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### The Zenger Trial (1735)

1. How do Hamilton and Chief Justice Delancey argue the case? What is the balance between tradition and precedent on one hand and abstract principles of good government on the other for each?

- The rights of Englishmen created by bill of rights and the theories of John Locke traveled with colonists to British North America along with the ancient English institution of trial by jury. These elements combined in the faction-ridden politics of the new york colony to create new development in self-government. The jury agreed and found zenger innocent in defiance of cosby's hand-picked judge's instructions. This led to the divergence of American colonial legal tradition from British precedent on both libel and jury power, the latter of which was reinforced as an avenue of just self-government.

2. What screen image of the British government does Hamilton project in his arguments ? What does the public reaction at the end of the trial tell you about the reception of this screen image?

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- Mr Hamilton's belief was that government power should be concentrated in the hands of those few men who had the talents and intelligence to govern properly for the good of all the people. Mr. Hamilton has taken to show how little regard juries are to the opinion of the judge, and his insisting so much upon the conduct of some judges in trials of kind, is done no doubt with a design that you should take but very little notice of what i might say upon this occasion. The jury withdrew and in a small time returned and being asked by the clerk whether they were agreed of their verdict, and whether john peter Zenger was guilty of printing and publishing the libel in the information mentioned