

declared, “We must master them or totally leave them to themselves and treat them as aliens.” Britain chose to “master” the colonies.

**Attacks on Rights and Liberties** In 1774, Parliament passed a series of laws to punish the Massachusetts colony and to clamp down on resistance in other colonies. The British called these laws the Coercive Acts, but they were so harsh that the colonists called them the **Intolerable Acts**. These acts were a direct attack on colonists’ traditional rights and liberties, because they

- closed the port of Boston until colonists paid for the destroyed tea
- altered the Massachusetts charter to ban town meetings
- replaced the elected council with an appointed one
- increased the governor’s power over the colonists
- protected British officials accused of crimes in the colonies from being tried by colonists
- allowed British officers to house troops in private dwellings

To enforce the acts, Parliament appointed General Thomas Gage governor of Massachusetts.

## ANALYZING *Political Cartoons*

### HISTORICAL CARTOONS

Historical cartoons show how people viewed the important events of their time. Each cartoon on these pages expresses the point of view of the cartoonist. Notice how the cartoonists use symbols, exaggeration, and humor to get their points across.

#### The Bostonians in Distress

This cartoon uses symbols to show the situation in Boston after the Intolerable Acts stopped all ships from entering the town’s harbors.

Bostonians are trapped in a cage symbolizing the restrictions of the Intolerable Acts.

Other colonists are shown helping the Bostonians by feeding them fish.

