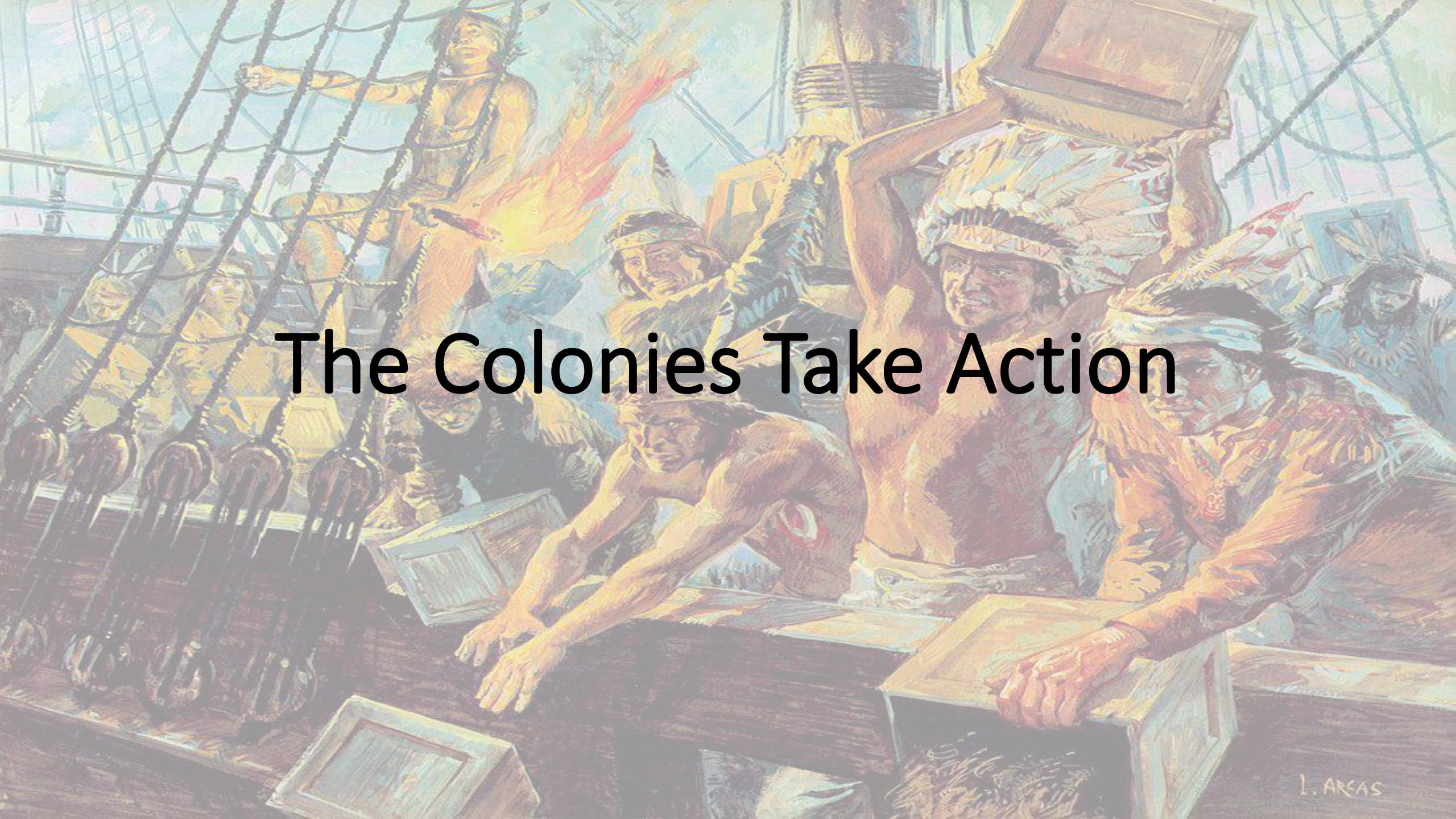
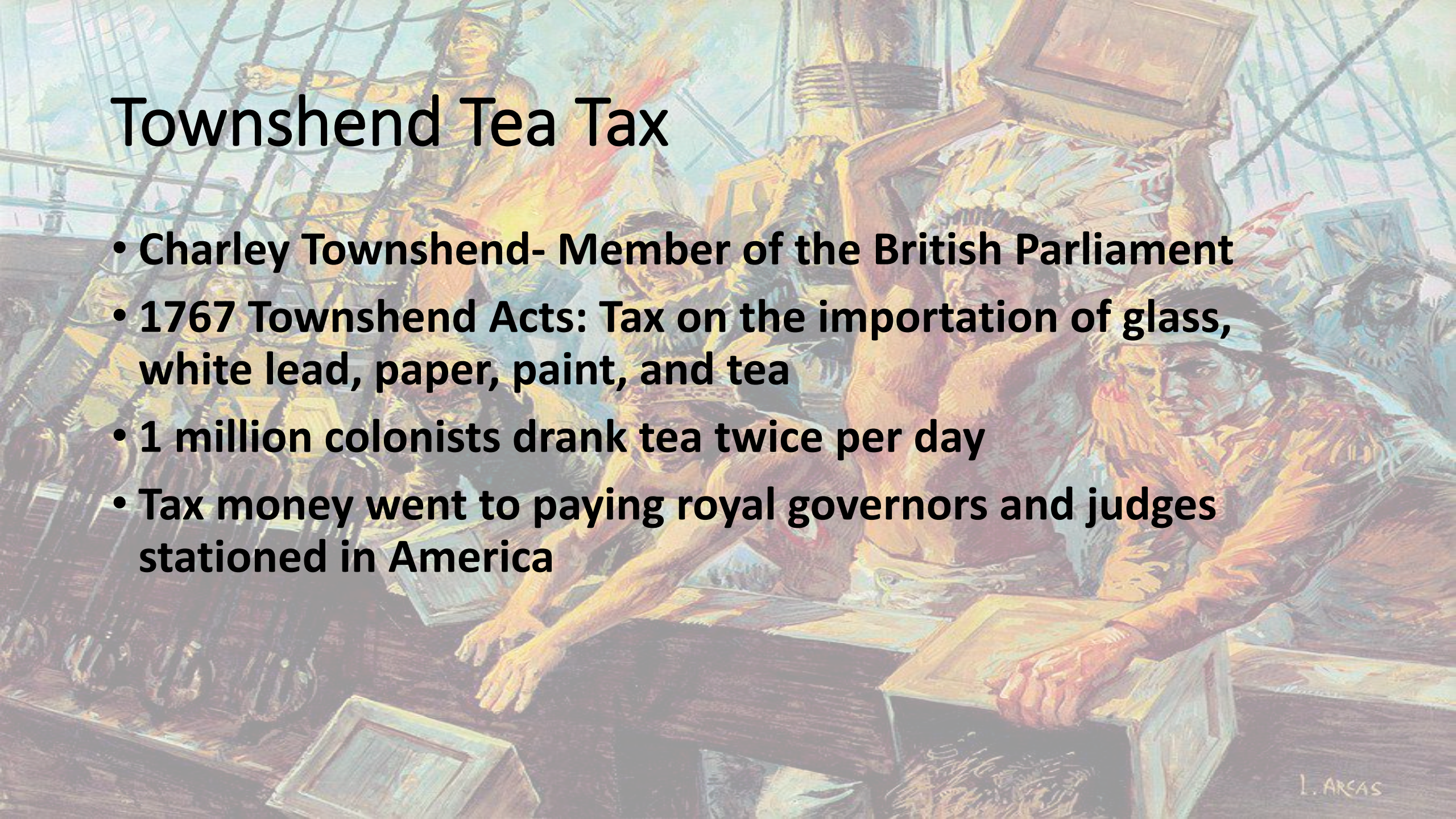


The Colonies Take Action



Townshend Tea Tax

- **Charley Townshend- Member of the British Parliament**
- **1767 Townshend Acts: Tax on the importation of glass, white lead, paper, paint, and tea**
- **1 million colonists drank tea twice per day**
- **Tax money went to paying royal governors and judges stationed in America**





Legislature of New York is Suspended

- British Parliament suspended the legislature of NY for failure to comply with the Quartering Acts
- Non-importation agreement was revived against the Townshend Acts
 - Less effective because the tax was light and indirect
 - Resorted to smuggling tea at a cheap price

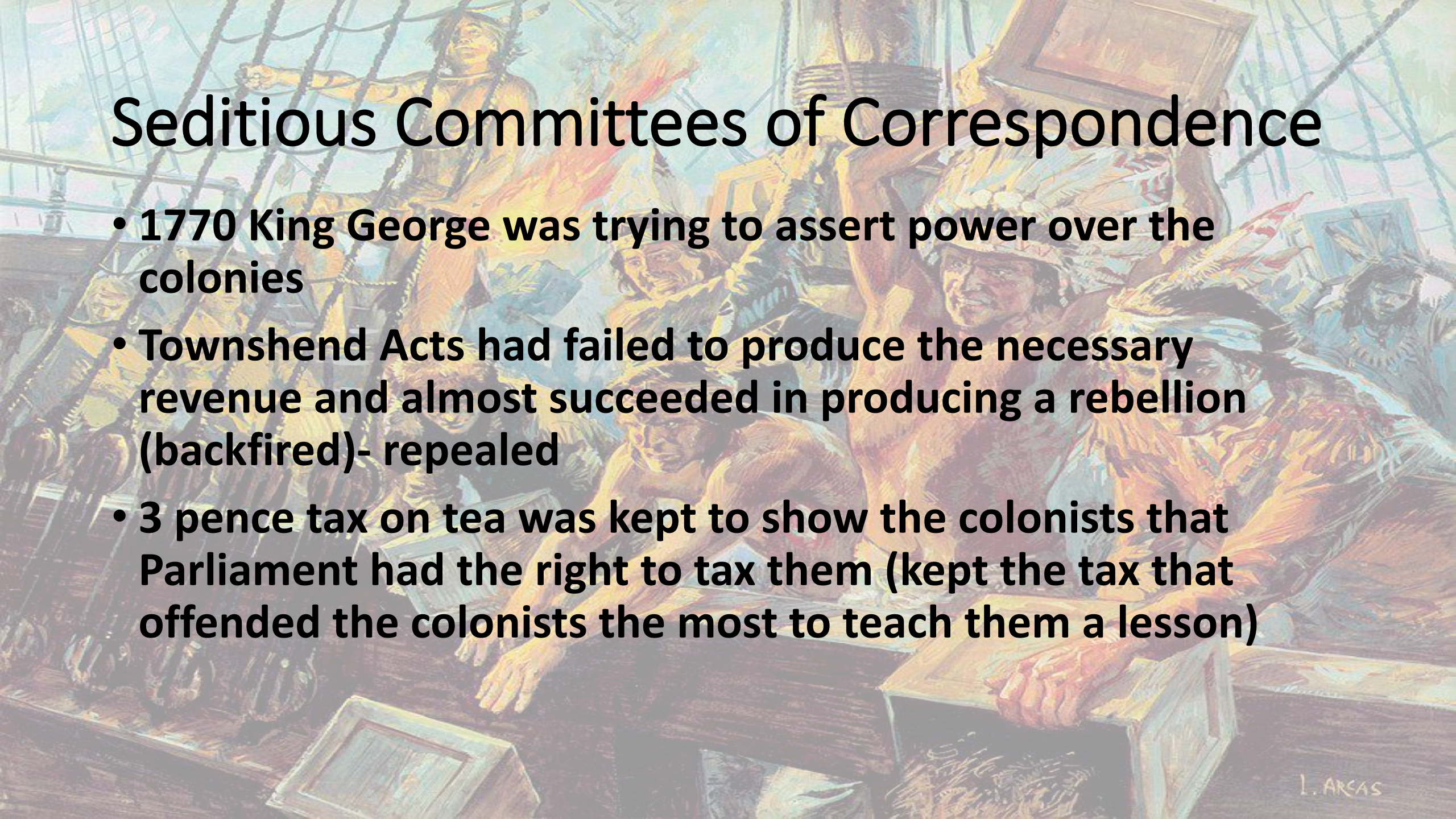
Do you feel that this it was a smart decision by the British government to suspend the legislature of New York? Why or why not?

Boston Massacre

- 1768 Two regiments of British troops were stationed in Boston to keep the Mass. colony under control
- March 5, 1770 a crowd of 60 townspeople began taunting the soldiers and throwing snowballs at 10 of them.
- Troops opened fire on the crowd without orders out of nervousness/fear and killed or injured 11 citizens
- First to die was Crispus Attucks who was the leader of the mob
- Future American President John Adams defended the soldiers in court
- 2 soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter and were released

Seditious Committees of Correspondence

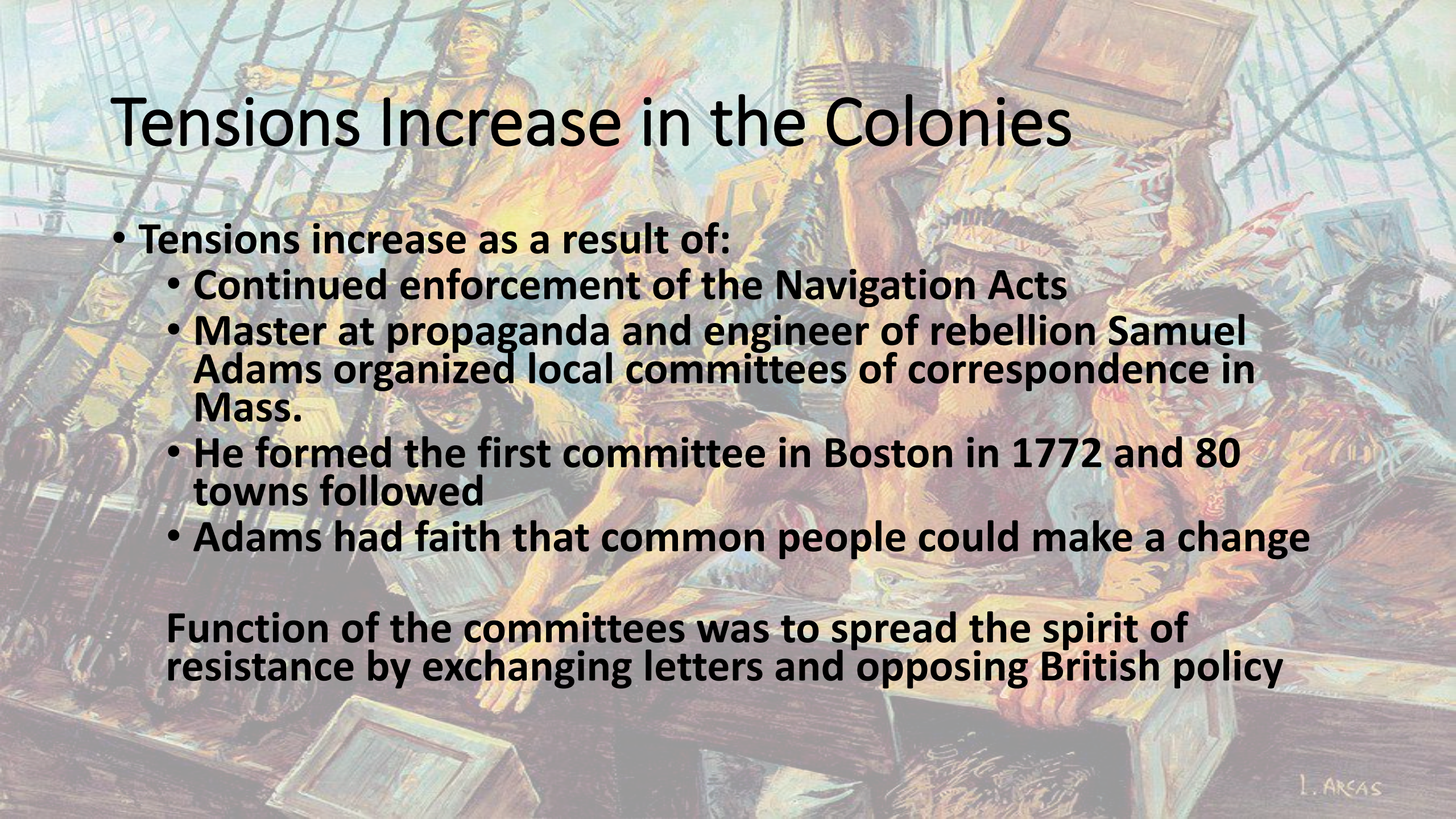
- **1770 King George was trying to assert power over the colonies**
- **Townshend Acts had failed to produce the necessary revenue and almost succeeded in producing a rebellion (backfired)- repealed**
- **3 pence tax on tea was kept to show the colonists that Parliament had the right to tax them (kept the tax that offended the colonists the most to teach them a lesson)**



Tensions Increase in the Colonies

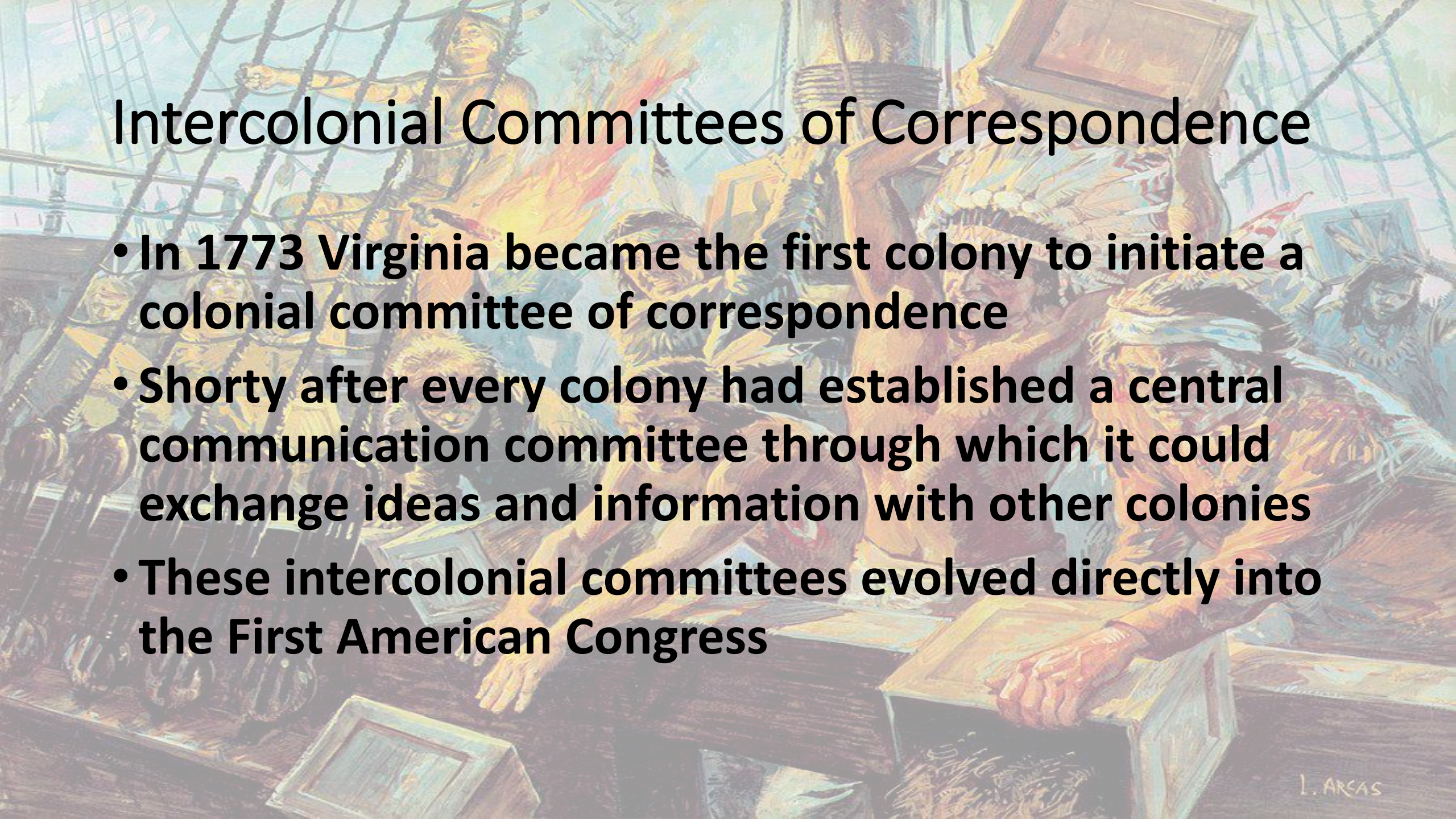
- Tensions increase as a result of:
 - Continued enforcement of the Navigation Acts
 - Master at propaganda and engineer of rebellion Samuel Adams organized local committees of correspondence in Mass.
 - He formed the first committee in Boston in 1772 and 80 towns followed
 - Adams had faith that common people could make a change

Function of the committees was to spread the spirit of resistance by exchanging letters and opposing British policy



Intercolonial Committees of Correspondence

- In 1773 Virginia became the first colony to initiate a colonial committee of correspondence
- Shortly after every colony had established a central communication committee through which it could exchange ideas and information with other colonies
- These intercolonial committees evolved directly into the First American Congress



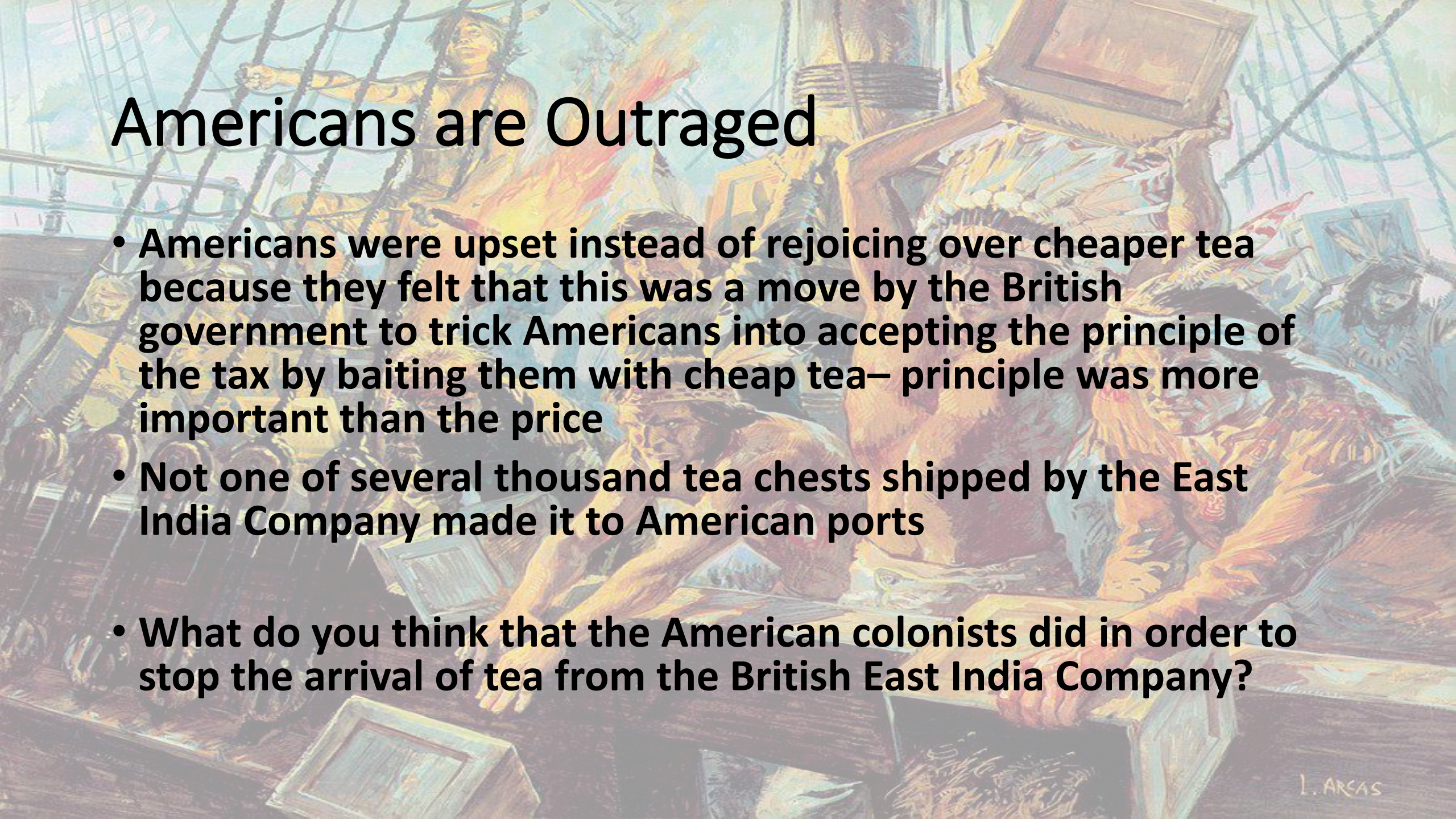


Tea Brewing in Boston

- Non-importation was weakening
- Increasing numbers of colonists were willing to pay the tea tax because legal tea became cheaper than smuggled tea
- 1773 the British East India Company had 17 million pounds of unsold tea (if they did not sell it they would go bankrupt)
- If this company collapsed London would lose a lot of money in taxes
- Ministry in London awarded a complete monopoly of the American tea business to the East India Company
- Tea was cheaper than before even with the 3 pence tax

Americans are Outraged

- Americans were upset instead of rejoicing over cheaper tea because they felt that this was a move by the British government to trick Americans into accepting the principle of the tax by baiting them with cheap tea— principle was more important than the price
- Not one of several thousand tea chests shipped by the East India Company made it to American ports
- What do you think that the American colonists did in order to stop the arrival of tea from the British East India Company?



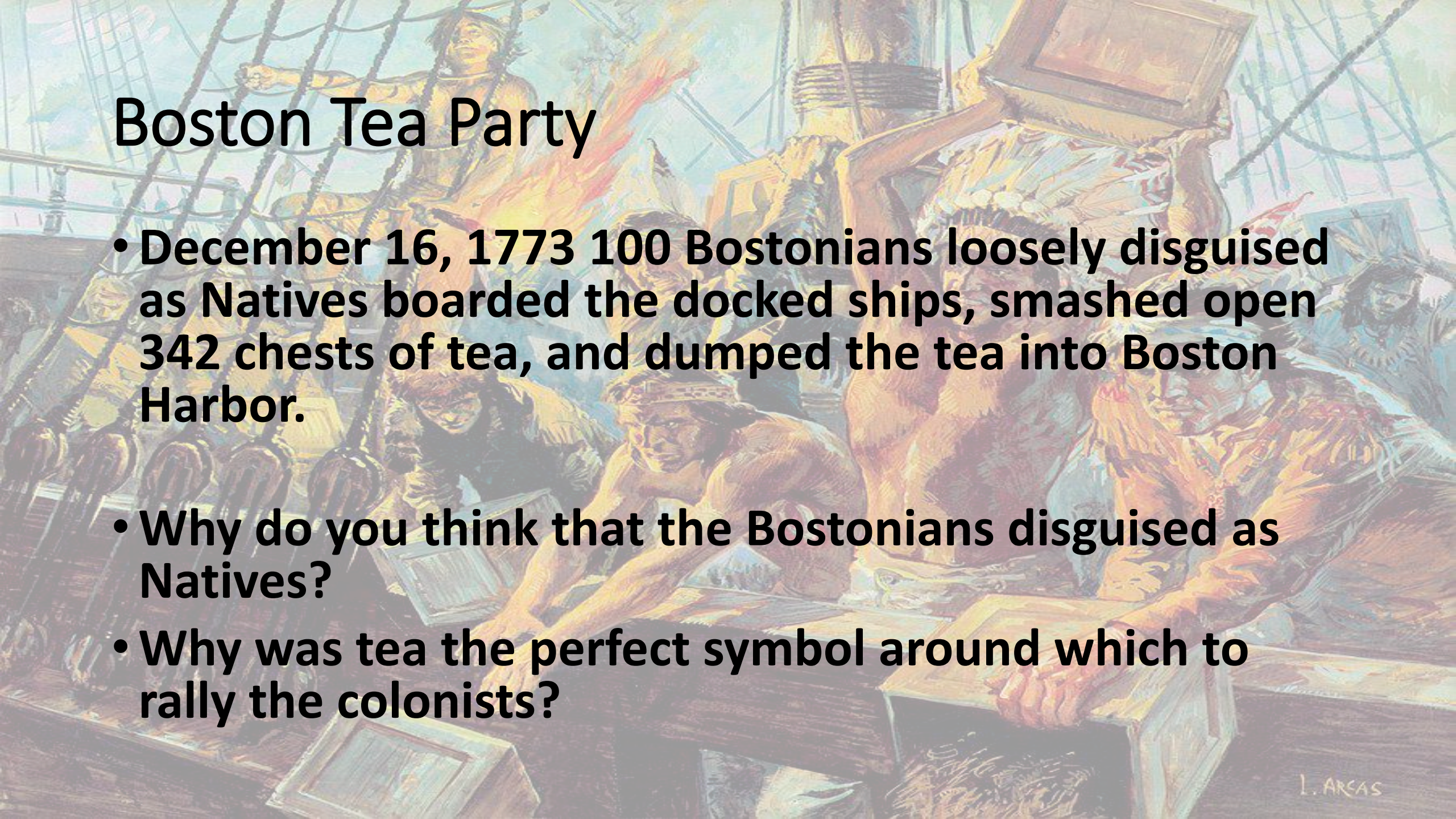
Colonial Action



- In Philadelphia and New York: Mass demonstrations forced the ships to return to England with their cargo holds full of tea
- In Maryland: Demonstrators burned the tea and the ships while crying “Liberty and Independence or death in pursuit of it”
- In Massachusetts: Royall governor and British official Thomas Hutchinson ordered the ships not to leave Boston Harbor until all tea was unloaded

Boston Tea Party

- December 16, 1773 100 Bostonians loosely disguised as Natives boarded the docked ships, smashed open 342 chests of tea, and dumped the tea into Boston Harbor.
- Why do you think that the Bostonians disguised as Natives?
- Why was tea the perfect symbol around which to rally the colonists?



Reactions to the Boston Tea Party

- Some applauded and supported the colonists actions
- Some felt that the destruction of private property violated the law and threatened anarchy and civil unrest
- British authorities felt that the colonies must be controlled
- Do you think that granting the colonists some measure of home rule at this point could have avoided war?

