

## **Colonial America into the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 t 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

APUSH—Kind  
Colonial Demographics

Mercantilism

**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.