Colonial America into the 18th Century
• An Overview

**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**
APUSH—Kind
Colonial Demographics

- 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

**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 18th Century: 8% English, 36% Scots-Irish, 33% African, 15% German, 8% Scottish

**Relationship with England**

**Dominance of Protestantism & English Language**

**High Standard of Living**
- Few Colonists were Rich
- Average Standard of Living for All Colonists was Higher than their English Counterpart

**British Political System**
- Virtual Representation
- Benefits of Salutary Neglect

**British Economic System**
- Triangular Trade
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.