American “Revolution”: A Message From Below
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--America Revolution was neither an elite nor a national event
--the motley crew: the driving force of a revolutionary crisis in the 1760s and 1770s
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--sailors battled press-gangs in every English port
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--naval vessels pressing in the Caribbean “have had their Boats haul’d up in the Streets and going to be Burned, & their Captains insulted by 50 Arm’d Men at a time, and obliged to take shelter in some Friends House...” Commander Charles Knowles, 1743
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--captain of the H.M.S. Shirley “dared not set foot on shore for four months for fear of being prosecuted...or murdered by the mob for pressing.”
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1748: “All Men are by Nature on a Level; born with an equal Share of Freedom, and endow’d with Capacities nearly alike.”
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--passive nonresistance, he claimed, was slavery
Economic Foundations of British Empire
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Mercantilism--Assumptions and Implementation:
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Impact Oppressive?:
--argument that colonies derived benefits from the Acts and their relationship to Britain
Economic Foundations of British Empire

Mercantilism--Assumptions and Implementation:

--Navigation Acts--cornerstone of mercantilist system
  --ships manned by British; English-owned ships; enumerated items to be shipped to England first
  --staples--tobacco, sugar (W.Ind.), indigo, navel stores (tar, turpentine), rice molasses

Impact Oppressive?:
  --argument that colonies derived benefits from the Acts and their relationship to Britain
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--navigation laws may have been the cement of the Empire
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--by 1760/70s colonialists talk of mutuality, contractual understanding, reciprocity
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Taxation taken out of local hands--violation

Taxed without personal consent--servile being
Aftermath of Fr. and Indian War
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War debts:
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--inefficient tax collecting system
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   --paperwork for colonists to curb smuggling
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--colonials afraid this will set precedent for future actions by K and P.