

## Voice of Liberty, Primary Source Document 1

Edmund Burke. *The Speech of Edmund Burke, Esq; on Moving His Resolutions for Conciliation with the Colonies, March 22, 1775*. London, 1775. Pages 16–17.

In the second of his two “American” speeches, Burke continued to urge cooperation between Britain and the colonies. He advocated the abandonment of current and future taxation legislation and a return to the mild “whig” government of previous administrations.

“. . . This fierce spirit of Liberty is stronger in the English Colonies probably than in any other people of the earth. . . . They are therefore not only devoted to Liberty, but to Liberty according to English ideas, and on English principles. . . . Liberty inheres in some sensible object; and every nation has formed to itself some favourite<sup>1</sup> point, which by way of eminence<sup>2</sup> becomes the criterion<sup>3</sup> of their happiness. It happened, you know, Sir, that the great contests for freedom in this country<sup>4</sup> were from the earliest times chiefly upon the question of Taxing. . . . The Colonies draw from you<sup>5</sup> as with their life-blood, these ideas and principles. Their love of liberty, as with you, fixed and attached on this specific point of taxing. . . .”

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<sup>1</sup> favorite

<sup>2</sup> importance

<sup>3</sup> decisive factor

<sup>4</sup> Britain

<sup>5</sup> Parliament