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<b>Grade Level:</b> High School	<b>Study Unit:</b> American Revolution	<b>Lesson Topic:</b> Economics	<b>Resource Materials:</b> Aitken Bible Preface
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### Objective:

High school students will understand the role of **economics** in the American Revolution. In addition, students will see how Congress encouraged domestic trade within the colonies. Finally, students will consider how Congress approved the Aitken Bible, in part, to spur the economy by way of the printing industry in colonial America.

### Procedure:

- Class discussion on how Britain taxed the colonies after the French and Indian War
  - The taxes were to pay the debt incurred by the war and for future defense of the colonies.
    - The Sugar Act reduced an earlier tax rate but expanded enforcement.
    - The Stamp Act required newspapers (etc.) to be printed on paper from London.
    - The Townshend Acts placed taxes on glass, paper, lead, paint, and tea.
- Explanation of the phrase “No taxation without representation”
  - Colonists said Britain should not tax Americans who had no representation in Parliament.
- Class discussion of how America was the first modern nation to wage an economic war
  - Boycotts and embargoes were used instead of military action.
    - As a substitute for military action, not a lead-in to military action
    - For eleven years, before the colonies took the first military action
- Explanation of how the colonial economy was supported by international trade and domestic trade
  - International trade is trade with other nations, involving imports and exports.
    - Imports: items bought from other countries, such as sugar and tea
    - Exports: items sold to other countries, such as timber, tobacco, and rice
  - Domestic trade is trade within the country of items produced in the country.
    - Homegrown items such as timber, tobacco, rice, as well as newspapers, pamphlets
- Class discussion of how the break with Britain disrupted colonial international trade
  - Colonists had used British trade relationships, which were now severed.
  - As international trade began to decline, domestic trade continued to rise.
- Explanation of the Aitken Bible as an example of Congress encouraging domestic trade
  - Congress wanted to promote the American printing industry through the Aitken Bible.
    - Congress called Aitken’s Bible “an instance of the progress of arts in this country.” This meant the art of printing had progressed so all printers could print the Bible in America.
    - Congress recommended the Aitken Bible to “the inhabitants of the United States.” This meant all citizens of America were encouraged to buy the Bibles, which were not free.

### Closure/Review:

The class will discuss economics in colonial America. How did economics motivate both the British and colonists? Why did the British need money? Why did the colonist need money? While the British license on the Bible controlled printing to ensure accuracy, how was it also a way for the British to make money on the Bible? On the colonial side, as indicated by their recommendation of the Aitken Bible, why did Congress hope to encourage commerce in the colonies through Aitken’s Bible and other products?