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World Civilization 2 - HIS 114

Chapter 18 - Primary Source

18.2a: 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?

Hamilton made his arguments towards all of the members of the jury arguing the John P. Zenger should not be punished in any way for the truth of his statements while on the other hand Chief Justice Delancey argues that the Laws cannot be granted to be authentic and to be justified as libel.

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?

He wanted a government that would in fact have political legitimate power in totality. Well at the end of the trial we see that John Peter Zenger was actually discharged for his imprisonment of the false accusation of harming someone's reputation. And actually a day before Zenger's release , people were initially shocked (in excitement) so much that the hall were crowded with individuals .

