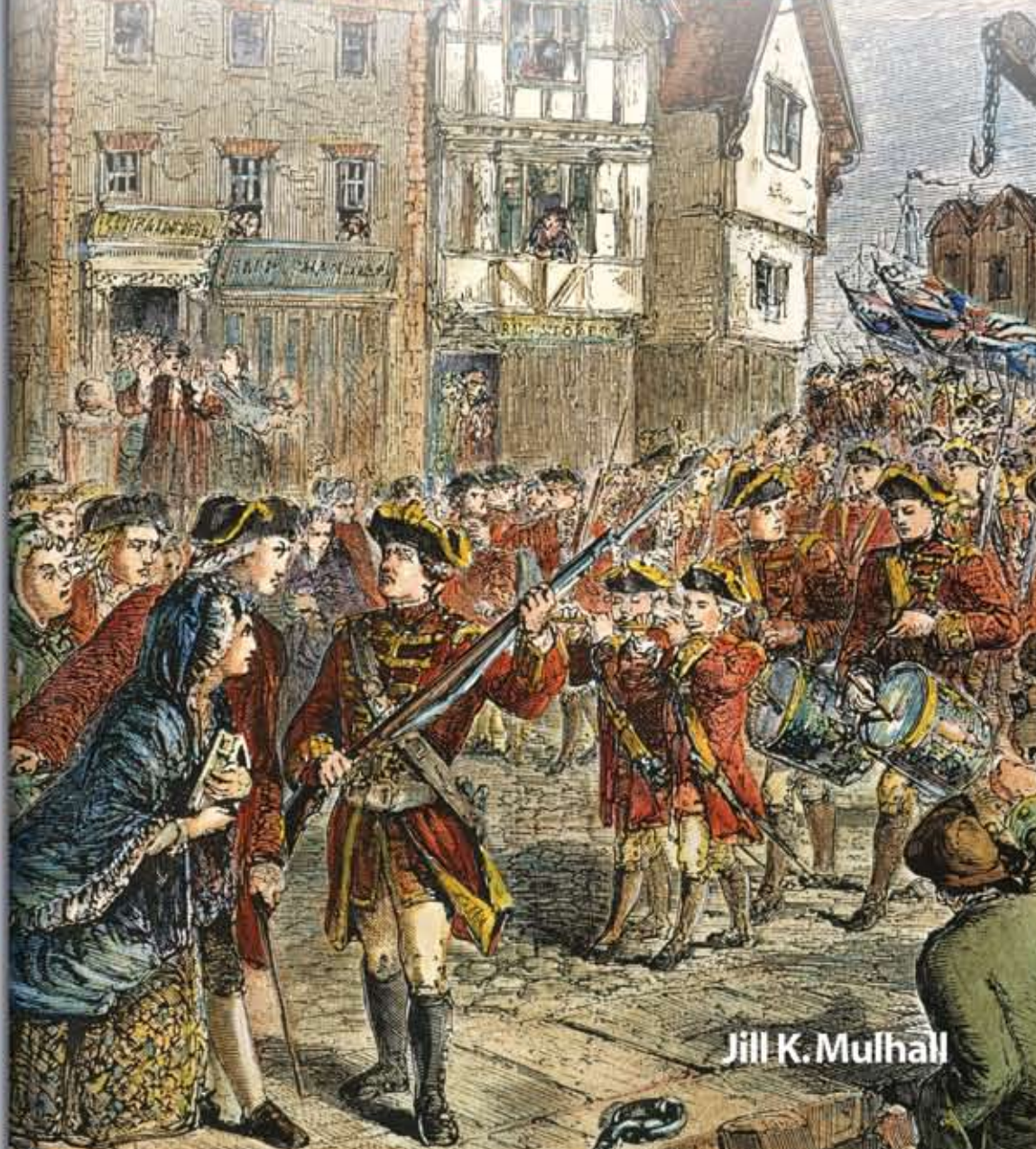


PRIMARY SOURCE READERS

Causes of the Revolution



Jill K. Mulhall



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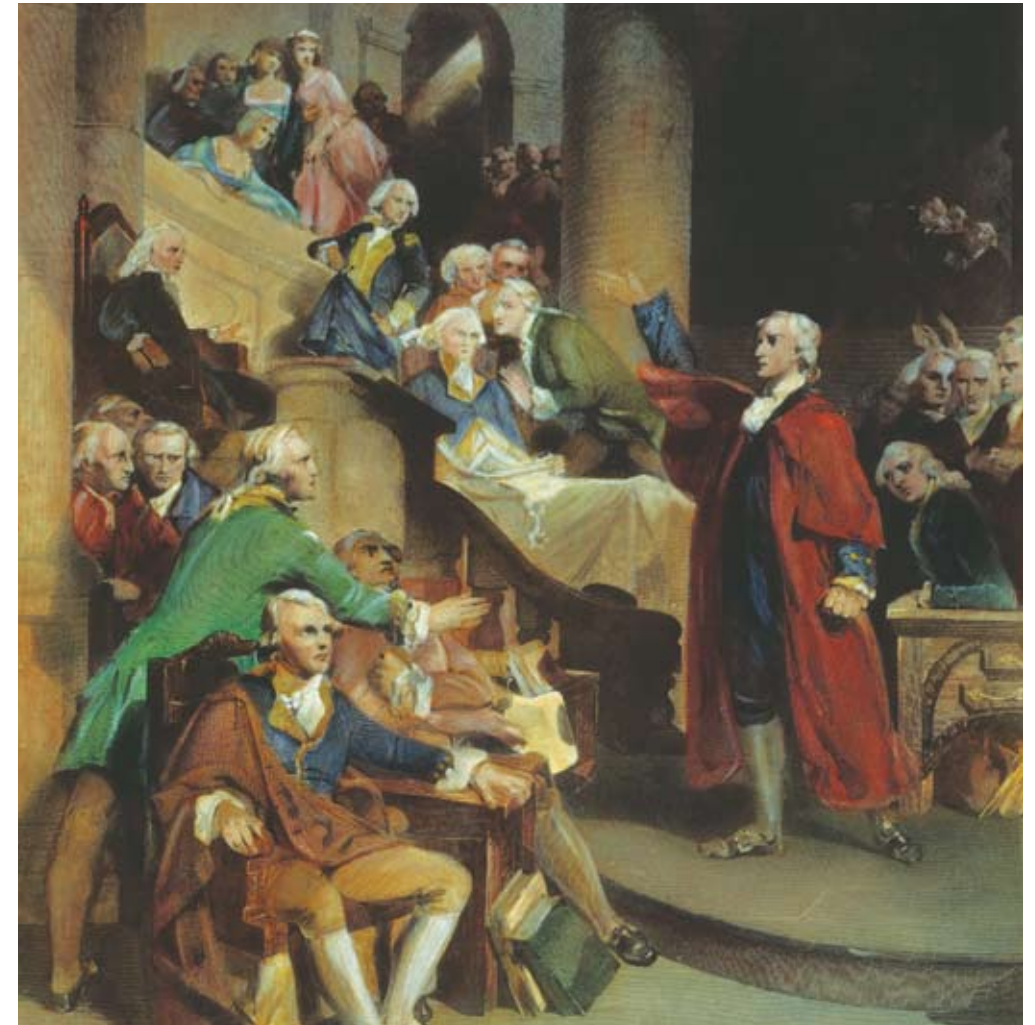


Causes of the Revolution

Jill K. Mulhall, M.Ed.

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▲ Patrick Henry speaking to the leaders of Virginia

The Long Road to Independence

The people who lived in America during colonial times grew angry about taxes and laws that they thought were unfair. They fought back in different ways. Some of them joined in protests. Others wrote powerful words. These leaders inspired the colonists to create their own country.

The Melting Pot

More than two million people lived in the 13 British colonies in the mid-1700s. Some were born in the New World, while others had crossed the dangerous ocean to make a new home.

These colonists came from different countries. Many were from England. Some came from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and Holland.

Several of these countries had longtime problems with each other. They had even fought wars. But in the colonies, things were different. People worked hard to build homes

▼ Immigrants leaving old England for America



A New Kind of Family

Some colonists married people who had come from other countries. Then they had children. For example, you might have a child who was half Scottish and half German. This helped bring the colonists together even more quickly.

▼ Map of Europe in 1740



Crossing an Ocean

If you want to cross the Atlantic Ocean now, you just take a short airplane ride. It was much harder when the colonists did it. Sometimes they could not find ships to take them. When they did find one, the trip took more than a month!

and learn new skills. They did not have time to worry about things that had happened long ago.

The people in America began to think that it did not matter where you came from. They lived in colonies that were ruled by Great Britain. So they proudly called themselves British **citizens** (SIT-uh-zuhns).