

Resentments/Distrusts of the British towards the Colonists

- The British thought the rich colonists were less than them, because they didn't have royal blood.
- The Americans had started The French and Indian War, which had cost England quite a bit.

Resentments/Distrusts of the Colonists towards the British

- The rich Colonists were looked down upon by the British. However much they tried to be like the royals, they couldn't quite match.
- The British seemed to want more control of the colonies than the colonists would like: they stopped the colonists from moving beyond a certain point, to preserve native land.

What issues angered the Colonists towards the British?

- They were being taxed, unfairly they thought, seeing as they already payed taxes to their governors. One of these taxes was called the Stamp Act.
- More than the fact that they were being taxed, parliament and the king seemed to want more and more control of their daily affairs.
- They felt they were being betrayed by their mother country, one that had fought alongside them in the war against the French.
- The British started to bring in soldiers, which were supposed to enforce order in unruly cities but ended up making the early patriots more angry.

What issues angered the British towards the Colonists?

- Many refused to pay the taxes that the British set, some even going so far as to publicly mock them by burning stamps and other acts (Boston Tea Party).
- They refused, to the eyes of the British, to acknowledge that a war had been fought on their behalf, and that war had cost the British Empire. Many people in England thought it big-headed that the colonists would refuse to pay their taxes, as English citizens were already paying them.
- They were publicly disrespecting the soldiers that Britain sent in to keep the peace, even using violent means against them.

For what reasons were the Colonists dependent on the British?

- The British sold them goods that they couldn't make.
- The British had an army which could defend them in times of war.
- Many colonists wanted to be British, and respected the English way of life (drinking tea, etc.). For many, this went away when they saw parliament taking a heavy handed approach to handling the colonies.

For what reasons were the British dependent on the Colonists?

- The Americans brought lots of raw materials back to the mother country, and America had an abundance of natural resources, like trees, that Britain had long ago exhausted.
- Tobacco! The British loved it, and the Colonists grew it on big plantations in the South.

For what reason would some colonists feel compelled to remain allied with the British even though they lived side by side with those who felt the best course of action was to break away and form a new nation?

After watching Liberty!, I know that there are many answers to this question. First, most Colonists wanted to be like the British, the rich trying to keep up with the popular styles in England. But whenever the British came to visit, they would find something that the Colonists had done wrong, or was out of style. For some, this was infuriating, but many wanted to stay with the mother country because they wanted to be British. Also, many merchants were reliant on English goods to sell to the Colonists, and plantation owners needed buyers for their tobacco, a big craze in England. They had a financial stake in the war. Others wanted to stay with England because this was the way it had been all their life, and in their parent's lives. There were many, many reasons.

During the decade before the outbreak of war, what were the two major attitudes of the colonists towards the parliament and the British Empire?

There were those who were honored to be a part of the British Empire, and after the French and Indian war was over, saw only good times ahead. Then there were some who either a bit more politically savvy, or more cynical, or had dangerous (in the British eyes) ideas, who believed that parliament and the king had too much power, and that their rights would be taken away if they didn't do something.

Why were they glad to be in the British Empire?

For many reasons, most of which I touched on above. They felt that a new and golden age was dawning, and the British way of life was the best. The British were their protectors, bought their goods and supplied them with goods they couldn't make. They were proud to be citizens of the crown.

Describe how colonists who were leaders of the colonial opposition to Parliament's authority might have seen themselves and what they believed.

Well, if they were opposing the authority of the crown, they probably fell into the group of people with dangerous ideas described above, but I don't think they wanted war. They saw the taxes as dangerous, not because of the amount, which wasn't that bad, but because if they allowed the British to tax them a little, they could do anything. They probably saw themselves defending their liberty and their money from the grasp of a government which had overstepped its bounds and must be shown its place, but they still thought of themselves as British citizens, at least before the war started.

Why would George Washington feel it more necessary to join the other side against the British?

The first book George Washington copied out was a book of British etiquette. This, perhaps more than anything, shows that he wanted to be British. He became a rich man in the colonies, owning quite a lot of land, and ranked among the most influential people in his country, but he could see that the British looked down on him. This most definitely frustrated him, as he saw he had no chance of any influence in England, where he and his fellow rich Colonists were seen as inferior. Perhaps this was what pushed him to join the patriot cause.