

The Colonial Population:

- English were established in North America:
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 - Heterogeneous – racial slavery and ethnic immigrants
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 - 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
- Indentured Servants:
 - Grew from Apprenticeship practices of England
 - 5 to 7 years of service in return for transportation
 - By 1700 was a substantial portion of population
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 - Some became successful, but many laborers
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 - Slavery becomes more popular in South,
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- Population Growth: 250K in 1700 / 25% Slave
 - Disease, warfare were major limitations
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 - 1650 internal growth highest source of people
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 - Longer life expectancy (70 in NE, South malaria)

The Colonial Population - II

- Agriculture – frontier / settlement transition
 - Subsistence to established
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 - Rotation & clover / Scythe over Hand Sickle
 - Frontier was a rough, open, mobile life
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 - Peltry rampant provided profit till clearing complete
- Eight Major groups of American Europeans
 - Merchants, Artisans (owns his own tools), Farmers, Indentured servants, Slaves, Laborers (65% to 85% of workforce full and part time), Sailors and Women
 - All displayed & pursued upward mobility through a culture that valued savings, strong market orientation, positive attitudes toward wealth
- Families: Basis of Society
 - Few unmarried women
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 - Pregnancy averaged every two years
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 - Gender roles highly developed in rural communities
 - Higher technology increased gender separation
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 - North more “family” than south. Puritans, higher life expectancy and more stable conditions, less land

The Colonial Economy:

- Slavery:
 - Tobacco and Rice demanded more slaves in America
 - Middle passage dangerous and cruel
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 - Till 1690s Monopoly from Royal African Company kept legal prices high and supply low:
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 - Slavery increasingly seen as racial and life-long through legal evolution and economic practice 1650 – 1720
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- Immigration:
 - 1690s 300K Fr. Huguenots & German Protestants to PA
 - 1710 “Scotch-Irish” from N. Ireland during recession
- The South: - Increasingly slave based
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 - North Carolina – production for sugar islands
- The North: Multiple models
 - Agriculture – intensive crop farming for domestic use and export to coast / investments in cattle
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 - Widely practiced winter-work / crafts / technologies / rudimentary manufacture / profit to be made
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- Technology:
 - Americans imported everything
 - Fabrication began because of importation cost

Colonial Society:

- Colonial Merchants:
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 - No gold, only credit, barter, Fr/Sp coinage – English economy based
 - New England Merchant Class were well situated
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 - Triangle Trade – “carrying trade”
 - lost vessel in 1 of three voyages, but still profitable
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 - Sea Port Cities grew in economic power and in consumer expectations / Retail & Wholesale
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- Stratified Society:
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 - Material acquisitions became a major economic stimulus
- South – Plantations
 - Planters / Plantations – self-sufficiency
 - Smaller farmers
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 - Adjuncts / Craftsmen – marginal impact
 - Slaves
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 - Large Plantations did much better than small
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 - mutual dependence – working relationship, though slaves had no real power and based on fear / oppression

Colonial Society - II

- Puritan Community
 - Close-knit communities – interdependent towns
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 - Inheritance went to all children incented migration
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- Cities: - Commercial Centers
 - Philadelphia – 28K, New York 25K, Boston, Charleston, Newport all important centers
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 - Technical education & specialization
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 - Social & ethnic diversity
 - “Under-class” of marginally and unemployed
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- Religion
 - Much more influence than in Europe
 - Toleration started because of geography
 - Highly diversified – many cultures and practices
 - From common “CofE” heritage, likeminded congregations became denominations by 18th Century
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 - Declining Piety by 1720s

Colonial Society - III

- Great Awakening: 1730 – 1740s:
 - Revival of Christian fervor
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 - Emphasized each ability to break away from old and start a “new” relationship with God
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 - John & Charles Wesley – founders of Methodism visited in 1730s
 - George Wakefield / Jonathan Edwards – powerful orators – Entertainment – Charismatic response
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 - “New Lights” v “Old Lights” – conflict of authority
 - American Baptist movement – individual Churches are highest authority
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- The Enlightenment 1740 – 1770s:
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 - 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 - IV

- Literacy and education:
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 - 1639 first printing press / 1695 more in colonies than in England
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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
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 - 1746 Princeton
 - 1749 Liberty Hall – Lexington, Va – now Washington and Lee University
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 - Social focus on personal achievement
- Politics: Independence inside “Benign Neglect”
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