

1 The Virginia Resolves [May 1765]

2 Resolved, That the first Adventurers and Settlers of this his Majesties Colony and Dominion brought
3 with them and transmitted to their Posterity and all other his Majestie's Subjects since inhabiting in
4 this his Majestie's said Colony all the Priviledges, Franchises & Immunities that have at any Time been
5 held, enjoyed, & possessed by the People of Great Britain.

6 Resolved, That by the two royal Charters granted by King James the first the Colonists aforesaid are
7 declared intituled to all the Priviledges, Liberties & Immunities of Denizens and natural born Subjects
8 to all Intents and Purposes as if they had been abiding and born within the Realm of England.

9 Resolved, That the Taxation of the People by themselves or by Persons chosen by themselves to
10 represent them who can only know what Taxes the People are able to bear and the easiest Mode of
11 raising them and are equally affected by such Taxes themselves is the distinguishing Characteristick
12 of British Freedom and without which the ancient Constitution cannot subsist.

13 Resolved, That his Majestie's liege People of this most ancient Colony have uninterruptedly enjoyed the
14 Right of being thus governed by their own assembly in the Article of their Taxes and internal Police
15 and that the same hath never been forfeited or any other Way given up but hath been constantly
16 recognized by the Kings of People of Great Britain.

17 Resolved, Therefore that the General Assembly of this Colony have the only and sole exclusive Right &
18 Power to lay Taxes & Impositions upon the Inhabitants of this Colony and that every Attempt to vest
19 such Power in any Person or Persons whatsoever other than the General Assembly aforesaid has a
20 manifest Tendency to destroy British as well as American Freedom.

21 Resolutions that were not passed or adopted:

22 Resolved, therefor that the General Assembly of this Colony have the only and exclusive Right and
23 Power to lay Taxes and Impositions upon the inhabitants of this Colony and that every Attempt to vest
24 such Power in any person or persons whatsoever other than the General Assembly aforesaid has a
25 manifest Tendency to destroy British as well as American Freedom.

1 Resolved, That His Majesty's liege people, the inhabitants of this Colony, are not bound to yield
2 obedience to any law or ordinance whatever, designed to impose any taxation whatsoever upon them,
3 other than the laws or ordinances of the General Assembly aforesaid.

4 Resolved, That any person who shall, by speaking or writing, assert or maintain that any person or
5 persons other than the General Assembly of this Colony, have any right or power to impose or lay any
6 taxation on the people here, shall be deemed an enemy to His Majesty's Colony.

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