Chapter Three
Crisis and Change
1590-1720

Why Colonies Were Established
• From the beginning, three primary motives would be the impetus for establishing English colonies.
• To remain as loyal Englishmen
• Freedom to practice their religion.
• Commerce and raw materials.

Long-Term Impact
• These differences would impact upon the long-term development of the region, the culture, and the emergence of politics even until this decade.
• The difference in what motivated the establishment of the colony will be a factor in the Civil War.

Pilgrims Arrive at Plymouth Rock
• They were actually heading for Jamestown but were blown off course.

The Major Differences
• New England’s religious leaders opposed slavery as immoral.
• Southern commerce needed slavery to maintain profits in an inefficient and immoral economic system
• North develops factories.
• South depends on agriculture.

Other Regional Differences
• New England’s religions create community-based “public” schools to teach group’s religious values.
• South will limit education to the children of elite plantation owners.
• From these two different beginnings, two different educational traditions evolve & persist even until today.

Differences Impact on Development
• New England had a multitude of Protestant denominations.
• The Southern Colonies were mostly Anglican, the official church of England (now called Episcopal) in the lowlands and Presbyterian, the religion of Scots-Irish, in the highlands.
Jamestown, Virginia Established

- Jamestown founded in 1603
- Joint stock company.
- First years were disastrous; many die.
- Some native Americans help the colonists survive, others allow “benign neglect,” other responses violent.
- Indians introduce tobacco to Europeans.

Democratic Capitalism

- Initially in the colonies there was a democratic character to business enterprises.
- Shareholders could really vote, influence outcome; no one voter with half the votes.
- Virginia colonists establish elected legislature called the House of Burgesses.
- Colonists become free to leave the company which results in the Crown (the King) making Virginia a royal colony.

The Pilgrims

- The error is thinking they traveled here to promote religious freedom.

The Pilgrims

- Dissenters from Anglican Church
- For them the Church of England (Anglican) was too much like the Roman Catholic Church.
- Anglican church as intolerant of dogmatic dissent as was the Roman Catholic Church.
- King allows Pilgrims to leave, to keep peace in England while retaining loyalty of subjects.
- Pilgrims first sail for Holland in 1608.
- Holland was too unlike England.

Plymouth Colony

- Pilgrims arrive in North America in 1620.
- They were trying to reach Virginia, by that time a royal colony.
- Arrive at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts
- Indians initially welcomed the Pilgrims.
- The first Thanksgiving was with Indians
- Dissenters from Pilgrims forced to leave and form their own colonies.

Catholics in England

- Since break with Rome some estimate 20% of English remain secretly Catholic.
- Many women remained Catholic in secret while husbands changed with king
- Some royalty were secretly Catholic.
- Ireland remained Roman Catholic and was technically as much a part of the kingdom as was Scotland and Wales, both of which had converted to different Protestant faiths.
Catholics seen as threat

• Rome had hoped England would return to the fold and sent agents to keep pressure up.
• The French, bitter enemies through constant warfare, had remained Roman Catholic.
• Lord Baltimore, a friend of the King, was Catholic and was given a royal colony for Catholics to reside.
• This anti-Catholic sentiment in England still evident in English-speaking cultures today.

Maryland

• Maryland becomes haven for Catholics.
• Catholics were persecuted in England.
• Maryland is officially named for an English woman of royal birth, yet in reality it was named for Christ’s mother, the only way to get name approved— a common practice.
• Catholics would tolerate other religions.
• Eventually, Catholicism was made illegal even in Maryland.

Pennsylvania

• Like the Catholic Calvert, William Penn was a friend of the King and a member of a dissident religion– The Quakers.
• Quakers were radical like Puritans, but more progressive, pacifists, more egalitarian.
• Conflict with the Indians was not inevitable because the Quakers got along well with the indigenous people.
• Called themselves “Society of Friends.”

Pennsylvania as Refugee

• William Penn forms refuge for Quakers.
• Pacifist religion founded in England in 1660, founded by George Fox (1624-1691)
• Quakers treat the native peoples more fairly, the result is more peaceful.
• Scots-Irish settle along the frontier.
• Scots-Irish are constant conflict with Indians; set the tone for frontier life.

William Penn was a Pacifist

• Unlike the Scots-Irish, the Quakers managed a peace treaty with most Native Americans

Decline of Puritan Orthodoxy

• The conditions in England, the political and social isolation, made control of members easier; cultural oppression was the norm.
• The freedom provided by the colonial culture, the lack of an overwhelming military presence, the scarcity of population made dissent easy.
• Strict religious control is often the whim of one person or an elite group; something that can be thwarted by distance and natural resources.
English Civil War

- Oliver Cromwell, the head of Parliament, deposes king-- Eventually king was executed.
- Initially uses impeachment to assault king’s power-- then turns into open revolt.
- Impeachment indicts crimes unique to a leader.
- Religious overtones to Parliamentary revolt.
- Maryland attempts to pass law to limit conflict.
- Calvert’s efforts led to civil conflict, almost warfare in colony of Maryland.

Glorious Revolution

- 28 years after Cromwell’s revolt Crown is restored conflict begins again-- religion at the core of conflict.
- James II was considered incompetent
- To remove him he is accused of being a Catholic; whether he was is doubtful.
- Accusing someone of being Catholic in this era was a slander; meant he’s a traitor.
- He was tolerant of Catholics, appointed them to high offices, no evidence that he was.
- Probably wasn’t, he only claimed to be once the revolt had begun to gain Irish support.
- Protestant son-in-law, William of Orange, a Dutch prince, is invited to take throne.
- Pretense was because it was believed that James was a closet Catholic-- A false charge used as an excuse to gain power.
- Ends up fleeing to Ireland to seek Catholic support-- rallies Irish into army there.
- Irish Catholics support James II at Battle of the Boyne; actually Catholics on both sides.
- William wins at the the Boyne
- James flees to France leaving followers
- Recalling this battle is what causes conflict in Northern Ireland even until today.

Results of Glorious Revolution

- William & Mary become co-monarchs.
- There by invitation of Parliament.
- Establishes Parliamentary primacy on certain issues.
  - Taxation
  - Rule of law
  - Autonomy of the courts.
- No future monarch will be Roman Catholic

Conflict in England again spills over into colonies

- New Charters are issued for each colony.
- Protestants overthrow Catholics in Maryland.
- Protestants do not allow Catholics to practice religion freely.
- In Virginia, conflict between wealthy landowners and backwoods farmers leads to near revolt.
Dominion of New England

- From the beginning colonists showed independence that made monarch unhappy.
- Sought to end all the variances in how different colonies were administered.
- The colonial governments had been democratic from the very beginning.
- The distance from England had produced a culture of independence and freedom.

A Pattern Emerges

- Civil War in England allows the colonies to be left alone and prosper.
- After settled the King turns to colonies to pay bills for warfare and civil conflict.
- The contrast of freedom (while neglected) with intense scrutiny when conflict ceases.
- William and Mary create new charter which ends Puritan control.
- Salem witchcraft trials result in executions.

Witchcraft Hysteria

- Throughout history Christianity absorbs pagan mythologies as cultures are converted—e.g. Christmas was originally a pagan holiday.
- Witches were believed to be devil’s agents.
- 3/4ths were women, usually poor & single.
- Mostly in New England, none killed in South.
- Property of the accused was often real motive.
- Some may have had forms of mental illness.

Bacon’s Rebellion

- Inequitable land distribution in Virginia
- Landless men believe too much land left to Native Americans by treaties.
- The reality was the elite took most of the land taken from the Native Americans.
- Classic example of the elite playing off people at the bottom of the ladder against each other.

The Revolutions of 1689

- Puritans revolt in Massachusetts deposing the appointed government of that colony.
- New Yorkers rise up against a alleged “Catholic threat” deposing government.
- Protestants in Maryland depose the Catholic government in a colony created for them.
- When the Founders write the Constitution they knew the role religion played in conflicts

Massachusetts

- Puritans form their own religious colony.
- Only church members could vote in elections—a theocracy.
- Dissent was not tolerated.
- Roger Williams banished for his dissent.
- Thomas Hooker, in dissent leaves to form Connecticut
New York

- Begins as Dutch colony of New Netherlands.
- Outposts created at Albany and Manhattan.
- Patroons own large estates; impractical.
- England seizes control of New Netherlands.
- Glorious Revolution spreads to New York
- Under Dutch the colony is never successful.
- Proximity to England probably the cause.

New Jersey

- Quakers play a dominant role initially.
- Quaker legacy, freedom of religion.
- Proximity to New York & Philadelphia results in elements of each colony being present in New Jersey.
- West side of Hudson in New Jersey as good a port as New York.
- New Jersey has more links to NYC than does upstate New York state.

Scots-Irish in Ireland

- They were Scottish lowlanders who were encouraged to move to Ireland to dilute the native and Catholic population there.
- Highlanders-- wear kilts and plaids -- Celtic
- Lowlanders-- No kilts -- Descended from Picts, Danes, and Caledonians (also Celts).
- Some had their land taken in Scotland and given to English
- All were Presbyterians.

Scots-Irish Caught in the Middle

- The English push native Irish off their land and give the land to the new colonists from Scotland--Scots land in Scotland taken.
- The English persecute the Scotch-Irish for their Presbyterian religion, hatred becomes mutual.
- Live in Ireland for 2-4 generations & are hated by the Irish-- seen as English collaborators
- Irish bands terrorize them by wearing grain bags on their heads and visiting them at night.

Scots-Irish Come to America

- Hated by the Irish, used as pawns by the English in the English oppression of Irish.
- They leave Ireland for America in great numbers; they were fleeing the violence.
- Some were merchants, others were farmers who had lost their land to English claims.
- Scots-Irish hatred for the indigenous people and their hatred for the English would continue in North America.
Some Relations were Peaceful

• Not all interactions with Native Americans were violent.

The American Revolution was called a “Scots-Irish Revolt”

• Most of aristocracy considered themselves Englishmen; the Scots-Irish did not.
• They were in constant conflict with the Native Americans over access to land.
• Many of those living along the frontier were Scots-Irish; impoverished farmers
• Many of Revolutionary infantry soldiers were Scot-Irish— one source says 40%.

Scots-Irish Legacy

• Positive: Hatred of English exploitation; distrust of elite, distrust of government.
• Positive: American music such as folk also Country & Western, all Scots-Irish.
• Negative: Hostility towards indigenous people; a continuation of Irish experience
• Negative: land acquisition at local people’s expense— constant moving.

Scots-Irish in History

• President Andrew Jackson
• Daniel Boone
• Davy Crockett
• Lewis and Clark
• Language: The Term “Lynch.”
• The Ku Klux Klan will apply the acts of terrorism they had experienced in Ireland towards freed slaves– Clan a Celtic word.

South Carolina

• Rice became their major production.
• West African slaves known as the Gulla people cultivate rice like they had before.
• The only colony where slaves were in the majority; this will have long-term impact.
• More land dominated by plantation owners than any other colony
• The most rabid defender of slavery.

North Carolina

• Colony divided into two regions
• Coastal plain inhabited by plantations farmed by slaves.
• Highlands populated by small yeoman farmers— Many were Scots-Irish.
• Settled by small farmers.
• tobacco becomes primary crop.
Georgia created for prisoners
• Being in debt was a crime in England
• Any form of religious dissent was a crime
• Political dissent was a crime
• Stealing to survive was also a crime.
• Like with Australia’s history, the term criminal has political & economic implications which obscure reality.

Queen Anne’s War
• War in Europe over succession to the Spanish throne results in battles in North America.
• French and their Algonquian allies attack western New England, killing many settlers.
• English armies in New England attack French Acadia (now called Nova Scotia).
• Treaty of Utrecht (1713) ends hostilities.
• English gain Acadia and Newfoundland

The Cajuns of Louisiana
• When the French in Acadia refuse to pledge allegiance to England they are deported.
• Some move back to France, others move to the a safe French colony, Louisiana.
• The word “Cajun” is a corruption of the word Acadian.
• The Cajuns will populate New Orleans and Louisiana; the culture there is still French.

Origins of the Slave Trade
• Islam had allowed slavery.
• Many African cultures had allowed slavery.
• Ancient Israel had allowed slavery.
• Ancient Rome & Greece had allowed slavery.
• Slavery had never been based on race.
• More like a life-long prisoner of war.
• Economic exploitation of poor had been part of western economic system for centuries.