

Patriot or Loyalist?

Directions: The following excerpts are from two colonial voices, one Patriot, one Loyalist. As you read, mark the text next to each paragraph with either a "P" if you think the writer is Patriot, or "L" if you think the writer is Loyalist. Next to each, circle key words or short phrases that are evidence of why you think its one or the other

1. "Suppose we were to revolt from Great Britain, declare ourselves Independent, and set up a Republic of our own—what would be the consequence? My blood runs chill when I think of the calamities, the complicated evils that must follow. . ."
2. "This is no time for ceremony. The question before the house is one of awful moment [great importance] to this country. For my own part I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery. . . Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of Hope".
3. "Devastation and ruin must mark the progress of this war along the sea coast of America. So far, Britain has not exerted her power. Her number of troops and ships of war here at present, is very little more than she judged necessary in time of peace.."
4. "But as soon as we declare independence, ruthless war, with all its aggravated horrors, will ravage our once happy land. Our seacoasts and ports will be ruined, and our ships taken. Torrents of blood will be spilled, and thousands reduced to beggary and wretchedness."
5. "I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry, for the last ten years, to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace [comfort] themselves and the House... Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports [goes along] with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. . . Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements [tools] of war and subjugation [conquest], the last arguments to which kings resort [turn to for help]. . . I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array [display], if its purpose be not to force us into submission?"
6. "Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert [turn away] the storm which is now coming on. . . Our petitions have been slighted. . . and we have been spurned [pushed away] with contempt [disrespect] from the foot of the throne. . . They tell us, sir, that we are weak unable to cope with so formidable [strong] an adversary [enemy]. But when shall we be stronger? . . . Sir, we are not weak. . . Three millions of people armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that we possess, are invincible [cannot be conquered] by any force which our enemy can send against us"

7. "By declaring independence, we would instantly lose all assistance from our friends in England. They will stop saying anything in our favour, for they would be seen as rebels, and treated accordingly."
8. "The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone: it is to the vigilant [watchful], the active, the brave. . . . There is no retreat but in submission and slavery. Our chains are forged. Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston. The war is inevitable. And let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come' . . . Gentlemen may cry peace, but there is no peace. The war is actually begun."
9. "The only European power from which we can possibly receive assistance, is France. But France is now at peace with Great Britain; and is it possible that France would interrupt that peace, and risk another war with England, from a *disinterested* motive of aiding and protecting these Colonies?"
10. "The next gale [storm] that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of. . . arms. Our brethren [brothers] are already in the field. Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

Excerpts adapted from Patrick Henry's *Speech to the Second Virginia Delegation*, March 23, 1775 and Charles Inglis' pamphlet "*The True Interest of America Impartially Stated*", 1776.