A collection of historical artifacts is arranged on a light-colored surface. On the left, a portion of a chessboard with a blue and brown checkered pattern is visible, featuring several chess pieces. A red ribbon with a circular medallion is pinned to the board. Below it, a blue ribbon with a similar medallion is also pinned. Two ornate medals are displayed: one is a white Maltese cross with a central circular emblem, and the other is a red Maltese cross with a central circular emblem. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples and red-tipped ends lies across the scene. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is visible. The text "America declares its Independence" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, black, serif font, and "The Beginnings..." is overlaid below it in a smaller, black, serif font.

# America declares its Independence

The Beginnings...



# The Coming of Independence

- ◆ Britain's Colonial Policies:

- Colonial issues were left to the King's discretion
- That means that London (3000 miles away) was dictating how the Colonies should be run

- ◆ Colonies did have some power, however...

- The power of the purse! They could persuade their royal-appointed governors by not paying them until they listened.

\$



# Little was expected of the colonies...

- ◆ While London decided how things should be run, the Colonies were off of the radar screen:
  - They paid few taxes
  - They had few trade policies to follow
  - Life was OK





# Freedom did not last...

- ◆ When George III came to the throne, life changed:
  - High taxes imposed
  - Restrictive trading acts
  - Colonists did not like “Taxation without representation”...they were mad
  - Resentment grew- submit or revolt

# King George III







# Growing Colonial Unity

- ◆ Colonies learned how to work together:
  - New England federation (Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, New Haven, Connecticut banded together)
  - The Albany Plan: a congress of delegates met to discuss issues...the Crown did not like this and it was turned down

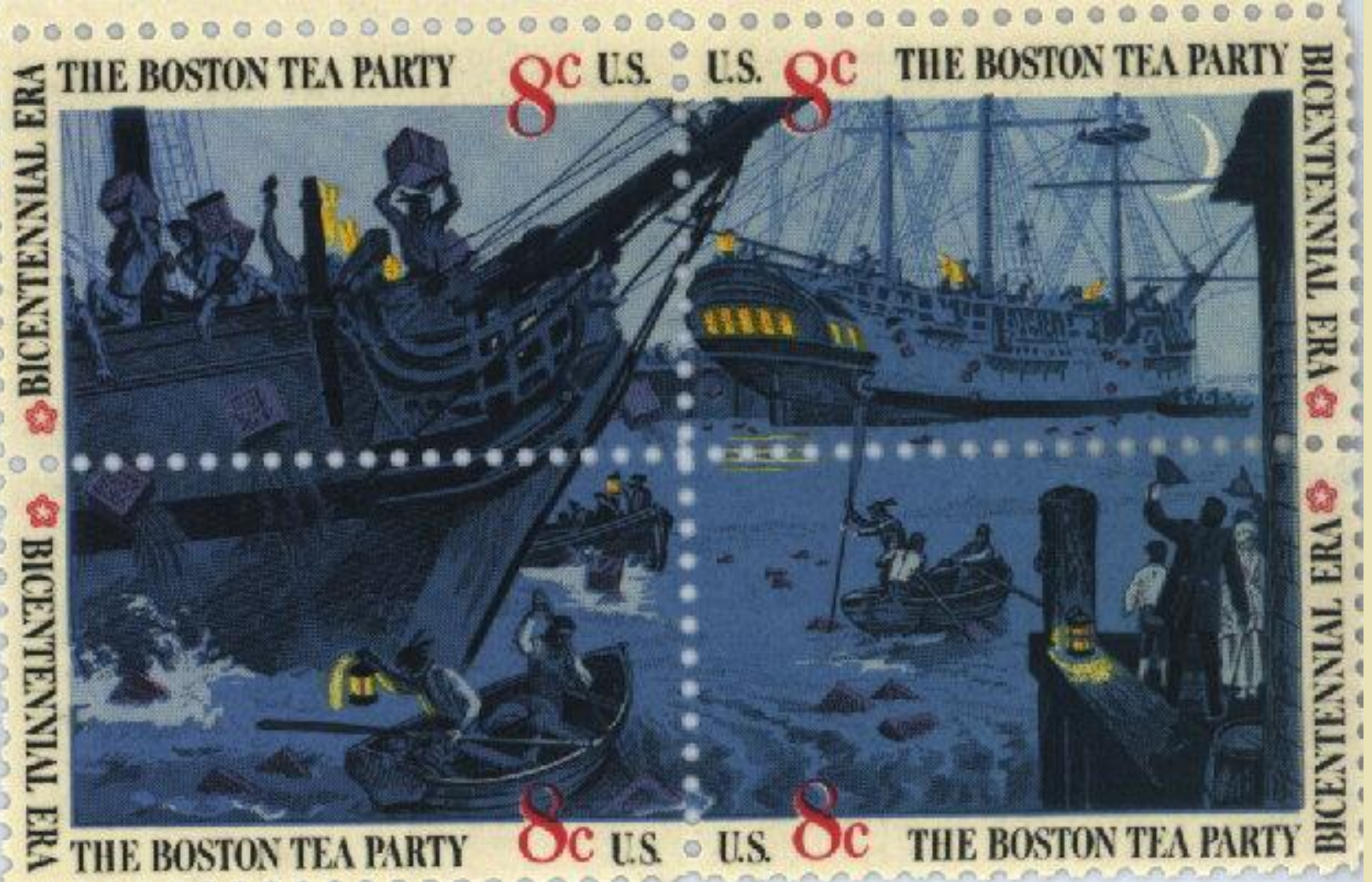




# England continued to anger the colonists...

- ◆ Stamp Act
- ◆ Boston Tea Party
- ◆ The Intolerable Acts







# The First and Second Continental Congresses:

- ◆ A group of brilliant minded people got together to discuss these issues and insisted that England back off...but things got worse
- ◆ The Revolutionary war started
- ◆ But we had our first national government!

# The First Continental Congress







# The Declaration of Independence is born...

- ◆ “Resolved, that these United Colonies are , and of right ought to be, free and independent states, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.”

–Resolution of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1776



# In other words:

- ◆ We can do it ourselves, so get out!
- ◆ And with these words, America was born





# Our first government was not accepted...

- ◆ “It was condemned by the British as an unlawful assembly and a den of traitors”...but it was supported by the Colonists.
- ◆ It lasted for 5 years (July 1776-March 1781)
- ◆ Ultimately a Constitution was required to legitimize our government



But that's another story

