

A historical painting depicting a busy colonial town street scene. The scene is filled with people in period clothing, buildings with gabled roofs, and a dirt road. In the center, a text box contains the title. The background shows a river or harbor with a bridge in the distance.

Colonial Life in the late
1600s & 1700s

Tobacco Economy

- Many planted this before corn
- Exhausts the soil
- Search for new lands in Indian territory
- Over Planting killed prices
- Workers are needed-Indentured servants cheapest and best form of labor
- Head-right system in Virginia and Maryland
- Little future for Indentured Servants

Bacon's Rebellion

- Rebel Farmers are upset with lack of help from Government in dealing with Hostile Indian population
- They blame Virginia Gov. Berkeley for being too “friendly” to Indians. They know he dominates their fur trade
- Bacon and his men attacked local Indian tribes, chased Berkeley from Jamestown and torched it.
- Bacon dies of disease
- Berkeley hangs 20 rebels
- Sets up planters vs. landless former servants
- Landowners begin to look to Africa for other forms labor.



Colonial Slavery

- By 1680s slaves outnumbered whites among the new arrivals to the colonies
- Most came from Senegal and Angola
- Arrived via “middle passage” (20% death rate)
- Destination: auction blocks in Rhode Island and Charleston SC
- 1750-half Virginia population and outnumbered whites in SC
- Distinction between slaves and indentured servants?



Colonial Slavery

Slave Codes:

- cannot get freedom based on Christianity,
- cannot teach to read
- status of a child goes with origin of mother
- “Chattel for life”

Slavery starts as source of labor morphs into racism



Slave Life

- Life hardest in deep South on rice plant.
- Tobacco plant. in VA fosters slave reproduction (rare)
- Develop own language based on mix of native African language and English
- The Ringshout (African dance) will lead to blues/jazz
- Banjo and Bongo Drums
- Slave rebellions in 1712 & 1739
- Both put down, seen as much more manageable than white servants



Southern Society in Colonial America

- Planters topped the social hierarchy
- FFV's –example of South's hierarchy
- Powerful families est. before 1690/owned vast amount of land and slaves
- Hardworking get your hands dirty businessmen, unlike British counterparts
- Biggest problem, keeping white servants sober



Southern Society in Colonial America

- Small Farmers made up the largest group
- Hand to mouth existence, might own a slave or two



Southern Society in Colonial America

- Landless whites-most were former ind. servants
- Indentured Servants-numbers are smaller as slaves replace them
- Black slaves in the social basement



Southern Society in Colonial America

- Economy bases on sprawling agriculture not industry and business
- Rural culture emerges
- Waterways main mode of transportation



New England Life in Colonial America

- Better climate fosters life expectancies of about 70 years
- Family was the center of life
- Women on average had 8 to ten children
- Raising children number one job
- According to Puritan Law women were to obey their husbands.
- Gave up property rights when they married
- Women seen as morally weaker than men, used Eve as example
- Men were to respect women and treat them with utmost kindness
- Sanctity of marriage was important
- Divorce was rare, adultery punishable whipped in public and wore "A" on outer garments.
- Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*



New England Life in Colonial America

- Tight knit society developed from small towns and villages
- Colonial legislatures granted proprietors land to start towns
- Towns consisted of:
 - Town Halls
 - Village Green
 - Residential Houses
 - Wooded area
 - Planting section
 - Pasture
- Towns with more than 50 families were required to provide elem. ed.
- 1636 Harvard College founded for Puritan boys to train in the ministry
- Pol. and social matters handles by “town hall meeting



Salem Witch Trials

- Only people who had “conversions” could join Puritan Church
- Half Way Covenant-unconverted children of existing members could now join. Many of the “elect” saw this as a problem
- Population was driving people to live farther away from the Church and neighbors
- Soon membership to church was offered to anyone (Quantity over Quality)



Salem Witch Trials

- A group of adolescent girls accuse certain older women of bewitching them.
- Accusations start when girls experience “fits of madness” believed to be caused from witchcraft
- At First accused were outcast women, slave Tituba, two unmarried women
- 19 were hung along with two dogs, one man pressed to death
- Accusations turn into SES conflict between Salem Village and Salem Town.
- Hysteria ends when governor’s wife is accused.



Colonial Society on the Eve of Revolution

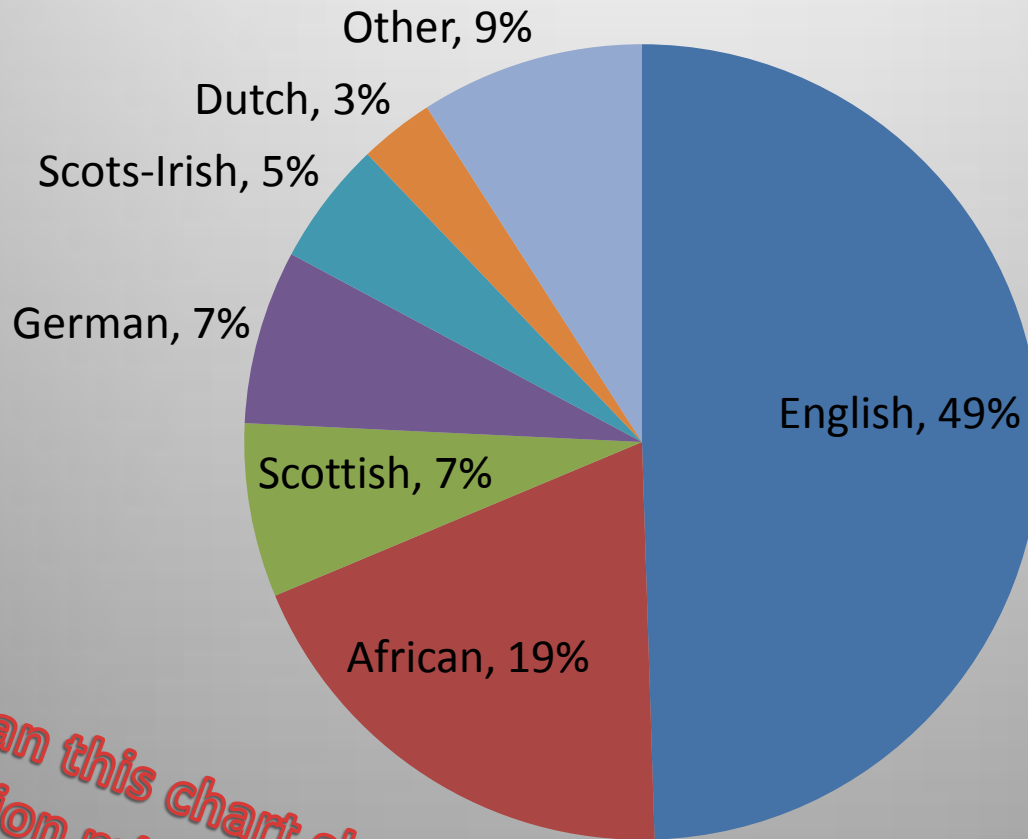
Britain ruled 32 colonies in North America, but only 13 revolted, why? The answer lies in the social, political and economic structure of those 13 colonies.

Colonial Population

	1700	1775
Colonial Population	300,000	2.5 million
Black Population	20,000	1.25 million
English Subjects/Colonists	20:1	3:1
Average Age	?	16
Major Cities	None	Philly, NY, Boston, Charleston

- Slavery and immigration were a big reason for increased population, but the biggest was reproduction.
- 90% still lived in rural areas.

Immigration Population 1775



*How can this chart show
revolution might occur in
the future?*

Colonial Social Structure

- “Social ladder” unique in that a person could climb no matter where you started
- As 1600s turn to 1700s social class distinction begins to take shape, wealthy begin to separate in acquiring “stuff” and jobs
- In Boston & Philly wealthiest 10% owned 66% of wealth
- War and rough conditions created a widowed and orphaned sect that relied on charity

Colonial Social Structure

- Unclaimed land is shrinking, causing many to become tenant farmers or homeless
- In the South there is the greatest gap between rich landowners and “poor whites”
- Criminals and Slaves are at the bottom of the social ladder



Workforce in Colonial America

- Clergymen were the most honored
- Doctors were not highly regarded-not trained well, wild methods
- Lawyers not highly regarded-seen as self serving “windbags”
- Farmers & manual laborers respected



Colonial Careers

- Farming was the leading profession-best in Chesapeake region
- In New England fishing, whaling, and ship making
- Triangular Traders made big money-Food to West Indies, gold wine and oranges to London and industrial goods to America.
- Land speculators-equivalent to modern day real estate moguls
- Manufacturing-clothes, household items, lumbering most important



Economic issues with Britain

- Britain's population was not keeping pace with Colonies production levels
- To make more money on exports Colonies seek out new markets
- French West Indies
- Britain not happy passes the Molasses Act 1733
- American merchants bribe and smuggle their way around the law
- What does this foreshadow?



Colonial Transportation

- Mid 1700s roads finally connect major cities
- Caesar and the Romans had better roads
- Waterways the other main mode
- Taverns pop up on popular routes-(bowling alleys, pool tables, gambling)
- Gossip and rumors fill the conversations, will serve as hotbed for political activity during Revolution
- Postal system established

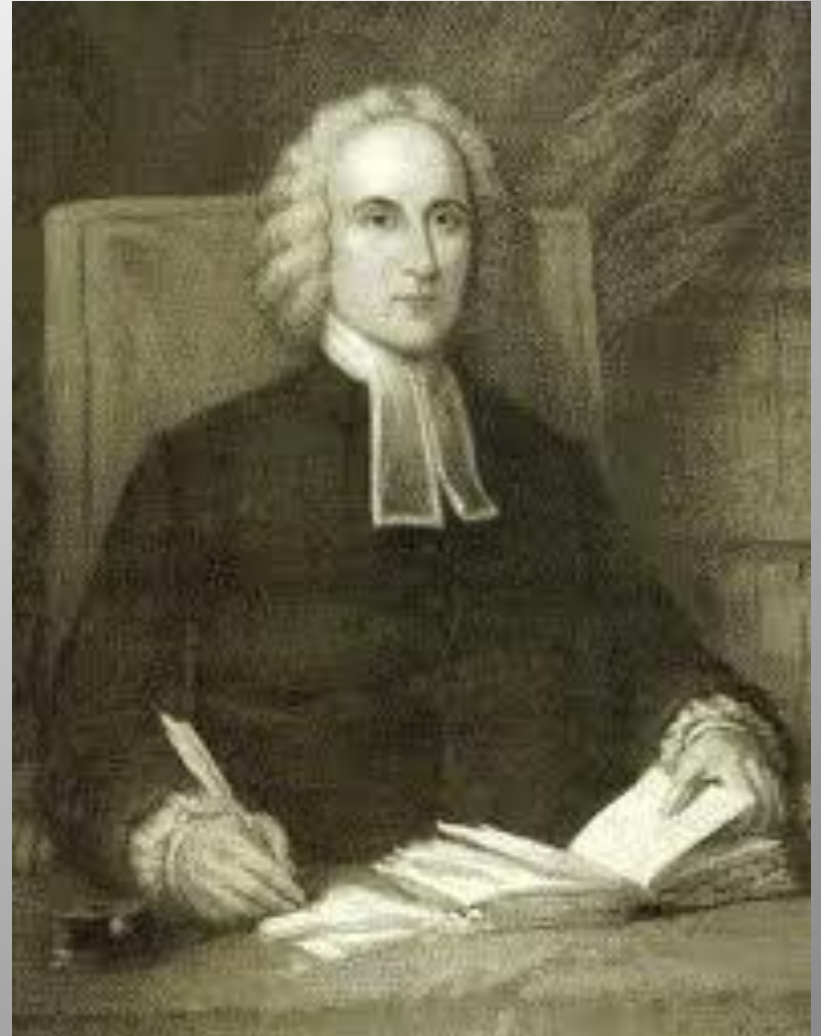


Religion in 1775

Name	Number	Chief Locale
Congregationalists	575,000	New England
Anglicans	500,000	New York
Presbyterians	410,000	Frontier
Lutheran	200,000	PA
Dutch Reformed	75,000	NY/NJ
Quakers	40,000	PA/NJ/Del
Baptists	25,000	RI/PA/NJ/Del
Roman Catholics	25,000	MD/PA
Methodists	5,000	Scattered
Jews	2,000	NY/RI
Total Membership	1,857,000	
Total Population	2,493,000	
% Churched	74%	

The Great Awakening

- Many beginning to think morals are eroding and religion is too “liberal”
- Non conversion church members were growing
- Religious revival explodes on the scene in 1730s and 40s
- Started by Jonathan Edwards in Mass
- Main message was you are born a sinner and need God’s grace to be saved, not your own good works
- Famous sermon-“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



The Great Awakening

- George Whitefield Scott-tremendous orator, people came to hear his voice as much as his message
- Ben Franklin once emptied his pockets at offering time when he intended to give none
- Thousands were “saved”
- Old lights vs. New Lights



Effects of the Great Awakening

- Emotion becomes a big part of Colonial religion
- Protestant Denominations grow
- Missionary work
- Princeton, Dartmouth, Brown and Rutgers were founded to train new ministers
- First major movement by the American people
- United people from different religions, classes, geographical regions, etc.
- Americans saw themselves as a single people



Colonial Education

- English view-education for the wealthy, for the few
- Puritans valued literacy for purpose of reading the Bible
- Higher learning more prevalent in the North
- Some schools were funded by taxes and others were privately ran
- In the South most education was through private tutors, meaning for the wealthy



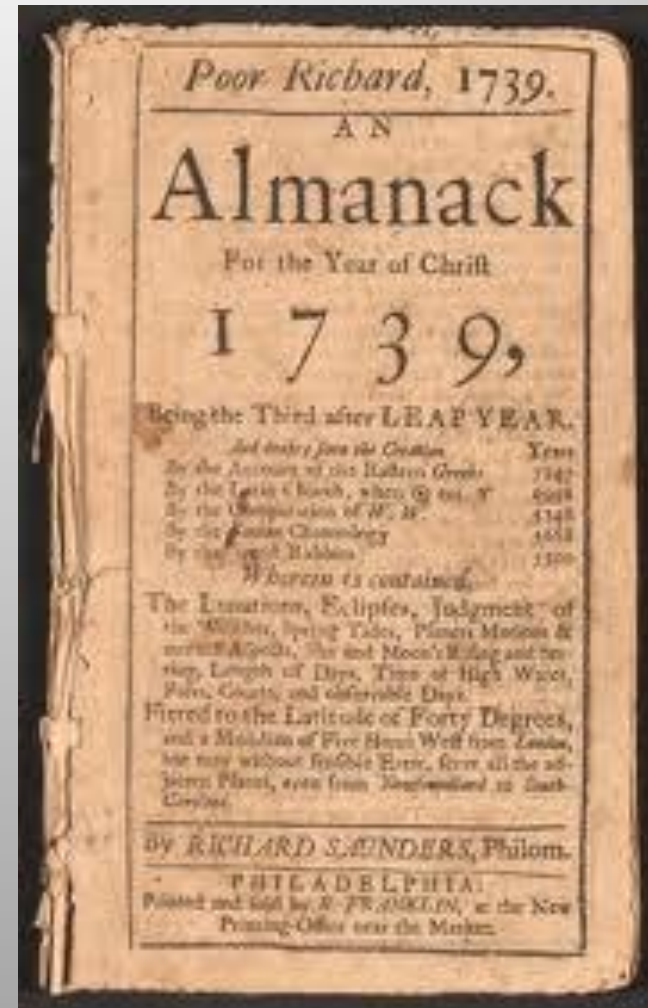
Colonial Education

- Most curriculum was based on religion
- Independent study and thinking was not explored
- Colleges were to train boys in the ministry, but overall instruction was poor
- Ben Franklin helped shape new movement in Education
- Found Univ of Penn-first college to teach curriculum void of religious influence



Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac

- Franklin—"the first civilized American"
- Published PRA from 1732-1758
- Compilation of sayings pertaining to virtues, morality, industry, common sense, etc.
- Honesty is the best policy
- Fish and visitors stink in three days
- Second only to Bible in popularity amongst American readers



Colonial Presses

- Most Americans were too poor to buy books and too busy to read them
- Only a few private libraries existed
- Franklin starts first public library in Philly
- By 1776 about 50 existed



Colonial Presses

- Hand presses turned out newspapers
- News was weeks behind the events
- Zenger Case-sets a precedent for freedom of the press



Colonial Politics

- All 13 had some form of Governor
- Most used a two house legislature-upper appointed-lower voted by people
- Many had legislatures that directly voted on tax measures
- Corruption tended to be a problem at every level
- Property owners were the voters, high turnout to vote out corruption
- In General America was much more democratic than England

