

# The Boston Tea Party

In 1767, England passed several acts, or laws, including a new tax on the importation of tea to the American colonies. Because they were unhappy with this tax, the colonists decided not to buy British tea anymore. Instead, they bought tea smuggled in from the Netherlands.

The British East India Company needed to sell its tea to the colonies or it would go out of business. Therefore, the British government decided to encourage the colonies to buy British tea. It passed a law in 1773 that would make British tea cheaper to buy than the smuggled Dutch tea.

The colonists were upset that England thought they would accept the tea tax for the sake of cheaper tea. Several thousand chests of British tea had been shipped to the colonies, but it sat on the ships because the colonists refused to buy it. In what became known as the Boston Tea Party, angry colonists dumped the tea delivered to Boston into Boston Harbor. This made the British angry, and they passed even harsher laws against the American colonies. This pushed the colonies closer to rebellion.

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