Chapter 17

The Diversity of American Colonial Societies, 1530 - 1770
The Columbian Exchange and Global Trade

• Main Idea: The colonization of the Americas introduced new items into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.
The Columbian Exchange

- Global transfer of foods, plants, and animals during the colonization of the Americas
- Several items but most importantly potatoes and corn (maize)
  - Cheap and easy to grow
  - Nutritious
Not all Good

• Not all good
  – Disease like smallpox and measles killed millions of Native Americans
• asdf
Global Trade

• Capitalism
  – Economic system based on private ownership and the investment of resources, such as money for profit
  – People have wealth now not just governments

• Joint stock company
  – Investors buying shares of stock in a company
  – Combining wealth for a common purpose
  – No sole risk
The Growth of Mercantilism

- Mercantilism
  - Power of a country depended on its wealth
  - Wanted to export more than it imported
  - Favorable balance of trade
  - Self-sufficiency is the goal
  - Colonies were a supplier of raw materials and a market
I. The Columbian Exchange

A. Demographic Changes

• Peoples of New World lacked immunity to diseases from the Old World.
  – Smallpox, diphtheria, typhus, influenza, malaria, yellow fever.

• Disease undermined the ability of native peoples to resist settlement and accelerated cultural change.

• Syphilis was only disease thought to have transferred from the Americas to Europe.
B. Transfer of Plants and Animals

• American crops of maize, beans, potatoes, manioc, and tobacco were brought to Europe.
• Old World livestock such as pigs, cattle, horses, and sheep destroyed crops of some Amerindian farmers.
• Had a dramatic influence on environment and on cultures of the Amerindian people.
• The introduction of New World crops is thought to be one factor contributing to the rapid growth in world population after 1700.
  – Maize, potatoes, and manioc
The Columbian Exchange refers to the transfer of peoples, animals, plants, and diseases between the New and Old Worlds. One can argue that this exchange did more harm than good. It may have led to genocide, racism, and imperialism.
Sugar plantations of colonial Brazil always depended on slave labor. Amerindians were used first, but Africans were found to be more productive and more resistant to disease.
Tobacco is a demanding crop that depletes soil nutrients fast. When tobacco is cultivated on the same land repeatedly with minimal rotation with other crops, there is a tendency for the soil to become exhausted and for crop pests to become endemic.
No animal had a more striking effect on the cultures of native peoples than the horse, which increased the efficiency of hunters and the military capacity of warriors on the plains.
II. Spanish America and Brazil

A. State and Church

- Spanish exerted control through the supervisory office called the Council of the Indies.
- In 1720 Portugal appointed a viceroy to administer Brazil.
  - These high developed, costly bureaucracies thwarted local economic imitative and political experimentation.
- Catholic clergy also acted to protect Amerindians from the exploitation and abuse of Spanish settlers.
- Catholic missionaries were frustrated as Amerindian converts blended Christian beliefs with elements of their own cosmology and ritual.
- In response to this the Church redirected its energies toward the colonial cities and towns where the Church founded universities and secondary schools.
Portugal controlled Brazil and Spain controlled central and western south America as a result of the Treaty of Tordesillas.
Bartolomé de las Casas (1484 -1566) was a priest who witnessed and opposed the poor treatment of the Amerindians by slave owners. His most important achievement was the enactment of the New Laws of 1542 which outlawed the enslavement of Amerindians and ended the encomienda.
Franciscan missionaries brought Catholicism to the natives and even trained some to become priests. They played an important role in transferring European language, culture, and Christian beliefs to the New World.
B. Colonial Economies

- Colonial economies were dominated by:
  - Silver mines of Peru and Mexico
  - Sugar plantations of Brazil
- Silver mining required a large labor force and led to environmental effects that included deforestation and mercury poisoning.

- Spanish used the forced labor system of Encomienda
  - System that forced natives into farming, ranching, and mining for Spanish landlords
  - Natives were also given a religious education
  - Eventually led to an increased demand for African slaves as natives died

- In Peru, the mita system undermined the traditional agricultural economy, weakened Amerindian village life, and promoted the assimilation of Amerindians.
- Portuguese used African slave labor because they were more productive and more disease resistant.
- Both Spain and Portugal tried to control their colonies through monopolies and convoy systems that facilitated the collection of taxes, but that also restricted the flow of European goods to the colonies.
Opposition to Spanish Rule

• Response to encomienda
  – Priests spoke out about injustices
  – Popé leads rebellion kicking Spain out of New Mexico
  – Encomienda system banned
    • 1542 Spanish government abolishes
  – Leads to need of African slaves
The encomienda is a labor system that was employed mainly by the Spanish colonizers in the Americas. A landowner was granted a specified number of Amerindians for whom they were to take responsibility, protect, instruct them in the Spanish language, and Catholic faith. In return, they could exact tribute from the natives in the form of labor or gold. Due to disease, Amerindian populations decreased dramatically.
Triangular trade from the late 16th to the early 19th centuries.
Most of the 10 to 15 million enslaved people were shipped to the West Indies, Central America, and South America.
C. Society in Colonial Latin America

- Spanish elite included a small number of immigrants from Spain and creoles.
- Under colonial rule the cultural diversity and class differentiation among Amerindians eroded.
- Slaves and free blacks participated in the Spanish conquest of the New World, but the direct slave trade led to an increase of blacks but to a decline in their legal status.
- African traditions blended with European and Amerindian languages and beliefs to form distinctive cultures.
- Slaves were engaged in agricultural labor and were forced to submit to harsh discipline and brutal punishments and the overall preponderance of males made it impossible to preserve traditional African family and marriage patterns.
Section 3
Atlantic Slave Trade

• Main Idea: To meet their growing labor needs, Europeans enslaved millions of Africans in the Americas.

• Why It Matters Now: Descendants of enslaved Africans represent a significant part of the America’s population today.
The Causes of African Slavery

- Slavery in Africa
  - Tradition under Muslim rule
    - primarily as domestic servants, had legal rights, had opportunities for social mobility, sometimes bought large estates, could buy slaves of their own, could marry out of slavery, and had children who were considered free
    - rulers played a willing role in the Atlantic Slave Trade because they had been selling Africans as slaves to Muslims for hundreds of years and saw little difference in selling them to Europeans and colonists
  - Demand for Africans with the end of encomienda system
  - Spain and Portugal initially lead the way
Slavery Spreads Throughout the Americas

• England Dominates the Slave Trade
  – England from 1690 to 1807, was the leading carrier of enslaved Africans to their colonies in the West Indies (about 1.7 million) and to their North American colonies (about 400,000)

• Atlantic Slave Trade
  – buying and selling of the approximately 9.5 million Africans from 1500 to 1870 to work in the Americas

• Most slaves went to Brazil to work on sugar plantations
Triangular Trade

- Triangular trade
  - Transatlantic trading network that involved Europeans selling European manufactured goods to African merchants for captured African slaves who would be sold in the West Indies for sugar, coffee and tobacco that were brought back to Europe for profit.

- Traded captured Africans for gold, guns, tobacco, rum, manufactured goods.
A Forced Journey

**Middle Passage**

- voyage that brought captured Africans to the West Indies and later to North and South America
Slavery the Americas

- A captured African’s journey to the West Indies in the dark hold of a large ship was characterized by whippings, disease, the smell of blood, sweat, vomit and excrement and scholars estimate...
Harsh Life

• Upon arriving in the Americas, captured Africans usually were auctioned, suffered whippings and beatings, and worked long days
  – Mining
  – Farming
  – Domestic Servant
• Sold to the highest bidder
• Resistance and Rebellion
  – Kept stories alive and music
  – Breaking tools
  – Work slowly
  – Larger uprisings in Spanish settlements
**Triangle Trade System, 1451–1870**

**Africans Enslaved in the Americas, 1451–1870**

- **Total Number Imported**: 9.5 Million*
  - 40% Caribbean Islands (Dutch, French, British)
  - 4% British North America
  - 2% Europe, Asia
  - 16% Spanish America and Spanish Caribbean
  - 38% Portuguese Brazil

*Estimated

Source: *The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census*

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**GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

1. **Movement** What items were transported to Africa and traded for captured Africans?
2. **Region** According to the graph, which region of the Americas imported the most Africans? Which imported the second most?
1. What effect did the spread of Islam have on the slave trade?
2. How did enslaved Africans resist their bondage?
3. How did African slaves contribute to the development of the Americas?
4. How was slavery in the Americas different from slavery in Africa?
5. What does the percentage of enslaved Africans imported to the Caribbean Islands and Brazil suggest about the racial makeup of these areas?
6. Why do you think the slave trade flourished for so long?
Casta was a Portuguese and Spanish term used in seventeenth and eighteenth century Spanish America to describe and segregate the mixed-race people. (European, Amerindian, and African cultures)
Creoles were whites born in America to European parents and were at the top of the social hierarchy except for actual European immigrants.
Mestizos were a mix of European and Amerindian ancestry who occupied a middle position in colonial society. They were usually not recognized by their European fathers and dominated urban artisan trades, small scale agriculture, and ranching.
Mulattos were a mix of European and African ancestry and held a similar socioeconomic position to the Mestizos.
III. English and French Colonies in North America

A. Early English Experiments

• Failed attempts in Newfoundland (1583) and on Roanoke Island (1587).
• Hope that colonies would be profitable and the successful colonization of Ireland led to a new wave of interest in establishing colonies in the New World in the 17th century.
In 1583, the English mariner Sir Humphrey Gilbert established a port at St. John’s in Newfoundland but it was abandoned within a year.
The Roanoke Colony was financed and organized by Sir Walter Raleigh to establish a permanent English settlement in the Virginia Colony. Between 1585 and 1587, several groups attempted to establish a colony, but either abandoned the settlement or died. The final group of colonists disappeared after three years elapsed without supplies from England during the Anglo-Spanish War. They are known as "The Lost Colony" and their fate is still unknown.
B. The South

- The Virginia Company established the colony of Jamestown and developed a tobacco plantation economy.
- Plantations of the Chesapeake Bay area initially relied on English indentured servants for labor.
  - As life expectancy increased, slaves became more common, and the slave population went from 950 in 1660 to 120,000 in 1756.
- Virginia was administered by a Crown-appointed governor and by representatives of towns meeting together known as the House of Burgesses.
Colonists in the Carolinas first prospered in the fur trade, but consequences included overhunting, Amerindian dependency on European goods, ethnic conflicts, among Amerindians fighting over hunting grounds, and a series of unsuccessful Amerindian attacks on the English colonists in the early 1700s.

The southern part of the Carolinas were settled by planters from Barbados and developed a slave labor plantation economy producing rice and indigo.

Slaves formed the majority of the population and the Stono Rebellion in 1739 led to more repressive policies toward slaves throughout the southern colonies.

Colonial South Carolina was the most hierarchical society in British North America.
Jamestown, located on Jamestown Island in the Virginia Colony, was founded in 1607 by 144 settlers. It is the first permanent English settlement in America. It was easily defended, but it was a swampy and unhealthy place.
Pocahontas (1595 – 1617) was a Virginia Indian chief's daughter notable for having assisted colonial settlers at Jamestown. It is debated whether she saved John Smith from death as depicted above, but the story gave her credibility among settlers. While in captivity, she converted to Christianity and married the English settler John Rolfe.
In the 17th century, 80% of all English immigrants were indentured servants who labored for 4 to 7 years to pay for their transportation to the New World.
House of Burgesses, located in Virginia, was comprised of representatives of towns from each colony and was the first form of democracy in European colonies in the New World.
The Stono Rebellion was a 1739 slave rebellion that began in the colony of South Carolina. It was the largest British slave uprising prior to the American Revolution. The slaves killed 22 - 25 whites before being intercepted by a militia where the rebellion was suppressed and most of the slaves were executed.
C. New England

- The Pilgrims formed the Plymouth Colony in 1620.
- The Puritans formed a chartered joint-stock company (Massachusetts Bay Company) and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630.
- Was more homogenous and less hierarchical than the southern colonies.
- Government included an elected governor and a lower legislative house.
- Due to the lack of soil or climate to produce cash crops the Mass Bay colony depended on fur, forest products, and fish. Large scale commerce and shipping made Boston the largest city in British North America.
The Mayflower's route from England to the New World in 1620.
The *Mayflower II* is a replica of the original *Mayflower* that sailed to America. It was built in England during the 1950s and then sailed to Plymouth.
The Mayflower Compact (1620) was the first governing document of Plymouth Colony. It was written by the Pilgrims, who crossed the Atlantic aboard the *Mayflower*. Almost half of the colonists were part of a separatist group seeking the freedom to practice Christianity according to their own determination. It was in essence a social contract in which the settlers consented to follow the compact's rules and regulations for the sake of survival.
In the spring 1621, as the Pilgrims were still building the Plymouth settlement, Samoset, an Amerindian of the Abnaki people, entered calling out 'Welcome' in English. The next day he brought Squanto, who was fluent in English.
It is commonly believed that the first Thanksgiving happened in 1621, at Plymouth Plantation, but it lasted three days, was held in October, and was called a “harvest festival”. Moreover, there was no turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes, pumpkin pie, or apples. It is likely they ate wild fowl, pumpkin or squash, fish, lobsters, and corn.
This is a speculative recreation of the Plymouth Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts as it would have appeared about 1627. It contains the houses, street plots, tools, furnishings and everyday items of colonial life.
D. The Middle Atlantic Region

- Manhattan Island was first colonized by the Dutch then taken by the English and renamed New York.
- It became a commercial and shipping center benefitting from its position as an outlet for the export of grain.
- Pennsylvania developed as a proprietary colony for Quakers.
The Dutch colony of New Netherland was purchased for the equivalent of $1,000 current U.S. dollars (not $24 and some beads) from the Manhattan Indians in 1626. Renamed New York in 1664, its location on the Hudson river made it an essential commercial and shipping center.
William Penn (1644 - 1718) founded the colony of Pennsylvania for the Quakers in 1682. It grew into a wealthy grain exporting colony comprised of free family farmers, not slaves.
E. French America

- French were committed to missionary work, but emphasized the extraction of natural resources.
- This resulted in the depletion of beaver and deer populations and made Amerindians dependent on European goods.
- The Jesuits and other missionaries attempted to convert Amerindians, but they turned their attention to French settlements.
- The French established colonies in both Canada and Louisiana, but this expansion led to the French-Indian war with Great Britain.
- The French were defeated and forced to give up Canada to the English and cede Louisiana to Spain.
18th century European colonies in the Americas. Patterns of French settlement more closely resembled those of Spain and Portugal than of England.
The fur trade is an industry dealing in the acquisition and sale of animal fur. Since the establishment of a world market for furs, polar and cold temperate mammalian animals have been the most valued.
Amerindians actively participated in the fur trade because they quickly came to depend on the goods they received in exchange – firearms, metal tools, utensils, textiles, and alcohol.
IV. Colonial Expansion and Conflict

A. Imperial Reform in Spanish America and Brazil

• After 1713 Spain’s new Bourbon dynasty undertook a series of administrative reforms:
  – Expanded inter-colonial trade, new commercial monopolies on certain goods, a stronger navy, and better policing of trade in contraband goods to the Spanish colonies.
• These new policies limited the power of the Creole elites and led to a number of Amerindian uprisings.
• Brazil underwent a period of economic expansion and administrative reform.
• The Pombal reforms were halted because economic expansion fueled by gold, diamonds, coffee, and cotton paid for the importation of nearly 2 million African slaves.
Mining, the heart of the Spanish colonial economy, increased silver production as Mexico and Peru rose. By the 1790s the wealthiest sectors of Spain’s colonial society came to view the Spanish Empire as an impediment to prosperity and growth.
In order to reduce the power of the Catholic Church, both the Portuguese (1759) and Spanish (1767) monarchies expelled the Jesuits, who symbolized the independent power of the church, from their American colonies.
Túpac Amaru II (1742 - 1781) was a leader of an indigenous uprising in 1780 against the Spanish in Peru. Although unsuccessful, he later became a mythical figure in the Peruvian struggle for independence and indigenous right movement and an inspiration to a myriad of causes in Peru.
B. Reform and Reorganization in British America

• In the latter half of 17th century the British Crown tried to control colonial trading (smuggling) and manufacture by passing a series of Navigation Acts and by suspending the elected assemblies of the New England colonies.

• Colonists resisted by overthrowing the governors of New York and Massachusetts and by removing the Catholic proprietor of Maryland.

• During the 18th century, economic growth and new immigration into the British colonies was accompanied by increased urbanization and a more stratified social structure.
The English Navigation Acts (1651) were a series of laws that restricted the use of foreign shipping for trade between England and its colonies. The object of these acts were to protect English shipping by stopping direct colonial trade with the Netherlands, France, etc. and to secure a profit to the home country from the colonies.
V. Comparative Perspectives

A. Political, Economic, Environmental, and Cultural Comparisons

• Amerindians in the colonies of Spain, Portugal, France, and England all experienced European subjugation.
• Of the Catholic powers, Spain gained the most wealth.
• British colonial governments were more likely to develop according to local interests than the other powers.
• The environment in all colonies underwent change from the introduction of European technology, animals, and plants.
– All lost natural resources to European markets.
– The Catholic nations forced more cultural uniformity on their colonies than Britain did in the more religiously and ethnically diverse British colonies.
– The British colonies welcomed a much larger influx of European migrants than did the other New World colonies.