

Impact of Colonial Grievances on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights

When the colonists declared themselves independent in the Declaration of Independence, they told King George III exactly why they were unhappy by listing many grievances or complaints. Well, they just didn't complain. They took action to fix their issues!

The writers of the Constitution addressed every single grievance in the Declaration.

Grievance listed in the Declaration of Independence	Where it was addressed in the U.S. Constitution
The King imposed taxes without the consent of the colonists.	U.S. Constitution provides that all taxes must be approved by the House of Reps and the Senate.
The King made the military superior to the civil government.	U.S. Constitution provides that the Commander-in-Chief is a civilian – the President
The King had kept a large standing army among the colonists.	Congress has the right to raise and support armies. It determines their size through its control of funds.
The king quartered his troops in colonists' homes.	The Third Amendment of the Bill of Rights prohibits the peacetime quartering of soldiers.
The King refused colonists permission to petition for a redress of their grievances.	The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees citizens the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
The King made judges dependent on his will.	All federal judges are appointed for a life term
The King deprived some colonists of a trial by jury.	The Sixth Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees trial by jury to all persons.