**Rebels Video Guide KEY**

**It’s All About the Money**

A British **customs** official springs a surprise **raid** on the “Liberty” ship belonging to **John** **Hancock**. They’re carrying a 100 casks (large barrels) of imported wine and don’t want to pay **duty**. It’s a radical act of **rebellion** against taxes imposed by a King 3000 miles away. To the British they’re just common **smugglers**. This small skirmish (a brisk conflict) changes everything. The British **seize** Hancock’s ship triggering **riots** that sweep through Boston. The King sends 4000 **redcoats** to Boston to **enforce** his laws.

British soldiers **clamped** down on Boston—a port **crucial** to the British Empire & a hub of **global** **trade** in commerce. Its **dockyards** are some of the **busiest** in the world producing **200** ships a year from America’s vast **timber** reserves. **Timber** fuels the global economy—much like oil does today.

In Boston, there’s one redcoat for every four citizens. It’s a city under **occupation**. **Paul** **Revere** is a silversmith & one of Boston’s prominent businessmen—an unlikely subversive (bold activist).

The 13 **colonies** are an **economic** powerhouse **critical** to Britain. Nearly **40%** of British products are **exported** to America. The fishing fleets ship tons of salted cod to the **Caribbean** in exchange for **sugar**, **molasses**, & raw material to make rum. The British **tax** after every exchange.

In **Africa**, rum is the currency used to purchase the most **profitable** cargo of all—African **slaves**. Between 1700 and 1800, more than a **¼** **million** Africans are **brought** to the American **colonies**. Most wind up on large **plantations** in the **South** but they’re also **critical** to the **economy** of the **North**.

**Tension Rises in Boston**

March 5, 1770. An angry **mob** of hundreds of unemployed men who **blame** the British gather on King Street—& face off 8 against redcoats with **orders** **not** to **fire**. A shot is heard. An African American, **Crispus** **Attucks**, dies instantly & another 4 colonists die. Paul Revere captures the moment in an **engraving** that spreads across the 13 colonies. The most formidable army in the world firing on an **unarmed** crowd, & an explosive image with the title that says it all, “The Bloody **Massacre**”.

**News** spreads fast. **Nightriders** cut the delivery time in **half**. The communications **network** connecting the colonies is one of the **best** in the world. The British have **no** idea. Before news reaches England, most of America knows about the *Boston Massacre*.

The **rising** tide of **anger** and **resentment** forces England’s hand. They **repeal** all **taxes**—**except** one on **tea**. It’s not enough. In the middle of the night, rebels **dump** over one million dollars worth of **tea** in the Boston **Harbor**. The British **shut** **down** Boston Harbor in hope to **strangle** any **resistance** from the rebellious colony. Tensions **escalate** far beyond Boston as settlers push west of the **Appalachians**. But to protect Native American lands, England has **banned** settlements along a boundary called the **Proclamation** **Line**. Hundreds are **evicted** from their homes on the frontier.

**Solidarity**

September 5, 1774. Incensed at the British actions, 56 **delegates** from across the colonies **gather** at the **1s**t **Continental Congress** in Philadelphia. Among them are John Adams, Patrick Henry, & George Washington. People **prepare** to defend themselves. **Smuggled** arms are collected & hidden. But while many expect conflict, most delegates in Philadelphia want **peace** with Britain. Congress resolves (states) that a British attack on any one colony be regarded as an attack on all of them. What emerges in Philadelphia is **solidarity**.

**“The Shot Heard ‘Round the World”**

Before war comes, the **militia** will **train** & will be America’s first line of defense—every colony has one. They’re farmers, blacksmiths, and store owners—a fighting force of **ordinary** Americans. In Massachusetts, a 1/3 of all men between 16 and 50 are ready to bear **arms** in a minute’s notice. They were called minutemen.

April 19, 1775, after midnight, 900 **redcoats** march from Boston for Lexington & Concord, about 20 miles away. Their **orders**: **arrest** the rebel leaders & **seize** their weapons. Paul Revere, his midnight ride, goes ahead of the British troops & warns the militias all the way to Lexington.

By sunrise, 60 militia men **poorly** armed & **barely** trained line up against the **well** armed, highly **experienced** & the most **powerful** army in the world. The fight is for nothing less than **freedom** itself. Free **African** Americans & **slaves** also join the fight.

No one knows who fires the first shot at Lexington. But it’s the shot “heard ‘round the world”. No army in the world can stand toe-to-toe with the British. The **English** troops **fire** up to **4** times the rate of the militia. Within minutes of the first shots fired, 8 Patriots are dead & 10 wounded.

**“The American Revolution Has Begun.”**

The redcoats reach **Concord** at 9 in the morning. Acting on a tipoff from colonists loyal to the Crown, they **raid** the militia’s **arms** stash. The rebels have got there first…**hiding** almost everything. They continue to search for weapons, giving the Patriots more time to spread the word.

By late morning near Concord, the **Patriots** plan to **defend** their towns against the British. A people **unified** in the fight against **tyranny**. Now, the Patriots have their **chance** as they catch up to the British soldiers as they march back to Boston. The fight is on. The Patriots seize the **upper-hand** & intend to make the British soldiers pay. They **shadow** the redcoats’ march & **firing** on them the entire way. Once over, a 1/3 are killed or wounded.