mishes of Concord and Lexington on the 19th of April, 1775. The colonists and the British government had a classic conflict: the British felt that they had a legal right to tax while the colonists felt that Britain was unfairly taxing without granting representation.

In such a conflict there seems to be four choices: to respond with a threat of force; to accept the will of the adversary; to reach an accommodation; to undermine the adversary through the tactics of nonviolent struggle. The first option has the danger that the threat of force might actually need to be applied. Thus, nations have repeatedly gone to war. War is costly in both human and material terms. The second option implies possibly accepting tyranny. You are unwilling to take a stand against oppression. This third method requires working out mutually acceptable terms. This can be very difficult. Communication and a sense of trust in the adversary are usually essential. Seven methods of accommodation have been found to be effective in conflict resolution: cooperation, compromise, changing goals or values, stalemate or truce, withdrawal, legal or legislative settlement, and arbitration or award. The fourth method, probably the least understood, involves wielding power through a nonviolent campaign. Nonviolent campaigns include familiar techniques like: strikes, boycotts, slow downs, fasting, picketing, noncooperation and sit-ins.

In particular, the Stamp Act caused an uproar. The actions taken by the colonists were unprecedented. In retrospect, it seems that the colonists had four options:
1. to threaten armed resistance in opposition to the tax;
2. to accept the new tax and pay their share of the war debt;
3. to accept the tax but protest since Parliament should not raise revenue in the colonies;
4. to refuse the tax as unjustified.

As you are well aware, the colonists decided to refuse payment of the tax. Refusing payment was a radical action. People often object to governmental taxation but seldom do more than complain. It must be remembered that the idea of Independence was just beginning to be voiced by a small group of extremists.

Although colonial resistance to the Stamp Act was marred by numerous examples of mob action, it was significantly a nonviolent campaign of economic resistance and refusal to use stamps. Not a single death is recorded through their violent protest.

In a pamphlet written by Daniel Dulany in October of 1765, on resistance to the Stamp Act, he said, "Instead of moping and whining to excite compassion, in such a situation we ought with spirit and vigor and alacrity to bid defiance to tyranny by expos-