

## Colonial America into the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

### Characteristics of Colonial Regions: New England

#### ✿ **Geography & Economy**

- ⊕ Rocky Soil, Rapid Rivers, Short Growing Seasons, Good Harbors
- ⊕ Small Family Farms, Occupations Center on Trade (Fish, Lumber), Crafts, Manufacture (Shipbuilding)
- ⊕ Participated in the Triangle Trade

#### ✿ **Demographics**

- ⊕ Families/Groups Migrated to Colonies—Relatively Equal Numbers Men/Women, Adults/Children
- ⊕ Population Increase due to Natural Increase
- ⊕ Primarily White & English (95%)
- ⊕ Growth Caused Conflict—Partible Inheritance & Declension

#### ✿ **Politics & Religion**

- ⊕ Integrally Connected—Democratic for Members of the Church
- ⊕ Meeting House & Membership in Congregationalist Church

### Characteristics of Colonial Regions: Middle Colonies

#### ✿ **Geography & Economy**

- ⊕ Good Land to be Cleared, Three Major Rivers (Hudson, Delaware, Susquehanna), Good Harbors
- ⊕ "Breadbasket" of the Colonies, trade in foodstuffs, including the Triangle Trade

#### ✿ **Demographics**

- ⊕ 1700: Twice as many people lived in New England than the Middle Colonies
- ⊕ 1770: Population of the regions roughly equal
- ⊕ Immigrants—By 1800, 30% of Pennsylvanians and only 50% of the Middle Colonies were of English descent
- ⊕ Lower & Middle Class families
- ⊕ Merchants, Artisans, & Servants in the Cities
- ⊕ Small Landholders in the Interior

#### ✿ **Politics & Religion**

- ⊕ Lutherans; Quakers; Dissenting Sects
- ⊕ Religion not dominant Political Factor in Colony as a Whole
- ⊕ Fairly Democratic

## **Characteristics of Colonial Regions: Southern Colonies**

### **⊗ Geography & Economy**

- ⊕ Fertile Tidewater Soil, Abundant Rainfall, Long Growing Seasons
- ⊕ Staple/Cash Crops, Plantation Economy, dependent on coerced labor

### **⊗ Demographics**

- ⊕ Fastest Growing Region --By 1770 Population was 9 times what it was in 1700
- ⊕ By 1770: Twice as many people in the Southern region as either Middle or New England Colonies
- ⊕ Rapid Growth of Black Population—Largely Due to Natural Increase
  - Between 1700-1770 grew from 20,000 to 400,000 Slaves
  - By 1770: Slaves as a portion of the population had grown from 20% in 1700 to 40%
  - In region, most Slaves (8 out of 10) and Whites (9 out of 10) lived in the Chesapeake
  - 80% of Southerners owned fewer than 20 Slaves
  - 50% of Southerners owned fewer than 5 Slaves

### **⊗ Politics & Religion**

- ⊕ Church of England & African American Christianity
- ⊕ Anglican Church was Established but faith was not terribly robust
- ⊕ Political Participation Limited to Wealthy Landowners

## **Backcountry/Frontier Region**

- ⊗ People seeking refuge, new start, new opportunities
- ⊗ Religious dissenters, immigrants, criminals, debtors, former servants & slaves
- ⊗ Radical ideals of Democracy & individual freedom
- ⊗ Strenuous objection to governmental interference in daily life
- ⊗ Anti-Aristocratic tradition & resentment of urban east
- ⊗ Pushed many of the conflicts that came to define Colonial America
- ⊗ Most diverse region of American colonies, but often the most unified--at least in opposition to policies they disliked.

## **Characteristics of the Colonies as a Whole**

### **⊗ Massive Population Increase**

- ⊕ 1700: 250,000 Colonists, 1 colonist for every 18 people in England
- ⊕ 1770: 2 Million Colonists, 1 colonist for every 3 people in England
- ⊕ Growth through Natural Increase (75% of Growth) & Immigration (25% of Growth)

### **⊗ Growing Ethnic & Racial Diversity**

- ⊕ 1670: 90% of colonists were English, 4% of colonists were African
- ⊕ 1770: 50% of colonists were English, 20% of colonists were African
- ⊕ Immigration in 18<sup>th</sup> Century: 8% English, 36% Scots-Irish, 33% African, 15% German, 8% Scottish

## **Relationship with England**

### **⊗ Dominance of Protestantism & English Language**

### **⊗ Influence of Enlightenment & Classic Liberalism**

- ⊕ Individual liberties
- ⊕ Respect for human dignity, happiness
- ⊕ Respect for rationality & progress
- ⊕ Rise of Deism

### **⊗ High Standard of Living**

- ⊕ Few Colonists were Rich; Less stratification than England
- ⊕ Average Standard of Living for All Colonists was Higher than their English Counterpart

## **British Economic System**

### **⊗ Mercantilism**

- ⊕ Nation's power is determined by the nation's wealth (trade);
- ⊕ Colonies exist for benefit of mother country;
- ⊕ Colonies are source of raw materials, market for finished goods;
- ⊕ Logical conclusions: All transported with British shipping; Colonies were not strictly settlements; colonists were tenants

### **⊗ Benefits: Guaranteed markets; protection of British Navy; not strictly enforced; high standard of living.**

### **⊗ Negatives: Lack of self-sufficiency; lack of economic growth; reliance of unstable markets for cash crops.**

## Triangular Trade & Navigation Laws

- ⊗ Developed in violation of mercantilism
  - ⊕ Most lucrative trade was between English colonies & French Caribbean;
  - ⊕ New England exported timber, textiles, light manufactures & fish to French colonies for molasses (sugar) which New Englanders made into rum which when back to the French West Indies to trade in Africa for slaves.
- ⊗ Navigation Laws re-established Mercantilism
  - ⊕ Restricted colonial trade to British ships;
  - ⊕ Limited production of textiles, iron & beaver hats in colonies so as not to compete with British companies;
  - ⊕ Required all European goods being transported to colonies to go through England first;
  - ⊕ Required that certain "enumerated" items such as tobacco from the colonies be sold in British markets only.

## British Political System

- ⊗ Whig Ideology & Virtual Representation
  - ⊕ Fears of tyranny & corruption in government greater than desire to regulate mercantilist empire;
  - ⊕ But belief always existed that Parliament still represented the colonies, even if there was no member from the colonies in the House of Commons.
- ⊗ Benefits of **Salutary Neglect**
  - ⊕ Beginning in 1713, England focused more on European affairs & Prime Minister Walpole argued colonies would be more productive if left alone;
  - ⊕ Minimal enforcement of Navigation Laws only;
  - ⊕ Self-government becomes the norm as 13 separate governments formed.