

REVOLUTION OF 1719 - SC HISTORY STANDARD 8-1.CX

Years before the American Revolution, the colony of Carolina held its own revolution. This encouraged the idea that if the people are unhappy with their government they can petition or change it. There were several events that led to the colonists' unhappiness with the Lord's Proprietors



The Beginning

Charles II granted land through a [charter](#) to eight of his supporters. The Lords Proprietors invested money in the colony and six of them went on a campaign to encourage settlement. They met with potential colonists on a weekly basis at a tavern. The proprietors also invested the equivalent of thousands of dollars of their own money. They were expecting to make profit to be paid through a quitrent.



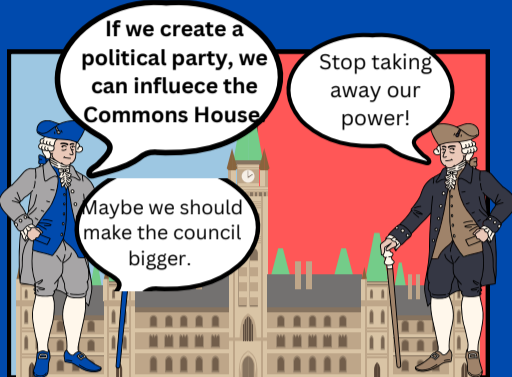
Government Issues

The [Fundamental Constitutions](#) was never ratified. The [governors](#) only held office for an average of two years. Arguing amongst and within the upper and lower houses added to the problem. These factors among others made it difficult to govern the colony.



The Westo War

The colonists accused the [Westo](#) of stealing cattle and attacking a coastal settlement. The resulting war opened the southern part of the colony up to more attacks from Native Americans and pirates. The Lord Proprietors lost money and the monopoly on the deerskin trade.



The Proprietary Party

The proprietors attempted to create a political party that would encourage non-Anglicans to emigrate to the colony. The party became known as Dissenters. They were loyal to the proprietors. This was a veiled attempt to influence colonial politics.



Queen Anne's War

[Queen Anne's War](#) with Spain led to political arguments between the Dissenters and the Anti-Proprietary Colony. The Dissenters did not support the war. They were focused on the political struggle with the Anti-Proprietary party. They saw this as England's war, not the colony's war.



Church of England

Many colonists came to the colonies to escape religious persecution. To encourage settlement, Lord Anthony Ashley Cooper touted [religious tolerance](#). The [Church Act](#) made the Church of England the official church. This upset the colonists that moved to SC for religious freedom.



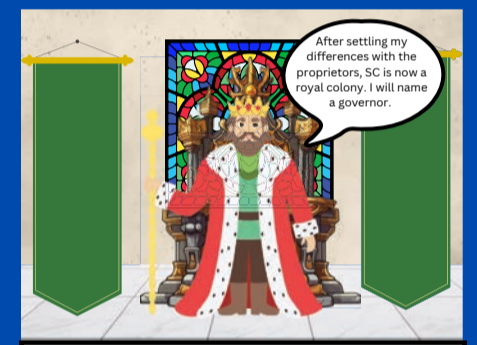
Yemassee War

During the [Yemassee War](#) the colonists asked the proprietors for help, but their pleas were mostly ignored. The king told the proprietors that they could mortgage their charter to pay for the war, but the proprietors rejected this idea because they did not want to lose more money. The provincial government passed new tax laws to pay the war debt. These laws were not authorized by the proprietors. The new taxes upset merchants who then brought their complaints to the proprietors. The end result of the war was that four hundred colonists were killed and a large amount of farmland was destroyed.



Pirates

After the Yemassee War, pirate attacks became more frequent. The colony was still trying to rebuild and recover from the war. The proprietors left the colony to fend for itself. Two famous pirates that attacked SC were [Blackbeard](#) and [Stede Bonnet](#). Blackbeard's fleet blockaded Charleston for a week. Bonnet assisted Blackbeard in the blockade. Blackbeard held hostages ransom for a chest of medicine. The governor, knowing that there was no way to ask for help, gave up the medicine and Blackbeard sailed away.



Aftermath

The Yemassee War and the issues with the pirates were the final straw for the colonists. In December of 1719 South Carolina sent its petition to King George I and the Board of Trade. The revolutionaries also set up a provisional government. The proprietors were losing money from the rice crop because of a drought that summer. They were now more willing to sell their shares back to the king. By August of 1720 South Carolina was under the direct control of King George I and a new royal governor was named.

Questions to consider

- Do you think that the Lord's Proprietors were justified in their growing frustration that they were not receiving a return on their investment in the colony? Defend your answer with specific examples.
- Do you think that the colonists were justified in asking for a change in the government? Defend your answer with specific examples.
- Can you think of a way to solve the issues between the colonists and the proprietors? Outline your new government plan or compromise.
- Listen to his podcast or read the article on South Carolina's journey to a royal colony. At the end of the article, it poses an [alternate history](#) of what would have happened if SC had remained a proprietary colony. Do you agree or disagree? Defend your answer.

Sources

Nic, B. (2019, December 27). Proprietary vs. Royal Government in Colonial South Carolina [Review of Proprietary vs. Royal Government in Colonial South Carolina]. Charleston County Public Library. www.cpl.org/charleston-time-machine/proprietary-vs-royal-government-colonial-south-carolina

Edgar, W. (1998). South Carolina: A History [Review of South Carolina: A History]. University of South Carolina.

Hicks, T., & Stewart, D. (2022). The South Carolina Journey (Second Edition) [Review of The South Carolina Journey]. Gibbs Smith Education.

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SC History Standard

Standard 1: Demonstrate an understanding of the development of South Carolina during the settlement and colonization of North America in the period of 1500– 1756.

- 8.1.CX: Contextualize the development of South Carolina's political institutions during the colonization of British North America. South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards
- Key Concepts: This indicator was designed to encourage inquiry into the development of the political structure of the South Carolina colony from the development of Charles Towne under English control to the movement toward self-rule.

ADDITIONAL READING/LISTENING

[Charleston Time Machine Part 1](#)

[Charleston Time Machine Part 2](#)