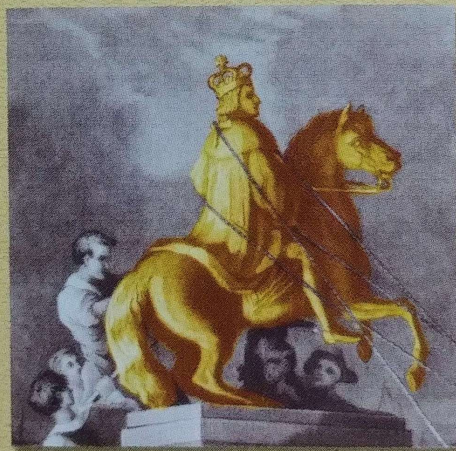




Patriots cheer the soldiers as they pull down a statue of King George III, a symbol of British rule.



A statue of King George III of England in a Massachusetts town square.



Loyalists look on in dismay as the statue of their king is torn down by excited Patriots.

To Declare Independence or Not

11.1 Introduction

In Chapter 10, you read about how tensions grew between Britain and the American colonies from 1754 to 1774. In this chapter, you will learn about colonists who argued for and against **independence** from Britain.

People in favor of independence wanted America to be a separate country that would no longer be ruled by Britain. Colonists who wanted independence were called **Patriots**.

Some Patriots gave arguments in favor of independence in speeches and newspaper articles. Others took stronger actions, such as rushing into the streets to join mobs that attacked the homes and businesses of Loyalists.

Colonists who remained loyal to Britain were called **Loyalists**. Some Loyalists gave speeches arguing against independence. Others took even stronger actions, such as attacking Patriots with guns.

Many colonists did not take sides. Instead, they remained **Neutralists**, becoming neither Loyalists nor Patriots.

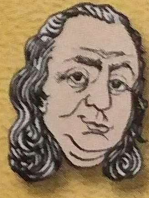
As you read this chapter, use the T-chart on this page to keep track of how six important colonists felt about independence. The Loyalists on the left side of the T-chart argued against independence. The Patriots on the right side of the T-chart argued in favor of independence. Why did some colonists stay loyal to the king and Britain? Why did others want the colonies to be independent?

Comparing Loyalists and Patriots

Loyalists



Patriots



11.2 Who Were the Loyalists and Patriots?

When colonists began arguing over independence, thousands of them chose to become Loyalists. The Loyalists included many kinds of people.

Some Loyalists were rich landowners. They feared that Patriot mobs might take their property.

Some Loyalists were governors who had been appointed to their jobs by King George III. They liked their government, and they felt that it was their duty to make sure that British laws were obeyed in the colonies.

Other Loyalists were religious leaders who believed that the king's power came from God. Many of them were members of the Church of England, Britain's official church. They believed that it was wrong to oppose the king. They told their followers, "You have a duty to be loyal to the church and to the king!"

Loyalists gave many arguments against independence. Still, only about one-fifth of the colonists became Loyalists.

About two-fifths of the colonists became Patriots. Many of them were merchants who lived in and around the city of Boston. They were angry about British taxes on goods such as tea and cloth. The taxes hurt their businesses because many colonists refused to buy the taxed goods.

Some Patriots were lawyers. They fought in the courts against British laws that they thought were unfair. They believed that the colonists should have more say in making laws that directly affected them.

Other Patriots were farmers or people who worked at crafts such as printing, shipbuilding, and making clothes. They agreed with Patriot leaders who said that independence would bring more freedom and riches to the colonies.

In the rest of this chapter, you will learn about three Loyalists and three Patriots. As you read about these people, think about why they felt the way they did. What reasons did each give for being a Loyalist or a Patriot?



Britain's King George III enjoyed the support of only about one-fifth of the American colonists. Those colonists became known as Loyalists.

11.3 Thomas Hutchinson: A Loyalist Governor

Thomas Hutchinson was a Loyalist who lived in Massachusetts. He was a dedicated official who was named royal governor of Massachusetts in 1771. Over time, Hutchinson became one of the most hated men in the colonies because he always sided with the British against the Patriots.

Hutchinson was a thin, serious man who rarely smiled. He didn't like to show much feeling. Even though he was a successful businessman, he didn't wear fancy clothes. Instead, he liked to wear a simple black coat and hat.

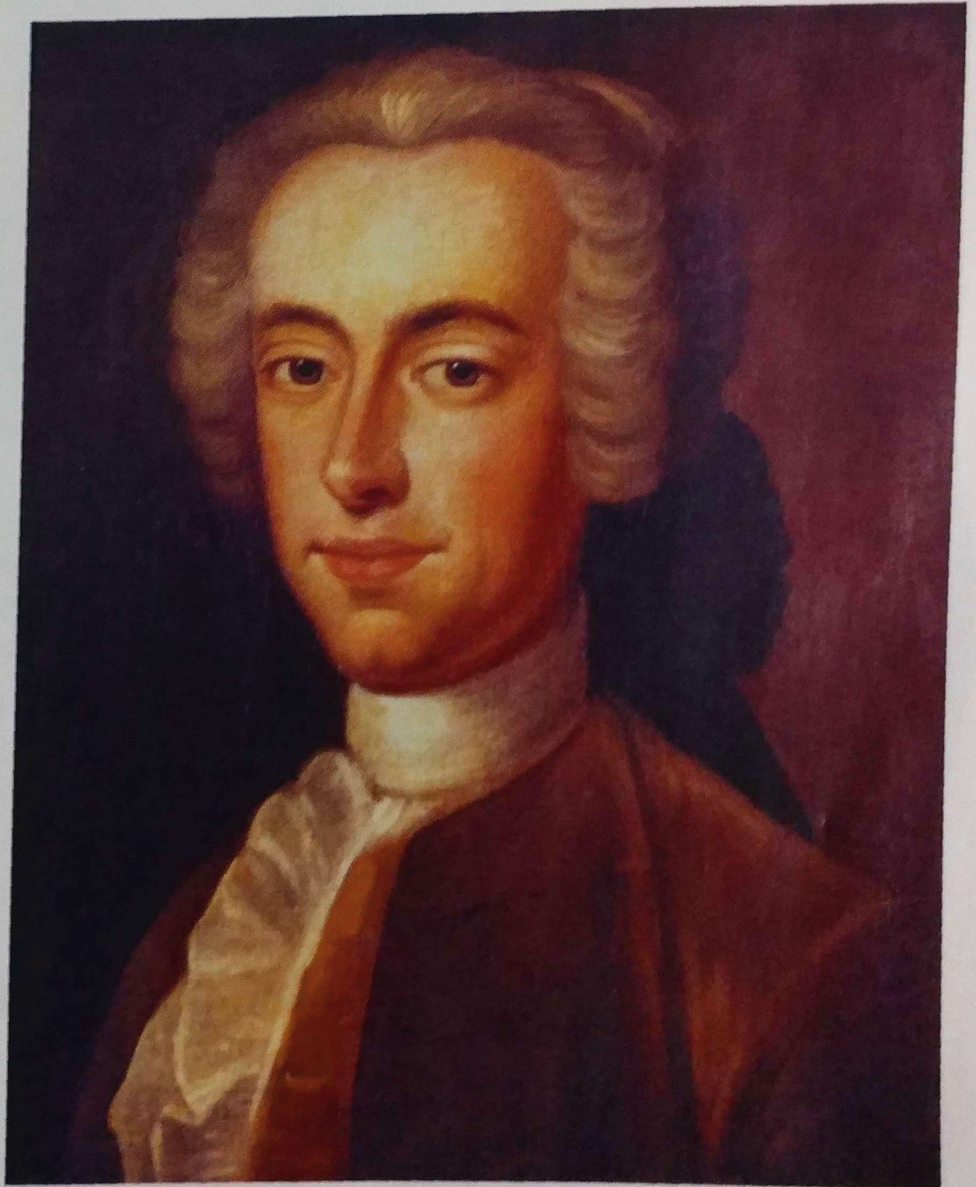
As an official serving the king, Hutchinson believed firmly in enforcing British laws such as the Stamp Act and the law that closed Boston Harbor for a time. Patriots were so angry about the Stamp Act that one night an angry mob burst into Hutchinson's house. The mob stole money and broke furniture. They also destroyed his prized collection of books. From then on, Hutchinson was a bitter enemy of the Patriots.

As a Loyalist, Hutchinson argued against independence for several reasons. He said that the colonies needed Britain to help protect them against other countries. He argued that the colonists could not govern themselves without Britain to guide them. And he said that the king knew what was best for the colonists because he was wiser and more experienced.

In 1773, Patriots embarrassed Hutchinson by printing some letters that he had written to the British government. The letters said that Britain should be even more strict with the colonists. When colonists read the letters in the newspaper, nearly everyone turned against him.



Thomas Hutchinson was a Loyalist. As governor of Massachusetts, he enforced British laws that were unpopular among the American colonists.



11.4 Jonathan Boucher: A Loyalist Religious Leader

Reverend Jonathan Boucher was a British religious leader who used his sermons (speeches in church) to spread his Loyalist beliefs.

Boucher first came to the colonies as a young man in 1759. Later, he went back to Britain and became a priest in the Church of England. After returning to America, he became a well-known religious leader in the colony of Maryland.

Many people liked being around Boucher because he was intelligent and full of charm. He usually dressed simply, in dark suits and a priest's collar. He was balding and usually wore spectacles (glasses).

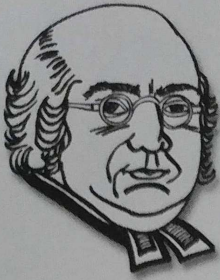
Even though he dressed plainly, Boucher was full of energy and ambition. He was a forceful man who was comfortable talking in front of large groups. As a minister, he used his talents to argue for the Loyalist cause.

Boucher preached that the king's power came from God. He said that Christians had a special duty to obey British laws because disobeying the king was like disobeying God.

Boucher also argued that colonists should obey the laws for their own good. He said that British laws made life safer and better for most colonists.

Finally, Boucher warned that actions for independence were dangerous because they could lead to a war with Britain. Such a war would hurt thousands of people much more than living with a few bad laws.

Boucher's Loyalist sermons made some Patriots so angry that they threatened to kill him. Realizing that he was in danger, Boucher began keeping loaded pistols nearby when he gave his sermons.



Jonathan Boucher was a British religious leader who lived in Maryland. He used his sermons to spread Loyalist beliefs.

