



**Volume 22**

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**America's Revolution (98) – Britain at the  
Crossroads – I**

**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: News of the growing discontent and at times violent resistance in the colonies in 1774 over the so-called Intolerable Acts only slowly moved east across the Atlantic. It**

made its way only gradually into the consciousness of the British public, but more importantly that of Britain's leaders. Parliament was in its usual late summer and fall recess so dealing with this colonial dissatisfaction was left to the colonial bureaucrats, the colonial minister and the King. Colonial Secretary, Lord Dartmouth was concerned about reports that weapons were being smuggled from Europe to the colonies, but was more sanguine when he heard news of the First Continental Congress. Though he considered it to be an unlawful assembly, he would be open to its outcome if the meeting produced conciliatory measures. The King was far more skeptical, writing that "the Colonies must either submit or triumph."

First Minister, Lord North, was even more inflexible. As it became evident that America was going to opt for a program of non-

**importation, he said, that if the colonies refused to trade with Britain, “Great Britain would take care they should trade nowhere else.” He and his political allies then busied themselves with what would come to be called a “snap election” calling for a vote a year before the end of the seven-year parliamentary term. The public was as indifferent to events in America as they were to issues at home, and North’s coalition won a powerful new majority. This is the Parliament that would fight and lose the American Revolution. Next time: The desperate Thomas Gage.**

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

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