# **THE GIANT APUSH REVIEW OUTLINE**

**1607-1786**

- Anyhow, several factors encouraged the English to try again with Jamestown even after their earlier failures, and motivated people to join the expeditions. These reasons include…

* **“Overcrowding”** – England had experienced a dramatic population boom, resulting in social and economic upheaval (inflation, falling wages, peasants losing their land b/c of the enclosure movement, many homeless people, rapidly growing cities).
* **Competition** – The English government was concerned about losing ground in the competition with the Spanish for overall power and with the Dutch for trading. Since they had colonies, it was only natural that England would want them as well.
* **Religion** – This applies more to the prospective colonists than to the government. Anyhow, after Henry VIII split from the church in 1533, he established the Anglican Church, which was subsequently taken over by Queen Elizabeth, who swung it more towards the Protestant side. This led to the formation of many English Calvinist [Puritan] groups, who felt that reform should go further. But under the Stuarts [the absolutists], the church went back towards Catholicism w/o the Pope, and many of the Puritans were forced to flee in the 1620s to avoid persecution.

\*The Founding of Virginia\*

- In 1606 the Virginia Company was founded by a group of merchants and gentry who felt they could reap great profits from colonizing America [it could allow them to find precious metals and new trade routes]. The Virginia Company was a *joint-stock* venture [it was funded by contributions from many small investors].

- Although joint-stock companies had worked well to finance voyages, which quickly resulted in $, they wouldn’t work as well for colonies b/c colonies required enormous amounts of funding and usually failed, or at least took a long time, to return profits. Consequently, colonies funded by these companies were always short of capital b/c nobody wanted to risk much $.

- Anyhow, James I decided to go ahead and charter the company in 1606, which resulted in **Jamestown** being founded in Virginia [after a failure to start a colony in Maine] in **May 1607** by 104 Englishmen.

\*Jamestown’s Struggle for Survival\*

- The most concise way to express the first years would be absolutely terrible luck. The colonists faced a myriad of problems, most of which they were not responsible for. For instance…

* They just happened to arrive during a severe drought.
* They had major problems with diseases like typhus and dysentery caused by a lack of sanitation (they washed clothes in the James river, then drank the water, and so on).
* They settled in the *worst place possible* climactically.
* They (this *was* their fault) were lazy. As the colonists were mainly gentlemen expecting to somehow magically discover gold and get rich, they were totally unprepared for the notion of \*gasp\* manual labor.

- Not surprisingly, they had a 90% mortality rate on the first wave of colonists.

\*Jamestown and the Powhatan Confederacy\*

- So why wasn’t this another failure? Well, b/c of the Native Americans in the area [6 Algonquian tribes – the Powhatan Confederacy]. Since Powhatan [their leader] thought that the new arrivals could help him consolidate his power over the neighboring tribes, he was receptive and friendly towards them and agreed to trade food for items such as knives and guns.

- Soon enough, however, the relationship broke down. One cause of this was the kidnapping of Pocahontas, Powhatan’s daughter, by colonists who wanted to use her as a hostage to get settlers back. After that, they maintained an uneasy peace and nothing more.

- Additionally, frequent cultural misunderstandings contributed to the failure of the friendship. For instance…

* In the Indian culture, leaders were not autocratic. B/c the English were accustomed to dealing w/absolutist figures, they consistently overestimated the power of the Indian leaders.
* Another problem was conceptions of property ownership. For the Indians, land was communal and couldn’t be bought/sold. Also, the English thought land ownership implied it was farmed.
* Most significantly, the English had a big time superiority complex, and did not give a crap about Indian traditions and culture.

- So, due to the factors listed above, it was exceedingly difficult for the two groups to maintain the harmonious relationship they had developed at the beginning. Before long, the settlers began to follow a pattern that would occur time and again: they took advantage of their allies, then turned against them (using their internal politics to divide and conquer) and then stole their land.

- Anyhow, with the support of the Indians the Jamestown colonists managed to survive for the first few years. Their first taste of independent government came a while down the road, though, with the introduction of the House of Burgesses by the Virginia Company established the **House of Burgesses** in **1619**. Although the governor could veto their laws, they controlled his salary.

\*The Expansion of the Chesapeake Colonies\*

- But what actually saved the colonists in the long term? One word: **tobacco**. In 1611, the first crop was planted and the Virginians finally found the commodity crop they had been searching for. There was a huge boom in tobacco exports throughout the 1620s (it became like currency).

- Consequently, the colony grew into a full sized settlement that included men, women, and children. Also, since tobacco exhausted the soil quickly the colony expanded space-wise as well.

- The expansion caused Powhatan’s successor, who felt the colonists were encroaching on his lands, to launch coordinated attacks along the James River on **March 22, 1622** in which ¼ of the colonists were killed. But after reinforcements arrived, the settlers counterattacked and a peace was reached.

- Indian control of the region was further broken in **April 1644** when they made a last attempt, failed, and were forced to sign a treaty that subjugated them to the English.

- The one thing the 1622 attack did do was destroy the Virginia Company, which wasn’t making $ and had its charter revoked by James I in 1624. Virginia was then made a royal colony. James quickly attempted to remove the House of Burgesses but was met by so much resistance that he was forced to give up.

- Additional expansion occurred in 1634 when Charles I gave G. Calvert land on the Chesapeake as personal property. Calvert named the area **Maryland** and decided to use the colony as a haven for Roman Catholics. In fact, C. Calvert [son] was the first colonizer to offer religious freedom to all Christians.

- Besides religion [Jamestown was mostly composed of Anglicans], however, Maryland was identical to Virginia – they both relied on the tobacco crop and had plantations spread out down the river and therefore didn’t need towns to exchange goods [b/c they could just send it on down the river].

\*The Headright System and Indentured Servitude\*

- The major problem the colonists faced even from the beginning of the tobacco cultivation was a labor shortage, as tobacco was a very labor-intensive crop. This problem resulted in the introduction of the **headright system** in 1617 by the Virginia Company.

- The headright system stated that every new arrival paying their way could get 50 acres of land. Although this in itself encouraged wealthier people to move to the colonies, it also allowed the already established planters to get labor and land at once.

- Essentially, wealthy planters would pay other peoples’ passages in return for several years of what became called **indentured servitude**. So the planters would get free labor (for a while) and land, and, after they worked their quota of years, the servants would get their freedom and their own plots.

- Indentured servants, who were generally lower-class people who came over in hopes of advancement, had tough lives, even though they would, if they managed to survive the first years [many epidemic diseases made this easier said than done], receive “freedom dues” and be permitted to live as independent farmers.

- But overall, also b/c courts protected against excessive abuse, until the 1670s [when tobacco prices began to decline] America provided real opportunities. After 1670 land became harder to acquire and correspondingly in 1681 Maryland dropped the requirement that servants get land afterwards.

\*The Founding of New England\*

- Two separate groups contributed to the founding of New England:

* **Separatists** (Pilgrims) – The Pilgrims were even stricter than the Puritans, and felt that they had to split from the Anglican Church b/c it was too corrupt to ever be reformed.
* **Congregationalists** (Puritans) – The Puritans simply believed that the Anglican Church was too Catholic and needed to be purified. The Puritans were also essentially Calvinists.

- Eventually the area filled out with many other people, who were not necessarily Pilgrims or Puritans and simply came for economic reasons, and so on. Nevertheless, the leaders of the initial colonists left an indelible imprint on the region – their idealism persisted for decades at the very least.

\*The Pilgrims\*

- The colonization of New England began when in 1609 a Separatist congregation moved to the Netherlands, where they could practice freely. They disliked the Netherlands, however, b/c toleration also meant that many other religious sects unacceptable to the Separatists were about.

- Consequently, they obtained permission from the Virginia Company to colonize New England and left in **September 1620** on the *Mayflower* with a whole bunch of non-Separatists. To make sure that they would still be in command when they landed, the Separatist leaders drafted the **Mayflower Compact**.

- The Mayflower Compact established a “Civil Body Politic” and basic legal system. It also described the belief that the Pilgrims had made a covenant w/God, which meant that they had to create a new utopian society – they were egalitarians [only for church members] and believed in communalism.

- Anyhow, the Pilgrims finally landed on **November 21, 1620**. They named their town **Plymouth**. But, once again, they had a tough time at the beginning [as they were poorly prepared for the climate].

- They were only saved when the Pokanokets [led by Massasoit], a local Indian tribe that had lost many people in an epidemic and were threatened by their neighbors, decided they would be useful allies.

\*The Puritans\*

- As the Pilgrims struggled to survive and create their small town community, though, another group arrived and established colonies that would eventually come to dominate New England and absorb Plymouth in 1691. This second group was headed by Congregationalists, who were threatened by Charles I, who had begun trying to wipe out Puritan practices in the country.

- Subsequently, a group of Congregationalist merchants obtained a royal charter in 1629 and formed the **Massachusetts Bay Company**, which soon attracted middle-class Puritans who were concerned about the deteriorating situation in England. Although they remained committed to reforming the Anglican Church, they felt they would be better able to continue in America.

- Therefore, the merchants decided to transfer their headquarters to America. Led by **John Winthrop**, who was elected governor in October 1629, the Puritans set off towards New England in 1630 on the *Arbella*. On the way, Winthrop explained his vision for the colony in a sermon, “The Model of Christian Charity.”

- Like the Pilgrims, he also stressed community, equality, and their covenant w/God, which required them to create a model “city upon a hill.” Later on, more formal institutions echoed the ideals expressed in the speech, for the General Court, which originally governed the Company, was changed into a colonial legislature. Soon enough, the system was complete w/a governor and full two-house legislature.

\*The Expansion of the New England Colonies\*

- Three types of towns developed in New England: agricultural towns that attempted to sustain Winthrop’s communalist ideas, seaports/trading centers, and commercialized agriculture towns.

- Furthermore, the colonists spread out over the years, founding Connecticut (1636), New Haven (1638), and New Hampshire (1638). But migration inevitably led to conflicts with the Indians. For instance, the first colonists to move to Connecticut under **Thomas Hooker** faced the Pequots, who realized that the arrival of the colonists would threaten their role as middlemen between other Indian groups and the Europeans.

- The **Pequot War** began with the death of two English traders [not by Pequots], which caused an English raid on a Pequot village. The Pequots then attacked in April 1637, and a Massachusetts Bay expedition responded by burning the main Pequot town and pretty much wiping them out.

- For the next 30 years the Indians allowed the Europeans to spread over their territory, although they never blended into European society and most colonist didn’t bother trying to convert them, with the exception of **John Eliot** [who wasn’t really successful anyhow b/c he demanded the Indians totally reject their roots].

\*Contrasting Lifestyles in the Chesapeake and in New England\*

- Not surprisingly, due to climactic and cultural reasons, life was very different in the two sections of the country. The most significant differences include…

* **The importance of religion** – It was not until the 1690s that the Church of England really took root in Virginia, and even then it was never an essential part of society. In New England, though, religion was central to all aspects of life; strict moral codes prevailed and anyone who disagreed with the established religious orthodoxy could be kicked out – ex. **Roger Williams**, who founded Providence, Rhode Island (1637) b/c he was exiled for promoting separation of church and state, and **Anne Hutchinson**.
* **Land distribution** – In the Chesapeake, land was unevenly distributed. In New England, however, a few people would apply together for grants of land and would then plan villages in which everyone would get land. So, New England was much more egalitarian in that respect.
* **Plantations vs. small towns** – While the Chesapeake was composed of sprawling plantations New England mainly consisted of small towns.
* **Family life** – In the Chesapeake, the predominance of males, the high mortality rate, and the incidence of servitude led to few, small, short-lived families. In New England, by contrast, people moved to the colonies already in family units and there was consequently a more even male: female ratio, which led to numerous, large [it was healthier there] and longer-lived [they created grandparents] families. Parents had far more impact on their children’s lives, as they actually lived to see them grow up.

- Clearly, the two regions developed very contrasting lifestyles over the years.

***American Societies Take Shape (1640 – 1720)***

\*The Restoration Colonies\*

- In 1642 the English Parliament, led by Oliver Cromwell, rebelled against Charles I [the absolutist monarch wannabe]. They finally won in 1646, and Charles was subsequently executed; Cromwell assumed control of the gov’t until his death in 1660. After the bad experience w/Cromwell [the Interregnum] the English decided to restore the monarchy, so Charles II arrived [The Restoration].

- All the events back in England had major consequences for the colonies. For one, since Puritans controlled the gov’t from the War until the Restoration, their migration to New England slowed down a lot. Additionally, after 1660 six new colonies were formed [The Restoration Colonies] but this time as proprietorships.

- The founding of the restoration colonies is as follows…

* **New York** was originally a Dutch colony, but in **1664** Charles II gave the area to his brother James, the Duke of York [pretending the Dutch weren’t there, I guess]. So James organized an invasion fleet, and the Dutch surrendered w/o resistance [the merchants thought it would be bad for business]. In 1672 the Dutch briefly retook the colony, but in **1674** they permanently ceded it as a result of their loss. New York was a very diverse colony and had a relatively high % of slaves as well, so the Duke was careful as he moved to establish his authority. For instance, in **1665** he passed **The Duke’s Laws** [first applied only to English settlements on Long Island and then later to the whole area], which maintained Dutch forms of local gov’t and (!) allowed religious toleration [each town could pick which church to support]. But it took until **1683** for an elected legislature to be formed. So basically, until the 18th century New York remained a relatively depopulated colony [grew slowly] w/few changes from Dutch rule.
* **New Jersey** was formed b/c the Duke of York regranted part of his land in **1664** to his friends **Sir George Carteret** and **John Lord Berkeley** [this actually deprived N.Y. of much needed fertile land and was one of the reasons the colony grew so slowly]. New Jersey, however, partially b/c its owners used land grants, limited toleration and the promise of an assembly to attract colonists, grew rapidly. W/in 20 years Carteret and Berkeley sold their sections to investors. All of Carteret’s part and some of Berkeley’s went to the **Quakers**, who were seeking to escape persecution.
* **Pennsylvania** itself was actually founded by Quakers when in **1681** Charles II gave the region to his friend **William Penn**, who then held it as a personal proprietorship. Penn used his colony as a haven for fellow Quakers [who were radical egalitarians and denied the need for clergy] but also promised toleration, guaranteed English liberties to all, and established an assembly. His publicity efforts caused massive migration to the area. Some of the migrants were even Native Americans, b/c Penn promised to treat them fairly as well. But his toleration was a double-edged sword for the Indians, as many of the people he allowed in were not respectful of them [the Scots, Irish, Germans and Swiss clashed w/them over land].
* **Carolina** was granted by Charles II in **1663** in a lucrative semitropical area [could produce many valuable commodities]. The proprietors had **John Locke** draft the “Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina” for them, which (!) laid out a semi-feudal hierarchical society [it really *was* Locke, not kidding here]. Still, Carolina ended up splitting into two separate centers, which split into separate colonies in **1729**. Virginia planters settled North Carolina, establishing a society very similar to their own; wealthy planters from Barbados settled South Carolina, and, after a few difficult years in which they depended on trade w/the Indians, began using large amounts of slaves to cultivate rice and indigo.
* So the Restoration Colonies, formed after Charles II was crowned in 1660, varied in composition but were all basically proprietorships.

\*Problems Faced by the Existing Colonies in the 1670s and 1680s\*

- In the 1670s and 80s, the original French, Spanish and English colonies faced numerous crises, mainly caused by their relationships w/the Native Americans in their respective areas.

- For instance, in **New France**, the governor decided to expand into the south and west in the **1670s** [wanted to gain direct control over the fur trade]. This brought them into conflict w/the **Iroquois Confederacy**, which had had skirmished w/the Europeans over the fur trade [the **Beaver Wars**] as early as 1633. So in the 1670s, the French began attacking Iroquois villages and in **1701** a neutrality treaty was negotiated by the exhausted Confederacy. The French also expanded by settling up outposts in the Mississippi region, where travelers and traders could stop between Quebec and Louisiana.

- **New Mexico** also experienced significant problems. B/c the Franciscans had been increasingly harsh on the subjugated Pueblo peoples in efforts to try to totally erase their native religion and culture [also colonists demanded heavy labor tributes] the natives rebelled in **1680** under **Popé**. Although Spain regained control in **1692** the governors changed tactics and became more cooperative. Spain also expanded their territory by establishing military outposts and missions to the east and north.

- In the **English** colonies [both New England and the Chesapeake], however, problems didn’t start b/c of trade [New France] or religion [New Mexico] but simply b/c of land issues.

\*New England – King Phillip’s War\*

- In New England, the expanding population resulted mainly from natural increase, rather than from immigration, which slowed down greatly after the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642. But b/c of the good conditions and large families, the population had tripled by the 1670s through natural increase alone.

- The increase created a need for land, and settlement began to spread farther into Massachusetts and Connecticut, and even north to New Hampshire and Maine. Other families gave up on agriculture altogether and took up skills like blacksmithing or carpentry.

- Nevertheless, settlements gradually came to surround the lands of the **Pokanokets**, whose chief, **King Phillip**, was the son of **Massasoit** [welcomed the Pilgrims]. Concerned by the loss of land and the impact of Christianity, King Phillip began attacking settlements in **June 1675**. Other Algonquians joined, and even the more well established villages began to face attacks in 1676 [Plymouth and Providence].

- But the tide turned in the summer of 1676, when the Indians began to lack supplies and the colonists began using Christian Indians as guides. After the Mohawks [enemies of the Algonquians] helped by attacking a major Wampanoag camp on June 12 and King Phillip died in August, the colonists emerged victorious and started selling the captured Indians into slavery. The power of the coastal tribes was broken.

- It’s important to note that the victory came w/a cost – 1/10th of the male population was killed or wounded, towns were devastated, and the economy didn’t reach pre-1675 levels until the American Revolution.

\*The Chesapeake – Bacon’s Rebellion\*

- Around the same time, Virginians also experienced conflict w/the Indians b/c of land, although the conflict played out slightly differently. After land-hungry Virginians attacked two Indians tribes, Indians raided outlying farms in retaliation in the winter of 1676.

- Governor **William Berkeley**, however, was reluctant to strike back b/c: (1) he had trade agreements w/the Indians and didn’t want to disrupt them and (2) he already had land and didn’t want competition anyway.

- So the angry colonists [many former indentured servants] rallied around recent immigrant **Nathaniel Bacon**, who held members of the House of Burgesses until they authorized him to attack the Indians and was consequently declared to be in rebellion by Berkeley.

- Throughout the summer of 1676, then, Bacon fought both Indians and supporters of the gov’t, even burning Jamestown itself to the ground. Even though the rebellion died w/Bacon in October, the point was made and a new treaty in 1677 allowed more territory to be settled.

- Besides being a turning point in relations w/the Indians, Bacon’s rebellion had another very important consequence. As landowners realized that there wasn’t much land left to give to indentured servants, the custom stopped and they began looking for slave labor instead.

\*The Introduction of African Slavery\*

- As a consequence of Bacon’s rebellion and the reluctance of indentured servants to go to the Chesapeake [no more land] planters turned to slavery as a labor source.

- They had no real moral qualms about this b/c slavery had been practiced in Europe for centuries and European Christians believed that it was OK to enslave “heathen” people. Racism against Africans, which viewed them as inferior b/c of their skin color, had also been developing in England since the 1500s.

- Even though there was a slave system in the West Indies by the 1650s, it didn’t spread to the mainland colonies until the 70s. Anyhow, when slavery did start in the colonies, what was it like?

* **Slavery in the South** – after 1677 slaves were imported incredibly rapidly into the Chesapeake region, and the existing slaves multiplied even faster. As the slave population increased, laws against them became stricter [whites were scared]. The new slaves were generally assigned more remote posts until they learned local customs, etc. An important thing to remember about slavery in the South is that most yeomen farmers couldn’t afford slaves – it was only the big planters that had them. So slavery also caused increased stratification in Southern society. In the Carolinas there had been more slaves from the start, but they only started importing them directly in 1700, when rice was introduced [the slaves helped them learn to cultivate it]. Indigo was later added as a crop there. Carolinians also enslaved Indians, which contributed to the outbreak of the **Yamasee War** in 1715.
* **Slavery in the North** – in the North there were fewer slaves, most of who were concentrated in New York and New Jersey. Most slaves were also already assimilated Creoles, especially early on. When some slaves did begin to come from Africa, the Creoles didn’t like it and looked down on them b/c they had difficulty adapting. Though some slaves were house slaves or worked in cities, overall, like in the South, most Northern slaves lived in the countryside.

\*Atlantic Trade Patterns – “Triangular Trade”\*

- The complex Atlantic trading system that developed as a result of the slave trade during the colonial period is often referred to as *Triangular Trade* – but it really wasn’t a triangle at all. One thing is for sure, though: the whole thing really did depend on slavery – the sale and transport of slaves, the exchange of stuff they made, and the food required to feed them.

- Here is the classic triangular pattern, which developed in the mid 17th century…

* **New England** only had one thing England wanted – trees. So, to get more stuff from England, the colonists sold food to the English islands, which needed to feed their slaves. So by the 1640s, New England was already *indirectly* dependent on slave consumption.
* **The islands** would consume products from New England and then ship molasses, fruit, spices and slaves back to colonial ports, where the molasses would be distilled into rum and sent to…
* **Africa**, which would provide slaves, who would be sold by coastal rulers and bought by European slavers, in exchange for the rum and manufactured goods.

- Anyhow, in addition to the relationships above, there was a whole bunch of confusing stuff going on, but it is really not that big a deal so who cares?

\*Effects of the Slave Trade\*

- First of all, slavery definitely stunk for the slaves, who had horrible conditions on the boat ride, etc. But it also had major political and economic consequences for Africa and for Europe, where it sparked big time rivalries between the powers. This, of course, caused changes in the Americas. So here goes…

- In West Africa, where the coastal rulers served as the essential link between the Europeans and the slaves, slavery caused increased centralization b/c the trade created powerful kingdoms. Slavery also consequently destroyed existing trading patterns and hurt local manufacturing.

- But the slave trade really benefited the Europeans, though it did help out some African rulers – so the powers fought to control it. The Dutch replaced the Portuguese in the 1630s, and the Dutch then lost out to the English, who took over through the Royal African Company in 1672. Even the English monopoly didn’t really last though, b/c by the 1700s most trading was carried out by independent traders.

- B/c of the competition over the slave trade, the English also looked for new sources of revenue, especially b/c of the Civil War. And they looked to – yup, you got it – the colonies.

\*Mercantilism and the Navigation Acts\*

- The mercantilist system of thought arose in the early 1600s, when it was believed that there was a finite amount of wealth [if they win, you lose] in the world and that governments had to control production and competition in order to gain the upper hand.

- By the late 1600s the concept developed that colonies could actually extend the amount of wealth available and that countries should exploit [I mean, *use*] their colonies to provide cheap labor and raw materials, which could be processed and then sold back to the colonies at a profit.

- So in England, where they were looking for new sources of revenue, this sort of thinking was applied, resulting in the **Navigation Acts**, which were passed from 1651 to 1673, and stated that…

* All goods had to stop in England to check that [initially] ½ the crew was British [later the quota was raised to ¾, and the ships became taxed as well].
* Foreign trading was banned between colonial ports, and colonists weren’t allowed to serve on competitors’ ships.
* Later on lists of *enumerated goods* [goods that could only be sold to England] were made.

- The purpose was to make England benefit from both colonial imports and exports. But, officials soon found out that enforcing the laws was much easier than passing them, b/c there was lots of smuggling. As a result, Admiralty Courts were established and a **Board of Trade and Plantations** was formed in **1696** to supervise the governors [but it didn’t have any direct powers of enforcement either].

\*Colonial Political Development and Imperial Reorganization\*

- After the crises of the 1670s, English officials began paying more attention tot the colonies. It was a real mess, administratively – the specifics were all different. Overall, though, the colonies all had governors [councils helped the governors] and legislatures [some of which were two-house].

- So, even though the local institutions varied, colonists everywhere were used to some political autonomy. But, after James II became king, officials decided to clean up the mess and consolidate the colonies under British rule. Massachusetts (1691), New Jersey (1702) and the Carolinas (1729) were made royal colonies.

- Some charters were temporarily suspended and then restored in that area as well. But the big changes were made in Puritan New England, which was considered a smuggling hotbed and was changed into the **Dominion of New England** in **1686** [New Jersey to Maine]. The Dominion was run by **Sir Edmund Andros**, who had immense power, until the **Glorious Revolution** in **1688**.

- After the GR, colonists thought – hey, let’s rebel too – so they jailed Andros and declared their loyalty to William and Mary. But W&M also wanted tighter control, so they didn’t give the rebellions their sanction and instead issued new charters, which destroyed many New England traditions.

- To make it worse for New England, they had to fight **King William’s War** against the French and their Indian allies[really a European war – The War of the League of Augsburg – in which France declared war on England b/c of the GR] from **1689** to **1697**.

- All the upheaval contributed to the famous **1692** Witchcraft Trials, where people were executed b/c of accusations of practicing witchcraft. These ended b/c: (1) ministers started to disapprove (2) the royal charter was implemented and (3) people in high places were accused.

- After the Witchcraft thing people settled down w/the new administration, though many resented the new order. Another war, the War of Spanish Succession [**Queen Anne’s War** in the colonies] was fought, and colonists were encouraged to help out through promises of land grants and offices.

# **Colonial Development in the Eighteenth Century (1720 –1770)**

\*Trends in Colonial Development in the Eighteenth Century\*

- Colonial development in the 18th century had several key aspects – population growth [mainly due to natural increase], ethnic diversity, the increasing importance of cities, the creation an urban elite, rising levels of consumption and the growth of a stronger internal economy.

- So, by the second half of the century, social and economic stratification had increased significantly. Additionally, by that time, much of North America had fallen under European control. These changes, along with new trends in thought such as the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening, transformed the colonies.

\*Intellectual Trends: The Enlightenment\*

- Throughout the 18th century a new colonial elite was developing, and one of the things that began separating them from most other people was education, their use of “leisure” time, and their knowledge of the European intellectual movement known as **The Enlightenment**, which stressed a belief in rationality and peoples’ ability to understand the universe through mathematical or natural laws.

- The Enlightenment also gave the elite a common vocabulary and subjects to discuss, and it also encouraged colleges in the Americas to broaden their curriculums to include subjects like science, law and medicine, which allowed more people to join the educated circles.

- Enlightenment ideals about government, illustrated by John Locke’s *Two Treatises of Government* (1691), which stated that men had power over their governments and attacked the theory of divine right, were also discussed by the upper classes and did have an effect on American political life.

- To most people, however, the Enlightenment had its greatest effect though the advances in medicine it stimulated, such as the treatment of smallpox through inoculation.

\*Religious Trends: The Great Awakening\*

- From the mid-1730s to the 1760s waves of religious revivalism swept through America. These revivalists were almost a counterpoint to the Enlightenment b/c they stressed feeling over rationalism.

- The Great Awakening began in New England when in 1734 and 1735 **Reverend Jonathan Edwards** noted that his youthful members reacted to a Calvinist based message [people can only attain salvation by surrendering completely to God’s will] which created intense emotion and release from sin.

- The Great Awakening spread big time when **George Whitefield** [“the first modern celebrity”] from the Church of England arrived and began touring the colonies and preaching to large audiences. He helped unify the colonies, but he also created a split in religion between the “Old Lights” [traditionalists] and “New Lights” [revivalists]. This eventually led to increased toleration, though.

- The reason for the resistance to the message of the Great Awakening was that it undermined the dependence on the clergy and was also radically egalitarian [which attracted many ordinary people].

\*Cultural Trends: Public Rituals\*

- Instead of reading about the Enlightenment, though, most people simply **communicated orally**, as many were poorly educated or illiterate. Therefore, the common cultures of North America were mainly oral, communal and very local, since information traveled slowly and usually stayed w/in confined regions.

- So, since the colonists couldn’t form a common culture through other means, **religious and civic rituals** served to unite them. For example, **attendance at church** was perhaps the most important ritual as it was central to community life and was handled in different ways depending on the region. For instance, in Puritan churches and in Virginia, people were seated w/respect to their positions in society; but in Quaker meetinghouses the seating was egalitarian.

- Civic rituals also varied. In New England, colonial governments proclaimed **official thanksgiving days** and **days of fasting and prayer**. Also, **militia-training days** served to bring the community together.

- In the Chesapeake, however, important rituals occurred on **court and election days**, where people came from miles to observe the events.

- In all areas of colonial America, **punishment of criminals in public** also served to unite the community and also to remind everybody of the proper behavior by totally humiliating the criminal.

- A new ritual at the time was the **ritual of consumption**, which is a fancy term for going shopping. This was actually a new activity back then, since commercial goods were only starting to become available for most people. It became [and still is] customary, though, to buy cool stuff and then show it off. Among the rituals of consumption, though, the **tea-drinking ritual** was perhaps the most important.

- Additionally, rituals developed for communication and negotiation between settlers and Indians – gift giving, etc. Unfortunately for the Indians the settlers soon realized that rum was a useful gift.

\*Colonial Families\*

- Families constituted the basic units of colonial society, but their forms and structures varied widely during the 18th century. The types of families included…

* **Indian** – dramatic changes for the Indians caused led to bands being reduced in numbers by disease and the creation of new units. Old customs were often changed under pressure from European authorities and new circumstances, and extended families became more important b/c of the high mortality rates.
* **Mixed-Race** – wherever the population contained a small number of European women, mixed race families would appear [most frequently in the backcountry]. These families often resided in Indian villages, and their acceptance in mainstream society varied from area to area.
* **European** – in the 18th century most families were larger than families today, and they included all the inhabitants of the house. Households worked together to produce goods for use or sale, and the head of the household represented it to the outside world. Most families maintained themselves through agriculture, and specific tasks were assigned to men and women. There was so much work that if there weren’t kids slaves or servants were needed.
* **African-American** – usually African-American families existed as parts of their European households; most were slaves by the 18th century. Family links depended on the region: families were scarce in the North b/c there were so few blacks, and in the Chesapeake families were often dispersed [though wide kinship networks formed]. Sometimes these groups united against excessive punishment of members.

- Besides differences in family life based on the type of the family, life in the cities was significantly different from life in the country. City dwellers went to marketplaces [unlike their country counterparts, many of who made it all themselves] and had more contact w/the outside world [newspapers, ports].

\*Colonial Politics 1700-1750: Relative Calm\*

- In the first decades of the century politics reached a new stability b/c of the creation of a new elite, which dominated politics and kept things under control. In some areas, the elite worked together (Virginia), but in others there was stiff competition for office (New York). \*1733 (NY) **John Peter Zenger** tried for criticizing gov’t actions; lawyer said truth could not be defamatory; he was released, setting a precedent for free press.

- An important trend during the period was an increase in the power of the assemblies relative to the power of the governors [“the power of the purse”]. Still, 18th century assemblies were very different from ones today: they rarely passed new measures, but just saw themselves as acting defensively to prevent the people’s rights from being usurped by the governors.

- By mid-century, many colonists had also begun linking their system w/the British one [governor=monarch, assemblies=House of Commons] and viewing the assemblies as the people’s protectors [even though the assemblies didn’t pay attention to the concerns of the poor and were not reapportioned for pop. changes].

\*Colonial Politics Continued: Internal Crises At Mid-Century\*

- So up to 1850ish things were going pretty well, politics-wise. But after that a series of crises demonstrated the tensions that had been building [ethnic, racial, economic] that had been building in American society and illustrated that the accommodations reached after the Glorious Revolution were no longer adequate.

- One of the earlier crises, the **Stono Rebellion**, occurred in South Carolina in 1739. One morning, twenty slaves gathered south of Charlestown and stole guns and ammunition from a store and then killed the storekeepers and nearby families before heading towards Florida, where they hoped to find refuge. Although the slaves were soon captured, this shocked the colonists and laws against blacks were made harsher.

- The hysteria generated by the Stono Rebellion, combined w/fears of Spain b/c of King George’s War, manifested itself most strongly in New York in 1741 when whites suspecting that a biracial gang was conspiring to start a slave uprising [the **New York Conspiracy**] began a reign of terror. This showed that the assemblies were really unable to prevent serious disorder.

- The **land riots** in **New Jersey** and **New York** certainly seemed to confirm that – for instance, the most serious riots, which occurred in 1765/1766 around the Hudson River, occurred b/c in the 1740s New Englanders had arrived in the area and had started illegally squatting on the lands rented out to tenants by large landowners. After a family sued and the courts supported them, the farmers rebelled for a year.

- Additionally, in the Carolinas the **Regulator Movements** occurred, in which backcountry farmers [mainly Scottish and Irish immigrants] rebelled against the provincial gov’ts b/c they felt they lacked influence and that the gov’ts were unfair.

***Prelude to a Revolution (1754 – 1774)***

\*Changes in Colonial Outlook\*

- So how was it that the happy colonists changed their minds and, after over a century of peaceful subordination to Britain, began fighting for independence in 1776?

- Many factors affected their change of opinion. It was in the 1750s that the colonists first began looking away from their internal politics and paying attention to British policies, and the story of the 1760s and early 1700s is really a series of events that, one by one, widened the split.

- But it really all began with the **Seven Years War** [a.k.a. King George’s War, the French and Indian War], which ended in **1763** and left North America transformed.

\*The Seven Years War\*

- Anyhow, the **Seven Years War** informally began in **July 1754** in the Ohio Valley when an inexperienced George Washington attacked the French, who were building a fort. The French kicked his sorry butt, so he surrendered, but the incident still managed to eventually spark a major war in Europe and in America.

- Right before the war actually started, in **June 1754**, delegates from several colonies had met for the **Albany Congress**, which had the goals of (1) convincing the Iroquois [who had always used their neutrality as a diplomatic weapon against all the sides involved] to join them and (2) coordinating colonial defenses. Neither goal was met b/c the governors of the individual colonies feared losing their autonomy.

- So Washington had screwed up big time, and throughout **1755** the British [under **Gen. Braddock**], who decided to attempt to kick the French out of N. America, continued to get beaten by French & Indian forces. Their only success was the deportation of the French from Nova Scotia [they sent them to Louisiana].

- After news of one particularly disastrous battle in **1756** the British and French formally declared war in Europe as well. Things still went badly in America, partially b/c the British and colonial forces just didn’t get along. But in **1757** the new secretary of state, **William Pitt**, managed to encourage the colonial forces to enlist by offering a compromise [Brits. would supposedly refund assemblies for their losses].

- Consequently [and also b/c of events in Europe] things improved until finally in **1763** France surrendered. According to the **Treaty of Paris**, France lost all her N. American possessions.

\*British-Colonial Tensions During the Seven Years War\*

- Both the Seven Years War itself and its aftermath increased British-colonial tensions. During the actual war, these factors contributed to initial anti-British feeling in the colonies:

* The colonials favored Indian-style guerilla tactics; the British marched in formation.
* Colonial militias served under their own captains but the Brits. wanted to take charge.
* The colonials had no military protocols; the British were big on all that stuff.
* The colonials didn’t want higher taxes to help pay for the war but the Brits. felt the colonials should pay for their own defense.
* The colonial officers were casual but the Brits. wanted servants w/them, etc.

- Clearly, different styles of fighting led to significant resentment on both sides.

\*1763: A Turning Point\*

- Both the British and colonists were strongly affected by the end of the war. For Britain, its conclusion meant that (1) they had a much larger and safer colonial empire, (2) they had a much larger debt, and (3) they felt even more contempt for the colonists.

- For the colonies, the war had (1) united them against a common enemy for the first time and (2) created anger against the British, who were viewed as overly harsh commanders who had distain for the colonists.

- The end of the war also led to another key event. In **Pontiac’s Rebellion** (1763) Indian leader Pontiac united an unprecedented amount of tribes due to of concern about the spread of colonists and their culture.

- Although the colonists eventually triumphed, the British issued the **Proclamation Line of 1763**, which was a line that the colonists couldn’t settle past, to prevent further conflicts.

\*English Attempts to Reorganize their Empire\*

- Anyhow, due partially to their increasing debt and experiences in America, following 1763 the Brits. decided to reorganize [again]. \*Their 1st reorganization, the Dominion of New England, had only lasted from the late 17th century until the Glorious Revolution.

- In **1761**, even before the end of the war, the Brits. allowed for **Writs of Assistance** [officers allowed to board and inspect ships and confiscate goods not taxed] to be used in the colonies. **James Otis** brought a case against this [protection of property over parliamentary law] but he lost.

- Then, from **1763** to **1765** four very irritating pieces of legislation were passed by **George Grenville**…

* **Sugar Act** (1764) – existing customs regulations were revised, new duties were placed on some foreign imports, and stronger measures were taken against smuggling. Seems just like Navigation Acts, which were accepted by the colonists, but this time the measures were explicitly designed to raise revenue [as opposed to channeling trade through Britain].
* **Currency Act** (1764) – colonial paper $ was banned for trade [by 1769 it was decided col. $ would have no value at all]. This was passed b/c British officials felt they were being ripped off b/c colonial $ had such erratic values, but it greatly irritated colonial merchants, who lost out b/c their money was made useless.
* **Quartering Act** (1765) – required a raise in colonial taxes to provide for housing of soldiers in barracks near colonial centers.
* **STAMP ACT** (1765) – this was the biggie. It affected almost every colonist b/c it required tax stamps on all printed materials, and it was the worst on merchants and the elite [who used more paper]. The act also asked that stamps be paid w/sterling and that violators be tried in vice-admiralty courts, which alarmed colonists.

- Though the acts were a natural consequence of the war, which created a large debt for Britain, they greatly annoyed the colonists and led to ever increasing resistance…

\*Different Theories of Representation\*

- Grenville’s acts illustrate the different theories of representation. While Grenville and the English believed that Parliament represented all British subjects by definition regardless of where they lived [**Virtual Representation**], colonists believed that they needed members that specifically represented their regions.

- Another ideology that was beginning to become popular in the colonies was that of the **Real Whigs**, who stated that a good government mainly left people alone and that government should not be allowed to encroach on people’s liberties and on their property.

- Although at first not many people interpreted British actions according to the Real Whig ideology, over time this point of view affected increasing numbers of colonists.

\*Colonial Response to the Sugar and Currency Acts\*

- The Sugar and Currency Acts could not have been implemented at a worse time, b/c the economy was already in the midst of a depression following the shift of the war to Europe. So merchants were all the more annoyed by the new taxes.

- Nevertheless, while individual colonists protested the new policies, lacking any precedent for a unified campaign Americans were uncoordinated and unsure of themselves in 1764. Eight colonial legislatures sent separate petitions to Parliament [all ignored], but that was it.

- The most important individual pamphlet relating to the Sugar Act was *The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved* by **James Otis Jr.**, which discussed the main ideological dilemma of the time – how could the colonists justify their opposition to certain acts w/o challenging Parliament’s authority over them?

\*1765: The Stamp Act Crisis\*

- Initially, when the Stamp Act was passed, the response was pretty underwhelming as well. It seemed hopeless to resist. But **Patrick Henry**, a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, was not prepared to give up easily and instead wrote the **Virginia Stamp Act Resolves**.

- The resolves were passed [though some of the most radical sections were taken out]. The parts that were adopted essentially reasserted that the colonists had never given up the rights of British subjects, which included consent to taxation. This position was that of most colonists throughout the 1760s – they wanted some measure of independence and their rights, but not independence.

- Ideologically, during this time, America’s leaders were searching for some way to maintain self-government but still remain British subjects. But b/c of Brit. unwillingness to surrender on the issue of Parliamentary power this simply wasn’t going to work.

- But resistance to the Stamp Act was soon more than ideological arguments about Parliamentary power. Organizations began forming to resist the taxes, such as…

* **Loyal Nine** – in August 1765 this Boston social club organized a demonstration that also included the lower classes. They also hung an effigy of the province’s stamp distributor, which caused him to publicly promise not to do what he was supposed to. Another demonstration, however, occurred shortly after that – but this time it was aimed at Governor Thomas Hutchinson, and concerned the elites [this illustrates the internal divisions between the demonstrators – for the elite it was political; for the laborers it was economic].
* **Sons of Liberty** – so, to attempt to channel resistance into acceptable forms an intercolonial association, the Sons of Liberty, was formed. Although they could influence events, however, they couldn’t control them totally.

- Anyhow, by 1766 resistance was occurring on three different fronts: the Sons of Liberty [mass meetings, public support], a **non-importation agreement** organized by the merchants, and the **Stamp Act Congress**, which met in New York to draft the Stamp Act Resolves.

\*1767: The Townshend Acts\*

- Then, in **March 1766** Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, partially b/c of the non-importation agreements, which turned London merchants against the Act. But the main reason for its repeal was the appointment of **Lord Rockingham** as prime minister instead of Grenville.

- Rockingham felt the law was a bad idea, but he still believed Parliament had the rights to tax the colonies and consequently passed the **Declaratory Act** [we can tax you if we want to], which was pretty much ignored in the midst of the celebrations of the Stamp Act’s repeal.

- The fragility of the Stamp Act victory was exposed by another change in the ministry. When William Pitt got sick, **Charles Townshend** became the dominant force and decided to impose some more taxes.

- The **Townshend Acts** (1767) were on trade goods [paper, glass, tea, etc.] but were different from the Navigation acts b/c they (1) applied to items imported from Britain and (2) were designed to raise money to pay for the salaries of royal officials [this is no good…remember, the power of the purse].

- Additionally, the acts established an **American Board of Customs Commissioners** and vice-admiralty courts at several colonial cities.

\*Colonial Response to the Townshend Acts\*

- This time there was no hesitation. Many essays were written, but **John Dickinson’s** *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* best expressed colonial sentiments – Parliament could regulate colonial trade but not use that power to raise revenue.

- The Massachusetts Assembly called for unity in the face of the Acts and circulated a joint petition of protest, which the ministry ordered them to recall, giving the other assemblies the incentive to join forces against it. Recall was rejected, and the governor dissolved the assembly.

- Another important aspect of colonial resistance was the second **non-importation movement**, which was led by the **Daughters of Liberty**, who encouraged home spinning bees, etc. Although the boycotts were not complete [some merchants, who were now in the midst of a boom, broke the agreements] they still had a significant effect, and in **April 1770** the Townshend duties were repealed except for the tea tax.

- Even though the rest of the Townshend Acts [just not the taxes] were still there, it didn’t seem like such a big deal since the bulk of the taxes had been removed.

\*1770: The Boston Massacre\*

- On the same day **Lord North** [the new prime minister] proposed repealing the Townshend duties, the rather misnamed **Boston Massacre** occurred in which five civilians were killed. The source of the problem was the decision to base the Board of Customs Commissioners in Boston.

- Ever since the customs people came, mobs targeted them – consequently, two regiments of troops were assigned to Boston. They constantly reminded people of British power and also took jobs from Boston laborers, which really annoyed them.

- So on **March 5, 1770** laborers began throwing snowballs at soldiers, which led to shooting [even though it was not allowed]. This was a tremendous political weapon for the patriots [nevertheless they didn’t approve of the crowd action that generated the problem and consequently tried the soldiers fairly].

\*1770 – 1772: The Calm Before the Storm\*

- From 1770 to 1772 superficial calm prevailed in the colonies. Still, some newspapers began publishing essays that used Real Whig ideology to accuse Britain of scheming to oppress the colonies. It was a conspiracy! But nobody really advocated *independence* [yet].

- So patriots continued to view themselves as British subjects. They devised systems in which they would have their own legislatures but remain loyal to the king, but this was directly contradictory to British conceptions of Parliament’s power.

- But the calm ended in **Fall 1772**, when the Brits. began implementing the part of the Townshend Act about governors being paid from customs revenues. In response to this, a **Committee of Correspondence** [led by **Samuel Adams**] was created in Boston to gather publicity for the patriot cause.

\*1773: The Tea Act and Boston Tea Party\*

- By 1773 the only Townshend duty still in effect was the tea tax. Though some colonists were still boycotting it, many had given up. But then, in **May 1773** Parliament passed the **Tea Act**, which was designed to save the East India Co. from bankruptcy.

- The **Tea Act** made EIC’s tea the only legal tea in America and enabled the company to sell directly to the colonies, which would allow them to price tea competitively w/smugglers. Though this would result in cheaper tea, it was seen as another attempt to make them admit that Parliament could tax them by leaders.

- This act led to the famous **Boston Tea Party** on **December 16, 1773**, where aprox. 10,000 pounds [money] of tea were dumped into the water.

\*1774: The Coercive “Intolerable” and Quebec Acts\*

- In response to the Tea Party, the **Coercive Acts** included the…

* **Port Bill** – the port of Boston was shut down until the tea was paid in full [enforced by Massachusetts Gov. Thomas Gage]. Purpose was to set example for other colonies.
* **Government Act** – annulled what was left of the Massachusetts Charter [had already gone through several incarnations] and destroyed all colonial power in the legislature. Limited town meetings as well.
* [new] **Quartering Act** – this now forced colonial assemblies to either build barracks or have citizens house the soldiers themselves.
* **Administration of Justice Act** – soldiers who killed colonists were to be tried in British courts [i.e. allowed to get away w/it]. “Extraterritoriality.”

- The **Quebec Acts** were passed around the same time – they annoyed colonists b/c they allowed Catholicism in formerly French territories and also allowed the French colonists to go past the Declaration Line and into the Ohio River Valley.

- The colonists felt as though all their worst fears about the British plot had been confirmed, and the colonies agreed to send delegates to Philadelphia in **September 1774** for the **Continental Congress**. There was no turning back…

***The Revolutionary War (1774 – 1783)***

\*1774 – 1775: The Collapse of British Authority and the Development of New Government Structures\*

- The Coercive “Intolerable” Acts had proven to be just what their name implied, so the colonies agreed to send delegates to a **Continental Congress** in **September 1774** in order to discuss measures to protest the acts. The delegates were elected in extralegal provincial committees that were, incidentally, not allowed.

- Anyhow, when the congressmen met on **September 5, 1774** they had three goals:

* To define American grievances.
* To develop a resistance plan.
* And…the tricky one: to define their constitutional relationship w/Britain.

- After several intense debates, **John Adams** worked out a compromise position on the constitutional relationship thing. It was declared that Americans would obey Parliament only when they thought that doing so was best for both countries.

- They also decided that they wanted the Coercive Acts repealed and that they would start an economic boycott and petition the king at the same time. The **Continental Association** [non-importation of British goods, non-consumption of British products and non-exportation of American goods to Britain] was implemented throughout late 1774 and early 1775.

- To back them up the Continental Congress recommended that elected committees of observation and inspection be established throughout America. The committeemen became leaders of the revolution on the local level and gained increasing power as time went on [they spied on people and attacked dissenters in addition to overseeing the boycott].

- Also during this time the regular colonial governments were collapsing due to patriot challenges to their authority through popularly elected provincial conventions, which usurped the former legislatures’ powers. Through late 1774 and early 1775 these provincial conventions approved the CA, elected delegates for the Second Continental Congress, organized militia and gathered arms.

- This stunk for royal officials, who were basically in the position of having to drive a car after other people pushed them out from behind the steering wheel [stupid analogy, but I tried]. Courts would hold sessions, taxes weren’t paid, etc. – “independence was being won at the local level but w/o formal acknowledgement.”

\*April 19, 1775: The War Begins\*

- The actual fighting part of the independence movement was sparked when General Thomas Gage in Boston send an expedition to confiscate provincial military supplies at **Concord**. Paul Revere heard about this, yeah we all know the story. Anyhow there was a skirmish at **Lexington** [en route] on **April 19, 1775**.

- Then at **Concord** the British were met w/even more resistance [at Lexington it had just been a bunch of local militiamen called up at the last minute]. For the year following Concord, the Americans besieged Boston, where the British had retreated.

- The British only broke away from the siege at the **Battle of Bunker Hill** [which marked a turning pt. for them strategically from containment of a radical movement in New England to more of a focus on the Middle Colonies] but they suffered heavy losses in doing so.

\*British Strategy [or lack of it]\*

- Lord North made three assumptions [and you know what happens when you assume] about the war:

1. Patriot forces can’t win against British regulars.
2. War in America is the same as war in Europe.
3. A military victory will automatically make the colonies come back to mommy Britain.

- Wrong, wrong, and wrong again. They greatly underestimated American commitment to resistance and also didn’t see that military victories would just not be enough to bring an area as big as the colonies back under control [loss of cities didn’t hurt the cause]. Finally, they just didn’t get it that even if they did win militarily and gained control it wouldn’t last b/c what they had to do was to win the colonies over politically. They tried the political angle in 1778 but by then it was too late.

\*American Advantages/Disadvantages in the War\*

- Britain’s less-than-brilliant [to say the least] strategy brings us to…American advantages in the war:

* They were fighting on home soil [makes big difference b/c people fight w/more conviction if they are fighting for their land AND they also knew the area as a result].
* The colonists also had easier access to supplies and better tactics.
* Lastly, they didn’t have inanely stupid generals who were only in it for their own personal glory and consequently didn’t work together like the British did.

- On the other hand…

* They didn’t really have a bureaucracy to organize the war effort like Britain did – they only had the **Second Continental Congress**, which was planned as a brief meeting to talk about the CA but ended up having to be the main intercolonial gov’t. But even though this task was initially daunting it worked out after a while – the big accomplishment being their creation of the **Continental Army** [they chose **Washington** to lead it] and their management of it.
* The British had more, better-trained troops and [initially] control of the seas.

- In the end France was a big help for the colonists [no kidding huh].

\*1776: Moving Towards Independence\*

- Remember that, initially, even when Britain and the Americans were fighting, independence had not been decided upon yet [not everyone agreed w/that radical course of action].

- In **January 1776**, a huge step towards the decision to declare independence was taken when **Thomas Paine** released his book, *Common Sense*, which was an instant bestseller and had an enormous impact b/c of its challenge of colonial assumptions about the colonies’ relationship to Britain.

- Largely b/c of *Common Sense*, by late spring in 1776 independence had become inevitable. On **May 10** the Second Continental Congress proposed that individual colonies start forming state constitutions, and all the loyalists dropped out of the CC.

- On **June 7** some congressmen introduced a motion towards independence. While the vote was postponed until July a five-man semi-committee was established to draft a declaration. Of course, **Thomas Jefferson** was the guy who ended up writing it – and it was adopted on **July 4**.

- The chief importance of the Declaration was its statement of principle [the life, liberty and happiness thing] and the explanation of gov’t being based on the consent of the people. After the Declaration was signed, there *really* was no turning back – b/c the delegates had committed treason.

\*The War: A Quick Overview\*

- Now, we don’t really need to know the specifics on the war, so this is just going to be the basics. The war had three phases b/c of changes in British strategy. They were as follows:

1. [1776 – late 1777] **Containment in New England** – the British initially believed that the revolution was basically a radical minority movement centered in New England so they concentrated their forces there. But then came **The Battle of Bunker Hill** and…
2. [late 1777 – early 1778] **Middle Colonies** – the British realized it was not going to be that easy, so they shifted down into the middle colonies in an attempt to divide the colonies by gaining control of the Hudson River and Mohawk Valley. Then after the debacle at **Saratoga** (1778), which also caused the French to join the colonists b/c they realized they actually had a chance, they gave up on that and made a last ditch effort in…
3. [early 1778 – 1781] **The South** – they hoped to get loyalist support and use supplies from the West Indies to win in the South. They took Charlestown, but since the French were there to back the colonists up in the sea it didn’t help them much. The very last stages of the war were very bloody and desperate, culminating in **Yorktown** (1781) where a trapped Cornwallis surrendered and the war ended.

- There’s a lot more specific stuff on this but since we don’t need to know it, who cares?

\*1782: The Treaty of Paris\*

- The Americans soon disregarded their instructions from their leaders to follow the French b/c they [correctly] realized that the French were not so much their allies as they were Britain’s enemies, if you know what I mean.

- The gamble paid off, though, b/c with **Ben Franklin** leading the negotiations the treaty, which was signed on **September 3, 1783** included their two must-have goals: (1) recognition as an independent nation and (2) firm national boundaries from the Mississippi to the Atlantic and from Canada to Florida.

- Of their non-essential goals, they didn’t get the one about (!) annexing Canada [you think] but did gain access to the fisheries in Newfoundland [they had requested access to all British fisheries in Canada].

- So, by 1782, what had seemed to be a distant dream a few years earlier had become reality [I had to end this with one of those corny type sayings, just like the textbook – sorry].

# **From the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution (1776 – 1789)**

\*Varieties of Republicanism\*

- Although most Americans after the war felt that their country should be a republic, and that its citizens should be virtuous to maintain the republic’s stability, there were three different interpretations of the concept of *republicanism*…

* One was mainly held by the educated elite [ex. the Adams family] and emphasized the necessity of a small, homogenous republic in which the citizens would be willing to sacrifice their own private interests for the good of the whole. In return for sacrifices equality of opportunity would prevail, eventually creating a merit-based “natural aristocracy.”
* Another was held by other members of the elite and some skilled craftsman [ex. Alexander Hamilton] and was more about economics, drawing on Adam Smith’s theories about individual self-interest leading for the best for the community. It stated that if everyone followed their private interests republican virtue would be achieved.
* Yet another was held by less educated people and some radicals [ex. Thomas Paine] and emphasized widening participation in gov’t in order to give ordinary people more of a say (the egalitarian approach).

- All three approaches still shared the concept of the contrast between corrupt Britain and industrious America and felt that the republic could only succeed through hard work and virtue.

\*Creating a Virtuous Republic\*

- Since pretty much everyone was sure that America could only work if the citizens were virtuous, artists, educators, and politicians began trying to inculcate values into people. For instance…

- In **art** they had a tough time b/c to many Americans art was an example of corruption and luxury. Nevertheless, artists tried to show virtue and nat’lism in their work.

- For example: **William Hill Brown** wrote *The Power of Sympathy* (1789) to warn women about seduction; **Royall Tyler** wrote *The Contrast* (1787) about good vs. bad behavior; and the most popular book of the time was **Mason Locke Weem’s** *Life of Washington* (1800) w/the cherry tree myth, etc.; **Gilbert Stuart** and **Charles Willson Peale** painted portraits of good republican citizens; **John Trumbull** painted history battle scenes; **Thomas Jefferson** set the standard for American architecture by suggesting imitation Roman buildings w/simplicity of line, harmonious proportions and a feeling of grandeur.

- In **education** two major changes reflected the new concern for raising good citizens: (1) some northern states began using tax money to support public elementary schools and (2) schooling for girls was improved. **Judith Sargent Murray** was the big theorist on women’s education – she claimed that men and women were equally intelligent and that it was only the difference in education that made women appear stupider. So, she concluded, girls should receive the same education as boys.

- There was also a rethinking of women’s roles in general due to their contributions in the war. The new POV on women in a republic society is best expressed by **Abigail Adams’** letter to her husband stating women deserved equal rights (remember the ladies). Overall, however, Americans still saw women as housewives and as (b/c of their selflessness) the embodiment of republican virtue and sacrifice.

\*The First Emancipation\*

- Naturally, there was that other contradiction…slavery. Everybody saw this, including the slaves, some of who created petitions (which were ignored).

- So in the North the “gradual emancipation” began: in 1777 Vermont abolished slavery, in the 1780s Massachusetts courts decided their constitution prohibited it as well, in 1780 and 1804 respectively Pennsylvania and New Jersey adopted gradual emancipation laws.

- In the South, however, slavery was the backbone of the economy and was consequently not affected by Revolutionary ideology. Even in the North there was a concern for property, which was why it was gradual, not immediate…but in the South, it was out of the question.

- Nevertheless, the number of free blacks grew a lot after the Revolution due to escapes during the war, slaves serving in the army, or slaves being freed by their owners (in the Chesapeake this was due to economic changes such as the shift from tobacco to grain, which was less labor intensive).

- The freed slaves mostly migrated towards Northern cities, but even there emancipation didn’t bring equality, as laws discriminated against blacks. So blacks formed their own institutions (schools, churches, etc.) and joined together in semi-separate communities.

\*The Development of Racist Theory\*

- The post-revolutionary years also saw the development of a formal racist theory, as Southerners needed an excuse for not including African Americans in the whole “all men are created equal” deal.

- So instead of (as they had before) stating slaves were inferior b/c of environmental factors, they now decided they were inherently inferior b/c Africans were somehow less than fully human.

- The concept of “race” consequently became applied to skin color for the first time. This not only unified whites and blurred class distinctions between them, but also led to the creation of a certain set of characteristics (laziness, dishonesty, sexual promiscuity) that became associated with all blacks.

- From the start, then, the republic was seen as a white male enterprise – some historians have even stated that subjugation of other groups was necessary for the creation of white solidarity, others have contended that drawing the racial lines lessened the danger of poor white men joining w/slaves in questioning the elite.

\*The Creation of Republican State Governments\*

- In **May 1776** the Second Continental Congress ordered states to create republican gov’ts to replace the provincial congresses that had been in power since 1774. So began the process of forming the first state constitutions…

- The first thing most states decided was that constitutions would be written by special conventions, which were elected throughout the early 1780s. After the constitutions were written they were submitted to voters for ratification.

- The state constitutions concentrated on the distribution and limitation of gov’t power – American’s experiences w/Britain determined this in a big way as, back in the colony days, Americans had learned to have a phobia of centralized authority [governor].

- So, they gave the governor little independent authority, limited his term of office and the # of times he could serve and expanded the powers of the legislature. Overall, they focused a lot more on protecting the citizens than on making the gov’t effective. In fact, the gov’ts turned out so weak most of them had to be rewritten during the war [governor got more power, legislature got less].

- Through the process of revising the constitutions many politicians began developing the good ol’ theory of checks and balances, which was later embodied in the 1787 Constitution.

\*The Articles of Confederation\*

- Unfortunately, the principles that were developed on the state level were not implemented on the nat’l level for a while. First, during the war, the powers of the Continental Congress simply evolved by default – it wasn’t until 177 that Congress sent the Articles of Confederation (which was just a written out version of the makeshift arrangements of the CC) to the states for ratification.

- So what was the Articles of Confederation gov’t anyhow?

* It provided for a unicameral legislature where states could send a certain number of delegates that would then vote as a unit.
* The legislature could: declare war, make peace, sign treaties, borrow $, organize a post office, establish an army and navy, issue bonds and manage Western lands.
* The legislature couldn’t: draft soldiers, regulate interstate commerce, enforce treaties, and collect taxes.
* A 2/3rds majority was required to pass legislation and a unanimous vote was need for amendment.
* There was *no executive and no national judiciary*. The national government also had *no power* over the state governments. States could deal directly w/other countries if Congress allowed it.
* There was no national currency or system of measurement.

- Some historians (**John Fisk**) call the period from 1781 to 1788 the “Critical Period” b/c the AOC wasn’t strong enough and the country consequently almost failed. Others disagree (**Charles Beard**) and claim that it was a time of recovery and progress and that only the elite were hurt, which led to the creation of the Constitution to protect their interests.

- Regardless of the side one takes it’s pretty clear they had some major issues under the AOC…

\*Problems under the Articles of Confederation\*

- Finance was the biggest problem faced by both the state and nat’l gov’ts. First they just tried printing currency, which worked at first b/c there was high demand for supplies and goods during the war. But when the army suffered losses in late 1776 and Americans lost faith in the gov’t inflation began. Although states made efforts to stop inflation, it was pretty much a lost cause and by 1780 American $ was worthless. Also on the economic side, since the gov’t couldn’t implement uniform commercial policies there was economic warfare between the states, which was the last thing merchants needed.

- The weakness of the nat’l gov’t also affected foreign trade, as the AOC denied Congress the power to establish a nat’l commercial policy. Right after the war Britain, France and Spain restricted American trade w/their colonies, but Congress could do nothing but watch as cheap British goods flood US markets (causing a severe drop in domestic prices, which hurt debtors, esp. farmers).

- In foreign affairs, Congress was unable to deal w/the Spanish presence on the nation’s Southern and Western borders b/c Congress, which opened negotiations in 1785, was unable to make progress and had to end the talks altogether when Congress split on what they would exchange for the opening of the Mississippi River (which Spain closed in 1784).

- Another big problem related to the fact that under the AOC Congress couldn’t enforce treaties. Consequently, state gov’ts didn’t enforce the part of the Treaty of Paris about paying prewar debts, which gave the British the perfect excuse for not removing their forts on the Western frontier.

\*Management of the Western Territories\*

- Speaking of the Western frontier…after the Treaty of Paris the US assumed that all the land East of the Mississippi (ex. for the land held by the Spanish) was theirs. Nevertheless, they realized they would have to negotiate w/local tribes.

- At Fort Stanwix, N.Y. in 1784 American diplomats negotiated a treaty w/chiefs claiming to be representing the Iroquois, and in 1785/1786 they did the same for the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee in Hopewell, South Carolina. Although in 1786 the Iroquois said the treaty had been made by imposters and threatened to attack, the US called their bluff, realizing the treaty stood by default. By 1790, New York State had, by purchasing land from individual Iroquois nations, reduced the Confederacy to scattered reservations.

- In the Southwest the US also regarded the treaties as license to send settlers into Indian lands, but this provoked the Creeks [hadn’t signed Hopewell treaty] into declaring a war that didn’t end until 1790.

- Also, after the collapse of Iroquois power, tribes that had previously allowed the Confederacy to speak for them began demanding direct negotiations with the US At first they were ignored, as they couldn’t use their old diplomatic strategy of pitting powers against e/o [only the US was left].

- So anyhow the US went ahead and planned out an organization for the Northwest Territories (Mississippi River, Great Lakes, Ohio River boundaries) in a series of ordinances:

* **Land Ordinances of 1784/1785** – these laws described the process by which land would pass from public to private hands…
  + - The area would be divided into more than 4 but less than 7 states.
    - The area would also be surveyed in to townships of 36 sq. mi. each, each of which would be divided into 36 towns.
    - The ownership of the territories would be transferred to the federal government, which would then make $ by selling the lands to individuals.
    - Revenue from one out of every 36 squares would be used for public schools.
  + **Northwest Ordinance of 1787** – these laws described the process by which territories would become states…
    - Every new state was to have the same rights as the original states.
    - Slavery could not be established in the area.
    - 3 Phases to get in: (1) AOC appoints a governor and 3 judges, (2) if there are 5000 adult male landowners then a territorial legislature can be created to manage local issues, and (3) if the population exceeds 60000 people then delegates can be elected to write a state constitution, if Congress approves of the constitution then it is a state.

- Ordinances or no ordinances, though, in 1787 the US still hadn’t formed an agreement w/several Indian tribes, who attacked pioneers. Consequently, in 1789 the Northwest Territory’s first governor, **Arthur St. Clair**, attempted to negotiate a treaty, but failed, setting off a war with a western confederacy of tribes.

- The US suffered some initial defeats but in **August 1794** the confederacy was defeated at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. The **Treaty of Greenville** subsequently gave the US the right to settle much of Ohio but also (finally) recognized the principle of Indian sovereignty. But this, of course, was after the AOC was replaced by the Constitution…

\*The Constitutional Convention Meets\*

- So what spurred the change from the AOC to the Constitution? One element was that Americans in trade, finance, and foreign affairs soon realized the AOC was crap b/c Congress couldn’t levy taxes, establish a uniform commercial policy, or enforce treaties. Also, the economy, partially b/c of the AOC, fell into a depression after the end of the war (restrictions on exporting to Br./Fr./Sp. colonies).

- Recognizing the economic issues, representatives of Virginia and Maryland met independently at Mt. Vernon in **March 1785** to discuss an agreement over trade on the Potomac. It was a success, which led to a call for a general meeting of the states in **Annapolis** in **September 1786** to discuss trade policies. Only 5 delegations ended up coming, but they issued a call for another convention in Philadelphia.

**-** The other states didn’t respond until **Shays’ Rebellion** gave them a wake-up call. In **January 27, 1787** Shays led a set of angry western farmers against a federal armory in Springfield. They declared the gov’t tyrannical, using language reminiscent of the Declaration of Independence.

- This was the last straw in convincing many a strong central gov’t was necessary, so in **May 1787** every state ex. Rhode Island sent delegates to a **Constitutional Convention** in Philadelphia.