May 18).Letter to Arthur Lee Boston (v1,332)*

The letter reflects the significant pressures faced by Boston residents under British oppression when the closure of Boston Harbor that reacted the tea party .the letter Samuel conveys his solidarity with the people of the Boston and calls support to help them face the

challenges by British authorities . this stresses led Adam emphasized of the important of unity among the colonies and the corporation against the British polices . Adams lays the groundwork for the first continental congress which played a crucial role in the colonies path to independence.

### ***-Samuel Adams Quotes:***

“Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can. ”

*( Samuel Adams from the rights of the colonists which was part of the Boston Pamphlet )*

“He who is void of virtuous attachments in private life is or very soon will be ,void of all regard for his country ,who had not before lost the feeling of moral obligation in his private connections”

*(Samuel Adams in letter to James warren on November 4,1775 )*

“We can't make events . our business is wisely to improve them .”

*( Samuel Adams in a letter to Samuel cooper on April 30,1776)*

“our contest is not only whether we ourselves shall be free , but whether there shall be left to mankind an asylum on earth for civil and religious liberty . ”

*(Samuel Adams in speech to the second continental congress on August 1,1776)*

### **Citation information**

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### 3-Patrick Henry( 1736-1799)

Patrick Henry did not participate in the First Continental Congress; instead, his prominent role in the Virginia Convention and his involvement in the Parsons' Cause case were part of his journey that later contributed to fueling the American Revolution.

#### **\*Virginia Convention and Henry's Role:**

In 23 March 1775, Patrick Henry attended the Second Virginia Convention held at St. John's Church in Richmond. At that time, the colonies were under significant pressure from the British Crown, and calls for armed resistance were increasing. His Famous Speech In 23 March 1775

*"Gentlemen my cry peace, peace but their the war is actually begun . the next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms our brethren are already in the field why stand we here idle; ..... is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chain and slavery forbid it ALMIGHTY God know not what course others may take but as for me Give me liberty, or give me death!": (Patrick Henry by Moses Coit Tyler JULY 10-2009)*

Henry was a man who give the first step to the American revolution, who became a lawyer in 1760, rejected the idea of false peace and emphasized that the war had already begun and he declared that everyone must struggle for the freedom. He concluded his declaration by inserting his idea to fight for liberty which inspired his listeners and drove them to take bold step towards independence.

Although Henry did not play a major role in the First Continental Congress, but his influence and involvement in local movements were pivotal in shaping public opinion and pushing for the convening of the congress.. The following year, Patrick Henry became a delegate

for Virginia at the Second Continental Congress in May 1775, where he actively participated in debates leading to the Declaration of Independence. In this context, Henry used his influence and experience from the Virginia Conventions and courts to advocate for the colonies' independence.

***-His Overall Impact (Oratory and Motivation) :***

Henry was a skilled orator with significant influence on public opinion and delegates at political meetings. His inspiring speeches, especially "Give me liberty, or give me death!",<sup>23</sup> march 1775 . he introduce a plan of military preparedness served as a powerful call to action and resistance against British tyranny.

***-Impact on Decisions:***

His influence was felt in the decisions made at the Second Continental Congress, including preparations for war and the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

While Patrick Henry was not a member of the First Continental Congress, his role in local issues like the Parsons' Cause and his speech at the Virginia Convention were crucial in driving the American Revolution. Later, as a member of the Second Continental Congress, Henry actively contributed to the debates leading to the Declaration of Independence and guiding the course of the Revolutionary War.

**4-The list of delegates of first continental congress :**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Colony</b>
Nathaniel Folsom; John Sullivan	New Hampshire
John Adams;[A] Samuel Adams; Thomas Cushing; Robert Treat Paine	Massachusetts Bay
Stephen Hopkins; Samuel Ward	Rhode Island
Silas Deane; Eliphalet Dyer; Roger Sherman	Connecticut
John Alsop;[B] Simon Boerum; James Duane;[B] William Floyd;[C] John Haring;[D] John Jay;[B][E] Philip Livingston;[B] Isaac Low;[B][F] Henry Wisner[D]	New York
Stephen Crane; John De Hart; James Kinsey; William Livingston;	New Jersey

Richard Smith	
Edward Biddle; John Dickinson; Joseph Galloway;[F] Charles Humphreys; Thomas Mifflin; John Morton; Samuel Rhoads; George Ross	Pennsylvania
Thomas McKean; George Read; Caesar Rodney	Delaware
Samuel Chase; Robert Goldsborough; Thomas Johnson; William Paca; Matthew Tilghman	Maryland
Richard Bland; Benjamin Harrison; Patrick Henry; Richard Henry Lee; Edmund Pendleton; Peyton Randolph;[G] George Washington[A]	Virginia
Richard Caswell; Joseph Hewes; William Hooper	North Carolina
Christopher Gadsden; Thomas Lynch Jr.; Henry Middleton; [G] Edward Rutledge; John Rutledge[E]	South Carolina
<p><b>Source:</b> <i>First continental congress: proceedings of the first continental congress</i>  <i>Unhistorical .org. Philadelphia. Pennsylvania independent hall Association retrieved April 30.2019.</i></p>	

The congress Convened in response to the Intolerable Acts passed by the British Parliament earlier that year, the 56 delegates to the First Continental Congress sought to help repair the frayed relationship between the British government and its American colonies. Therefore, They passed the Continental Association, an economic boycott of Great Britain, and petitioned the king for a reparation of harm . They also resolved to reconvene in May 1775 if necessary.

The delegates from the various colonies did indeed reconvene for a Second Continental Congress as scheduled, but by the time they gathered, the Revolutionary War had begun. Moderates in the Congress still hoped that the colonies could be reconciled with Great Britain, but a movement towards independence steadily gained ground.

At this juncture Congress simultaneously sent an Olive Branch Petition to King George III, hoping for a rapprochement, and issued a Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms, which contained the words "Our cause is just. Our union is perfect... being with one mind resolved to die freemen rather than to live slaves...(olive branch petition 5 Julia 1774).

The petition emphasized their loyalty to the British crown and emphasized their rights as British citizens .

**Conclusion:**

The words and the speeches of the prominent leaders in the first continental congress play an important role in the forming of the unity and nationalism between the colonies , through these quotes they were able to send powerful messages of freedom and resistance , inspiring future generations and contributing to the achievement of American independence . These words still resonate through history and it highlights the strength and determination that defined that crucial era in the formation of the American nation .

## **General Conclusion**

In conclusion, The First Continental Congress represented a significant move towards political stability and the formation of a new American identity. By uniting representatives from the Thirteen Colonies, it established a collective response to British policies and laid the groundwork for cooperative governance. This step fostered a sense of unity and common purpose among the colonies, setting the stage for the subsequent push towards independence and the creation of a stable, self-governing nation. and this study finds that the First Continental Congress marked a pivotal moment in the history of the United States of America. This historic event symbolized a significant meeting between representatives of the thirteen colonies. Through theoretical and applied analysis, it becomes an evident that the First Continental Congress was not merely a historical event but rather a manifestation of solidarity and cooperation among the American colonies in confronting British challenges.

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## المخلص

تعتبر الحرية حلم كل شخص علي وجه الأرض . وقد سعت المستعمرات الأمريكية بكل الوسائل المتاحة، سواء الدبلوماسية أو العسكرية، لتحقيق الحرية وإقامة مجتمع مستقل بذاته. وفي هذا السياق، تبرز جهود الشعب الأمريكي ضد التاج البريطاني، ومن أبرزها المؤتمر الأول الذي شكّل محطة هامة في تاريخ الثورة الأمريكية من أجل الاستقلال . فقد أثبتت خطابات القادة الذين تحدوا الصعاب واطهروا إصرارهم ، أنهم مستعدون للتضحية من أجل تحقيق حلم الشعب الأمريكي بتحقيق الحرية واستعادة كرامتهم. وبفعل هذه الجهود والتضحيات، تمكنوا من تحقيق حلم الشعب الأمريكي بالاستقلال عن الحكم البريطاني. وبهذا، أصبحت راية الحرية ترفرف في سماء الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، تحت حكم جديد موحد، وبشعار "الحرية أو الموت" الذي يعكس قيم الشعب الأمريكي وإصراره على نيل الاستقلال.