

Colonial America and the American Revolution

Reasons for Emigration to North America

1. There were economic problems in England, and many wanted new opportunities.
2. English farm workers were unemployed, and small farmers were struggling.
3. In the wealthy class, large plots of land had been divided among heirs for years until land was scarce.
4. Young men who did not inherit land were looking for adventure.
5. King James issued a charter that allowed settlement.
6. The emergence joint-stock companies made money available for the settlement of the colonies. They were to govern and maintain the colonies. Profits from the colonies went back to the companies' investors.
7. Religious freedom - the Puritans wanted to purify the Church of England and felt frustrated with the Protestant Reformation.

Colonial Regions

Northern Colonies (4 colonies)

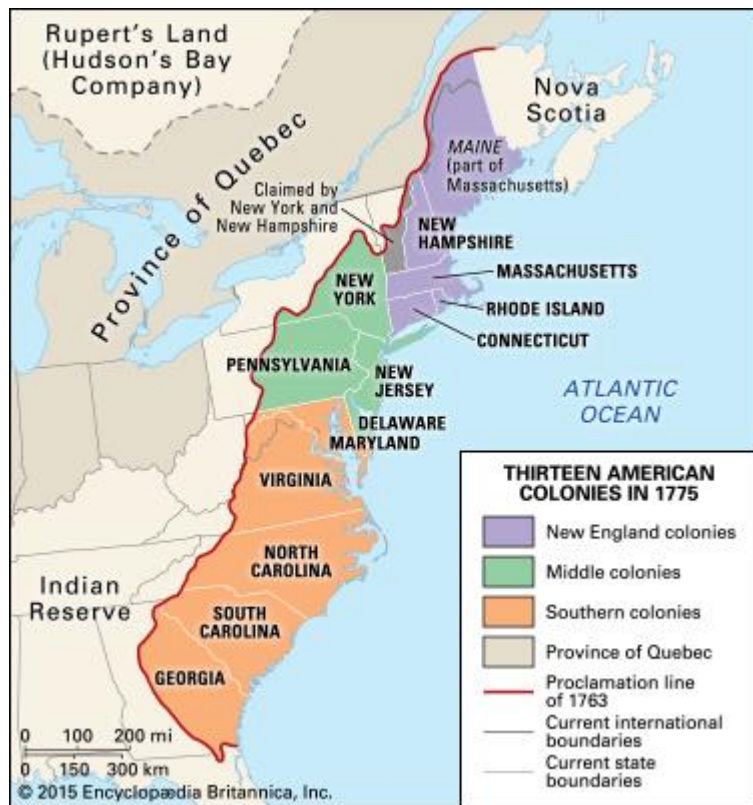
- Founded for religious purposes by the Puritans
- Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded in 1630 by John Winthrop "City Upon a Hill"
- Colonies were family-oriented.
- Had town hall meetings to discuss town/church affairs
- Men who were members of the church and owned property could vote.
- Economy was based on fishing, lumbering, shipbuilding and trade.
- Soil was too rocky and most colonist focused on subsistence farming (growing enough food for family)
- **Mayflower Compact** (1630) - a contract to work together for the betterment of the colony.

Middle Colonies (4 colonies)

- Founded for both religious and economic purposes.
- Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn in 1682 as a haven for Quakers.
- Quakers (a Protestant sect) held services without ministers, believed in equality, cooperation, religious toleration, opposed war and refused to serve in the military.
- Pennsylvania had a representative assembly and paid Native-Americans for land.
- Economy was based on wheat, trade, and foodstuffs. (known as the bread colonies)
- Most lived in family units.

Southern Colonies (5 colonies)

- Founded for economic reasons
- Jamestown which later became Virginia was founded in 1607 by John Smith.
- Cash crops were grown in the colonies like tobacco, rice, and indigo.
- John Rolfe (who married Pocahontas) was known as the father of tobacco.
- Most of those living in the Southern colonies were men.
- Life expectancy was low - most did not live past the age of 21 because of waterborne diseases like malaria.
- **House of Burgesses** (1619) was the first representative assembly in colonial America.

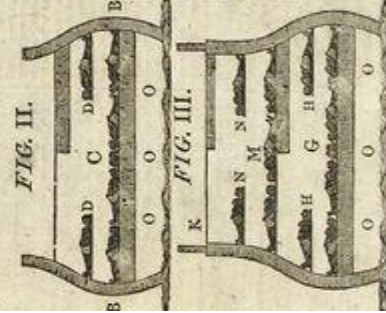
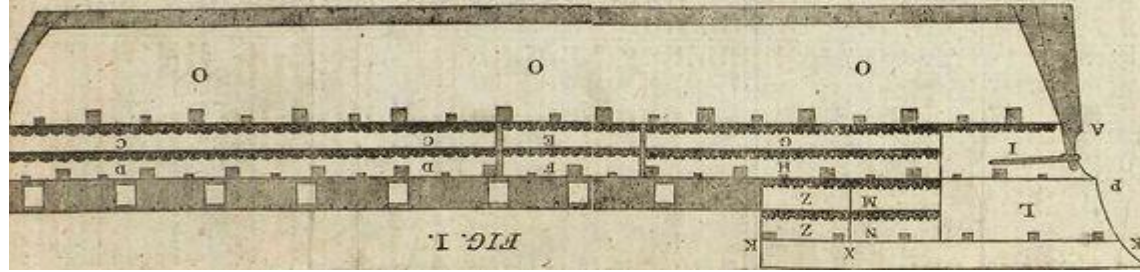
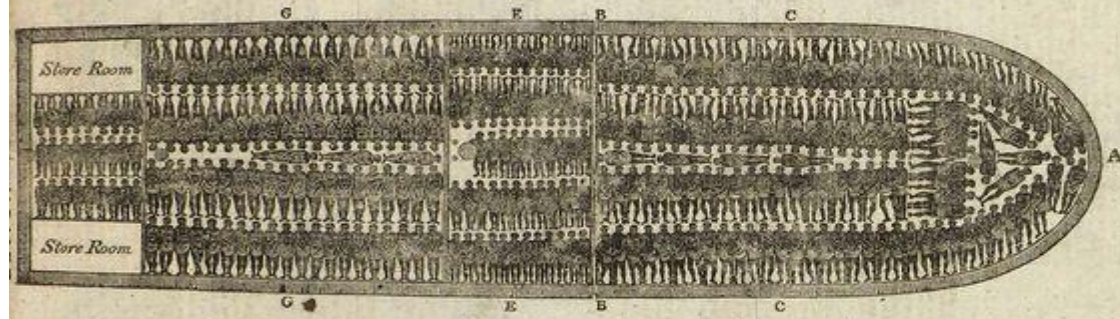
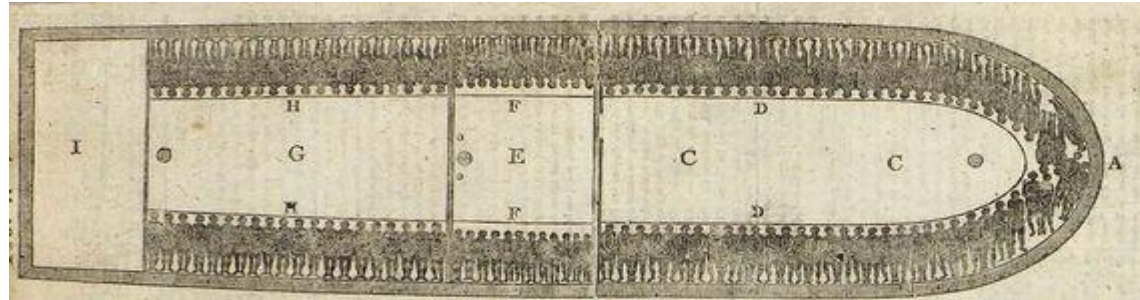


Native-American Relations

- First and Second Anglo-Powhatan Wars (1610 - 1642) - The Powhatan Confederacy fought against the settlers in Virginia. The first war resulted in a peace treaty when Pocahontas married John Rolfe. But the second war ended with the defeat of the Powhatan people and their expulsion from the colony.
- King Philip's War (1675) - the Wampanoag chief Metacom (who the English called King Philip) encouraged his people to fight against the Puritans in Massachusetts. The Wampanoag burned countless Puritan towns but were eventually defeated because of food shortages, disease, and heavy casualties. As a result the Wampanoag were pushed out of the colony.
- The English had very little use for Native-Americans - they didn't marry them and didn't use them for labor because many died of diseases.

Slavery

- At first **indentured servants** were brought to the colonies to work. These were poor Europeans who in return for passage, food and shelter agreed to a limited term of servitude (typically 5 - 7 years)
- **Bacon's Rebellion** (1676) - former indentured servants rebelled against the governor in Virginia because of lack of available land and representation in the colonial legislature. Colonist realized that indentured servants were unreliable and they began to import slaves.
- **Triangular Trade** - Merchants carrying rum from the Northern colonies would exchanged their merchandise for African slaves in West Africa. Slaves were sold in the Americas for things like sugar and molasses. These goods were then sold to rum producers in the Northern colonies and the cycle would begin again.
- The **Middle Passage** was the voyage from West African to the Americas. Slaves were packed into slave ships. About 13% died because of suicide and disease. About 10 to 15 million slaves were brought to the Americas via Middle Passage.
- 80 - 90% of slaves worked in fields. 10 - 20% worked at domestic workers.
- Slaves kept alive their musical, dance, and storytelling traditions.
- Slaves resisted slavery by faking illness, breaking tools, poisoning their masters, and staging work slowdowns.
- **Stono Rebellion** (1739) - 20 slaves in South Carolina killed several planter families. Most slaves were captured and killed. This led to harsher slave laws.



The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening in the American Colonies

The Enlightenment in Europe

- Thinkers thought that logic and reason could also be used to improve society, law, and government.
- English philosopher John Locke said it was the duty of government to protect the citizens' natural rights: life, liberty, and property.
- French Baron de Montesquieu suggested that the powers of government be divided.

The Enlightenment in America

- John Locke's writings were widely read in America. They influenced Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, among others.
- Jefferson used Locke's theories when he wrote the Declaration of Independence - life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

First Great Awakening (1730s - 1740s)

- Some religious leaders worried that material values and concern for making money had displaced spiritual values. Clergy looked for new ways to bring people back to the church.
- Great Awakening was a religious revival movement in the colonies.
- Jonathan Edwards, Puritan minister, was one of the movement leaders, preached about the agonies that sinners would suffer if they did not repent.

Results

- Led to increase in church membership in the 1700s
- New Protestant religions grew in America: Congregational Church, Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian
- Was one of first links uniting the colonies
- Led to creation of several colleges like Princeton and Brown Universities.
- Encouraged the colonist to question authority – would eventually led to the American Revolution.

The French and Indian War (1754 - 1763)

Causes

- The English and the French are both interested in the Ohio River Valley.
- The French were settled in Canada and were heavily involved in the fur trade.
- The English wanted to expand West and the French wanted access to the Mississippi River for the fur trade.
- In 1754 the French build Fort Duquesne in the Ohio River Valley on land that was claimed by Virginia.
- A young 21 year old George Washington was sent to defeat the French but failed - war began.

Effects

- The English win.
- **Treaty of Paris (1763)** -
 1. France lost all its possessions in North America
 2. Spain (who had been allied with the French) ceded Florida to the English but got the port of New Orleans and land west of the Mississippi.
- **Proclamation of 1763** is passed by the English warning the colonies not to venture west of the Appalachian Mountains because of threat of attacks by Native-Americans. 1,000 colonist violated the proclamation and moved west.
- In order to pay back the cost of the war the English began taxing the colonists.
- Encouraged American Revolution

Prewar Boundaries 1754



Postwar Boundaries 1763



The American Revolution (1775 - 1783)

Causes

- “Taxation without Representation” - **Stamp Act** (1765) asked that colonist pay a tax (in the form of a tax on all printed documents.) The colonist under the Sons of Liberty organized a boycott of British goods and terrorized tax collectors so much that the tax was never implemented.
- **Boston Massacre** (not really a massacre 5 colonists died) - (1770) colonists were protesting British troops and shots were fired.
- **Boston Tea Party** (1773) - the British East India Company was going bankrupt and was given a monopoly in the sale of tea in the colonies. In protest, colonist dressed like Native-Americans dumped 18,000 pounds of tea into the Boston harbor. In response the British passed the **Intolerable Acts** which punished Boston.
- Documents like ***Common Sense*** by Thomas Paine and the ***Declaration of Independence*** by Thomas Jefferson encouraged the colonist to fight.
- Overall the colonist wanted to establish a democracy and have a greater voice in government.

The American Revolution (1775 - 1783)

Effects

- After the colonial win at the **Battle of Saratoga (1777)** the French decide to help the colonists with troops, supplies and money.
- The British surrendered at the **Battle of Yorktown (1781)**
- **Treaty of Paris (1783)** - confirmed independence. Boundaries were set for the United States which stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River and from Canada to the Florida.

$\frac{1}{3}$ of the colonists were patriots (fought for independence)

$\frac{1}{3}$ of the colonists were loyal to the British

$\frac{1}{3}$ did not care.

Major Battles of the American Revolution





Prewar Boundaries 1775



Postwar Boundaries 1783

