Many colonists were angry about the unfair taxes that the British Parliament was passing on the colonies. American Patriots, colonists who spoke out against the British, joined together in groups called The Sons of Liberty. The first group was created by Samuel Adams of Massachusetts. They went to the streets in protest of the taxes and of the British Parliament. Colonists that were loyal to the king, known as Loyalists, felt that those that protested against the British government were guilty of treason (working against one’s country). The Sons of Liberty wanted freedom to make their own laws and pass their own taxes.

The Sons of Liberty wanted the British Parliament to hear their concerns. They protested, or spoke out against, the taxes. Some wrote letters to Parliament, voicing their opinions. Many boycotted, or refused to buy, British goods. They even went so far as to capture British tax collectors to tar and feather them. They would try to make them quit their job or chase them out of town.

In 1766, because so many colonists opposed the tax, the British Parliament repealed, or took back, the tax. However, as the Stamp Act was repealed, the British Parliament passed the Declaratory Act. Many in the British Parliament thought that the Stamp Act was fair, and they did not like that it was being repealed. The Declaratory Act was passed stating that the British government had the power to legislate over the colonies. This meant that the British Parliament had the right to make laws and pass taxes in the colonies. Soon, more taxes would be passed.

This is a political cartoon that was printed in newspapers when the Stamp Act was repealed. It shows a funeral for the Stamp Act, even with its own coffin.