


1700-1780
Cultures of Colonial North America

Focus Questions

- What similarities and differences existed among 18th-century Spanish, English, and French colonies?
- How did increasing European immigration affect British colonial culture?
- How did contact with European customs and lifestyles change the cultures of Indian America?
- What were the patterns of work and class in 18th-century America?
- What tensions existed between Enlightenment thought and the Great Awakening's call for renewed religious devotion?




New England



- Puritan congregations governed
- Religious toleration failed
- Towns grew rapidly

The Middle Colonies

- New York
 - most ethnically diverse
 - New York City grew
 - immigration to rural areas
 - lower than surrounding areas.
- Pennsylvania Quakers
 - more diverse population.
- Government institutions more individualistic than tightly controlled New England communities.





Spread of Settlement: Movement into the Backcountry

1720-1760

The South

- South tri-racial
 - Europeans
 - Africans
 - Indians.
- Large plantation houses
- Small tobacco farms in the Upper South.
- White males dominated
- The Anglican Church
 - present
 - little power







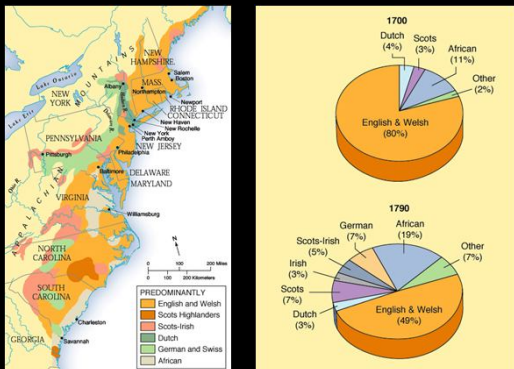
The Frontier Heritage

- Land in America was abundant and cheap but did not lead to a democratic society.
- Forced labor was common and few indentured servants won freedom and prosperity.
- The demand for land caused wars with Indians.

Population Growth & Immigration

- In 1700, 290,000 colonists lived north of Mexico.
- In 1750, the colonial population had grown to almost 1.3 million.

18th-Century British North America: Ethnic Groups



Social Class

- Colonial America was more egalitarian than Europe.
- In New Spain and New France, hereditary elites held privileges more in theory than practice.
- In the British colonies, the elite was open and based on wealth.
- The British colonies included a large middle and poor and unfree classes.

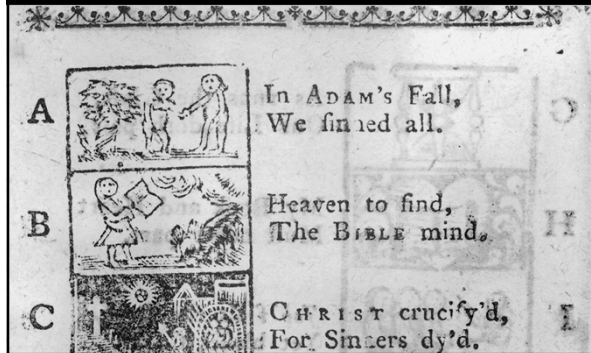
Growth & Inequality

- British colonies
 - gap between rich and poor increased
 - especially in cities and farming regions
- land shortage created a population of "strolling poor."

Contrasts in Colonial Politics

- British used a decentralized form of government.
- Royal governors and locally elected assemblies governed.
- Most adult white males could vote.
- Colonial politics
 - deference rather than democracy
- Leadership
 - men of high rank and wealth.
- Most colonial assemblies had considerable power over local affairs because they controlled finances.

The Enlightenment Challenge



A Decline in Religious Devotion

- Spread of new ideas
 - during a period of religious decline.
- Puritan Church
 - falling membership and attendance
- Change from congregational to established church contributed to Puritan decline
- The belief in predestination weakened

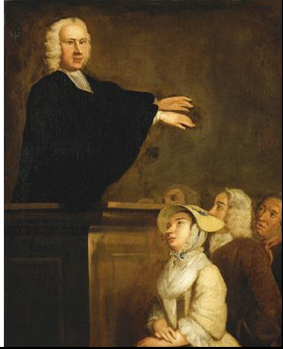
The Great Awakening



- In the 1630s, the Great Awakening began with Jonathan Edwards calling for a return to Puritan traditions, which appealed to dissatisfied young people.
- The movement spread as thousands of people experienced emotional conversions.

The Great Awakening

- In 1738, George Whitefield toured America, further fueling the movement.
- Conflicts developed between Old and New Lights.
- In the South, the Great Awakening introduced Christianity to slaves.





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