

Boston Massacre

The **Boston Massacre**, called the **Boston Riot** by the English, was an incident on March 5, 1770, in which British Redcoats killed five civilian men.

Breakdown of the Event **March 5, 1770**

British Soldiers

British troops had been stationed in Boston since 1768 in order to protect and support king-appointed colonial officials attempting to enforce unpopular Parliamentary legislation and acts.



Tensions Build

A mob of colonists formed around a British sentry, who was subjected to verbal abuse and harassment. He was eventually supported by a small company of troops, who were assaulted by verbal threats and thrown objects.

Caos

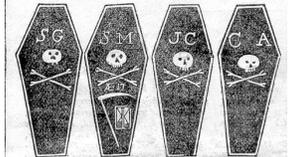
They fired into the crowd, apparently without orders, instantly killing three people and wounding others. Two more people died later of wounds sustained in the incident.



Massacre

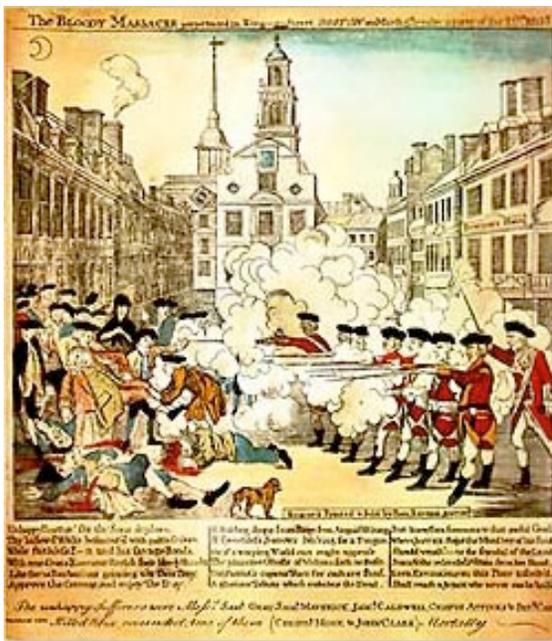
Crispus Attucks, a black man, was the first casualty. Eight soldiers were arrested and charged with murder. Six of the soldiers were acquitted, while the other two were convicted of manslaughter and given reduced sentences.

Last Thursday, agreeable to a general Request of the Inhabitants, and by the Consent of Parents and Friends, were carried to their Graves in Succession, the Bodies of Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James Caldwell, and Crispus Attucks, the unhappy Victims who fell in the bloody Maffacre of the Monday Evening preceding.



On this Occasion mults of the Shops in Town were shut, all the Bells were ordered to toll a solemn Peal, as were also those in the neighboring Towns of Charlestown, Roxbury, &c. The Procession began to move between the Hours of 4 and 5 in the Afternoon; two of the unfortunate Sufferers, viz. Messrs. James Caldwell and Crispus Attucks, who were Strangers, borne from Faneuil-Hall, attended by a numerous Train of Persons of all Ranks; and the other two, viz. Mr. Samuel Gray, from the House of Mr. Benjamin Gray, (his Brother) on the North-side of the Exchange, and Mr. Maverick, from the House of his distressed Mother Mrs. Mary Maverick, in Union-Street, each followed by their respective Relations and Friends: The several Hearies forming a Junction in King-Street, the Theatre of the inhuman Tragedy! proceeded

U S E A S P R O P A G A N D A



Paul Revere wasted no time in capitalizing on the Massacre to highlight British tyranny and stir up anti-British opinions among his fellow colonists. Revere's historic engraving was long on political propaganda and short on accuracy.

The presence of British troops in Boston had long been a sore point among Boston's radical politicians. One of the most common myths is that the Boston Massacre was the event that directly led up to the Revolutionary War. In fact, many important events led up to the massacre. It mainly started by the British trying to enforce laws. It was called a massacre by the use of propaganda. The Boston Massacre was not really a massacre, but more like a riot. In fact only five people died.

It all started March 5 by a couple of boys throwing snowballs at British soldiers.

A crowd soon gathered throwing ice and making fun of them. Soon after, the British started firing wildly. Other colonist weapons were clubs, knives, swords, and a popular weapon, your own bare hands.

The purpose of the Boston Massacre was to try to make moderate people become radicals. It was really an accident and the radicals tried to use propaganda and turn something small into something big. The Boston Massacre increased the hatred between the Americans and the British.

Boston Tea Party

The **Tea Act** revived the colonial issue of taxation without representation. The colonies once again demanded that the British government remove the tax on tea. In addition, the dockworkers began refusing to unload the tea from ships.



On Monday morning, the 29th of November, 1773, a handbill was posted all over Boston, containing the following words: "Friends! Brethren! Countrymen!-- That worst of plagues, the detested tea, shipped for this port by the East India Company, is now arrived in the harbor."

On the evening of December 16, 1773, a group of men calling themselves the "Sons of Liberty" went to Boston Harbor. The men were dressed as Mohawk Indians. They boarded three British ships and dumped forty-five tons of tea into the Boston Harbor.

The Destruction of Tea in Numbers and Facts

- The Boston Tea Party occurred on Thursday, December 16, 1773, and took 3 hours between 7 and 10 PM
- 90,000 lbs (45 tons) of tea in 342 containers was thrown overboard
- 116 people participated in the destruction of tea
- Each full container had a weight of 400 pounds. Half-containers were 100 pounds each
- The destroyed tea was worth an estimated £10,000. In today's money this would be approximately equal to a million dollars
- More than 5000 people showed up for the meeting in the Old South Meeting house
- The names of the three B.T.P. ships were Dartmouth, Eleanor and Beaver
- The Tea Party occurred at Griffin's Wharf in Boston that no longer exists due to landfills that occurred in the 19th century

From the modern day perspective the Tea Party may seem like a powerful but a largely symbolic protest. But in heated atmosphere of anti-British struggle in Boston, participation in the event that would be regarded as treason (a crime punishable by death) was very dangerous.

