

# NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

CLASS COPY !!! DO NOT MARK !!!

The British Parliament passed the Stamp Act as a way to collect taxes from the American colonies to repay the cost of fighting the French and Indian War. The colonists were opposed to having to pay for this war.

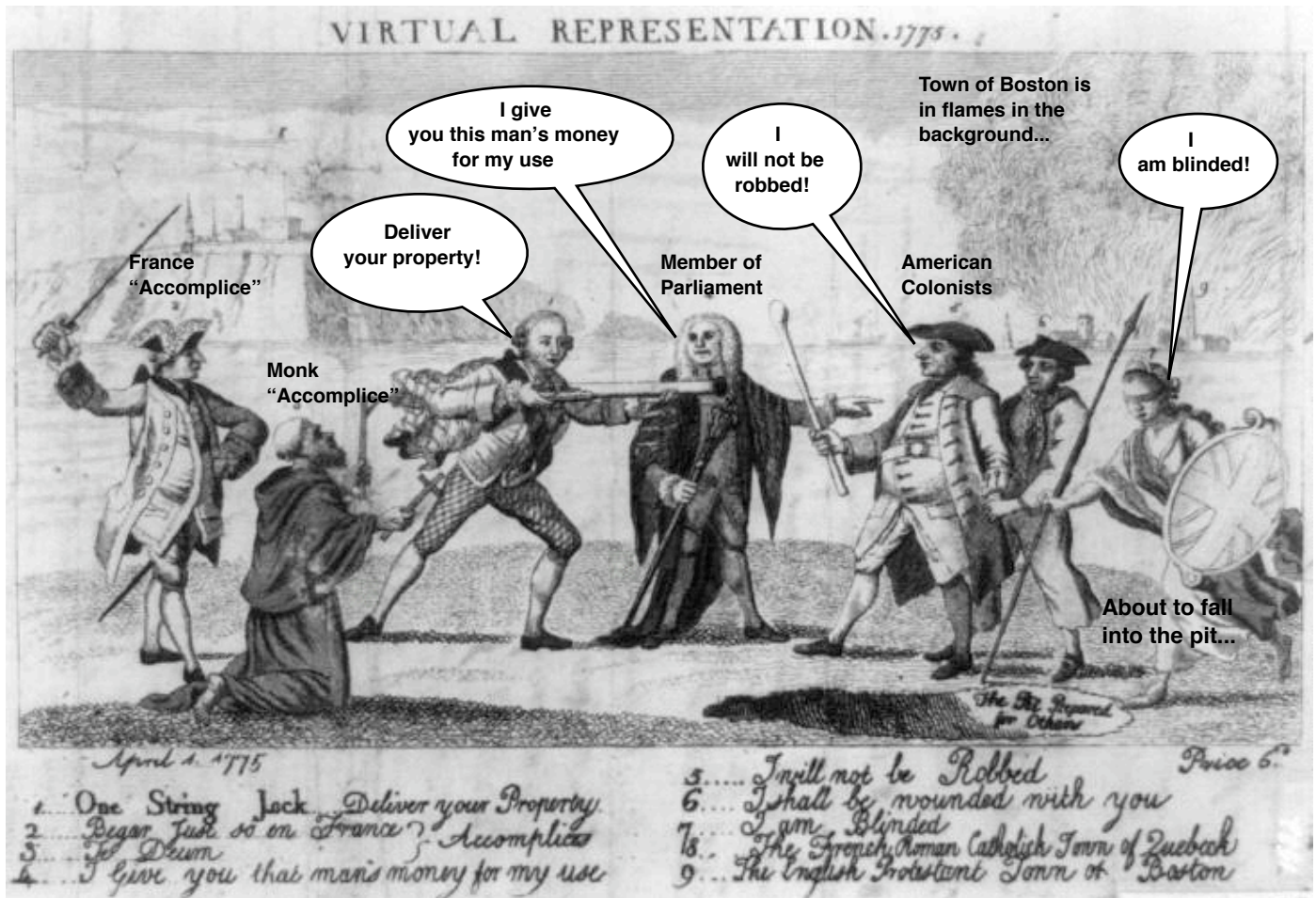
At a meeting organized to protest the Stamp Act, the decision was made that Parliament could not tax the American colonies since they had no American representatives in Parliament.

The phrase stated by James Otis, a Boston lawyer, "No taxation without representation" was heard throughout the colonies. The men at this meeting sent a letter asking Britain to repeal the Stamp Act. Ultimately, Britain did repeal the Stamp Act, but passed in its place other types of taxes to get money from the colonies.

Under a **mercantilist** view, the British wanted to make money off of the American colonies. They claimed the right to impose taxes on the American colonies; it was no different from taxing British citizens.

Furthermore, the British claimed that all members of Parliament represented the interests of all citizens of the British Empire, including the American colonists. Therefore there is no need for direct representation because their best interest was already being represented in Parliament. This idea is known as "virtual representation."

Below: A political cartoon that appeared in an American newspaper depicting "Virtual Representation."



Based on this cartoon, how did the American's view "virtual representation"?