

Document C: A Stamp Act Collector's Letter (Modified)

John Hughes, a stamp tax collector in Philadelphia, wrote this letter to his bosses in London.

My Lords,

The colonists have been insulting His Majesty, saying that the Stamp Act was unconstitutional, and oppressive.

It is apparent to many people here that the **Presbyterians** are at the head of these riots. They are opposed to Kings and some cry out—'No King but King Jesus.' The leaders fill every newspaper with **inflammatory** pieces, so that the minds of the common people are kept in a continual **ferment**. . . No one dares write anything that would calm the people down. Doing so would put the writer's life and fortune in danger.

I am convinced the Presbyterians intend nothing less than the throwing off their **allegiance** and obedience to his Majesty, and forming a Republican Empire, in America, and being Lords and Masters themselves.

I am daily threatened by verbal messages and anonymous letters, with a mob of several thousand people, from the Jerseys, New York, and New England.

I conclude with praying, that the Almighty may secure the **allegiance** of America to the Crown of Britain, by destroying the seeds of rebellion, and by punishing the ringleaders of these riots.

Source: John Hughes, written in Philadelphia, January 13, 1766.

Vocabulary:

Presbyterians: a religion that gained popularity during the Great Awakening
inflammatory: causing angry or violent feelings
ferment: agitation or excitement, typically leading to violence
allegiance: loyalty