

New Spain alone was paying much more in taxes than England's thirteen American colonies were:

The northern colonies, comprised of thirteen large provinces and a population of three million paid, before the turbulence that now agitates them, less than 100,000 sterling [per year] with which all the costs of government were defrayed.

--- Francisco Saavedra de Sangronis, 1782 (later Prime Minister of Spain, 1798-99)

Now this £100,000 was equal in value to 500,000 pesos—which was but 2.5%, or 1/40, of the 20,000,000 pesos that New Spain was paying Spain. Ironically enough, it was these lightly taxed American colonists that protested British taxes in the 1760s, and fought to a successful conclusion a war of independence in the 1770s and 1780s.