



“Alas Poor Ireland!”

British Prejudice, “the Irish Precedent,” and the Origins
of the American Revolution

Background

Causes of the American Revolution: Any Ideas?



Unhappy Deaths! For thy Sons deplore,
Thy fallow'd Walls betwixt and call'd'st Gen-
Wile faithful's P- and his savage Bands,
With mind but Rancour trench their throats
Like fierce Barbarians gazing o'er their Bay,
Approve the Crime, and enjoy the Day

If falling drops from Illuse from Anguish's Vex,
If Speech's Sorrow's lab'ring for a Tongue
Should vent'— as the funeral of his Soul
The plaintive Ghosts of Victims such as these
Seen Execrations on this Plate infer'd,
A glorious Tribute which embalms the Dead,
Shall reach a Judge who never can be blind

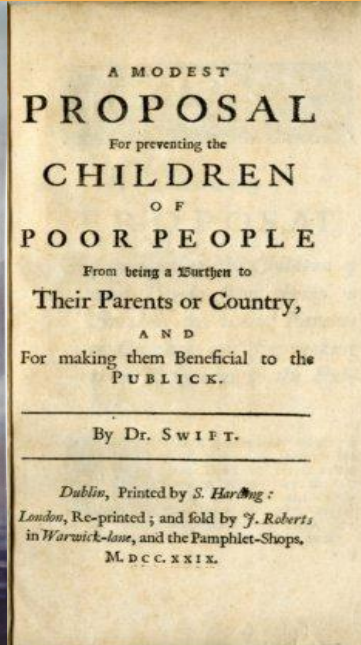
*The unhappy Sufferers were Messrs SAM^l GRAY, SAM^l MAVERICK, JAM^s CALDWELL, CHRISPUS ATTUCKS & PAT^r CLARK
Killed, Six wounded, two of them (CHRIST^s MONK & JOHN CLARK), Mortally*



Background

“The Unhappy Circumstances of the Common People of Ireland”

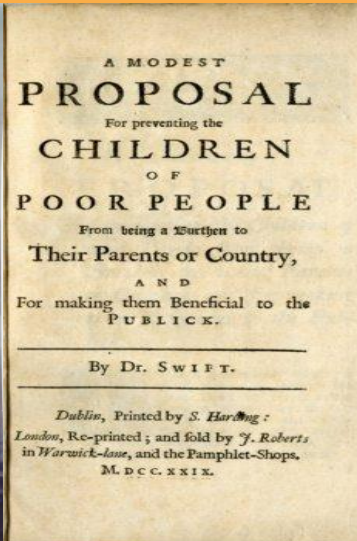
- A Quick Irish History Lesson



Background

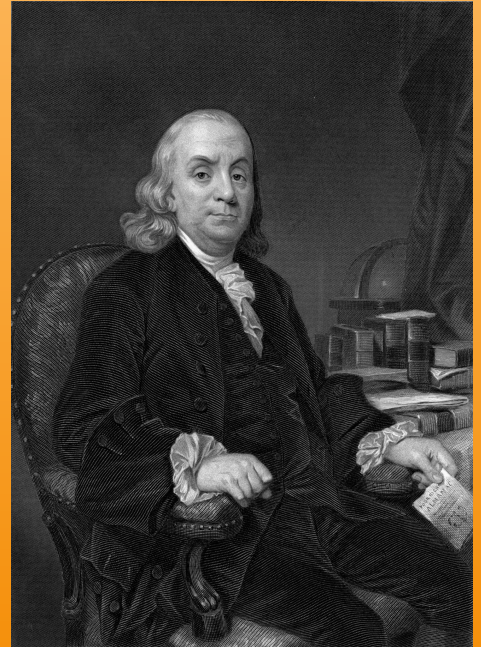
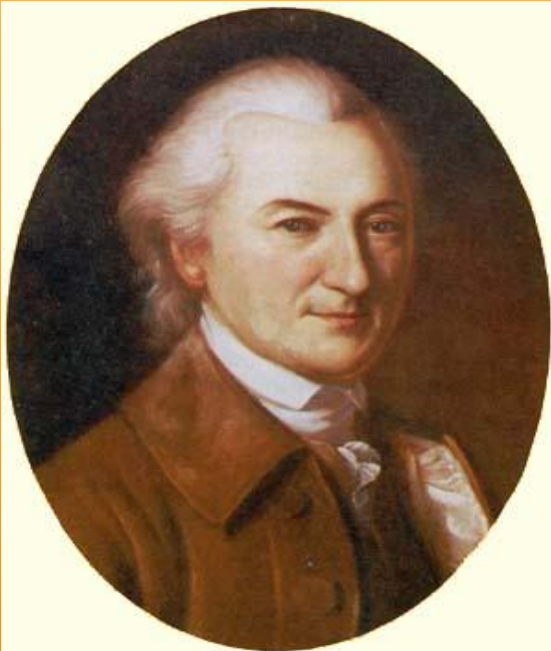
“The Unhappy Circumstances of the Common People of Ireland”

- How Americans Would Have Known About It
 - Irish Immigration (1720s, etc.), Reading of Swift, Influential Essay by David Hume



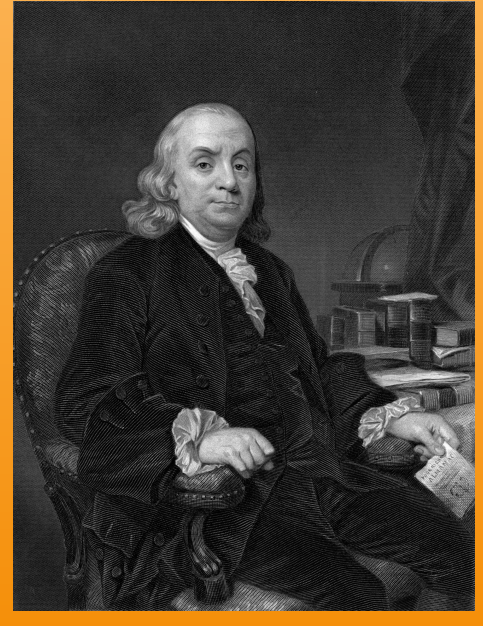
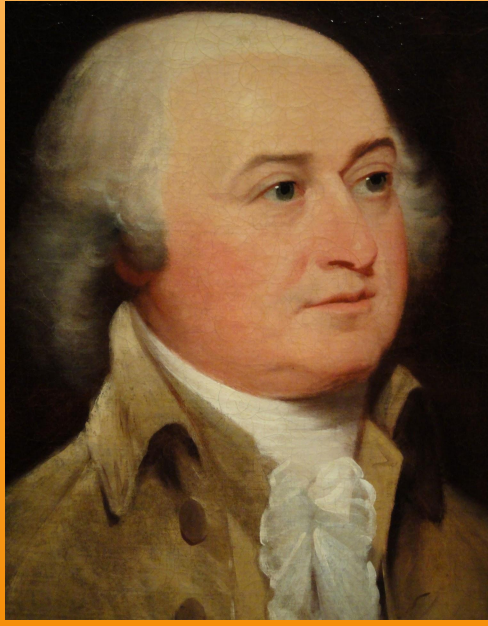
“The Irish Precedent” and the First Stages of the American Imperial Crisis

- The “Abrupt Discovery of Inequality”
 - Humphrey Ploughjogger, comparison of Americans to Jewish people in Book of Esther



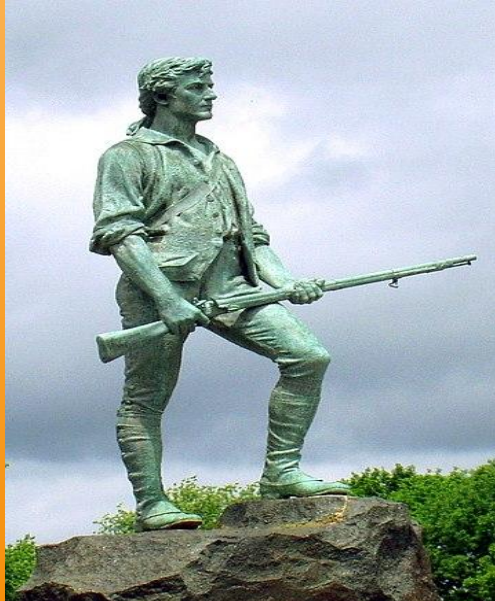
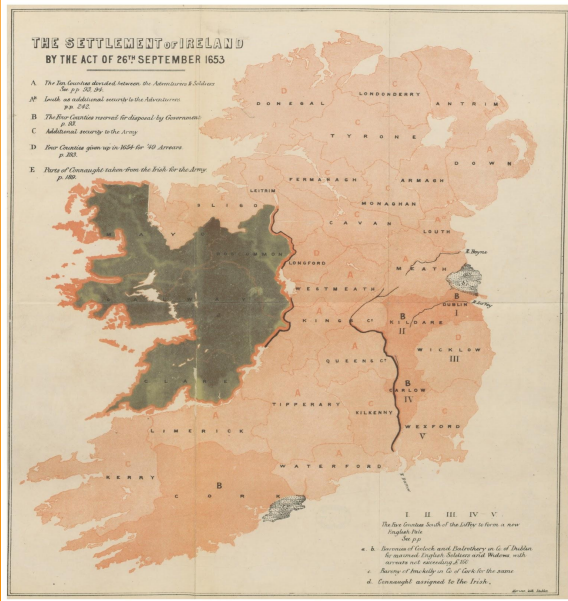
“The Irish Precedent” and the First Stages of the American Imperial Crisis

- Looking to “the Irish Precedent”
 - To the precedents of discrimination, conquest
 - “The Carthaginians and the Sardinians”



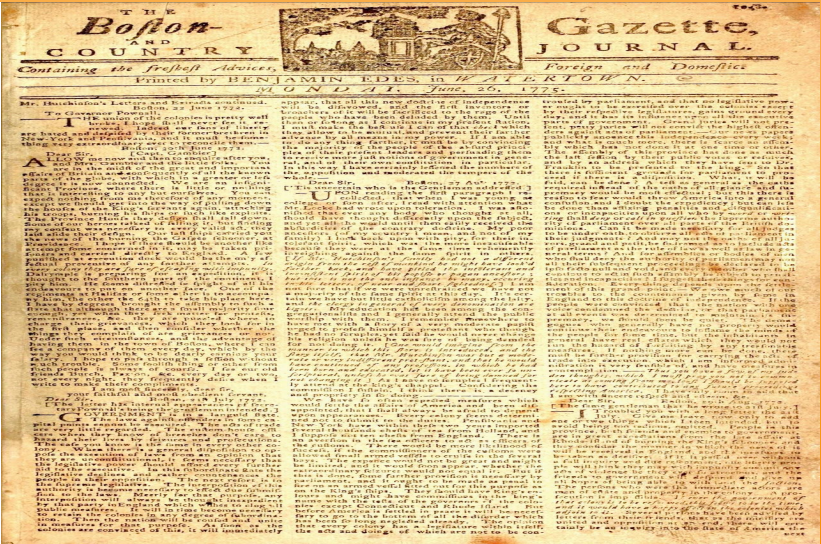
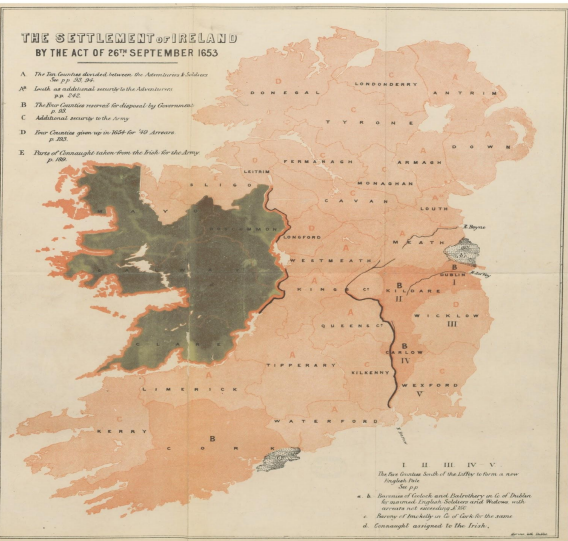
“The Irish Precedent” and the Turn from Resistance to Rebellion

- The Beginnings of a Growing Concern About Conquest
 - Books read by people like Adams and Jefferson: Rare histories about Ireland + Franklin visits in Ireland during the 1770s



“The Irish Precedent” and the Turn from Resistance to Rebellion

- Full-Fledged Concern About Conquest
 - Newspaper reports on Ireland’s plight
 - Leland’s *History of Ireland*, the Quebec Act, and reports British were applying Irish precedents of conquests to the Americas



AND THEN...REBELLION BECAME REVOLUTION

- “The First American Revolution” and Lexington & Concord





Here lieth the Body of Hugh
Montgomery of Montgomery
Esq^r aged 72 & Departed this
Life y^e 31 of Octo^r 1707 & had
Issue Six Sons & Six Daughters
Viz Hans Hugh Hamilton Jam^s
Samuel Vere Elizab^h Catherine
Jane Elinor Alice & Christian
Here lieth the Body of

Thank You!