Chapter 4 Growth and Crisis in Colonial Society, 1720-1765
New England’s Freehold Society

Farm Families: Women in the Household Economy

• Puritan equality?
• Fornication crime unequal
• Land
• Helpmeets and mothers
• Christianity

Farm Property: Inheritance

• If families couldn’t give land to children...
  • Laborer, tenant, freeholder
• When well to do offspring married, they would receive land
  • No luxury of marrying whomever they pleased
• Widow’s property rights were subordinate to family line
Freehold Society in Crisis

• Why a crisis?
• How did less land effect families?
• “household mode of production”
Toward a New Society: The Middle Colonies, 1720-1765

**Economic Growth and Social Inequality**

- Fertile land attracted migrants to the Middle Colonies

**Tenancy in New York**

- To attract tenants, lords granted long leases, with the right to sell improvements
  - Result:

**Conflict in Pennsylvania**

- Quaker dominated PA was more evenly distributed than NY
- Slavery and cheap Irish labor
- Half of white population was landless and poor
  - Crime
- Merchants and artisans capitalized on landless population. How?
Cultural Diversity

• Diverse and divided in Middle Atlantic colonies
• Most ethnic groups did not mix
  • Huguenots-
• Native Americans-
• African Americans-

The German Influx

• 100,000 settlers
• Why did Germans migrate to Middle Colonies?
• Many migrants preserved their cultural identity by settling in Protestant communities

Scots-Irish Settlers

• 115,000 settlers-
• Like the Germans, the Scots-Irish retained their culture
Religious Identity and Political Conflict

• Religious sects enforced moral behavior through communal self discipline
  • Family and business committees
  • Committees also supervised adult behavior

• In 1740s Quakers were a _______.
• Non-Quakers demanded an aggressive Indian policy and more political representation
• “More diversity, more ________.”
The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening, 1720-1765

- The Enlightenment
- Pietism

The Enlightenment in America

The European Enlightenment

- Scientific Revolution
  - Newton’s work undermined Christian understanding of the cosmos
- Enlightenment used empirical research and scientific reasoning
- John Locke

Franklin’s Contributions

- Benjamin Franklin
- Self educated
- Deist (deism) along with Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson
  - Rejected the divinity of Christ and Bible
- Inventions
- Spent extensive time in France
American Pietism and the Great Awakening

- Pietism was brought to colonies by Germans in the 1720s

Jonathan Edwards’s Calvinism

- In 1730 John Edwards reinforced Calvinists of NE that they were helpless creators, completely dependent on the mercy of God.

George Whitefield’s Great Awakening

- Focused on passionate sermons based on fear of Hell
- “Catching the Holy Ghost”

Religious Upheaval in the North

- Conservative (Old Lights) attacked New Lights for allowing women to speaking in public and passionate sermons.
- The Great Awakening undermined legally established churches and their tax supported ministers.
- The Great Awakening also challenged the authority of educated ministers.
- What was the general spirit of the Great Awakening?
Social and Religious Conflict in the South

The Presbyterian Revival

• Samuel Morris led the common Virginia Anglicans to challenge the bourgeoisie practices and embrace a more democratic religious revival.
• Some VA governors closed Presbyterian Churches

The Baptist Insurgency

• New Light Baptists focused on adult baptism
• As Baptism spread the cultural gulf between blacks and whites shrank
• “Brother” and “Sister”
The Midcentury Challenge: War, Trade, and Social, 1750-1765

The French and Indian War

• By 1754, both France and England claimed the area between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.

• Effect:

The Great War for Empire

• The Seven Years War/Great War for Empire

• The main obstacle of England was to crush France
  • Canada, Cuba, Philippine Islands, India, West Africa

• Treaty of Paris of 1763
British Industrial Growth and the Consumer Revolution

- Commerce and industry...
- Mechanical power
- Americans were producing 30% of England’s exports
- Americans incurred debt from buying English manufactured products on credit

The Struggle for Land in the East

- By the late 1750s, settlers in the east were at war, burning down their rivals’ houses and barns.

Western Rebels and Regulators

- As would be landowners moved westward, they sparked conflicts over Indian policy, political representation, and debts.

The South Carolina Regulators

- The Regulators first fought against Indians and white thieves
- Political agenda: more courts, fairer taxation, greater representation in the assembly
- SC assembly compromised with these vigilantes rather than fighting

Civil Strife in North Carolina

- Conflict between government and landowners who couldn’t pay high taxes.
- The Regulators wanted lower legal and tax fees
- Violent Regulars fought, but lost to British troops and militia
- These revolts reflected growing resistance to recently imposed British policies of taxation and control