

COLOR-STUDENT 1st Last Name - -Teach the essentials of representation and taxation using the 3 primaries

The issues of unfair taxation and lack of representation within Parliament were just a few of the reasons for the American colonists to declare independence from England. The American colonists thought it wrong and “denied the right of Parliament, in which no Americans were seated, to impose taxes on Americans.”¹ The Americans also argued “that no taxes should be imposed on them, but with their own Consent, given personally, or by their Representatives.”²

Furthermore, in the Declaration of Independence, the issues of taxation and representation are brought to attention again. The charges against King George III and Parliament include “imposing Taxes on [the colonies] without [their] Consent” and “suspending [the colonies’] own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for [the colonies] in all cases whatsoever.”³ Jefferson argued that since the King had neglected the “natural rights’ of humankind,” the colonies were “justified in cutting their connection” with England.⁴

In addition, the creation of the Constitution solved both issues of taxation and representation. Congress, which controls “[a]ll legislative powers”, is split into “a Senate and House of Representatives.”⁵ In the House of Representatives, “larger states were conceded representation by population”; however, in the Senate, “[e]ach state, no matter how poor or small, would have two senators.”⁶ To solve the issue of taxation, only Congress has the “power to lay and collect taxes [...] to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.”⁷

In conclusion, the issues of taxation and representation date back to colonial times but have since been resolved due to the creation of the United States Constitution.

¹ Kennedy, Cohen, and Piehl, *American Pageant*, 91.

² Stamp Act, 1.

³ Declaration of Independence, 2.

⁴ Kennedy, Cohen, and Piehl, *American Pageant*, 106.

⁵ Constitution, 1.

⁶ Kennedy, Cohen, and Piehl, *American Pageant*, 130.

⁷ Constitution, 3.