

GECMUNIV

FOUNDING FATHERS

**BACKGROUND GUIDE:
INDEPENDENCE FROM
THE BRITISH**

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DIANE KANG
MIKE KIM**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Honourable advisors, chairs and my fellow delegates, I am Ewan Chang and I am currently attending Korea International School Jeju as a junior. It is a great honor to serve you as a chair. Model United Nations has always provided valuable opportunities to me that entailed more of a special meaning than simple learning. Throughout my MUN career from my freshman year, I grew up with a diverse background in MUN as an enthusiastic delegate, passionate chair, and earnest observer. These experiences not only became solid knowledge but also memorable moments of my high school life. I strongly believe that Model United Nations will enlighten you and teach you valuable lessons that you can not learn in school. Therefore, as a chair who understands your position, I hope that you enjoy our committee and conference and wish that it will become one of your favourite MUN experiences. Also, for the foreigners who have never been to Jeju island, I prospect you to enjoy our wonderful environment and beautiful landscape. In addition, along with the secretariat team and our advisers, our officers will put in great effort to make GECMUN IV a extraordinary conference. I look forward to our fruitful discussions!

Dear delegates, I sincerely welcome you to GECMUN IV Founding Fathers committee. I am Diane Kang, and I am a junior in Korea International School Jeju. I will be serving as a chair in the committee. Among the years I spent in MUN, I daresay the most memorable committee was my first crisis committee. I felt refreshed by the new delegate positions, new "Rules of Procedure," and a chance to think out of the box. If this is your first crisis committee, I would like to praise your courage to sign up for the new experience. It will be challenging to adjust to the new environment, but you will not be bored. The committee will depend on you, delegates, to make a critical judgement to analyze the situation and create practical decisions. Regardless of your experiences, I now ask for the delegates to cooperate to solve the problems at hand. As a chair who had been a delegate for many years, I understand the tension in the committee room and how much courage it takes to break the tension to speak up. Because the committee will be relatively new to every delegate, I can assure you that we are all on the same page. I am at the committee to serve; if you have any questions, please approach the chairs. This committee will be an unparalleled experience for all of the delegates. I hope the Founding Fathers committee will be one of your most memorable moments in MUN.

Dear Delegates. My name is Mike Kim, a current senior at KIS, and I'll be serving as your chair during GECMUN IV. It's been 4 years since I was part of the first GECMUN and it's great to see that a lot of people have signed up for the 4th GECMUN. This will be my last committee before I head to college and I hope to make it my best. The Sons of Liberty committee holds a special place in my heart. It was the first MUN crisis committee I was a part of when I first started MUN back in 9th grade. Back then, the politics, drama, and betrayals of a crisis committee was what probably got me hooked on MUN. Just like my first crisis committee, I hope that all of you will come in to the committee as interested and enthusiastic about the topic as I was as a freshmen. A crisis committee will be very different for many of you who have only been part of a normal General Assembly committee. It's much more fast paced,

and it requires creativity to solve problems. The best tip I could give you in preparation for GECMUN IV would be to be spontaneous and to research a lot. As Sir Francis Bacon once said, “knowledge is power” and you’ll be able to see that is the case for people who participate in crisis committees. My email is ysukim18@kis.ac and I’m always willing to help out any delegates who need extra information or help before the conference, so please don’t be afraid to ask me questions or request for tips by email. Remember there are no stupid questions, so just ask me anything. I wish you all good luck and look forward to meeting all of you.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Sons of Liberty was a group of patriots in the American colonies who were more radical and militant in their ways of protesting against British colonial rule. First introduced as a way of violently protesting against the Stamp Act, the Sons of Liberty soon grew to become one of the most well-known and popular resistance groups in the American colonies. The first group was assembled under Samuel Adams and was dubbed “the Loyal Nine.” They were instrumental in orchestrating a riot against Andrew Oliver, a stamp distributor, in order to persuade the people to join in the fight against the Stamp Act. This movement soon spread to the other colonies and was significant in ending the Stamp Act. The Sons of Liberty in helping to end the Stamp Act was able to bring three changes to the colonies. First, the colonists were now more willing to take action than to merely protest. Second, they targeted everyday people in inciting change and thereby helped bring politics into the lives of normal people. Three, they showed the people that being a colony may need drastic changes, which could mean independence.

The organization would live on to try to create a better world for the colonists. Their meetings were held in utmost secrecy and all men who participated in these meetings had to swear on confidentiality on the Holy Bible. However, they would also host public speeches in order to persuade the people to join in their cause. Although many considered them radical and aggressive for their violent actions, the Sons of Liberty was important in getting the people to join in on ensuring rights from the British Crown.

As you enter the committee, it is imperative that you remember that your actions are what will decide history. Be mindful that our committee doesn’t necessarily have to follow the course of history. What must happen is what you think is the best for the colonies. Remember your roles, your goals, and act towards them. Good luck.

AGENDA

INFORMATION

Historical Background

Proclamation of 1763: After Britain's victory over France in French and Indian War, Great Britain gained a vast amount of land in North America, particularly in the east of the Mississippi River. Despite the amount of land it gained, the British government did not want the settlers to move across the Appalachian mountains, since they feared that this action will bring resentment from French and Native Americans. Thus, the Proclamation of 1763 was issued to forbid people from moving across the Appalachian mountains. Among other reasons, one was the British struggle to maintain scattering colonists in the America and their security. Even after the war, the leader of Ottawa, Pontiac, organized a rebellion against Britain. They considered British victory over French a loss for the Native Americans, since it was more difficult for the Natives to negotiate with the British than with the French. This rebellion spurred conflicts between Native Americans and the British. Accordingly, King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763 to prevent the British settling at the west of the Appalachian mountains.

However, this proclamation proved to be ineffective because it did not stop the settlers from moving to the west of the Appalachian mountains. The Proclamation of 1763 which initially sought to prevent conflicts actually increased tension between the British and the Natives. Also, the Natives did not appreciate the proclamation because they were unable to reach the land they thought they gained from Britain during the French and Indian War. The proclamation also disappointed the colonists who were not able to move into the west. Ultimately, the Proclamation of 1763 stirred a sense of union among the colonists that they started to and view themselves separate from the British government.

Sugar Act/ Stamp Act / Quartering Act: The British Indian War devastated Great Britain economically--they had a huge debt to pay. The British crown sought to repay the debt by collecting taxes from the colonists, since the British government became indebted while warring against French to protect the colonists. Thus, the government issued several laws to collect taxes, including the Sugar Act, the Quartering Act, and the Stamp Act. The Sugar Act was the enacted in 1764. This was passed to collect taxes, to establish admiralty courts over the colonial courts, and to reduce further smuggling that was threatening the established order in the colonies. This act provoked colonists to demand "no taxation without representation." The significance here is that the focus is more on the "representation"; the colonists were infuriated that they did not have a say in the British parliament regarding the enactment of the taxation.

The Quartering Act followed the Sugar Act. After the British Indian War, the British government sent troops to collect taxes in the American colonies in order to protect colonial borders and forts from France and to collect taxes. This action was significant because it implied British authority over the colonies. Previously, the 1686 Mutiny Act required the local authorities to pay to support British soldiers' quarters and food. However, the uncooperative responses from the local authorities prompted another law called the Quartering Act. The Quartering Act required the local authorities in the colonies to provide necessities, such as food, quarters, and transportation for the British soldiers. All thirteen

colonies except for the Province of Pennsylvania refused to implement the law. This recalcitrant response was expressed later in America's third amendment.

The Stamp Act is the first direct tax levied on the American colonists. The British parliament required all legal and public documents to have tax stamps, which had to be paid for. This act taxed all communication methods, and its revenue was used to support the British soldiers who were protecting the colonies from the Native Americans. The direct taxation convinced the colonists that the British parliament may be seeking to gain control over the colonies. This law brought out protests among the colonies, the most prominent one being the Sons of Liberty. Overall, these multiple taxations showcase the colonists' viewpoint toward the British government, which is called a "benign neglect." The colonists were resistant to British taxation because the British did not tax them before the French and Indian War. This sudden shift in the British action infuriated the colonists. Most importantly, the colonists' "no taxation without representation" called for their voice to be heard over the Atlantic Ocean, to the British Parliament.

Virginia Resolves / Stamp Act Congress: The indignant colonists responded to the Stamp Act with the Virginia Resolves in 1765. Among the representatives of the Virginia House of Burgesses-- a legislative assembly of elected representatives from the American colonies-- was Patrick Henry who presented six resolutions in response to the British parliament's taxation. The first resolve writes all settlers who were born in Britain have every right they had back in Britain. The second resolve states that all colonists born in the colonies have all rights as British citizens. The third resolve argues against the implementation of unbearable taxes, and the fourth resolve demands there would be no taxes passed without the consent from the Virginians. Along similar lines, the fifth resolve claims that the Virginia General Assembly alone can impose taxes in the colony. Among them, the first four resolves were passed, while the fifth resolve was repealed. The Virginia Resolves inspired the creation of the Stamp Act Congress.

The Stamp Act Congress was held in New York City where the elected representatives of the nine of the thirteen colonies convened to form a petition. The petition called the Declaration of Rights and Grievances was sent to the British parliament. This stated that the colonies can only be taxed when they consent and that the British parliament cannot tax the colonies. Also, it claimed that the colonies have rights to tax themselves. However, the British parliament rejected the document. (Later, the Stamp Act was repealed not because of the Stamp Act Congress, but because of the economical reasons.) These responses against the Stamp Act are significant because they show the first unifying movement among the colonies with a unified goal.

Declaratory Act: The Declaratory Act (1766), also known as the American Colonies Act, was a measure utilized by the British Parliament to claim their authority to make laws as they will toward the colonists, including the right to tax. This act was mandated to display Great Britain's authority over America. Previously, the Stamp Act had been repealed due to colonists' boycott. However, this failed to discourage the Parliament from asserting their right for the principle of imperial taxation over their colonies.

When Great Britain repealed the Stamp Act in 1766, the Parliament insisted on the Declaratory Act as a corresponding solution that would justify their repeal. Even though Great Britain had enough power to refrain from abolishing the act, the Parliament followed through with its decision because trade between the colonies and British companies had been negatively affected. However, there was no distinction between the Declaratory Act and the Stamp Act. The Declaratory Act was beneficial to Great Britain since it provided a broad command to impose taxes and laws on the colonies.

The Declaratory Act was significant to the American colonies for several reasons. First, the Declaratory Act allowed Great Britain to have absolute control over the colonies with the imposition of taxes. The act provided a great opportunity for Great Britain, becoming a false display of regression

to the colonies. However, it actually allowed the Parliament to bind every law and raise tax revenues for Great Britain. The act empowered Great Britain and infuriated the colonists.

Also, the act played a critical role in early business development for the American colonies. Since every tax created surplus for the government, it initiated different types of businesses which became continuing models. Furthermore, it also heavily influenced the trading system. Tax collecting created a money-based system, based on the export and import of money from different colonies. These systems gave an opportunity for the Parliament to foster weapon production and enhance the quality of their weapons.

Stamp Act: The Stamp Act (1765) was an act imposing taxes on the American colonies by engraving revenue stamps on every printed material such as newspapers, magazines, playing cards, and even legal documents. The Parliament of Great Britain sought to collect taxes from the colonies for the purpose of funding their budget for troops in North America. However, Americans strongly opposed the military stationing on their land because there was no known foreign threat at the time. Furthermore, Americans believed they could independently protect themselves against the Natives as they had done for decades.

Numerous manufacturers and British merchants also criticized the Stamp Act because colonial boycotts in response to the act harmed their businesses. During the period, ongoing dissatisfaction among the colonists led to the formation of the Sons of Liberty which brought destructive consequences. Due to relentless protests led by the Sons of Liberty and the growing resentment towards the act, the Stamp Act was abolished on March 18, 1766. However, Great Britain continued exerting influence on the colonies. Proceeding the act's repeal, Great Britain enacted a new mandate of similar authority, the Declaratory Act, to replace it.

In the end, the Stamp Act affected the colonists immensely. During the period, Americans believed there was no significant difference between collecting taxes for revenue and taxing their trades. As a result, the colonists initiated a movement of protests against Great Britain with the slogan, "No taxation without representation." The colonists argued that Great Britain had no right to collect taxes because there was no American representation in Parliament. Americans protested the act all across the colonies and allowed the colonists to become more organized. Not only was the protest successful in raising morale for the American independence, it also led to the the creation of the Sons of Liberty.

Samuel Adams, a young influential lawyer from Massachusetts, and his close confidante James Otis were the most active opponents of the Stamp Act. When Adams and Otis received word about the new tax system, they gathered Protestants from the South End to the North End of Boston to create a gang to attack the tax collectors. The group was composed of businessmen, doctors, writers, lawyers, as well as both skilled and unskilled workers. Soon, the group became one of the most popular in the colonies and became known as the Sons of Liberty.

Boston Massacre: On March 5, 1770, a group of Americans threw snowballs at a squad of British soldiers. In retaliation, the soldiers shot and killed three and wounded two colonists. This incident on King Street, known as the Boston Massacre, was heavily criticized by the public due to the influence of Samuel Adam's Committees of Correspondence. The committees publicized the incident across the colonies as a violent event perpetrated by the British Army. The event was significant because it provided a definitive example of British oppression. Also, the Boston Massacre allowed the colonists to reinforce their negative sentiment towards Great Britain which became the colonies' uniting force for the American Revolution.

STANCES OF UN MEMBER STATES AND PARTIES

Benjamin Edes

Benjamin Edes was the founder and co-owner of the newspaper Boston Gazette and Country Journal. The paper triggered the Boston Tea Party and spoke in favor of American Revolution. He wrote articles that criticized British taxation such as Sugar Act, Stamp Act, and Townshend Act. It is said that the meetings regarding the Boston Tea Party were held in Edes' house. He also helped in forming the Sons of Liberty and became one of its members.

John Dickenson

John Dickinson was a renowned man, and he actively fought against the Stamp Act. He also wrote *Letters from a Pennsylvania Farmer*, which severely criticized the British taxation on the colonies. This essay served to unite the colonies against the Townshend Act. When the Continental Congress gathered to form the Declaration of Independence, Dickinson abstained from signing the document. He believed that Spain and France would not support their independence from Britain and that the two countries would rather attack the colonies. Afterwards, he became largely forgotten due to his moderate decision to not sign the Declaration of Independence.

Patrick Henry

As a lawyer, Patrick Henry initially voiced against the taxations via Virginia Resolves. Later on, he became a delegate in the Continental Congress. Henry actively claimed that the colonies must unite as Americans to fight against the Great Britain and delivered his ideas to the public. He is most well known for his famous speech, where he calls "give me liberty, or give me death!" This speech initiated the American Revolution, and Henry became Virginia's commander in chief. Then, he resigned and served as the governor of Virginia.

William Hooper

As a lawyer and a politician, William Hooper was a member in the Continental Congress and was elected by the North Carolina Provincial Legislatures. Though reluctant at first, William Hooper signed the Declaration of Independence. Based on his expertise in legislatures, Hooper supported the Congress.

John Hancock

John Hancock owned the import-export business, which made him one of the most affluent people in America. Hancock was a member of the Continental Congress and was a governor of Massachusetts. He supported the Congress with his fortune. He signed the Declaration of Independence. He was the leader of the Second Continental Congress when the Declaration of Independence was established.

Benjamin Rush

As a physician and a writer, Benjamin Rush was a member of Sons of Liberty. He represented Pennsylvania in the Continental Congress and later signed the Declaration of Independence as a representative of Philadelphia. He was active in supporting America's independence. During the

revolutionary era, Rush served as a surgeon general in the Continental Army. He is also called as the “Father of American Psychiatry” for his studies.

Alexander McDougall

Alexander McDougall started as a merchant and later joined the Sons of Liberty. He was imprisoned for his writing called *To The Betrayed Inhabitants* against the Quartering Act. His action made him well-known as a patriotic figure in New York City. He became a general in the Continental Army and also represented New York in the Continental Congress.

Isaac Sears

Isaac Sears was one of the political figures who played an important role in the American Revolution. He was a sailor, Freemason, and merchant and was a descendant of Richard Sears. He was in charge of the trade between the New York and Canada and become popular from the French and Indian War as a privateer.

Benedict Arnold

Benedict Arnold was a general during the American Independence War. He fought for the American Continental Army and later betrayed the British Army. He then became known as a traitor of the American colonies, since he led the British army in battle.

Hercules Mulligan

Hercules Mulligan was a well-known spy during the revolutionary war and was a tailor. Mulligan was one of the members of the Sons of Liberty who actively fought for the right of colonists and unfair taxation from Great Britain. He is also well known for his achievement of helping British soldiers in the Battle of Golden Hill.

Marinus Willett

Marinus Willett was a well known American soldier who had political authority in New York. According to historian Mark. M. Boatner, he is "one of the truly outstanding American leaders of the Revolution." He was an informal leader of the Sons of Liberty in New York City during the early stages of the Revolutionary War.

George Washington

George Washington was a soldier and an American statesman who served as the first President of the United States from 1789 to 1797. He was also one of the Founding Fathers of the United States since he was Commander-in-Chief during the American Revolutionary War. He established his reputation by contributing to establish a nation and became a father of the country.

James Otis

James Otis (February 5, 1725 - May 23, 1783) was one of the members of the Massachusetts provincial assembly. He was also a lawyer in colonial Massachusetts. He was an early advocate of the Patriot, and he fought against the taxation policy.

James Duane

James Duane was an American jurist, lawyer, and a leader from New York during the American Revolutionary period. James Duane was also well known as a signer of both the Articles of Confederation and the Continental Association.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Which one would benefit the colonists more, war or peace?
- What is the geopolitical nature of North America in this time period?
- If we must fight, what actions must we take to ensure victory?
- If we must make peace, what actions will distinguish us from the past efforts for peace?
- How can we unite all thirteen colonies to join in our actions?
- How can we get the lay people to join in our actions?

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