

# THREE COLONIAL SOCIETIES

Diversity in  
Colonial  
America

## REMEMBER FROM CLASS:

- A key question to guide you with regard to the three colonial regions/societies is:

**“To what extent would it be accurate to say that the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies had merged to create a single American society by the outbreak of the American Revolution?”**

## NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

- “Rocky, barren, bushy, wild-woody wilderness”
- Settled largely by English Puritans
  - 1630–1643: Over 20,000 settled
- Puritan faith united the region
  - What are the differences between Puritans and Pilgrims?
  - How can we describe the Puritan faith’s beliefs?
- Settlements:
  - Compact villages centered around meeting house
- SOCIAL STRUCTURE?
- How did New England make its money?



## MIDDLE COLONIES

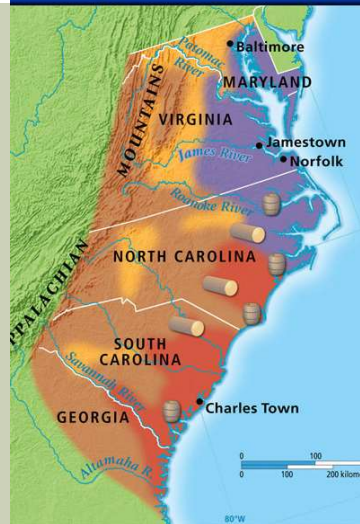
Colonies 1750



- Region of Contrasts
  - New Jersey and Delaware: rich soil
  - NY and PA: woodlands and animals
- Settlers varied
  - PA: A refuge for English Quakers
    - Known for relative religious tolerance
  - New York full of religious diversity
  - SOCIAL STRUCTURE?
- Main industries:
  - Farming, merchants, mechanics, shippers, and tradespeople

## SOUTHERN COLONIES/CHESAPEAKE

Colonies 1750



- No solid coastline
- Ideal climate for warm weather crops
- Plantation agriculture formed main economy
  - Tobacco, rice, sugar cane, indigo
  - “Cash crops”—large amounts of \$ to be earned
  - Slavery prevalent because of this
  - Considered to be “least economically diverse” of the three regions.
- Settlement patterns?
- Social Structure?

## SIMILARITIES?

- **Nationality:**
  - English was the only nationality found in all three sections
- An “absolute majority” of colonists were of English decent. What key cultural feature can be deduced from this fact?
  - English was the dominant language
  - Other “English” cultural institutions would be transferred to America
- **Religion:**
  - Anglican Church (Church of England) was present in all three regions.
- **Agriculture:**
  - Each region had some sort of agriculture, although the Southern colonies were the group with large, commercial farms as its main economic activity.

## DIFFERENCES

- **Religion:**
  - Striking diversity of religious groups
  - What were some of the religious groups that emerged?
- **Ethnicity:**
  - Many different ethnic groups represented
- **Economy:**
  - No uniform distribution of economic pursuits
- **Slavery:**
  - Almost entirely confined to South
    - Why?
- **Number of Cities:**
  - Almost all cities were confined to Middle and New England

## NEW ENGLAND COLONIES: OTHER STUFF

- Puritan dominated
- Less religiously tolerant
- Restrictions on civic participation
- More industry
- Less available farm land

## MIDDLE COLONIES: OTHER STUFF

- Ethnically diverse
- Religiously tolerant
- More democratic
- Quakers—contribute to human freedom
- Diverse industrial makeup

## SOUTHERN/CHESAPEAKE: OTHER STUFF

- Plantation economy
- Aristocratic “planter class” develops
  - Describe what “aristocracy” means
  - Will often be referred to as the “Planter Aristocracy.”
- Slavery
- Cash crops: rice, indigo, tobacco
- Scattered population
- Expansionary land practices
- Some religious toleration (C of E doms)

## **SIMILARITIES: OTHER STUFF**

- **Mostly English**
- **Anglo-Saxon freedoms**
- **Self-governments (not all democratic)**
- **Religious Toleration (to some degree)**
- **Educational opportunity**
- **Unusual advantages for economic/social self-development**
- **Increasingly unique from Britain in character**

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

- **What do you know about local and colonial governments?**
- **What do you know about education systems?**
- **What is the role and status of free or unfree labor?**
- **Did the colonies trade with each other?**
- **What were the attitudes toward England? Was this shared?**
- **Gender roles and status—what were they?**
- **How well did each section interact with Native Americans?**
- **Did ethnic groups come into contact with each other?**
- **What was the cultural development of the regions?**

## MORE STUDY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What political and religious circumstances in England led to the formation of New England?
- How did religion play a role in the development of the New England colonies?
- How did New England differ socially, economically, and politically, from the Southern Colonies?
- Trace the development of the emerging political unity of New England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century,
- How did the Chesapeake region differ from the Carolinas? Were there “two Souths?”