



**Volume 21**

**Number 017**

**America's Revolution (90) – The Intolerable  
Acts - II**

**Lead: In the 1700s the United States broke from England. No colony in history had done that before. This series examines America's Revolution.**

**Intro: *A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts***

**Content: As news of the Boston Tea Party spread through London, the government responded with a series of laws that came to**

**be known in America as the Intolerable Acts. This legislation was designed not only to secure reimbursement for the lost tea but also to punish the colonists for their seditious actions. It was hoped such a course of action would restore some measure of Parliamentary authority in North America. The first law closed the Port of Boston to ocean-going trade. Without even a cursory attempt at hearing Boston's side the measure sailed through the Commons and the Lords with inordinate speed. Boston was to be shut up tight by June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**The balance of the legislation reorganized the colony of Massachusetts, reducing local control, and removed Crown officials accused of capital crimes from colonial jurisdiction, allowing them to be transferred to Britain or another colony for trial. The Quartering Act which had expired in 1770 was renewed and extended so that private**

**citizens could be forced to house and feed British troops in their homes. A final law, which organized the government of Quebec—Britain won it in the Seven Years' War—gave rights of worship to Roman Catholics, an act which caused concern among Protestants in the lower thirteen colonies.**

**Britain's actions, particularly the closing of the Port of Boston, intensified anger and resistance among the colonists. In Boston, though there was some resistance from merchants who wanted to pay back the East India Company for its tea and get the port re-opened, the majority in Massachusetts were firmly committed to resistance. Next time: a Continental Congress.**

**At the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.**

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