



BOSTON HARBOR HOLDS PROTESTERS “TEA PARTY!”

By our politics editor
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IN A DARING protest against British rule, a group of colonists dumped hundreds of chests full of British tea into Boston Harbor last night. Armed with axes, hatchets, and pistols, the patriots raided three ships anchored in the harbor—the *Dartmouth*, the *Eleanor*, and the *Beaver*.

The rebels, dressed as Native Americans to disguise themselves, opened the tea chests onboard and tossed their contents into the sea. None of the British sailors on the ships was injured.

Destruction of the tea is a direct challenge to Britain’s authority. Patriots are angry at its government’s attempt to control the tea trade in the American colonies by imposing import taxes on tea supplied by the British East India Company. This hated “tea tax” has become a symbol for both sides of Britain’s right to govern.

John Adams, a moderate patriot who nevertheless supported the protest, declared the tea’s destruction “so bold, so daring, so firm” that it must have

“important consequences.”

Earlier, the patriots told one of the ship owners to leave Boston with the hated tea cargo, but he refused, saying that to do so would bring about his ruin.

Matters were made worse when royal governor Thomas Hutchinson refused to let the ships leave without paying import duties. He is keen to make a stand against the Sons of Liberty patriot group, which he believes is masterminding the opposition.

Thousands of patriots gathered around Boston’s Old South Meeting House, and Samuel Adams warned: “This meeting can do nothing more to save the country.”

The “tea tax” is the last in a series of attempts by Britain to tax its American colonies. The Stamp Act of 1765 proved a spectacular failure, and had to be repealed.

Colonial resistance has turned into rebellion, though few are publicly calling for independence at this stage. Conflict with Britain looks unavoidable nevertheless. Some fear its government will punish colonists in Massachusetts by closing the port of Boston.