

Continental Congress

1774-1775



by Joe Burton



The First Continental Congress

In The ***First Continental Congress*** was a convention of delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies that met on **September 5, 1774**, at Carpenters' Hall in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**.

The convention was called in response to the passage of the ***(Coercive Acts) Intolerable Acts*** by Britain.

The Congress was attended by **50-56 members** appointed by the legislatures of the twelve Colonies.

Georgia did not attend because it was seeking help from Britain in dealing with the Indians on the frontier.

Congress wanted to consider options... economic boycott of British trade; publishing a list of rights and grievances; and petitioning King George III for *'Redress of Those Grievances.'*

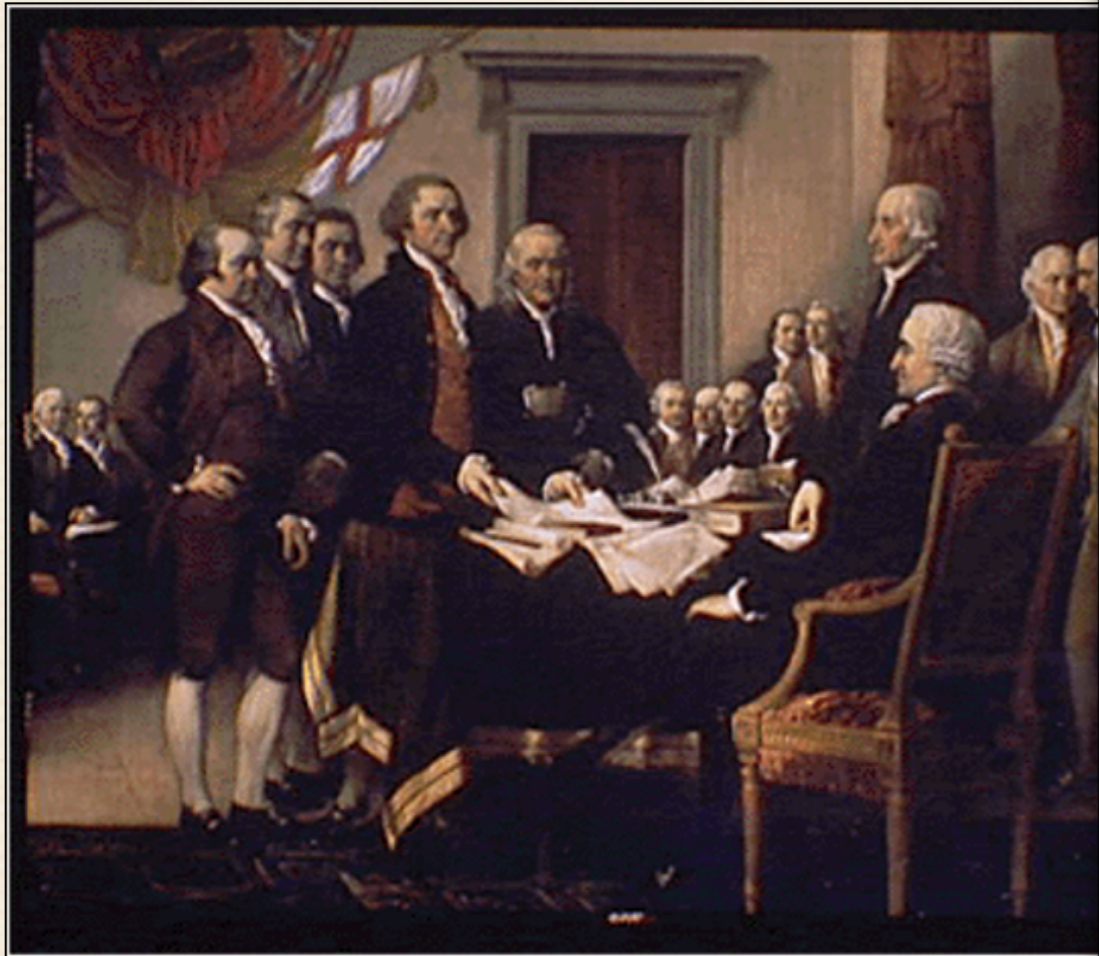


The First Continental Congress

Delegates from all 12 of the 13 colonies met in 1774 in Philadelphia to discuss responses to increased British oppression.

This convention, *the First Continental Congress*, formally declared that colonists should have the same rights as Englishmen; they also agreed to form ***The Continental Association***, which called for the suspension of trade with Great Britain.

The mural (*left*) depicts an oration by ***Patrick Henry*** in Carpenters' Hall.



The Second Continental Congress

Second Continental Congress was the Thirteen Colonies that meeting, once again, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The second Congress managed the colonial war effort, and moved incrementally towards independence, adopting the **Declaration of Independence** on July 4, 1776.

By raising armies, directing strategy, appointing diplomats, and making formal treaties, the Congress acted as the '**de facto**' national government of what became the United States.

The Congress also called for *another Continental Congress* in the event that their petition was unsuccessful in halting enforcement of the **Intolerable Acts**.

The appeal to the Crown had no effect, and so the **Second Continental Congress** was convened on **May 10, 1775** in order to organize the defense of the colonies at the onset of the impending **Revolutionary War**.

The delegates also urged each colony to set up and train its own militia.

