

common goods was the first British tax on goods that were produced and used exclusively in the colonies.

Whereas, by an act made in the last session of Parliament, several duties were granted, continued and appropriated toward defraying the expenses of defending, protecting, and securing the British colonies and plantations in America; and whereas it is first necessary, that provision be made for raising a further revenue within your majesty's dominions in America, towards defraying the said expenses; we, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, *the Commons of Great Britain*, in parliament assembled, have therefore resolved to give and grant unto your majesty the rights and duties hereinafter mentioned. . . . That from and after the first day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five, there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid unto his majesty. . . :

. . . For every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which shall be engrossed, written, or printed, any declaration, plea, replication, rejoinder, demurrer, or other pleading, or any copy thereof, in any court of law within the British colonies and plantations in America, a stamp duty of *three pence*. . .

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Charles Botta, *History of the United States of America: War of Independence*, vol. 2 (London: A. Fullarton & Co.), 29–33.

### **PRACTICING Historical Thinking**

**Identify:** Summarize the purpose of the Stamp Act as described in the first paragraph above.

**Analyze:** Why might a North American colonist see the Stamp Act as unfair? Why might a British policy maker see it as fair?

**Evaluate:** Compare the British treatment of the colonists as outlined in the Stamp Act with William Trent's treatment of the native peoples in Document 4.2.

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## **DOCUMENT 4.4**

### **PATRICK HENRY, Virginia Resolves**

1765

Patrick Henry (1736–1799), a Virginia attorney and planter, shocked his fellow members of the Virginia House of Burgesses with his heated speeches against the Stamp Act. Henry's arguments proved increasingly popular as relations between the British government and the colonies soured throughout the 1760s and 1770s.

*Whereas*, the honorable House of Commons in England have of late drawn into question how far the General Assembly of this colony hath power to enact laws for laying of taxes and imposing duties, payable by the people of this, his majesty's