Chapter Four
The Expansion of Colonial British America
1720-1763

Colonies develop distinct economies

• Each region develops economies shaped by geography, geology, and climate.
• The economic structure impacts on politics
• Slavery not practical in colder climates
• Supporting slaves during extreme cold
• Rocky New England results in small farms
• Streams that decline steeply to the sea in New England providing a source of power.

Caribbean region produces sugar

• Region first to use slaves
• Closest region of hemisphere to Africa.
• Climate similar to where slaves were abducted
• Labor intensive and highly profitable
• Indigenous people (Indians) had died of disease
• Male Indians were resistant to slavery
• Indians died in captivity; the knew the terrain.

The lower South produces rice

• Slavery thrives in coastal regions
• Climate and geography most like Africa of any in the continental United States.
• Many slaves had grown rice in Africa
• Abducted for the expertise not just their labor
• Some slaves allowed to manage themselves
• The Gulla people of South Carolina islands.

The Gulla People

• Slaves live on islands off South Carolina and Georgia near Hilton Head.
• They grew rice like they had in Africa
• Europeans know nothing about rice growing
• Allow slaves to manage themselves
• West Africa culture survives in America
• Speak African dialect; words still survive
• Speak English with African words inserted
Chesapeake region produces tobacco

- Tobacco native to North America
- Indians grew it and smoked it
- Not smoked as habit but as ritual
- A milder hybrid is introduced from Caribbean Islands
- Europeans prefer the milder tobacco.

Jamestown finds that tobacco is profitable

- Easy to grow; not sensitive to climate
- Labor intensive; requires cheap labor
- Drains the soil quickly
- Curing creates a problem of storage
- This will establish the model for the whole region.

Tobacco in North America

- The Native Americans smoked a harsh form of tobacco for ceremonial purposes.

The Chesapeake as a Highway

- The Chesapeake provides easy access for the small farmer to the English market
- Numerous navigable rivers feed into bay
- Susquehanna is not navigable; not really part of Chesapeake region
- Reduces costs of transport to other markets
- Reduces middlemen; farmers profit greatly

Shipping was Critical

- The countless small harbors along the Atlantic coast made commerce possible.

Middle Atlantic focuses on wheat & overseas trade

- Delaware river drains Mid-Atlantic region
- Pennsylvania and New Jersey use Delaware River as transportation conduit
- Hudson River drains most of New York State; broad and deep far inland.
- Both rivers navigable far into interior
- Philadelphia and New York City thrive as ports; farmers nearby thrive as result.

New England had the most diverse economy

- Rocky soil; had once been covered in ice
- Numerous rivers, most with rapids or falls
- Numerous small harbors along shoreline
- Closest region to England; very populous
- Factors combine to result in small farm
• Rivers produce the first source of power
• Calvinist traditions impact on culture and economy

The Yankee
• The term actually originated in New Netherlands.
• Jan Kees is Dutch for “John Cheese”
• In Dutch Jan is pronounced Yan
• Nickname for all Dutch merchants in North America
• The term is first used for the colonial international merchant

Earning a Living from the Land
• Americans in virtually every region depended upon the land either directly or indirectly.

The Frontier barely supported its inhabitants
• Mostly poor Scots-Irish & some German farmers; self-sufficient; obsessively independent
• Many did not know soil management and crop rotation; no rotation harms soil.
• When soil is depleted, just move on west
• Hostility towards the Native Americans; bitterness towards the European elite in the coastal regions.

Life on the Frontier
• Constant threat of being slaughtered by Indians; not all tribes were peaceful.
• Different beliefs about land ownership.
• Impact of illness upon Indians when Europeans arrive
• Different values about warfare.
• Death of frontier people from starvation, illness and accidents.

Different values about warfare
• Native American tribes fought one another at times; frequency is largely unknown.
• Issues were usually not power or domination as in Europe, but scarcity of natural resources needed to survive.
• Prisoners were not taken because keeping prisoners would deplete valuable resources.

The Frontier Life was Hard
• Life on the frontier took its toll. Many died young from illness, accidents, or violence from Native Americans.

England no longer distracted by European concerns
• Britain’s defeat of Spain leaves it the most powerful nation in the world.
• Like Spain, England now has a massive empire.
• England dominates the seas; a superpower.
• Contact with colonies improves with peace.
• Supervision of the colonies increase
• France loses in Europe which results in the fall of New France (Canada).

Colonists’ Relationship with the Native Americans
• West of the Appalachians former French allies among the Indians resist the English rule.
• English Establish a line of demarcation along the top of the Appalachians
• Defined by that point where the rivers flow east to the Atlantic or west into the Mississippi.
• To keep peace English decide to keep colonists and the Native Americans apart.
• Creeks and Cherokees resist colonist expansion

Native Americans Hunted To Survive
• The Native American knew that food sources were scarce and saw the European as a threat to those resources.

Europeans and Slavery
• Spain and Portugal had used slavery first
• English enter slave trade with tradition of thinking English were superior to others.
• These notions of superiority are fueled by Christianity’s belief that it is superior.
• Greed, supported by beliefs in racial and religious superiority result in perverse belief that that slavery is better than living as a free “heathen” in a savage society.

Enough blame to go around
• Multiple parties participate in Slave trade.
• Spanish, English, Portuguese own the ships for transport; merchants view humans as cargo.
• European merchants look for profitable way to make either return voyage or triangular trip with doubles or triples profits.
• Islamic merchants trade in slaves dealing with both Europeans and other Islamic cultures.

Human Condition and Western Civilization
• No regard for plight of poor & disadvantaged in Europe; the poor were of no consequence.
• Catholicism saw suffering as a purification for heaven; Protestants saw it as punishment for sin or an indication of God’s displeasure.
• Easy to take the next step to slavery for people who look different & live differently.
• European Feudalism had thrived on a caste system; the poor were such by God’s plan.

Africans Helped Europeans
• African tribes conquer other tribes and sell captured prisoners into slavery.
• Tribal chieftains sell into slavery dissidents or trouble makers from their own tribe
• Forays into coastal regions by European mercenaries assisted by local African people.
• Many slaves escaped into frontier of Central and South America as well as interior regions of larger Caribbean Islands.
• Tropical jungles provided refuge.

Many slaves escape into Central & South America
• Knowledge of the tropical terrain enabled survival for escaped slaves.
• Whole regions of the Central and South American coast are comprised of peoples who are part Native American part African
• Places in Honduras where African dialects are still spoken interlaced with Spanish and Indian languages.

Trading in Human Lives
• The thought of holding human beings as property seems almost alien in the 21st Century

How Did Slavery Come to North America?
• Until 1490's Spanish & Portuguese lived under the rule of the Moors.
• The Moors ruled the Iberian Peninsula for 400 years; only recently deposed.
• Moors were a mixed Islamic culture.
• Sub-Saharan Africans co-existed with Arabic peoples in one culture, interracial ethnicity
• The Moors allowed slavery, but not by race.

England’s Relationship with Canada
• Colonists are angry that Catholic French in Canada are allowed to keep religion and culture.
• The English treat the defeated French of Canada better than they teach American colonists
• The English were practical enough to realize that it was less costly to treat the French Canadians well enough they would not revolt
• The British saw the colonists as ungrateful Englishmen

Now a powerful nation with no equals, England can focus attention on the colonies
• The colonies had been left in relative freedom while England focused on European matters; that has changed.
• Our freedom was not an abstract notion but a reality produced by England’s focus on European concerns compounded by a long transit across the Atlantic Ocean

Unforeseen Advantages of the French and Indian War
• Colonists had fought along side of the British Army during war; never treated equally.
• This would be invaluable; the see weaknesses.
• They would see that competence was not often the basis for promotion in the British Army.
• They saw that there was a class hatred which existed between officer and enlisted men.
Most Important Impact

• The colonists saw how the Native American fighting technique enabled a few fighters to have a dramatic impact on a large number of British soldiers.
• It might not have been chivalrous by European standards but sitting behind a rock and shooting made more sense than standing in formation and shooting.

Colonist’s view of events

• Ungrateful England turns on colonies.
• The reality was that England had to pay for its long and costly war through taxes everywhere.
• The colonists would engage in smuggling to avoid tariffs (import taxes) they thought unfair.
• The frontier people would continue to move further into the territory set aside for the Indians.
• The English had no clue that the colonies could be successful in their insubordination.

Lawbreaking As a Form of Dissent

• Smuggling which began during Townshend Acts continues afterwards.
• British textbooks describe the American Revolution as being heavily influenced by smugglers who were politically powerful.
• The truth is somewhat of a combination.
• Smuggling did exist, but often as a response to unreasonable controls
• Some simple criminals others on the cusp.

The Enlightenment

• The belief that reason must rule.
• Basically progressive in that it believed than most of the problems of the human race could be solved through reason
• The emergence of philosophers who place trust in man’s abilities and not limited to relying on God’s intervention or expression.

The Great Awakening

• Few Americans actively practice religion.
• The Anglican Church did not provide missionaries to the colonies because of Dissidents’ presence.
• Dissidents effort focused on controlling faithful.
• Not enough personnel to seek converts.

Shortage of Trained Clergy

• Many denominations could not spread clergy around to where the people lived.
• Despite the religious basis for founding the colonies of New England, religion becomes a secondary consideration to simple survival.
• Clergy develop circuits which brings them to the faithful in regular but spread out intervals.
• American interpretations of Scripture evolve with untrained clergy.
Religious Tolerance

- Each denomination will seek to have their clergy trained in their religious tenets.
- Whenever religious toleration is discussed it means only for Protestants.
- It evolves not out of the recognition of the value of other interpretations but a sense of futility in dealing with so many different interpretations of Protestant dogma.

Colonial governments

- The King appoints the colonial governor.
- The governor is really a viceroy.
- The land-owning elite (except in Pennsylvania) vote for a legislature.
- Conflicts emerge between appointed governor & elected officials.

Thirteen Versions of Government

- One advantage of having 13 independent colonies was that they were 13 distinct experiments in self-government.

The English clamp down

- Writs of Assistance permit random searches.
- The Sugar Act authorizes a trial without jury.
- Economic turndown followed end of war.
- Colonists who were free while England was at war now have taxes and laws imposed.
- 1765--The Stamp Act is Passed
- Stamp Act is repealed

Parliament strikes back

- Passes Townshend Acts (1767).
- Benjamin Franklin tells Parliament that Americans oppose only direct taxes not tariffs
- Colonists are forced to pay for the cost of keeping soldiers in the colonies.
- Colonists oppose Townshend Acts.
- British are shocked and humiliated by colonists’ response.

Psychological Impact

- The most powerful nation in the world will not know how to deal with humiliation.
- They rule the seas but cannot control their own colonies; a form of hubris.
- The English have no comprehension of the practical impact of the near total freedom that the colonists experience in their absence.
- They do not understand one another.
The Scots-Irish Response

- **Remember**: The Scots-Irish hated the English for their treatment back in Ireland.
- English did not understand Scots-Irish hatred.
- The Scots-Irish may not have wanted taxes.
- More importantly, they wanted nothing to do with the English who had used them as pawns in Ireland and persecuted their Presbyterianism.

The British Army in New England

- The English troops become aggressive in New England angering the general population
- the aggression had been learned in Ireland where the English believed Irish were inferior.
- Boston Massacre-British troops fire on a mob killing five; term “massacre” is hyperbole.