

Received: May 2023 Accepted: June 2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.58262/ks.v11i02.014>

## The American War of Independence and its Impact on the Political and Economic Conditions in the Massachusetts Colony (1780-1783)

Ali Kadhim Hussein,<sup>1</sup> Aqil Jaaiz Al-Sahlan<sup>2</sup>

### **Abstract**

*This study dealt with an important historical topic, the American War of Independence and its impact on the political and economic conditions in the Massachusetts colony (1780-1783). The president in that war, and the importance of the subject centers on the most important results that resulted from the colony as a result of the War of Independence, and the accompanying political conflicts within society, as well as the deterioration of economic conditions and the rise in prices, especially after the end of the war and the return of the French forces that took to buying foodstuffs and necessary commodities, which led to an economic crisis and an increase in commodity prices, the Massachusetts government did not stand idly by in the face of these problems, so it held meetings and issued new laws to solve the crisis and the problems experienced by the colony.*

**Keywords** : *Colony, Massachusetts, American War of Independence, economic, political*

### **Introduction**

The Massachusetts colony had a major role during the American War of Independence at all levels, especially on the military level represented by the beginning of establishing and equipping the army, and politically, as the colony's politicians had a prominent role in writing the first constitutions and drafting the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Independence, as well as their diplomatic role in concluding treaties And strengthening relations with European countries to support the American Revolution, in addition to that, the cities of Massachusetts were the scene of many battles that harmed its population, and despite all that, the colony continued to support the war until the American colonies gained their complete independence from Britain, and became an independent country under the name of the United States of America, now After the end of the war, Massachusetts suffered a lot, especially after the drafting of its constitution (Van Hung et al., 2022). Recruitment process, and continuous pressure by the central government represented by (the Continental Congress), to meet their demands to support the Continental Army, and as a result, the Massachusetts local government held a group of meetings to develop appropriate solutions to those problems, so it took to issue new laws and impose taxes on the population to meet the needs of the colony and the requirements Its army, and tried to improve the dire economic situation by imposing laws that limit the greed of merchants who were manipulating prices, and seeking to develop appropriate solutions to meet the needs of the government, instead of imposing taxes on the population. (Astini, Salim, Deitiana, & Ramli, 2023)

---

<sup>1</sup> Imam Al-Kadhim College of Islamic Sciences University  
Email: [alikhadhumhimay@alkadhum-col.edu.iq](mailto:alikhadhumhimay@alkadhum-col.edu.iq)

<sup>2</sup> Imam Al-Kadhim College of Islamic Sciences University

## Importance of the study

The importance of the research lies in clarifying the most important repercussions of the American War of Independence on the Massachusetts colony (1780-1783), especially on the economic level, and what the colony suffered from deteriorating conditions and high prices, and on the political level in the formation of the new government of the colony and the many problems it faced (Al-Maeni et al., 2022).

## Problem of the study

The American War of Independence posed a great challenge to the population of the American colonies, especially the Massachusetts colony, which bore the burdens of the war, as it negatively affected its political and economic conditions (Karima, Mimoun, & Moufdi, 2022). The war and the withdrawal of the French armies, which took the purchase of goods from the colony, which led to a rise in prices, and as a result, unrest occurred within the colony. Therefore, to clarify this problem, we raise a number of questions:

- 1- What are the most important repercussions of the War of Independence on the Massachusetts colony?
- 2- What are the most important political challenges that the colony faced after the end of the war?
- 3- What are the most important economic challenges that the colony faced after the war?
- 4- Did the new government have a role in resolving the crises that faced the colony after the end of the war?

## Hypothesis of The Study

To answer the above problem, the following hypothesis was formulated: that the Massachusetts colony played a major role in the American War of Independence, which reflected the war negatively on its political and economic conditions, especially between the years (1780-1783), but the newly formed government took crisis measures to confront the dire conditions in the colony and tried in various ways to get the colony community out of that crisis in limiting climate change and mitigating its harmful negative effects in light of holding conferences, agreements, seminars and procedures as well as decisions to reduce this global challenge (Gan, 2022).

## The First Requirement: Political Situation

With the entry into force of the Massachusetts Constitution in October 1780, there was a consensus widely shared in the colony that the new government's top priority was victory over Britain, although Massachusetts had not been a major theater of war since the British had evacuated Boston early in 1776, but the inhabitants of the colony did not feel safe in any way, as a large British army was stationed in the neighboring colony of New York, and the British and their Indian allies always posed a threat from northern New York and Canada, and at the same time British forces headed to the neighboring colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island to Massachusetts, as the British forces occupied important sites including <sup>(3)</sup> (Lie, 2022).

The suffering of Massachusetts continued until the end of the Revolutionary War, especially after the return of the French armies and their passage through the cities of the colony, as they bought a

---

<sup>3</sup>(general court ad, acts and laws of the commonwealth of massachusetts (1782-1783), wright and potter printing company, (boston, 1890), p.266.

lot of goods and foodstuffs, which was reflected in the colony's economy as there was an acute shortage of goods and foodstuffs and high prices, but soon the colony returned to its status. Naturally, after the new government worked to establish controls and laws to manage its affairs, and at the same time the General Court worked to provide financial abundance, which had positive repercussions on the colony, which led to lower commodity prices and the stability of economic conditions in the colony in the near future <sup>(4)</sup> (Al, Awamleh, & Khlaifat, 2022).

It is clear to us through the course of the recent events that the United States of America has gone through, although Massachusetts was not a battlefield for the British-American confrontations after the evacuation of Boston 1776, but the danger still loomed over it, because the British occupied the sites near it, as there was always a possibility that Massachusetts would be exposed. Once again, a direct attack on the enemy, until the end of the war, which ended with the conclusion of the peace treaty in Paris 1783 (Vinchristo, 2022).

Massachusetts entered a new era after the end of the war, especially after the years that followed the ratification of its constitution in 1780 and the formation of a new government, so its politicians such as James Sullivan worked<sup>3</sup> Christopher Gore<sup>3</sup> Rufus King<sup>5</sup>) and the rest of the politicians who played an important role, as each sought to find solutions to the pressing political and economic issues of the new government in Massachusetts <sup>(6)</sup> Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Lincoln also represented my position as governor or deputy governor between 1780 and 1783, as they were all important leaders and had a prominent role in representing Massachusetts in all the tasks that were assigned to them, and after the formation of the colonial government, each person took a position in the council elders, the general court, and the rest of the factions of government (Lei & Bustami, 2023) <sup>(7)</sup> So began the competition between them for the position of governor, especially after the ratification of the Constitution, the competition was confined between Hancock and Bowden, and they were both from Boston and had extensive commercial connections, and after voting by members of the General Court, the good guys signed Hancock to be governor of the colony <sup>(8)</sup> THIS WAS MENTIONED IN ONE OF ARTHUR LEE'S CORRESPONDENCES TO JOHN ADAMS IN PARIS "I HAVE OCCASION TO INFORM YOU THAT I HAVE LEFT MRS. ADAMS AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS WELL AND MR. HANCOCK HAS BEEN CHOSEN GOVERNOR, MUCH BECAUSE OF YOUR ABSENCE AND THE CONCERN OF THOSE WHO WISH THE GOOD FOR THEIR COUNTRY." <sup>(9)</sup> (Wangyanwen, bin S Senathirajah, & Haque, 2023).

Chosen for the first time as Chairman of the Executive Board, Hancock was also nominated for the position. He was re-elected twelve times during the period 1780 to 1785, and elected again in 1787 until his death in 1793. Hancock was an idealistic politician who achieved preeminence by isolating rivals, gaining allies and nurturing. He takes great care of his people and avoids difficult decisions.<sup>10</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> edmund kelleher luddy.ab, restoration of maritime comkerce in massachusftts (1780\_ 1787), thesis master, boston university, 1926, pp.6\_7.

<sup>5</sup> rufus king (1755-1827): lawyer, politician, diplomat, and founding father, born in scarborough, maine. he studied law at harvard college, where he graduated in 1777. he was a close friend of christopher gore and worked in politics as a delegate for the colony in the continental congress and the philadelphia convention. 1787 was sent to the Constitutional Conference held in Philadelphia and was elected a member of the Senate in New York in 1795 and shortly after the end of his second term in the Senate was appointed again as Secretary of State for Great Britain and was one of the most prominent opponents of slavery and an opponent of slavery and the slave trade in 1817 He supported the Senate's action to abolish the domestic slave trade and died at the age of 72. For more see:

Charles Rufus King, *The Life and Correspondence of Rufus King*, Vol.6, Forgotten Books press, (New York, 1894), pp.1-15.

<sup>(6)</sup> Thomas C. Amory, *Life of James Sullivan*, Nabu Press, (boston, 1859), pp.111\_113.

<sup>(7)</sup> oscar and Mary Handlin, "Revolutionary Economic Policy in Massachusetts," vol.4, William and Mary Quarterly, 1947p. 54.

<sup>(8)</sup> Charles W. Jenkins, *Three Lectures on the Early History of the Town of Falmouth [Barnstable County] Covering the Time of Its Settlement to 1812 Delivered in the Year 1843*, (Falmouth, 1889), p.92.

<sup>(9)</sup> National Corporation for Publishing and Historical Records, *To John Adams from Arthur Lee*, 28 September 1780, Greg L. Nett and Richard Allan (ed.), *John Adams Papers*, July 1780-December 1780 Vol.10, Harvard University Press, (Cambridge, 1996), p. 184.

<sup>(10)</sup> Thomas C. Amory, *Life of James Sullivan*, Nabu Press, (boston, 1859), p.106.

Hancock brought some politicians close to him and consulted them in matters of government, and he appointed Sullivan as his advisor, who became more influential and a political ally for more than twenty years, because he was distinguished by important characteristics that he devoted to serving the colony, such as his strong administration in political matters, and his good knowledge of the colony's political affairs and its mysteries. In addition to his strong personality, perseverance and high morals <sup>(11)</sup>.

There has been a lot of public debate and questions about the political issues that result in the formation of the new government, how the economic balance of the colony is restored, how citizens behave in the new republican society, and how positions are distributed to politicians in Massachusetts, especially after Hancock took over the presidency of the executive body Samuel Adams took over reins in the Senate<sup>12</sup>.

The initial problems with the new government appear from Adams's criticism of the governorship through a series of articles under the title (consistent Republican) He also criticized the governor's entertainment expenses, through which he spends a lot of time with his friends, and criticized the way he distributed positions, especially the positions that were distributed to many justices of the peace. These criticisms raised many problems within the new government. necessary, especially in difficult times.<sup>13</sup> Among the other problems that the new government suffered from since its formation is the financial shortage until many politicians began to evade their assigned duties, because of that deficiency, which later led to the resignation of many politicians from their positions, such as Sullivan, as he was clearly frustrated because of his unstable financial situation, so he resigned At the age of thirty-eight, justifying the reason for his resignation I had no other choice but to resign from my position and start earning a living and providing for my family<sup>(14)</sup>

The policy of the new Massachusetts government conflicted with the economic interests of several classes of society because of many factors, including the economic structural drawing of the new government through which it imposed a lot of new direct taxes that conflict with the economic interests of many classes of society, but there are other groups that welcomed the system The new political system because it included many representatives of their cities in the Senate and the General Court to ensure that those who defend their rights, as the political mechanisms under the new constitution gave the cities great commercial interests and the representatives of the cities who occupied all important government offices worked to serve their cities and defended their economic interests <sup>(15)</sup> Moreover, anger began throughout the Massachusetts colony, after the British proposals put forward in 1780 to declare peace on the condition of re-integration of the American colonies into the British Empire. Presented by the Continental Congress to the king before the start of the war, as Massachusetts feared that after the conclusion of peace Britain would take revenge on its rebellious subjects, as it was the first colony considered by the British king to be out of obedience to the British crown <sup>(16)</sup>.

The work of the new government of Massachusetts began, after the first speech of Governor

---

<sup>11</sup>(11) Paul Goodman, op.cit, p.8.

<sup>12</sup>(12) Charles W. Jenkins, op.cit., p.92.

<sup>13</sup>(13) JOHN A. DENNEHY, JAMES SULLIVAN AND THE BIRTH OF MASSACHUSETTS REPUBLICANISM, PhD thesis, Boston College, 2011, p.28.

<sup>14</sup>(14) Thomas C. Amory, op.cit., p.106.

<sup>15</sup>(15) Elisha P. Douglas, *Rebels and Democrats: The Struggle for Equal Political Rights and Majority Rule During the American Revolution*, Quadrangle press, (New York, 1965), p.187.

<sup>16</sup>(16) James Fred Hrdlicka *Garfield Heights Ohio, War and Constitution-Making in Revolutionary Massachusetts (1788-1754)*, PhD thesis, University of Virginia, 2016, p.30.

John Hancock, who was appointed by the constitution to be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy in Massachusetts, as his official and popular expressions of support for the war effort and the army increased in his inaugural speech. Can be relied upon, to create a strong army that will protect the colony”<sup>(17)</sup>.

Colonial Governor Hancock asserted that the government of Massachusetts would take new measures to support the army, being the mainstay of the colony, and that its support was necessary for the good and honor of the government. Moreover, he also referred to the renewed interest in building a new credit for the state, and emphasized that the Constitution was the last and best hope. To reform the financing of this state, and the best way to start correcting the previous political mistakes is to create a stricter and more effective tax system.<sup>18</sup>.

So the Massachusetts government moved quickly to establish a strong army, by contributing its men to the recruitment for the coming years, although there was a large group of men of the colony serving in Washington's Continental Army in New Jersey, according to the records (4,970) men out of a total (17,586) mentioned in Lists of the Continental Army as Massachusetts Regiments(28% of the Continental army)However, many recruits were due to expire in December 1780<sup>(19)</sup>.

So the new government took action towards reforming what had been spoiled by the war in society. It started with the army and then moved towards reforming the financial and economic situation of the colony. It charged a group of politicians with publishing educational articles about the new solutions pursued by the government, through which the colony gets out of the bottleneck. Many articles began to be published in Boston newspapers, such as the Pennsylvania Gazette.<sup>20</sup>And these newspapers published their articles on a weekly basis, and they were distributed to all parts of the colony's cities, as these newspapers helped the government to know the opinion of the population about the new proposals it issued<sup>(21)</sup> In addition, the colony's politicians did not stop writing their articles regarding the new tax system, but also wrote new articles, as a way to encourage the people of the colony to continue their fight against the British, so one of the articles was written: The brave sons of Massachusetts sacrificed a lot of blood in many battles in All the colonies of the United States of America, and consider yourselves independent after six years of battles, and Britain cannot oppose that.<sup>22</sup>.

There were important issues that the new government and the general court must address, including the miserable state of the general financial conditions that the colony is going through, so the government must work to establish committees to follow up and monitor these conditions and impose new taxes, and at the same time it is necessary to consider those Taxes and reduce the burden on the citizen, and measures must be taken to reduce government expenditures and determine the best ways to supply the general treasury of the colony, and develop appropriate solutions for how to save money, and find measures that can be relied upon in revenues that fill government expenditures<sup>(23)</sup> Otherwise, another crucial issue facing

---

<sup>17</sup>(17) Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, op.cit, p.266.

<sup>18</sup>(18) James Swan, National Arithmetick or Observations on the Finances of Massachusetts with some hints respecting financing and the future contributions more easy to the people, Adams and Nourse press, (Boston, 1786), pp.2-5.

<sup>19</sup>(19) Percy W. Bidwell and John I. Falconer, History of American Agriculture in the Northern United States (1620-1860), (New York, 1941), p.115.

<sup>20</sup>① The Pennsylvania Gazette: It is an American newspaper founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1728. It is the official newspaper of the Pennsylvania colony and the second official newspaper published in it under the name Pennsylvania Gazette. For more see:

Burton Alva Konkle, Benjamin Chew (1722–1810): Head of the Pennsylvania Judiciary System Under Colony and Commonwealth, University of Pennsylvania Press, (Pennsylvania, 1932), p.17.

<sup>21</sup>(21) Thomas C. Amory, op.cit, p.111.

<sup>22</sup>(22) JOHN A. DENNEHY, op.cit, p.33.

<sup>23</sup>(23) Thomas C. Amory, op.cit, p.131.

the General Court was the treatment of the separation of government and central authority (Continental Congress) While the war was drawing to a close, the members of the legislature decided, to exercise total power with little interference from the central authority, to protect their rights and decide their own future, although many leaders refused to concede anything to the central authority <sup>(24)</sup>.

At the same time, the General Court was apprehensive about the condition of the army and what it was suffering from, and it considered it necessary for the government to intervene quickly to deal with the situation quickly, before the army disintegrates, which was bound to become after the war stopped, in a better way in terms of clothing and food, and even the military barracks. And that the support of the army was necessary, as it died with its blood for the sake of the country, so the government decided to honor it by giving it a financial grant, compensating the families of the deceased among them, and raising the salaries of those who were newly recruited.<sup>25</sup>.

Therefore, the Massachusetts General Court issued a decision to recruit (4,240) men to serve in the new army for a period of three years. in the service of the Continental Army <sup>(26)</sup>.

Moreover, the Massachusetts legislature took steps to force the colony's towns to comply with its call to recruit their men for the new army, and in February, 1781, the general court ordered the towns to adopt some method of raising their quotas in the army, each town being installed an army captain with the rank of officer and dividing the community into a number of classes Through which the number of men required in each city is equal, and one group is not distinguished from another, rather all social classes are equal, and taxes are imposed on everyone equally to finance that army <sup>(27)</sup>.

The General Court ordered large rewards to be provided to the cities whose quota in the army was completed, but some cities were not able to meet the deadlines for recruitment, so the General Court began fining the cities that were late in completing their quota at the value of (9128) pounds sterling, and as a result Thus, the General Court received numerous petitions from many towns complaining that they had been unfairly fined, because they were unable to fulfill their quotas due to circumstances beyond their control <sup>(28)</sup>.

At a time when Massachusetts was preparing to build a strong army to protect the new state, it was forced by the Continental Congress to increase its share of the army, in large numbers, to meet the threats from the British forces in 1781, who were threatening nearby cities, especially Rhode Island, which He pushed the General Court to ask the Governor of Massachusetts to form a militia consisting of (1,200) soldiers to serve for a short period of 40 days, and to prepare another force of (500) soldiers to serve for a period of five months, and after pressure from the Continental Congress, the Legislative Council was forced to invite a force consisting of (2700) (man to increase the Continental Army for three months, so that Washington can continue its recent operations with success)<sup>29</sup>.

Already the people of Massachusetts had devoted themselves to the task of defeating the

---

<sup>24</sup>(24) Jonathan Smith, How Massachusetts Raised Her Troops in the Revolution Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Massachusetts Historical Society, Vols.55, Jun, 1922, p.356.

<sup>25</sup>(25) JOHN A. DENNEHY, op.cit, p.37.

<sup>26</sup>(26) Thomas C. Amory, op.cit, p.131.

<sup>27</sup>(27) JOHN A. DENNEHY, op.cit, p.38.

<sup>28</sup>(28) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.306.

<sup>29</sup>James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.307.(29)

British, for achieving independence for the United States of America, and for providing security for the new government in the colony, so the general court ordained measures, by which the later towns could just and reasonably pay their men to fill their recruiting quotas, though It must be admitted that some individuals had greater arguments for avoiding long-term service, and rather it was at that period that the General Court showed little reluctance to impose fines on defaulting towns <sup>(30)</sup>.

### **The second requirement: economic conditions**

At the same time, the new government sought to improve economic conditions, defend the judicial, administrative and political systems established by the new constitution, work to pay debts to its citizens who lent to the previous government, support the judiciary and work on arranging political institutions, as the new government faced many difficulties at the beginning of its work. Especially after many segments of society, such as merchants and farmers, complained about the laws imposed by the government regarding taxes, and saw that they attacked their own interests.<sup>31</sup>.

Traders and farmers wanted lower direct taxes, and inequality between them and other members of society, because they considered themselves the important party in the success of the revolution, and who formed the main support in material terms to finance the war, so they strongly opposed the new regime, and asked the state to pay their debts as quickly as possible.<sup>32</sup>.

The Massachusetts government began relying on new financial policies, and considered that an opportunity to abandon the policies that the Revolutionary Pact government had pursued since the beginning of the war, which exhausted the colony financially, so it urged the colony government to re-establish a new material law, based on issuing new paper money and imposing direct taxes on the population. This position received a lot of support from those who linked the new financial measures to the strength of the new constitution.<sup>33</sup>.

As suggested by one of the colonial politicians, Thomas Paine, when he wrote his article titled (crisis unusual), And he published it in Massachusetts newspapers in early 1781, mentioning that Britain must be forced to compensate the colonies, which the war paid for by collecting harsh taxes from their population, in order to support the army to achieve complete independence, and to be compensated for the damages caused by the war, and these compensations are paid in the form of payments consider this proposal as one of the solutions to the crisis to compensate for what the old political system lost.<sup>34</sup>.

The General Court addressed the inhabitants of the colony on February 26, 1781, explaining to them its reliance on the new constitution in adopting the question of taxation, and other strategies for restoring the general credit of the colony, as well as announcing the legislature to take a new course, by imposing taxes of late, which were 300 One thousand pounds sterling to finance the war, and the population began to encourage investment because of the government's facilitated loans to them, and to work in trade to earn a lot of money with the support of it, the application of these matters is reflected positively on the course of government cooperation with the population, and the reduction of taxation <sup>(35)</sup>.

---

<sup>30</sup>(30) Charles Rufus King, op.cit, p.308.

<sup>31</sup>(31) JOHN A. DENNEHY, op.cit, p.30.

<sup>32</sup>(32) Merrill Jensen, *The New Nation: A History of the United States During the Confederation (1781-1789)*, Alfred A. Knopf press, (New York, 1950), p.35

<sup>33</sup>(33) Whitney K. Bates, *The State Finances of Massachusetts (1780\_1789)*, A Master Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1948, p. 3.

<sup>34</sup>(34) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.312.

<sup>35</sup>(35) Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, op.cit, p.10.

Despite this, the inhabitants of the colony began to show their discontent with the previous policies that destroyed public credit, which will threaten the new government with complete ruin, as no measure was taken to change the means of paying the army and financing the government in a new and easy way that differs from the methods used before five years of war. , since the colony was paying for the war from the colonial treasury, without any serious attempt to compensate for the deficit, despite the taxes it imposed during the period 1775 to 1780, so all its attempts were so lax that it did not receive more than (300,000 pounds sterling) in taxes specified during those years <sup>(36)</sup>.

Those disaffected began to attack the legal system of the new coinage, urging the general court to abolish the requirements for the payment of taxes for certain classes of society such as(widows and orphans)And recovering (50%) of the creditors' money, and as a result, the General Court held a session with the governor of the colony, Hancock, and discussed with him the ordeal that the government is going through, and finally they reached an agreement to reduce taxes for some of the affected groups of society, and to meet with senior merchants and farmers about their debts, To develop appropriate solutions according to the current circumstances that the government is going through.<sup>37</sup>.

The modus operandi of the new tax system for the colony raised many concerns among the commercial cities because it harmed many of their interests, especially those cities located west of Massachusetts, which strongly conflicted with the silver project put forward by the General Court, because they contained large quantities of silver and that the new taxes imposed You will hit it, which is reflected in the economic situation of those cities, and soon the western cities joined the meetings held in the city of (Suffolk) And they announced their protest against the new law, which they described as disgraceful and through which the new financial laws will be destroyed, and as a result, the newspapers began launching attacks against those laws, and despite that, the General Court refused to deviate from its new policy.<sup>38</sup>.

Many Massachusetts residents consider the decisions of the legislature that canceled the interest on debts that were lent to a country during the war years, a behavior harmful to society because they imposed a lot of taxes on them in favor of financing the Continental Army, which affected the standard of living of the individual, and other than that the money that Its lending, some merchants and farmers by legal bonds, which exposed the government to more new problems <sup>(39)</sup> As a result, the cities of Ipswich submitted Worcester Commerce petitioned against the new tax law, and threatened to boycott the government politically and economically if it dealt with those taxes. However, the general court again imposed double taxes on the towns that had avoided paying the annual dues to the local government <sup>(40)</sup>.

The tension in Massachusetts society began to settle somewhat clearly, after the colonial government increased its ability by creating a conservative system for the interests of all groups of society, especially those who continued to lend the state large sums of money, and it promised them to pay those sums after the government's financial situation stabilized, but the creditors opposed At the same time, paper money, due to its low financial value, and they demanded support for the money policy that helped them to strengthen and secure their financial, social and political dominance, so their policy conflicted with the policy of the new

---

<sup>36</sup>(36) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.314.

<sup>37</sup>(37) EM Bacon, Supplement to the Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, (Boston, 1896), p.23-24.

<sup>38</sup>(38) Van Beck Hall, Politics Without Parties: Massachusetts (1780-1791), University of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, 1972), p.99-110.

<sup>39</sup>(39) lpld, p.112.

<sup>40</sup>(40) Whitney K. Bates, op.cit, p.53.

government that limits their dominance, especially after it ordered the government to pay their money only without interest.<sup>41</sup> At the same time, the constitution put restrictions on the government in imposing taxes and forcing citizens to pay them, so the government had to respond to all the demands of the population, even if they were arbitrary, and it had to convince the community that their demands could not be achieved at the present time that the government is going through financial crises. Otherwise, the people will re-elect and nominate a group of representatives from the cities of the colony and a new governor acting under the Constitution.<sup>42</sup>

The Massachusetts government began to reconsider the division of taxes, according to the various uses, starting with taxes that aim to finance the government's war-related debts, which must be paid immediately or in the near future, as the legislature ordered in May 1781 to collect (190) thousand pounds sterling. For the compensation of townsmen who volunteered for service, for a short period in the year 1780, and in the same month of the same year the Legislature appropriated (160,000) pounds sterling for the purposes of general expenditure, and may apply to the expenditure of the state or the requirements of the federal government <sup>(43)</sup>.

The legislature imposed a tax of (303,634) pounds sterling on October 31, 1781, for general fees, including army expenses, of which (1900,497) pounds were divided for the purchase of beef, and (8000) pounds were allocated for the purchase of clothes such as shirts, shoes, socks and (4000) pounds were allocated for the purchase of blankets, and an amount of (140) thousand pounds sterling was allocated to pay the accumulated army salaries.<sup>44</sup> At the same time, the Massachusetts government, in 1782, to strengthen its financial position, asked the Continental Congress to lend it an amount of (8000) dollars to fulfill its internal and external obligations and pay war expenses, so Congress decided to provide it with (596) dollars to achieve its goal, and despite that the court continued to impose its taxes, until in March 1782 a new tax was imposed by which widespread unrest broke out within the colony.<sup>45</sup>

Irrespective of the purpose in using the money which the government collects from the citizens by tax laws, the general court made a list of the sums for which each city would be liable, appointing representatives over each city responsible for this task and calling them **(with tax collectors)**. Their tasks were to collect taxes and deliver them to the treasurer of the government, and the treasurer of the city of Boston would be the one who watched the flow of this money <sup>(46)</sup>.

Equally important, the General Court continued to take new measures, by which the tax burden on the people of the colony might be lessened, recognizing the hardships of the inhabitants as well as the inability of many of them to pay those taxes, and at the same time many petitions were received from all throughout the colony to Boston, explaining the circumstances that prevented it from complying with the demands of the legislature, and citing many citizens of the plundering operations committed by the British during the war, through which the local economy was destroyed <sup>(47)</sup>. Therefore, the General Court formed committees to travel to those cities that submitted petitions to verify the accuracy of these descriptions, and after these committees completed their work, they submitted their report stating that "many of these cities

---

<sup>41</sup>(41) Van Beck Hall, op.cit, p.315.

<sup>42</sup>(42) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.316.

<sup>43</sup>(43) Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, op.cit, p.43

<sup>44</sup>(44) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.317.

<sup>45</sup>(45) Harold Hitchings Burbank, *The General Property Tax in Massachusetts (1775\_ 1792)*, PhD thesis, Harvard University, 1915, p.318.

<sup>46</sup>(46) Whitney K. Bates, op.cit, p.97.

<sup>47</sup>(47) Michael J. Braddick, *State Formation in Early Modern England (1550\_1700)*, Cambridge University Press, (Cambridge, 2000), p.319.

were right. “Accordingly, the General Court reduced the taxes that it imposed on many of those cities, as a letter issued by the legislature stated that it had reduced at least (111,226) pounds sterling from the total (140,7895) pounds that had been imposed from the year 1781 (48).

The General Court continued to correct its new tax system, so it reduced taxes for some cities of the colony, by amending or revising the list of evaluating the main cities, as the General Court sided in favor of the more populated eastern cities such as (Suffolk, Essex, and Middlesex), which sent more petitions, so the court tried to balance between the collection of unprecedented amounts of direct taxation on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the concessions it makes to citizens in dire economic straits, in order to prove that their actions were not deliberately arbitrary or oppressive (49).

It also sought to increase revenues in other ways, to reduce the burden on the population, so it worked to expand the commercial and agricultural scope and support the two sectors at the same time, and also by recovering funds from the central government (**Continental Congress**), which was spent on the Continental Army, and obtaining a material reward for the soldiers of Continental Massachusetts for their sacrifices, through which to pay the debts of the colony, as Massachusetts at that time had no revenues available to finance its own debts (50) At a time when the government is trying to ease the burden on the citizen, as new taxes were imposed on alcohol, tea, and four-wheeled carts, and those responsible for those taxes were the tax collectors who were previously appointed in each city, and the revenues of those taxes are transferred to the treasurer, On December 10, 1782, the General Court determined a tax fee of (5%) on imported materials according to the value of each item, and those responsible for collecting these fees were marine officers appointed by the government, as two officers were chosen from each city responsible for inspecting the goods. Incoming to the colony and evaluating it, these taxes resulted in approximately (154,378) pounds sterling, which covered about two-thirds of the annual expenditures of the government (51).

The government used other methods of raising revenues which would certainly have appealed to the majority of the population, such as the confiscation and sale of the estates of loyalists For Britain, the General Court appointed ad hoc committees to liquidate those estates that were called (estates of conspirators and absentees), And those funds were allocated by the Legislative Council to pay interest to debtors, as these revenues amounted to (25,283) pounds sterling only during the years extending from (1781-1783) (52).

The government faced a problem in collecting these taxes, because of the tax collectors and naval officers who were previously appointed by the government because they were inexperienced, and some of them were working in this sector for the first time, and this negatively affected the progress of the process, as they were struggling with how to register these taxes and keep them in the records. This led to the discontent of the inhabitants of the colony, as some felt unfair, especially the major merchants who were importing various and expensive commodities (53).

---

<sup>48</sup>(48) Robert A. Feer, Shays's Rebellion, PhD thesis, Harvard University, 1958, p.530.

<sup>49</sup>(49) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.320.

<sup>50</sup>(50) Robert A. Feer, op.cit, p.350.

<sup>51</sup>(51) Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, op.cit, p.81.

<sup>52</sup>(52) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.321.

<sup>53</sup>(53) Roger H. Brown, Redeeming the Republic: Federalism Taxation and the Origins of the Constitution, Johns Hopkins University Press, (Baltimore, 1993), p.101.

The government blamed these merchants and wealthy people who bought imported luxury goods and used gold coins to pay for them, so the government had to radically increase tax rates to put a limit on imports that are purchased in these ways, which led to the depreciation of the Massachusetts paper currency <sup>(54)</sup>.

Some of the colony's politicians had an important role in developing plans that reduce the tax burden on the poor population. James Bowden proposed an advanced scheme to employ this group of the population in projects supervised by the government, such as opening plants to collect potash. It is the salt that is extracted from the sawdust of some plant trees and is used in the manufacture of glass, soap and fertilizer, and it is called by another name, which is pearl ash. And those products are sold to local and foreign markets, and through it gold and silver will be brought to the colony, and reliance on them as a means of commercial exchange, which leads to an increase in the colony's imports.<sup>55</sup> HE EVEN MENTIONED IN SOME DOCUMENTS THAT SOME OF THE OLD METHODS WERE USED TO DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AS HE MENTIONED IN ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS, "THE MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNMENT USED OLD PLANS, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT RELIED ON A PLAN TO CULTIVATE AND SPREAD USEFUL KNOWLEDGE IN THE COLONY, WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY SOME OF ITS LIBERAL-MINDED RESIDENTS, BEFORE 1690 OF IBUCHA CHRISTIANITY, APPROVED, ENDORSED, AND CHERISHED, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UPON ITS APPROVAL BY KING WILLIAM AND QUEEN MARY <sup>(56)</sup>.

The General Court tried to make it easier for people to pay taxes, so it decided to allow residents to pay in the form of counted goods, especially after it decided to impose a tax of (200,000) pounds sterling to pay part of the request of Congress, and the new method included a clause allowing the payment of any material necessary to support the army, especially beef, pork, or flour, except that this provision was soon rescinded after a few months on protest by Congress, which told the Massachusetts legislature, that its financial system would be so complicated, that it continued to accept payment in such commodities. instead of cash <sup>(57)</sup>.

After the relative improvement in general conditions in Massachusetts, however, the political events that emerged after the Revolutionary War led to misleading the colony, especially after the return of the French soldiers in 1781 from the war and passing through the colony. No less than four riots broke out between the residents of Boston and the French soldiers, because of the purchase of soldiers Commodities and foodstuffs at high prices, which worsened the economic situation <sup>(58)</sup> But by 1782, the situation changed when the French army announced its final withdrawal, after achieving victory over the British forces, a large part of the population of Massachusetts cheered and saluted the French coalition army, and the colony's preachers praised the French armies and their contributions to the War of Independence <sup>59</sup>.

In 1783, Massachusetts began to open its foreign trade with France, and in return France opened its ports to American trade, especially to Massachusetts merchants who worked to import all kinds of goods and needs, until the colony's markets became swarming, and for

---

<sup>54</sup>(54) James Swan, op.cit., p.82

<sup>55</sup>(55) James Fred Hrdlicka, op.cit, p.324.

<sup>56</sup>(56) National Commission for Publications and Historical Records, Bill to Amend the Constitution of the College of William and Mary, Substituting More Revenues Appointed for Its Support, June 18, 1779, Julian B. Boyd (ed.), *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, 1777-18*, Volume 2, June 1779, Princeton University Press, (Princeton, 1950), p. 535-543.

<sup>57</sup>(57) Ferguson E. James, *The Power of the Purse: A History of American Public Finance (1776-1790)*, University of North Carolina Press, (Chapel Hill, 1961), p.48.

<sup>58</sup>(58) Allan Forbes and Paul Cadman, *France and New England*, Vol.1, State Street Trust press, (Boston, 1925), p.179.

<sup>59</sup>(59) Van Beck Hall, *The Commonwealth and the New Nation: Massachusetts (1780-1790)*, PhD thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1964, p. 29 .

political and economic reasons France became an important ally and trading partner <sup>(60)</sup>.

Despite all this, the financial situation in Massachusetts did not improve, and the situation continued to be in a bad state and fraught with danger, in addition to Britain's moves against the economy of the United States of America, which was reflected negatively on the economy of the colony, which called on the government to find various means to improve financial management, so some politicians suggested The colony returns to work with the central authority(Continental Congress),To support the government and support it until it gets back on its feet.<sup>61</sup>.

Therefore, Massachusetts formed a delegation in order to try to obtain aid from Congress, but the discussion and decision on this matter was postponed. Congress' lack of interest in Massachusetts' request led to an argument between the colonial government (Continental Congress) Therefore, the Massachusetts government demanded their shares of the financial reward for their recruits in the Continental Army, which made the Continental Congress financially more difficult.<sup>62</sup>.

In March 1783, the General Court of Massachusetts collected information about the payment of the financial reward and stressed the delegation to press Congress in order to pay the colony's debts, but as usual Congress did not respond to the demands of the colony government, and in the same year the General Court submitted a report to Congress and demanded that they pay the debts of the merchants and farmers who contributed In support of the War of Independence against Britain, but it did not receive a listening ear and did not implement any of the demands of the colonial government. through direct taxes levied by the colonies from the citizens to support the federal government and the Continental Army)<sup>63</sup>.

As a result, a political struggle occurred within the Massachusetts government, after additional funds were granted to Congress based on the approval of the colony's legislature, which forced the imposition of new direct taxes to fill those funds. Expensive taxes were already imposed on beef and clothing, which led to the objection of cities The colony did what the legislature did and threatened to boycott the government, so six cities in Suffolk held a conference to oppose the new financial legislation, and those cities decided to submit a proposal to abolish the new taxes, which they considered a major concession to Congress, which repeatedly refused to help the colony and evade paying the debts of its merchants and farmers. The government threatened to have another reaction <sup>(64)</sup>.

At the end of 1783, the Massachusetts government decided to boycott the Confederate government and objected to granting supplementary funds to Congress, and the colony's cities turned into opponents of anything requested by Congress in terms of funds or any other support. Fulfills its promises of non-return of debts in return for the sacrifices made by the colony in achieving the independence of the United States of America <sup>(65)</sup>.

The Massachusetts government worked to rely on itself, and stability began to appear in the economic situation of the colony, especially after the Massachusetts government put in place a new financial program, in which the old financial law was abolished and new tax sources were relied upon to finance

---

<sup>60</sup>(60) Frederic C. Detwiller, "Thomas Dawes's Church in Brattle Square," Vol.8, (New England, 1979), p.5.

<sup>61</sup>(61) Charles Rufus King, op.cit., p.14.

<sup>62</sup>(62) Ferguson E. James, op.cit., p.51.

<sup>63</sup>(63) VAN BECK HALL, op.cit, pp.147\_155.

<sup>64</sup>(64) Ibid, p.180.

<sup>65</sup>(65) Richard B. Morris, The Era of the American Revolution, (New York, 1939), p.349.

the debtors, meet the material needs of the colony and cover the state's expenses, as the General Court worked By establishing a new system to obtain new revenues, and this system is suitable for all segments of society, so it stressed the imposition of taxes on imported goods and tightened the sellers of alcoholic beverages, and imposed commercial restrictions on them, and worked to revive industry and agriculture by providing good loans that encourage and increase production, and open new factories It imposed additional fees on imported foreign goods to rely on manufactured goods.<sup>66</sup>As THEY WERE HELPED BY THE COLONY'S CONSTITUTION, WHICH WAS FAIR AMONG ALL RELIGIONS AND ALL CLASSES OF SOCIETY, UNTIL ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS MENTIONED IT "THE CONSTITUTION OF MASSACHUSETTS EXCELS IN MENTIONING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, NOTE THAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN THEMSELVES EQUALLY THAT THE LAND HAS BEEN BESTOWED ON THEM, UPON WHICH A SMALL SUM IS PAID TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COLONY, AND IS EQUAL AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY AND EVEN OF OTHER RELIGIONS ON CONDITION THAT THEY AGREE TO THE SUM PAID AND BY THEIR CONVICTION, THIS WAS CERTAINLY A GREAT WORK OF ACTS OF GENEROSITY, FOR THEY WERE NOT BOUND TO DO SO EVEN WITHIN JUSTICE, THE ANNUITY BEING IN FACT THE PRICE OR RENT OF THE LAND. "ALL THIS PUSHED THE COLONY TOWARDS STABILITY AND CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT.<sup>67</sup>

## Conclusions

THROUGH THE COURSE OF THE RESEARCH, WE REACHED A SET OF RESULTS

- THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE LEFT MATERIAL AND MORAL LOSSES INSIDE THE CITIES OF THE COLONY, WHICH LED TO THE SUFFERING OF THE COLONY'S RESIDENTS AFTER THE WAR, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE RETURN OF ITS RESIDENTS, MOST OF WHOM WERE HOMELESS BECAUSE OF THE DEMOLITION OF THEIR HOMES AS A RESULT OF THE WAR.
- THE MASSACHUSETTS COLONY SUFFERED AFTER THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARMY. AT FIRST, QUARRELS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE POLITICIANS OF THE COLONY OVER THE FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE COLONY WAS ALSO SUFFERING FROM THE PROBLEM OF RECRUITMENT DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO PAY THE SALARIES OF THE SOLDIERS, AS WELL AS PRESSURE CONGRESS IMPOSED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF RECRUITS, ESPECIALLY AT THE END OF THE WAR, WHICH LED TO THE REFUSAL OF MANY RESIDENTS TO ENLIST IN THE ARMY UNTIL THEY LEFT THE COLONY.
- THE COLONY WENT THROUGH DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AS MOST OF THE COLONY'S MEN SERVED IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, WHICH REDUCED THE LABOR FORCE, ESPECIALLY THE RURAL MEN. OTHER THAN THAT, THE POPULATION EMIGRATED AND MOVED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS, WHICH LED TO A DECREASE IN THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT, WHICH REFLECTED NEGATIVELY ON THE COLONY'S ECONOMY.
- AMONG THE OTHER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT THE COLONY SUFFERED FROM WAS THE SCARCITY OF FOODSTUFFS AND THE HIGH PRICES THAT WERE MANIPULATED BY MERCHANTS, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO PAY DEBTS TO THOSE MERCHANTS WHO LENT THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.
- DESPITE THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE COLONY THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE

---

<sup>66</sup>(66) VAN BECK HALL, *op.cit*, pp.13-14.

<sup>67</sup>(67) The National Historical Publications and Records Commission, *Extracts of John Baynes's Journal, 27 August–15 September 1783*, Ellen R. Cohn(ed), *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, May 16 through September 15, 1783, Vol.40*, Yale University Press (London, 2011), pp. 525–534.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR UNTIL INDEPENDENCE, THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS DID NOT VALUE THIS THING, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS ASKED FOR HELP IN RESOLVING THE CRISIS THE COLONY WAS GOING THROUGH, BUT THE REFUSAL ALWAYS CAME BY CONGRESS, WHICH LED TO THAT. THIS LED TO PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE POLITICIANS OF THE COLONY, UNTIL IT CAME TO THEM NOT TO SUBMIT TO THE ORDERS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND TO FULFILL ITS REQUESTS.

- DESPITE THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE COLONY WENT THROUGH AS A RESULT OF THE RESULTS OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, IT WAS ABLE TO RELY ON ITSELF AND DEVELOP APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY ECONOMIC ONES. THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT RELIED ON NEW SOURCES TO MEET ITS MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS BY SUPPORTING THE AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTOR AND IMPOSING TAXES ON IMPORTED GOODS.

Al-Maeni, M. K. A., Al-Juhaishi, H. M. A., Aljhuri, K. H. S., Shaker, R. M., Alghazali, T., Mohameed, D. A. A.-H., . . . Dawood, I. I. (2022). Role of Religion and Traditions in Prevention of Corruption. *Croatian International Relations Review*, 28(90), 58-76. Retrieved from <https://cirri.org/manuscript/index.php/cirri/article/view/546/442>

Al, T. A. H. A. A., Awamleh, R. E. A. R. H., & Khlaifat, S. A. A. S. (2022). The impact of talent management on achieving strategic objectives: A study on the Jordanian pharmaceutical industries. *International Journal of eBusiness and eGovernment Studies*, 14(3), 1-25. Retrieved from <https://sobiad.org/manuscript/index.php/ijebe/article/view/1238>

Astini, R., Salim, A. S., Deitiana, T., & Ramli, Y. (2023). Fintech Growth in Asia: A Shift Towards a Net-Zero Carbon Economy. *Social Space*, 23(3), 123-148. Retrieved from <https://socialspacejournal.eu/menu-script/index.php/ssj/article/view/250>

Gan, P. (2022). Is There Something Worthwhile in Somethingism? *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 14(4), 171-193. doi:<https://doi.org/10.24204/ejpr.2022.3718>

Karima, L., Mimoun, B., & Moufidi, G. (2022). Evaluation of the adaptive market hypothesis as an evolutionary perspective on market efficiency: Evidence from the Moroccan Stock Market. *Cuadernos de Economía*, 45(129), 48-59. Retrieved from <https://cude.es/submit-a-manuscript/index.php/CUDE/article/view/343>

Lei, Z., & Bustami, M. R. B. (2023). Corporate Social Responsibility Impacts on Sme's Performance in the Us and China. *International Journal of Economics and Finance Studies*, 15(3), 160-182. Retrieved from <https://sobiad.org/manuscript/index.php/ijefs/article/view/1652>

Lie, G. (2022). Block Chain Application on Property Law: Meeting Legal Certainty for Creditors in Bankruptcy Cases. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 17(2), 140-152. Retrieved from <https://ijcjs.com/menu-script/index.php/ijcjs/article/view/524>

Van Hung, H., Van Huong, N., Oanh, T. T. K., Van Chuong, N., Tiep, N. C., Van Ha, T., & Luong, N. T. (2022). Technical Efficiency of Smallholder Banana Production: A Case study in Viet Nam. *AgBioForum*, 24(2), 58-64. Retrieved from <https://agbioforum.org/manuscript/index.php/agb/article/view/125>

Vinchristo, A. A. (2022). Interpersonal Meta Function Analysis of Editorial Discourse in Business-Related Issues Using English Systemic Linguistics. *Eurasian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 8(1), 44-57. Retrieved from <https://ejal.info/manuscript/index.php/ejal/article/view/125>

Wangyanwen, L., bin S Senathirajah, A. R., & Haque, R. (2023). Influence of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) on Perceived Organizational Performance: Evidence From Chinese-based Organizations. *International Journal of Operations and Quantitative Management*, 29(1), 68-82. Retrieved from <https://submissions.ijqom.org/index.php/ijqom/article/view/161>