***The Reasons We Went to War***

The British philosopher John Locke said that all men have the right to life, liberty, and property. {Copyright} In the period leading up to the revolution, the Colonists began to question whether the British believed what Locke had to say is true. This was the true beginning of the American Revolution. The foundation of the American Revolution was primarily political and economic; however social and intellectual reasons played a major role.

One significant political driver was taxation without representation. Specifically, the Colonists were not participants in the governing system of the British government, in stark contrast to British citizens on British soil. Yet the system of taxation of the Colonists was felt to be onerous or inconsistent with the benefits or services provided by the Government. The Colonists had a saying to express their position, “No taxation without representation.”

There were three main acts declared by Britain that angered the Colonists. The first was the Stamp Act. This forced the Colonists to buy stamps for all legal documents. While the costs of the stamps were not a lot, that was not the point. It appeared to be nothing more than a a means to raise revenue. The revenue generated from this Act exceeded by more than ten times the annual revenue generated from the Colonists before 1763.

These three instances of British oppression and their impact on the American economy were big reasons for ultimate revolt.

*In conclusion, the American Revolution was a decision not taken lightly. There were many factors that went into the decisions leading to war. These factors were primarily political and economic; however social and intellectual reasons also played a major role*.