



# HISTALYA

MUN 2024

## THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

AGENDA ITEM:

Current Colonial Status and the Hearing of  
the Sub-Committee for Declarations

## STUDY GUIDE

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

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## 1) Letter From the Secretary General

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It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all participants of HistalyaMun'24, which will be held in Antalya from August 15th to 18th.

As we gather for this Model United Nations conference, we anticipate engaging debates, enlightening discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities. Our committees, covering a diverse range of topics about historical events, promise to challenge and inspire delegates, fostering both critical thinking and diplomatic skills.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizing team and our gracious hosts in Antalya for their dedication and hard work in bringing HistalyaMun'24 to fruition.

I am eager to meet each and every one of you in Antalya as we come together for this enriching experience.

Sincerely,

Metehan Yıldırım  
Secretary-General  
HistalyaMun'24

## 2) Letters From The Under-Secretaries General

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Our lovely delegates,

We, as your Under-Secretaries General responsible for the committee of Second Continental Congress, are pleased to welcome you all to HISTALYAMUN'24!

Serving for a committee like this, most importantly together, had to be something our MUN career should have seen. It was one step further for one of us, to break the habit. We see this as part of our 2-year journey of making a committee together. We genuinely hope that our delegates will see this document as a guidance, not a whole explanation of the committee. The committee will be beyond that, we can assure that.

This Study Guide holds very little knowledge other than its own content in order to create an open space for the delegates to get into character with their own research. We sincerely recommend that you read this document before learning about it. It is very important that you do extra research before coming to the committee.

In June of 1774, George Washington wrote: “the cause of Boston...ever will be considered as the cause of America.”

You may reach us for any kind problems and question you posses from;

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Cruelly Yours,  
Kayra Duran,  
Yasemin Raithel.

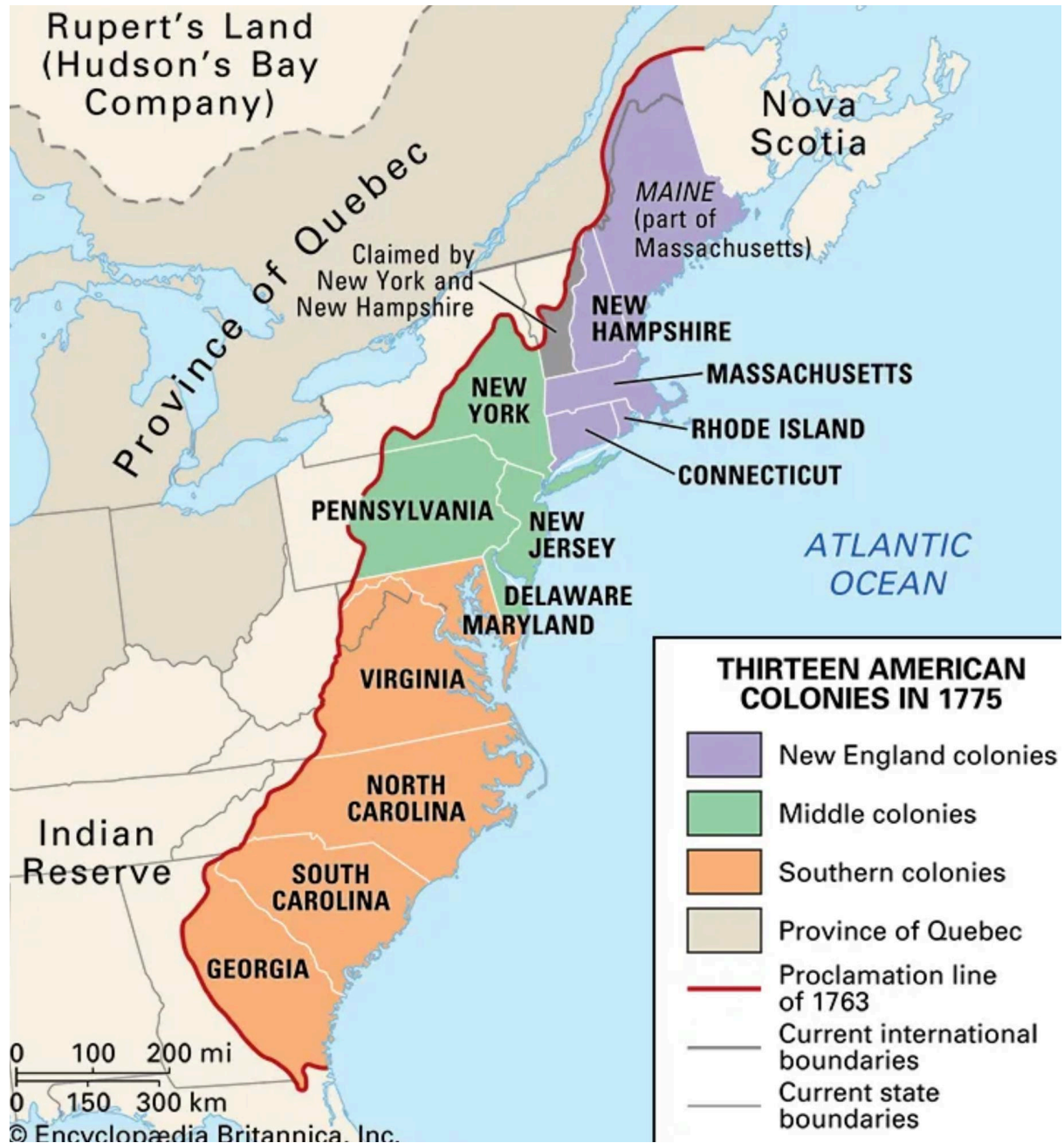
### 3) Introduction To The Committee and The Agenda Item

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Dear delegates of the Committee, this committee will be following the rules of procedure of a General Assembly committee, however, changes will be made to the procedure by the authorities of the Under-Secretary General and the course of this guide. The Committee will be opened with a welcoming committee from the Pennsylvanian delegates who will be greeting their fellow delegates from other states. As it is stated it is recommended to Pennsylvanian delegates to know their fellow colonist delegates to welcome. Further going on, this committee will be mostly built on the will of the USG and usually work on Semi-Moderated Caucuses. This Committee does not require a resolution paper for its ending and with the will of the Committee Secretariat it prefers a Specific Declaration. The Course of this Committee will be explained by the USG on the Day of the Conference However, it is required to read this study guide before the commencement of the conference for preparation. This Study guide is not a Document for the delegates to take as the main preparation document, as it is just a guide for delegates to know where to research and where to prepare. As it might be hard to show as historical documents, it is highly recommended to delegates to watch period drama television shows of the time to be able to imagine a scenario of worldbuilding for the committee as it will be highly influential. This Committee Will be Focusing on its problems from the Problems To Be Addressed Section and will form with the will of the delegates of the Congress.

#### 4) The 13 Colonies and The Boston Tea Party



American colonies, the 13 British colonies that were established during the 17th and early 18th centuries in what is now a part of the eastern United States. The colonies grew both geographically along the Atlantic coast and westward and numerically to 13 from the time of their founding to the American Revolution. Their settlements had spread far beyond the

Appalachians and extended from Maine in the north to the Altamaha River in Georgia when the Revolution began, and there were at that time about 2.5 million American colonists. The colonies were mainly a group of settlements that became the original states of the United States of America. Nearly all the colonies were founded by the English, and all were located along the East Coast. On the 1776 4th of July, the 13 colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. The names of the colonies were Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia. For most of the time that the colonies were under British rule, the monarchy allowed them a great deal of freedom. Most of the colonies set up forms of self-government. The colonists also developed their own society and economy; however, Relations between Britain and the American colonies grew worse after the French and Indian War (1754–1763). British rule wanted the colonists to pay taxes to help pay for the war, but the colonists did not want to pay taxes without being represented in the British Parliament. The disagreements led to the American Revolution.

In Britain and continental Europe the colonies were looked upon as a land of promise. Moreover, both the homeland and the colonies encouraged immigration, offering inducements to those who would travel beyond the ocean. The colonies particularly welcomed foreign Protestants (The Church of England was currently protestant and most catholics in Britain were from Ireland and Scotland thus creating a way for discrimination in the early years). In addition, many people were sent to America against their will; convicts, political prisoners, and enslaved Africans. The American population doubled every generation with significant amounts of migration every year. In the 17th century the principal component of the population in the colonies was of English origin, and the second largest group was of African heritage. German and Scotch-Irish immigrants arrived in large numbers during the 18th century. Other important contributions to the colonial ethnic mix were made by the Netherlands, Scotland, and France. New England was almost entirely English, in the southern colonies the English were the most numerous of the settlers of European origin, and in the middle colonies the population was much mixed, but even Pennsylvania had more English than German settlers. The English language was used everywhere, and English culture prevailed. The “melting pot” began to boil in the colonial period, so effectively that Governor William Livingston, 3/4 Dutch and one-fourth Scottish, described himself as an Anglo-Saxon. By 1763 the word “American” was commonly used on both sides of the Atlantic to designate the people of the 13 colonies.

Both in Virginia and New England, The colonists soon began to exercise a certain autonomy within their rights of practice. In 1619 Governor George Yeardley brought out to Jamestown a new plan of government and a momentous step forward was taken. A two-part legislature was created, one part consisting of the governor and his council, named by the company in England, and the other a house made up of two burgesses from each settlement. It was to legislate upon Virginian home affairs, subject to the approval of the governor and the company. During the summer the first true legislature in continental America met in the log church in Jamestown. A little later the Pilgrims, before leaving their ship, adopted the

Mayflower Compact. It was not a form of government but an agreement that they would live together in orderly fashion under civil officers of their own selection.

## The Tax Acts and The Boston Tea Party

In the 1760s, Britain was deep in debt because of the French-Indian War, so the British Parliament imposed a series of taxes on American colonists to help pay those debts.

The Stamp Act of 1765 taxed colonists on virtually every piece of printed paper they used, from playing cards and business licenses to newspapers and legal documents. The Townshend Acts of 1767 went a step further, taxing essentials such as paint, paper, glass, lead and tea.

The British government felt the taxes were fair since much of its debt was earned fighting wars on the colonists behalf. The colonists, however, rightfully disagreed. They were furious at being taxed without having any representation in British Parliament, and felt it was wrong for Britain to impose taxes on them to gain revenue.

On March 5, 1770, a street brawl happened in Boston between American colonists and British soldiers. Later known as the Boston Massacre, the fight began after an unruly group of colonists that were frustrated with the presence of British soldiers in their streets they flung snowballs, ice and oyster shells at a British sentinel guarding the Boston Customs House. Reinforcements arrived and opened fire on the mob of rebels, killing five colonists and wounding six. The Boston Massacre and its fallout further incited the colonists' rage towards The British Company. Later then, The Boston Tea Party was a political protest that occurred on December 16, 1773, also at Griffin's Wharf in Boston, Massachusetts. American colonists, frustrated and angry at Britain for imposing "taxation without representation," dumped 342 chests of tea, imported by the British East India Colony into the harbor. The event was the first major act of defiance to British rule over the colonists. It showed Great Britain that Americans would not tolerate taxation and tyranny sitting down, and rallied American patriots across the 13 colonies to fight for independence.

The Sons of Liberty were a group of colonial merchants and tradesmen founded to protest the Stamp Act and other forms of taxation. The group of revolutionists included prominent patriots such as Benedict Arnold, Patrick Henry and Paul Revere, as well as Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Led by Adams, the Sons of Liberty held rallies against the British Parliament and protested the Griffin's Wharf arrival of "Dartmouth", a British East India Company ship carrying tea. By December 16, 1773, Dartmouth had been joined by her sister ships, "Beaver" and "Eleanor"; all three ships loaded with tea from China.

That morning, as thousands of colonists convened at the wharf and its surrounding streets, a meeting was held at the Old South Meeting House where a large group of colonists voted to refuse to pay taxes on the tea or allow the tea to be unloaded, stored, sold or used. (Ironically, the ships were built in America and owned by Americans.)

Governor Thomas Hutchison then refused to allow the ships to return to Britain and ordered the tea tariff be paid and the tea unloaded. The colonists refused, and Hutchison never offered a satisfactory compromise.



That night, a large group of men, many reportedly members of the Sons of Liberty, disguised themselves in Native American garb, boarded the docked ships and threw 342 chests of tea into the water. Said participant George Hewes, “We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as thoroughly to expose them to the effects of the water.” Hewes also noted that “We were surrounded by British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us.”

## 5) The Revolutionary War and Freemasons

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The Revolutionary War (1775-1783), also known as the American Revolution, arose from growing tensions between residents of Great Britain’s 13 North American colonies and the colonial government, which represented the British crown.

Skirmishes between British troops and colonial military men in Lexington and Concord in April 1775 kicked off the armed conflict, and by the following summer, the rebels were waging a full-scale war for their independence.

France will then enter the American Revolution on the side of the colonists in 1778, turning what had essentially been a civil war into an international conflict. After French assistance helped the Continental Army force the British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, the Americans had effectively won their independence, though fighting did not formally end until 1783.

For more than a decade before the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775, tensions had been building between colonists and the British authorities.

The French and Indian War brought new territories under the power of the crown, but the expensive conflict led to new and more taxes. Attempts by the British government to raise revenue by taxing the colonies (looking at the Stamp Act of 1765, the Townshend Acts of 1767 and the Tea Act of 1773) met with heated protest among many colonists, who resented their lack of representation in Parliament and demanded the same rights as other British subjects. Colonial resistance led to violence in 1770, when British soldiers opened fire on a mob of colonists, killing five men in what was known as the Boston Massacre. After December 1773, when a band of Bostonians altered their appearance to hide their identity boarded British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party, an outraged Parliament passed a series of measures (known as the Intolerable, or Coercive Acts) designed to reassert imperial authority in Massachusetts.

In response, a group of colonial delegates (including George Washington of Virginia, John and Samuel Adams of Massachusetts, Patrick Henry of Virginia and John Jay of New York)

met in Philadelphia in September 1774 to give voice to their grievances against the British crown.

This First Continental Congress did not go so far as to demand independence from Britain, but it refused taxation without representation, as well as the maintenance of the British army in the colonies without their consent. It issued a declaration of the rights due every citizen, including life, liberty, property, assembly and trial by jury. The Continental Congress voted to meet again in May 1775 to consider further action, but by that time violence had already broken out.

On the night of April 18, 1775, hundreds of British troops marched from Boston to nearby Concord, Massachusetts in order to seize an arms cache. Paul Revere and other riders sounded the alarm, and colonial militiamen began mobilizing to intercept the Redcoats. On April 19, local militiamen clashed with British soldiers in the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, marking the “shot heard round the world” that signified the start of the Revolutionary War. And after all, by June 1776, with the Revolutionary War in full swing, a growing majority of the colonists had come to favor independence from Britain. On July 4, the Continental Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence, drafted by a five-man committee including Franklin and John Adams but written mainly by Jefferson. That same month, determined to crush the rebellion, the British government sent a large fleet, along with more than 34,000 troops to New York.

## Freemasonry and Its Impacts on Revolutionary Brains

Freemasonry is fundamentally a self-improvement, volunteer association that teaches moral, intellectual, and spiritual lessons through three initiation ceremonies. Freemasonry’s three degrees are modeled after a craftsman’s progress: Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. Freemasonry was, and remains, open to all men of good reputation who profess a belief in Deity (referred in lodge as The Supreme Architect of the Universe). By the 1750s a variety of Christian and non-Christians, European, and non-European men, and a few women, were members. Freemasonry grew popular within cities as political, commercial, and intellectual elites gathered within a lodge. With aristocratic, and later royal patronage, Freemasonry evolved into the dominating fraternal organization of the eighteenth century. The earliest records of American Masonic lodges are in Philadelphia. In 1732, Boston’s St. John’s Lodge was duly constituted by the Grand Lodge of England and remains the oldest lodge in North America. Interwoven with the British Enlightenment, Masonic lodges formed throughout Europe and the Americas. The network of Scots, English, and Irish Lodge helped knit the British commercial empire together.

Although American elites initially joined the Freemasons to keep pace with genteel English behavior, the fraternity contributed to the spread of the ideas and ideals behind the American Revolution. During the revolutionary era, Masons of note included George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Otis, and Isaac Higgintoot. While individual Freemasons actively

participated in the American Revolution, Freemasonry, as an institution as well as its local lodges, remained politically neutral.

## 6) The First Continental Congress

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In 1774, the British Parliament passed a series of laws collectively known as the Intolerable Acts, with the intent to suppress unrest in colonial Boston by closing the port and placing it under martial law. In response, colonial protests led by the Sons of Liberty issued a call for a boycott. Merchant communities were reluctant to participate in such a boycott unless there were mutually agreed upon terms and a means to enforce the boycott's provisions. Spurred by local pressure groups, colonial legislatures empowered delegates to attend a Continental Congress which would set terms for a boycott. The colony of Connecticut was the first to respond.

The Congress first met in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774, with delegates from each of the 13 colonies except Georgia. On October 20, the Congress adopted the Articles of Association, which stated that if the Intolerable Acts were not repealed by December 1, 1774, a boycott of British goods would begin in the colonies. The Articles also outlined plans for an embargo on exports if the Intolerable Acts were not repealed before September 10, 1775. On October 21, the delegates approved separate statements for the people of Great Britain and the North American colonies, explaining the colonial position, and on October 26 a similar address was approved for the people of Quebec. Furthermore, on October 26, the delegates drafted a formal petition outlining the colonists' grievances for British King George III. Many delegates were skeptical about changing the king's attitude towards the colonies, but believed that every opportunity should be exhausted to de-escalate the conflict before taking more radical action. They did not draft such a letter to the British Parliament as the colonists viewed the Parliament as the aggressor behind the recent Intolerable Acts. Lastly, not fully expecting the standoff in Massachusetts to explode into full-scale war, the Congress agreed to reconvene in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775.

## 7) The Second Continental Congress

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When the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, delegates, including new additions Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson voted to form a Continental Army, with Washington as its commander in chief. On June 17, in the Revolution's first major battle, colonial forces inflicted heavy casualties on the British regiment of General William Howe at Breed's Hill in Boston. The engagement, known as the Battle of Bunker Hill, ended in British victory, but lent encouragement to the revolutionary cause.

Throughout that fall and winter, Washington's forces struggled to keep the British contained in Boston, but artillery captured at Fort Ticonderoga in New York helped shift the balance of that struggle in late winter. The British evacuated the city in March 1776, with Howe and his men retreating to Canada to prepare a major invasion of New York.

The Second Continental Congress met inside Independence Hall beginning in May 1775. It was just a month after shots had been fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, and the Congress was preparing for war. They established a Continental army and elected George Washington as Commander-in-Chief, but the delegates also drafted the Olive Branch Petition and sent it to King George III in hopes of reaching a peaceful resolution. The king refused to hear the petition and declared the American colonies in revolt.

On June 7, 1776, Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee put forth the resolution for independence: "Resolved, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states..." Voting was postponed while some of the delegates worked to convince others to support independence, but a committee of five men was assigned to draft a document of independence: John Adams (MA), Benjamin Franklin (PA), Thomas Jefferson (VA), Roger Sherman (CT), and Robert R. Livingston (NY). Jefferson did most of the work, drafting the document in his lodgings.

On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to adopt Lee's resolution for independence. This is the day that John Adams thought should be celebrated with "Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." (John Adams to Abigail Adams, July 3, 1776) Between July 2 and July 4, Congress argued over every word in Jefferson's draft of the declaration, making numerous amendments. On July 4, Congress voted again, this time to approve the wording of the Declaration of Independence.

## 8) Problems To Be Addressed

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- 1) What Are The Current Problems of The Colonies and How to Solve Them?
- 2) What Will be Our Actions Against the Intolerable Acts?
- 3) How To Keep The Economics of The Colonies Healthy Without Stomping on Tax Acts of the British?
- 4) How Can We Achieve Representation in the British Parliament?
- 5) How Can We Avoid Fighting The Revolutionary War for Centuries to Come?
- 6) How Can We Declare Our Independence Without any Military Offences From The British?

## 9) Further Reading

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The link to the musical sensation Hamilton: The Musical (As it may not be everything our committee is it is recommended for delegates to watch this movie to understand and earn the talent to work on their worldbuilding):

[https://disneyplus.com/en-GB/browse/entity-c650c255-9eb6-47f1-88f8-5916568a58b3?share\\_source=iOSI](https://disneyplus.com/en-GB/browse/entity-c650c255-9eb6-47f1-88f8-5916568a58b3?share_source=iOSI)

Looking at this side of history for inspiration for the reenactment of it, it may be hard to process if any of the information you may find online is true to its basis. So any information you may find about your character is considered valid within the authorities of your board members.

## 10) The Matrix of Allocations

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Eliphalet Dyer	Connecticut
Roger Sherman	Connecticut
Silas deane	Connecticut
Samuel Huntington	Connecticut
Oliver Wolcott	Connecticut
Thomas McKean	Delaware
George Read	delaware
Caesar Rodney	delaware
John Dickinson	delaware
Lyman Hall	Georgia
George Walton	Georgia
Button Gwinnett	Georgia
Samuel Chase	Maryland
William Paca	Maryland
Charles Carroll of Carrollton	Maryland
John Rogers	Maryland
Thomas Stone	Maryland
Samuel Adams	Massachusetts
Elbridge Gerry	Massachusetts
Robert Treat Paine	Massachusetts
John Hancock	Massachusetts
John Langdon	New Hampshire
Josiah Bartlett	New Hampshire
Matthew Thornton	New Hampshire
William Whipple	New Hampshire
Abraham Clark	New Jersey
William Livingston	New Jersey

John Witherspoon	New Jersey
John Hart	New Jersey
Francis Hopkinson	New Jersey
James Duane	New York
William Floyd	New York
Francis Lewis	New York
Philip Livingston	New York
Robert R Livingston	New York
Henry Wisner	New York
Joseph Hewes	North Carolina
William Hooper	North Carolina
John Penn	North Carolina
James Wilson	Pennsylvania
George Clymer	Pennsylvania
Benjamin Franklin	Pennsylvania
Robert Morris	Pennsylvania
John Morton	Pennsylvania
Benjamin Rush	Pennsylvania
George Ross	Pennsylvania
James Smith	Pennsylvania
George Taylor	Pennsylvania
Stephen Hopkins	Rhode Island and Providence
William Ellery	Rhode Island and Providence
Edward Rutledge	South Carolina
Thomas Heyward	South Carolina
Thomas Lynch Jr	South Carolina
Arthur Middleton	South Carolina
Richard Bland	Virginia
Benjamin Harrison V	Virginia
Carter Braxton	Virginia
Francis Lightfoot Lee	Virginia
Thomas Nelson Jr	Virginia
George Wythe	Virginia

## 11) Bibliography

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<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/13-colonies/338325#:~:text=The%2013%20colonies%20were%20a,their%20independence%20from%20Great%20Britain.>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-colonies/Land-policy-in-New-England-and-Virginia>

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/boston-tea-party>

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/american-revolution-history>

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/freemasonry>

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1776-1783/continental-congress#:~:text=Spurred%20by%20local%20pressure%20groups,the%2013%20colonies%20except%20Georgia.>