The Thirteen Colonies and the British Empire

1492-1700
Introduction

- Charters were founding documents of all 13 colonies
  - corporate: joint-stock companies, profit
  - royal: under rule of the British government
  - proprietary: individual ownership, usually a “special project”
- long tradition of independence and representative gov’t
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **MARYLAND Proprietary**
- 1632: huge VA colony subdivided, MD becomes first proprietary colony—Lord Baltimore
- Why proprietary? Control.
- Cecil Calvert takes over after Lord’s death:
- Two major religious events: Act of Toleration and Protestant Revolt
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **Act of Toleration: 1649**
- large plantations settled by Catholics, but Protestant farmers soon outnumbered them in the MD legislature
- Acts were passed granting religious freedom to all Christians, protects the Catholic minority
- these acts also called for death to any who denied the divinity of Jesus

**got irony?**
The Chesapeake Colonies

- Protestant Revolt: late 1600s
- Protestants resent having a Catholic proprietor, leads to short civil war
  - What motivated the protestants to such resentment?
- Acts of Toleration are repealed when Protestants win
- Catholics lose their right to vote, as well
- MD econ. and society similar to VA, but religious tolerance only for Protestants
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **VIRGINIA** Joint-Stock, then Royal
- economic problems in the late 1600s
- low tobacco prices led House of Burgesses to attempt legislation to raise them--London merchants then raised their own prices on colonial goods
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **VIRGINIA** Joint-Stock, then Royal
- political problems in the late 1600s
- Sir William Berkeley (Royal Gov.) favored large planters, heavy-handed about those favors, refused to protect backwoods farmers from Indians
- many had resentment of the political control wielded by the rich and powerful few
The Chesapeake Colonies

• **VIRGINIA** Joint-Stock, then Royal

• **Bacon’s Rebellion 1676**: Bacon and friends raided and massacred Indian villages on the frontier

• Berkeley claims it’s against Royal power

• Bacon defeats the royal forces and burns Jamestown, but rebellion dies with Bacon--Berkeley is brutal in his retaliation

• How brutal? What did he do?

• Foreshadowing: 1. arguments between rich and poor, 2. colonial resistance to royal control
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **Labor Shortages**
- slow growing colonies due to:
  1. unhealthy climate
  2. high death rate (disease and Indians)
  3. imbalance between men and women
- tobacco required lots of labor that wasn’t available in the small population
- 3 ways to deal with labor: indentured, headright, and slavery
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **Indentured Servants**
- under contract with a “sponsor” who paid for their voyage
- under complete control of sponsor until end of contract
- at end, either freedom or a small bit of land is the earning
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **Headright System**
- VA offers 50 acres of land to:
  - any immigrant who paid his own way
  - any owner who sponsored an immigrant
- How is this different from indentured servitude?
The Chesapeake Colonies

- **Slavery**
- 1st arrive in 1619, but after 30 years, still only 400 Africans in VA, and many are not bound for life...why?
  - most colonists too poor to purchase passage much less ownership
- 1660s: House of Burgesses enact laws that define black servants as lifers, white servants as temps
- What motivated the H.O.B. to pass these laws?
The Development of New England

- **RHODE ISLAND** Royal
- Roger Williams, Puritan minister, on the outs with them--believes individual is the ultimate religious authority
- believed “Liberty of Conscience” was essential to spiritual health > state and religion MUST be separated
- founded Providence in 1636
  - recognized native rights, paid for land use
  - provided complete religious toleration
The Development of New England

- RHODE ISLAND Royal
- Anne Hutchinson believed faith alone, not deeds, led to salvation: antinomianism
- For what other reasons was she banished from MassBay?
- founded Portsmouth in 1638, died in 1643 Indian attack
- 1644: Williams granted a charter for Rhode Island, joining Providence and Portsmouth--religious freedom for ALL leads to religiously diverse society
The Development of New England

- CONNECTICUT Royal
- Thomas Hooker founds Hartford in 1636
- first written constitution: The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut provides:
  - representative government
  - legislature chosen by popular vote
  - governor chosen by legislature
- John Davenport founds New Haven in 1637
- Why were these men dissatisfied with MassBay?
- Hartford/New Haven joined with Royal charter in 1665
The Development of New England

- **NEW HAMPSHIRE  Royal**
- 1679: created by King Charles II hoping to increase royal control
- subject to an appointed governor’s authority
- Who was the governor? How did the colonists react to the forced separation from MassBay?
The Development of New England

- The Halfway Covenant
- 1660s: new generation of Puritans less fervent about religious dogma > concerns about keeping Puritanism strong
- halfway covenant allowed for church participation without the full conversion experience
- Find at least two names of ministers who advocated for and railed against the Halfway Covenant.
- many ministers denounced, but membership remained strong as Puritan practices weakened
The Development of New England

• **New England Confederation**
• under threat from natives, Dutch and French
• England embroiled in civil war, so no help there
• 1643: military alliance for protection, 2 reps from each colony, limited powers:
  • boundary disputes
  • return of runaway servants
  • dealings with the natives
• ends in 1684: colonial rivalries and renewed English control
The Development of New England

- King Phillip’s War
- success of the New England Confederation
- Metacom (King Phillip), Wampanoag chief, united tribes against land-grabbing New Englanders
- thousands killed 1675-76
- colonials prevail > virtually ends native resistance in New England
- Describe the peace agreement that ended the war.
Restoration Colonies

- **English Civil Wars**
- When were the wars fought?
- What group took over the authority of the Crown?
- Who led this group?
- Which monarch was finally restored to power in 1660?
Restoration Colonies

- **THE CAROLINAS Proprietary**
- Granted as a reward in 1663 by Charles II for restoring his throne (proprietary)
- **South 1670**: trading furs and growing food for West Indies
- **South 1750s**: plantation economy looked like the West Indies
- **North 1670**: small, self-sufficient tobacco farms; few plantations due to poor harbors and transportation
- **North 1750s**: democratic views, some autonomy from British control

How did the development of the Carolinas differ?
Restoration Colonies

- THE CAROLINAS  Proprietary
- SC’s slide into a slave-based economy leads to the Stono Rebellion in 1739
- 80 Catholic slaves with a literate leader march from the Stono River toward their goal of escaping to Spanish FL
- militia puts down the rebellion after a proportionally large white death rate, most slaves are executed
- harsh slave codes are passed in SC immediately after the rebellion
Restoration Colonies

- **NEW YORK Proprietary**
- 1664: to close the gap between NE and Chesapeake, Charles gives brother James (Duke of York) control of New York
  - James sends navy that eventually takes control of land from the Dutch: New Amsterdam becomes New York
- What famous modern-day NY street is named for the structure that was built in the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam? Tell that story.
  - James says Dutch to be treated well and have religious freedom
- James’ orders: new taxes, no assembly allowed > discontent > James relents and allows rights and rep. assembly
Restoration Colonies

- **NEW JERSEY Proprietary**
- 1664: James gives NJ to two friends, one gets “East” and one gets “West”
- To get settlers, they offered: land grants, religious freedom, representative assemblies
- Later, they both sell land titles to various Quaker groups
- Land changing hands and lousy property line determination led to combining both Jerseys in 1702
Restoration Colonies

- PENNSYLVANIA Proprietary
- 1681: land granted to William Penn, settled by Quakers (Society of Friends)
- 4 tenets of Quakerism:
  - equality of all men and women
  - non-violence
  - resistance to military service
  - religious authority in each soul, not church
- Quakers had been persecuted and jailed for these beliefs
Restoration Colonies

- PENNSYLVANIA Proprietary
- “The Holy Experiment” based on Penn’s three ideals:
  - religious refuge for persecuted people of all faiths
  - liberal ideas in government
  - generate income and profit
- Frame of Government in 1682 guaranteed rep. gov’t, and a written constitution: Charter of Liberties guaranteed freedom of worship and unrestricted immigration
- Weird: streets in grid pattern, active attempt to treat natives fairly
- Describe two things that Penn did to show respect to the natives.
Restoration Colonies

- **DELAWARE Proprietary**
- Penn is the one who granted three lower PA counties their own assembly in 1702
- This effectively created a new colony, though the Gov. of PA was also Gov. of DE until the Revolution
- What motivated Penn to grant a separate assembly to these three counties?
Restoration Colonies

- **GEORGIA** Proprietary then Royal
- 2 reasons for grant:
  - protection zone between Carolina and Spanish Florida
  - get debtors out of overcrowded London jails
- 1733: philanthropist James Oglethorpe founds Savannah
- Gov. O prohibited drinking rum and slavery
- 1752: gave up the unsuccessful plan, and GA became a Royal colony--slow growth only after adoption of plantation system
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Mercantilism and the Empire

- Mercantilism: trade, colonies and wealth is the basis for a nation’s military and political strength
- Gov’t should regulate trade so it can be self-sufficient; colonies’ sole purpose was to enrich the mother country
- Mercantilism had long been policy in Spain, France--only took hold in England after the civil war had ended
Mercantilism and the Empire

- Acts of Trade and Navigation 1650-1673 had 3 rules:
  1. trade to and from colonies to be only English or colonial ships
  2. non-perishable goods imported to colonies must pass through English ports to be taxed
  3. enumerated goods to be exported to England ONLY (originally tobacco, but expanded to include most products)

- Had both positive and negative impact on the colonies
Mercantilism and the Empire

• Acts of Trade and Navigation

• Positive effects:
  • shipbuilding industry soars
  • Chesapeake tobacco monopoly in England
  • English military protected colonies from French and Spanish
Mercantilism and the Empire

• Acts of Trade and Navigation
• Negative effects:
  • colonial manufacturing limited
  • Chesapeake farmers get low prices for crops
  • English manufactured goods are costly
• Resentment builds, and this was kind of dumb:
  • England would have been 1st choice for trade anyway
  • few benefits, but huge loss in colonial relationship
  • enforcement was lax, and colonists practiced extensive and expert smuggling operations
Mercantilism and the Empire

The Dominion of New England

- James II decided he wanted more colonial control
- 1686: combined NY, NJ and New England into the Dominion
- Sir Edmund Andros served as Governor: did away with assemblies, levied new taxes, limited town meetings, revoked land titles
- James II deposed in the Glorious Revolution in 1688, replaced by William and Mary
- BUT...mercantilist policies remained
The Institution of Slavery

- 1670 to early 1700s, number of slaves grew from a few thousand to tens of thousands
- Graph the number of slaves in the British colonies in ten-year increments, from 1620 to 1750.
- Why the increased demand?
  1. reduced migration: England wage increases kept indentured class home
  2. dependable work force: plantation owners disturbed by political demands (Bacon’s Rebellion) -- slavery was more stable
  3. cheap labor: rice and indigo required lots of unskilled hands, long-term cost benefit to buying vs. “leasing”
The Institution of Slavery

Slave Laws

• 1641: MA first to recognize “lawful captives”

• 1661: VA codified children of slave mothers to inherit the condition

• 1664: MD prohibited baptism from changing slave status and prohibited interracial marriage

• institutionalized the idea of African inferiority--racism and slavery become integral to social fabric of America

• Find and list three more examples of 17th century slave regulations.
The Institution of Slavery

- Triangular Trade
- Royal African Company had monopoly on slave trade until 1698--after that, many got in on the lucrative slave trade

1. Rum from New England to West Africa
2. Slaves from Africa to West Indies--”Middle Passage”
3. Sugar cane from Indies to New England

- Write a paragraph describing the conditions of the Middle Passage