

VOCABULARY

As you read *Taxes/Tea Party*, you may encounter some unfamiliar words or terms. Check the page numbers below for definitions of those.

2

boom- in economic terms, a time of vigorous growth and health; people are working, business is expanding, and there is a lot of buying and selling going on

3

war debt- in this case, the money the British crown owed to people from whom it was borrowed in order to support the army that fought the war against France

mockery- a ridiculous, often shameful, situation

regulate trade- make and enforce (by virtue of customs officials and the British Navy) rules for who may trade with whom, and what they may trade

exploit- take advantage of for profit or gain

4

blatantly- out in the open, without trying to hide anything

lucrative- very profitable

infamous- notorious, famous, but for a bad reason

5

monarchy- government ruled by a king or queen

6

erratic- irregular, not governed by logic, rules or sanity

rebuttal- the part of a court case, debate, or formal argument in which the opposition responds, argues back

7

salvation- in religious belief, the process of saving one's soul by living or acting according to the precepts (beliefs) of that religion; often, people who feel as if they have attained salvation believe they will go to heaven when they die

decadent- corrupt, immoral

The Enlightenment- the period of time in the 17th and 18th centuries in which intellectuals across Europe sought to bring about change using thought and science rather than be restricted by religion or superstition. John Locke and Galileo were Enlightenment thinkers.

Aristocracy- upper class; in Europe, titled people (Lords, Ladies, Barons, etc.)

9

arbitrarily- in a way that seems random, without reason

void- invalid, canceled

11

ingrates- people lacking in appreciation or gratitude

13

tyrannical- like a tyrant, dictator

14

visionaries- people who can imagine, and, often, articulate plans for, a better future

debtor- person who owes money, who is in debt

opportunist- a person who takes advantage of a situation for personal gain; this is not a complimentary term

15

speculator- usually a person who invests money, takes a chance, in the hope of making a profit, but not by the work of his/her own hand

haughty- arrogant, snooty

subjugated- dominated, made to serve

17

litigious- inclined to go to the law, to sue to settle a difference

18

chattel- movable property

20

indigenous- natural to a place, belonging to a location

21

myopic- literally, near-sighted; figuratively, seeing only what is close to you or in your own interest and ignoring the needs of others

number cruncher- somebody who does calculations, like an accountant; as a criticism, someone who *only* looks at the numbers, even when people are involved

22

customs duty- a special tax created by the government that is regulating (making the rules for) trade for that country. Its purpose is often not only to raise money, but to direct trade. For example, if the US wants to encourage people to buy cars made in this country, it will levy a large customs duty on cars made abroad, making imported cars much more expensive.

24

agitator- a person who stirs others up, get people excited or angry, usually to get support for his/her point-of-view

26

riff-raff- a negative term for the common people

27

postwar recession- ironically, when countries fight wars, their economies often boom because there is often robust industry and employment (including making weapons and ammunition and serving in the armed forces). So sometimes after a war ends

("postwar"), the economy slows down, people lose their jobs, have less money to spend, and so business slows down ("recession").

29

catalyst- in chemistry, a catalyst is a substance that can speed up (or slow down) a reaction without itself being changed. In human events, it can be the spark that ignites a condition that already exists into something more.

30

street theater- literally, entertainment performed outside, but also, a scene or interaction that is *meant* to be genuine or real, but that is intentionally staged outdoors so others can see it and be affected by it

hang in effigy- make a life-sized likeness, a dummy, of someone and hang it by the neck as a dramatic symbol of protest

Liberty Pole, Liberty Tree- a Revolutionary period symbol; a tall pole or staff, or a tree, from which someone, like a local tax collector, was hung in effigy

33

boycott- an intentional, organized refusal to deal with something. In this case, colonists agreed not to purchase or trade in British goods to demonstrate their opposition to taxes

orator- a giver of speeches; someone usually trained to speak, sometimes in an intentionally grand style

34

radical- favoring huge changes (as in *radical* views), or, a person who favors huge changes (as in, Sam Adams was a *radical*)

repeal- take back, cancel, undo

saving face- doing something in order to avoid embarrassment or humiliation

36

Chancellor of the Exchequer- the British cabinet Minister that oversees financial matters; similar to the American Secretary of the Treasury

37

alliance- an agreement, between people, groups of people, or countries, to work together, usually against something or someone else

40

advocate- (ADD-vuh-kit) lawyer

insurgent- a rebel (REB-ul), a person who is against the present government

rabble- a disorderly or disorganized group or people; a mob

41

hard-liner- a person who follows rules or laws strictly; one who does not allow for interpretation or variance

Tory- a person loyal to the king

Patriot- in this instance, a person who opposed the king or British rule, and who, eventually, favored independence from Great Britain

46

blunder- huge, sometimes clumsy, error

graft- money obtained in exchange for favors illegally (like paying off a politician so he/she will support your views)

47

wharf rat- a person who hangs around wharfs (docking areas for ships)

48

bogus- false, artificial, fake

49

conservative- opposite of *radical*; favoring things as they are, or being in favor of very slow change over a long time; also, a person who has conservative views

congress- a group of people meeting together, or, the name of the meeting, e.g., The First Continental Congress. In our government today, Congress refers to the meeting of the lawmakers in the Capitol.

Continental- literally, relating to a continent (like North America, Africa), but in this case, relating to all the 13 English colonies along the Atlantic Ocean

50

martial law- under the control of the army, or the armed forces. When a country is under martial law, its government is no longer in charge

52

moderates- (MOD-er-its) centrists; people whose views are in the middle, perhaps between radicals and conservatives

53

delegates- (DELL-uh-gits) people who come to a meeting, like a congress, representing the place, or the views of the people, from which they have come

militia- a military force made up of civilians (rather than professional soldiers), who usually go about their normal life's business unless they are called upon (mustered) to assemble to fight

54

vindictive- intending to get even

sabotage- intentionally disrupt a process, but often in a sneaky or secret way; undermine

56

Minute Men- the nickname adopted by the militia in the Massachusetts countryside, so called because of the speed they liked to think it took them to muster (assemble) and be ready for battle, that is, in a minute.

57

disperse- scatter

70

dilapidated- run down, falling apart

75

confederation- in this case, a group of states allied in a common cause

76

hereditary- by virtue of biological parentage; in this case, the crown was passed to the oldest son (or daughter, if there was no son); many believed that this tradition was good and right

80

blue blood- descended from nobles, aristocrats, or feeling entitled to be aristocratic by virtue of distinguished family connections

81

eloquent- well spoken

inalienable/ unalienable- variations of the same word, meaning, impossible to take away or separate

84

military draft- a process by which people are chosen to serve in the army; the opposite of a volunteer army

exemptions- reasons to be excused from a rule or law, in this case, conditions that excused men from being drafted into the army

85

flotilla- fleet of boats

mercenary- soldier who is hired to fight for money

deploy- get a military force to be ready

flank- to be by the side of something

87

fortifications- measures taken to make something stronger, less vulnerable to attack

cannonade- bombardment

88

onslaught- overwhelming attack

100

centralized authority- a organization of government wherein people from different locations, maybe states, follow the laws or rules made by a person or group that may be far away from where they each are, but often in a centralized location (e.g. Washington DC). Later in the book, this is also called "centralized government" and "republic."

102

fraternize- associate socially, hang around with

104

monopolize- control by eliminating all competition

105

runaway inflation- an economic situation in which prices increase rapidly in a way that seems out of control. This situation may deflate the value of the currency (money). It also makes it harder to buy things.

106

autocratic- bossy; rule with absolute authority

107

oppressor- person who dominates and unfairly controls another person or group
retaliate- hurt another person/people in return for harm he/she/they did to you

108

booty- literally, seized or stolen valuables, but here, to show that runaway slaves were sometimes regarded as people and other times as goods.
elusive- slippery, hard to get and hold

109

isolated- separated from others, made alone

111

atrocities- an shockingly cruel, barbaric act
propagandist- one who intentionally endorses and tells one side of a story in order to influence others to adopt a particular opinion or belief
martial differences- the word *martial* refers to the military. The Indians approached warfare differently. For example, they favored quick, damaging hits and retreats and used stealth and surprise. Europeans tried to characterize differences like this as cowardly or uncivilized.

113

scorched earth policy- a tactic employed in war in which an army destroys enemy property (by burning crops and farms, for example) as it advances, both to destroy their resources and to demoralize them

114

contradiction- here, something illogical

115

carnage- slaughter, massive bloodshed

116

measly- very little

117

elite- privileged, often the richest and most powerful few

118

lavishly- in a way suited to the very wealthy, with all the comforts and style that the wealthy can afford

120

inglorious- shameful

122

guerilla- using tactics of a rebel or insurgent army, often involving hit-and-run, secretive attacks; the opposite of formal warfare for territory

123

unorthodox- not usual or regular; breaking with common practice or tradition

125

maraud- raid for the purpose of getting things

126

momentous- important, significant

128

siege line- the human "rope" that surrounds a target location, the purpose of which is to prevent people or goods from coming and going to or from that place, to choke off the inhabitants by isolating them from what they need to live

134

cockiness- over confidence, often expressed in showy talk or behavior

135

disposition- general personality or temperament

137

deflates- the opposite of *inflates*; as the prices of things in an economy go up, you need more money to buy the same thing. Another way to look at this is that the money is worth less; the price *inflates*, but the money *deflates*

138

pillars of society- the people who are regarded as the most important, in this case, the wealthy organizers of the Revolution

141

bond issue- lenders contribute to a sum of money by buying papers called *bonds*; borrowers have to pay back that sum of money plus an additional cost called *interest*; lenders then get their original money back and more. Some bond issues can be very profitable for the lenders

142

grievance- formal complaint about harm done

legislature- group making laws

creditor- person or group that lends money or is owed money

prosecute- take legal action in court

145

dictatorship- government ruled by a person with absolute power

146

hobnobbing- mixing with, fraternizing with, hanging around with

unchecked- without restrictions

detestable- hateful

147

constitutional convention- meeting, the purpose of which is to collaborate on the writing of a document that will serve as the written law of the land

148

agrarian- agricultural, farming

149

intrusive- unwelcome, meddling, pushy

151

outmaneuver- outfox, beat by being more clever or more skillful

156

homogeneous- made of the same kind; without variety

158

entrepreneur- a business person, often one who looks for new ways to invest his/her money in order to make more money

161

republican- with a lower-case "r", a person who is in favor of a country having a centralized government made up of different states (a republic)

aggressive- forceful

market economy- one way of organizing how things (goods) and processes (services) move in a society; in a market economy, how much things are desired or needed (demand) and how much/many of those things are available (supply) is determined automatically by the people who live in that society; the United States is a market economy

164

seditionous- disloyal

libel- written attack on somebody's reputation

reinterpreted- understood in a different way

165

disenfranchised- left out; not able or allowed to participate fully or at all
dissent- disagreement, in this case, the right Americans have to express their disagreement with their government