

Loyalists



Name: Thomas Hutchinson

Occupation: governor of Massachusetts

Action taken: enforced British laws like the Stamp Act

Argument against independence: The British king knows what is best for colonists because he has experience and wisdom. Colonists living overseas should not expect to have the same freedoms that people in Great Britain have.



Name: Jonathan Boucher

Occupation: priest in the Church of England

Action taken: preached that disobeying the king was like disobeying God

Argument against independence: A war for independence would hurt people much more than living with a few bad laws would. The common people are not capable of ruling. British laws come from God and make life safer and easier for colonists.



Name: Lord Dunmore

Occupation: governor of Virginia

Action taken: attacked Patriots' homes and plantations along the Elizabeth River in Virginia

Argument against independence: Colonists have a duty to obey British laws and not become traitors. Fighting for independence would hurt the economy and make colonists poor. Great Britain started the colonies and still protects them so the colonists have a duty to obey British laws.

Patriots



Name: Benjamin Franklin

Occupation: writer, printer, inventor, scientist, statesman, diplomat, colonial representative to British government

Action taken: tried to persuade Great Britain to stop making laws that the colonists thought were unfair

Argument for independence: The colonists have the ability to govern themselves. Great Britain will keep making unfair laws. The colonists can no longer trust the British government.



Name: Mercy Otis Warren

Occupation: writer and poet

Action taken: wrote plays and poems supporting Independence

Argument for independence: Great Britain's laws and taxes are unfair. Colonial families have a hard time earning money and British goods are expensive. The colonies would be better off with their own government



Name: Samuel Adams

Occupation: politician

Action taken: made speeches and wrote newspaper articles; helped organize the Sons of Liberty and led the Boston Tea Party to protest unfair British laws

Argument for independence: The colonists should be able to elect their own governors and to have the power to change unfair laws. Colonists should not have to pay high taxes on British goods.