
History 1301 **U.S. to 1877**

Lecture 3

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Colonial Culture in Early 1700s

The Colonial Population:

- English were established in N. A.:
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 - Little infrastructure hindered large firm growth / local & regional business
 - Economy tied directly to England – not each other
- Few upper / middle class emigrants
- Many dissenters and some Protestant foreigners
 - Geographic isolation allowed settlements to prosper / “Minority Majorities”
- Immigration:
 - 1690s 300K Fr. Huguenots & German Protestants to PA
 - 1710 “Scotch-Irish” from N. Ireland during recession

Colonial Population (continued) :

- Population Growth: 250K in 1700 / 25% Slave
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 - - Soil productivity ~ never had intense agriculture
 - 1650 birthrate highest source of people
 - Average of 8-12 live births
 - 60% children didn't live past 5 years of age
 - NE Longer life expectancy (70) with Southern diseases
 - Family hope and economic mobility

The nature of the American colonies:

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 - Increased yield by from 4/1 to 10/1 due to tools and technique (scientific) advances
 - Literate farm communities
 - Rotation / clover / Scythe from Sickle
 - Frontier was a rough, open, mobile life
 - Limited housing / privacy / furniture
 - Dairy products dangerous
 - Pork, Corn, Tomatoes & Whiskey
 - Peltry rampant provided profit till clearing complete
- 8 Major social groups in America:
 - Merchants, Artisans (owns tools), Farmers, Indentured servants, Slaves, Laborers (65% to 85% of workforce full & part time), Sailors and Women
 - All displayed & pursued upward mobility through a culture that valued savings, strong market orientation, positive attitudes toward wealth

Colonial Families:

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 - Female generated “Domestic manufacture” provided profit / luxury
 - Pregnancy averaged every two years
 - average 8 successful in lifetime / 60% infant mortality
 - Gender roles highly developed in rural communities
 - Higher technology increased gender separation
 - Household materialism / consumer goods became women’s sphere
 - Farms and inheritance kept family ties tight and parental control high
 - North more “family” than South. Puritans, higher life expectancy and more stable conditions, less land

The Colonial Economy: Labor

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 - Even after 1650 40% did not live out contract
 - Few became landowners, most laborers
 - Avoided South because of health conditions
 - As 18th C continued IS declined:
 - Slavery favored in South
 - Wage cheaper than Indentured
- **Slavery:**
 - Tobacco & Rice (both require constant attention) demanded more slaves
 - Middle passage dangerous and cruel
 - Less than 5% came to North America, most to Caribbean / Brazil
 - Till 1690s Monopoly from Royal African Company kept legal prices high & supply low:
 - 1700 only 25K slaves in English N.A.
 - 1700 profit on slave voyage 30%(even with 20% death)
 - 1760 250K slaves

Colonial Economic Models:

- Slavery increasingly seen as racial and life-long through legal evolution and economic practice 1650 – 1720
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- - Economic advantage of slaves v IS
- The South: - Plantation based slavery
 - Chesapeake – Tobacco (boom & bust)
 - South Carolina / Georgia – Rice
 - North Carolina – production for sugar islands
- The North: Multiple models
 - Agriculture – intensive crop farming for domestic use and export to coast
 - Investments in infrastructure
 - Urban commercial services
 - Widely practiced winter-work / crafts / technologies / rudimentary manufacture / profit
 - Lumber / lumber process / ship building
 - Fishing / Transport – long and short haul
 - Metal works & forges for local fabrication
- Technology:
 - Americans imported everything
 - Fabrication began because of importation cost

Colonial Society:

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 - New England Merchant Class
 - Molasses and Rum from imported sugar
 - Subscription insurance companies
 - Triangle Trade – “carrying trade” lost vessel in 1 of three voyages, but still profitable
 - Smuggling
 - Sea Port Cities grew in economic power and in consumer expectations / Retail & Wholesale
 - Personal Capitalism protected by lack of infrastructure
 - Staples / Luxuries / Communication & Media
- Stratified Society:
 - Based on money – mostly self-made
 - Consumer items became a major business stimulus

Colonial Society III

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 - Large Plantations did much better than small ~ expansion to compensate for lower yield
 - Smaller farmers
 - Pre-plantation cash crop
 - Develop, sell, invest in land or slaves
 - Food for ancillary plantation or “Indies” consumption
 - Adjuncts / Craftsmen – marginal impact with competition from slaves
 - Slaves
 - 75% on plantations of 10 or more slaves / 50% on 50 or more
 - Separate culture and society
 - Mutual dependence – working relationship, though slaves had no real power and based on fear / oppression

Colonial Society - IV

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 - Town Church – Congregational with community guidance / home of town mtg.
 - Infrastructure investment based on manufacture and retail
 - Inheritance went to all children
 - Generations migrated
- Cities: - Commercial Centers
 - Philadelphia – 28K, New York 25K, Boston, Charleston, Newport all important centers
 - Mixed economy
 - Wealth & materialism create consumer demand
 - Supply from “hinterland” and import
 - Media / diversion / entertainment

Colonial Society V

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- Vice & Crime
- Religion
 - Much more influence than in Europe
 - Toleration started because of geo.
 - Highly diversified – many cultures and practices / lack of any effective control
 - From common “CofE” heritage, likeminded congregations became denominations by 18th Century
 - C of E / Congregational / Methodist / Presbyterian / Baptists
 - Other Ethnics & Off-chutes / Dutch Reformed & Quakers
 - Anti-Catholic and Anti-Jew / experienced civil disabilities
 - Declining Piety by 1720s

Colonial Society - VI

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 - Emphasized each ability to break away from old and start a “new” relationship with God
 - No easy salvation – personal fight with sin & sinners
 - John & Charles Wesley – founders of Methodism visited in 1730s
 - George Wakefield / Jonathan Edwards
 - powerful orators – Entertainment – Charismatic response
 - Preaching Tour of seaboard colonies 1739 – 42
 - Newspaper / Pamphlet advertising and publications

Colonial Society - VII

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- The Enlightenment 1740 – 1770s:
 - Scientific and intellectual surge among the leaders and educated
 - Questioned ideas and customs – towards Rational
 - Human Reason dominated all spheres
 - look to one’s own intellect and reason – not just to God
 - Deism invited man to act in order to alter world

Colonial Society - VIII

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- Education:
 - Public education in NE / Town & Church Schools in Mid-Atlantic / Plantation schools in South
 - Colleges – for wealthy and usually for Church leaders – but spread practical knowledge – Natural Science (s) for local leaders
 - 1636 Harvard
 - 1693 William and Mary
 - 1701 Yale
 - 1746 Princeton
 - 1749 Liberty Hall – Lexington, Va – now Washington and Lee University
 - 1754 Columbia
 - 1755 University of Pennsylvania
 - Social focus on personal achievement

Colonial Politics – Pre 1756:

- Politics: Independence inside “Benign Neglect”
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