

Chapter 2: The American Colonies and Their Government

Lesson 1: Influences on American Colonial Government

Foundations of Democracy

Ancient Democracies:

- Judaism: preach to followers that all equal under law
- Athens, Greece
 - 500 BC
 - citizens of city all had to vote
 - members of gov't chosen at random
- Rome
 - 200 BC - 44 BC
 - citizens voted representatives
 - 2 consuls (President)
 - Checks + Balances: no one person controlling the gov't

Early English Influences

Magna Carta

-1215

- King John

- creates 1st limited gov't
- Parliament is given power to approve of taxes

English Bill of Rights

-1688

- Lists all fundamental rights for English citizens
 - Bare arms
 - Free speech
 - No cruel or unusual punishment
- Due process of law

Enlightenment Thinkers:

- Niccolo Macchiavelli:

- Thomas Hobbes:

- John Locke:

Tabula Rosa: Blank Slate

- all people can be trusted

to run gov't if the

gov't protects N.R.

- Baron de Montesquieu

- people have expectation

to revolt if NR aren't
protected

Jamestown

Mayflower Co

Lesson 2: Settlement, Culture, and Government of the Colonies

- Settling the English Colonies
 - England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany, Africa
 - Netherlands, Sweden, Spain settled other colonies
- Economic Opportunity
 - America was source of potential wealth--land & jobs
 - **Indentured servants:** colonists that worked for free trip to America
- Religious Freedom
 - Puritans & Catholics came to America to avoid persecution
 - Desire to grow their own churches--King supported this--rid him of pains in the butt

Colonial Life

1. New England Colonies:

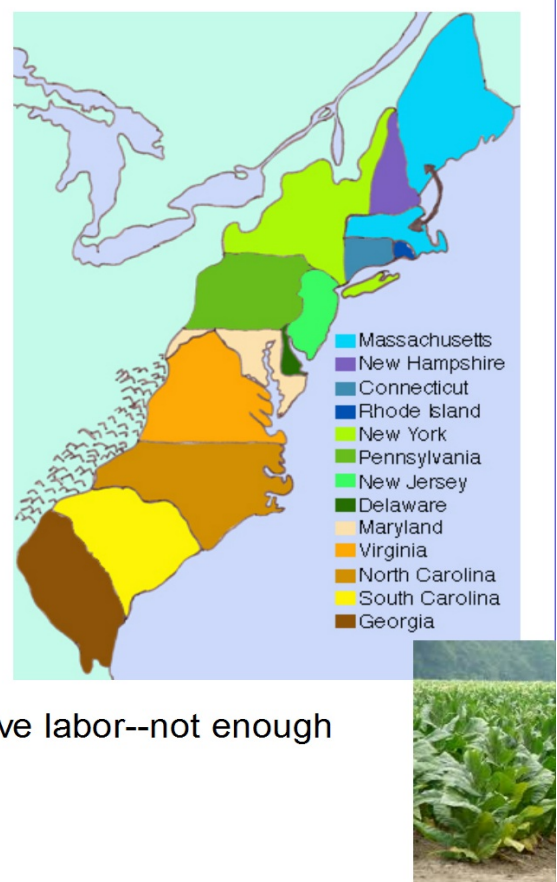
- MA, NH, CT, RI
- Farming was hard b/c of hard soil & cold
- Towns were smaller
- Puritan life-styles--thrifty & hard working
- Fishing, hunting/trapping, ship building

2. Middle Colonies

- NY, PA, NJ, DE
- Climate better for farming--**cash crops**
- Port cities became large (Philly, NYC)
- Popular w/ immigrants
- Rich in natural resources (coal, oil, timber)

3. Southern Colonies

- MD, VA, NC, SC, GA
- **Plantation** economy--large farms required slave labor--not enough workers
- Cash crops like tobacco



Colonial Government

Governing the Colonies

- English perspective was colonies were supposed to help England
- Laws were passed to regulate colonies' trade
- Laws were hard to enforce
- Colonists tried to ignore English law & passed local laws on their own

A Time of Change

- By mid-1700s each colony had their own elected gov'ts
- Passed their own taxes and needed no help from England
- Theories of John Locke became popular
- Colonial resentment of England grew

Lesson 3: Social and Political Changes in the Colonies

- **Great Awakening:** colonial period where citizens questioned religious authority (1740s-1760s)
- Enlightenment: people questioned political authority
- New sense of personal liberty



The French and Indian War

- British war with France/Indians over colonists moving west
- 1754-1763
- British won; colonial feeling soldiers should go home
- George III decided to take a stronger hold of colonies

New Laws & Taxes

- War was expensive; George III blamed colonists and levied taxes on them
- Forbid movement west into former French lands
- New taxes (Stamp Act) passed by Parliament
- Led to colonial boycotts of all British goods



Colonial Dissatisfaction Grows

- 1767: Townshend Acts: taxes on many imported goods
- British started aggressive hunts against smuggling (writs of assistance--"unreasonable search & seizure)
- 1773: Tea Act: British tea company exempt from taxes; led to Boston Tea Party
- 1773: Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts): took away many rights from English Bill of Rights in Boston

Steps Toward Independence

1st Continental Congress; Sept. 1774; Philly

- Organized boycott of British goods and sent a letter to George III
- George responded w/ more laws--saw this as rebellion

2nd Continental Congress; Spring 1776

- Debated seceding from UK



Declaration of Independence

- Committee of T. Jefferson, J. Adams, B. Franklin, et. al.
- Author was Jefferson
- Borrowed ideas of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes
 - Unalienable rights
 - "Social Contract" was broken
 - People's right to give consent to their gov't
 - July 4, 1776: 2nd Cont. Congress approved



Grievances Against George III: