

**CULTURES OF
COLONIAL
AMERICA, CHAPTER
5 NOTES**

Indian America

- Moved west as they lost land through battles or treaties
- Adapted well:
 - Became active in the fur trade
 - Used European technology
 - Firearms
 - Metal tools
 - Log homes
 - Horses

Downsides to Native Adaptations

- ◎ Dependant on Europeans/Colonists for:
 - Guns
 - Clothing
 - Metal tools

New Spain

- Located in the Southern US
- Capital: Mexico City, Mexico
- Florida, Texas, New Mexico, and California were the northern provinces
- Florida
 - Colonial presence limited to forts
- New Mexico
 - Population expanding, but poor

New Spain continued:

◎ California

- Culture based on the existence of Franciscan Missions
- Natives sometimes forced to remain in the missions if they had chosen to join them

French

- ⦿ Catholic colonial policy
- ⦿ Jesuit missionaries
- ⦿ French farming communities along the St. Lawrence river
- ⦿ Farming communities in Illinois along Mississippi River
- ⦿ Sugar Plantations in Louisiana
- ⦿ Mixed Native and French Culture
- ⦿ Less oppressive to Natives than Spain

Long Lots



New England

◎ Puritans

- Local communities had autonomy, but were bound by Puritan faith and the General Court
- General Court: Governor and Representatives selected by the towns

◎ Puritans: sought freedom to practice their own faith, not freedom of religion for individuals

Toleration Act- 1689

In 1661, King Charles II ordered a stop to persecution in Massachusetts

Roger Williams, leader of Rhode Island, had made an argument for religious toleration: “Forced worship” “stinks in God’s nostrils”

Effect of Toleration Act

- Other groups could meet openly in Massachusetts and Connecticut starting in 1700
- It took almost 11 years for this to happen from the time the Act was passed

Middle Colonies

◎ New York

- Ethnically diverse
- Several hundred Jewish families
- Substantial population of slave and free African Americans
- Difficult to purchase farm land because proprietors descendants owned it

◎ Pennsylvania

- Quakers comfortable with religious pluralism

Backcountry

- ◎ By 1750, settlers in Pennsylvania were pushing beyond the Appalachian Mountains
- ◎ Settlers in the backcountry did not like social stratification
 - Equality was limited however—most settlers owned little land—some owned quite a bit

The South

- ◎ Chesapeake and Lower South were triracial societies
 - White colonists
 - Black slaves
 - Indian communities on the fringe of settlements
 - Much population growth came from....Slavery
- ◎ Plantation life was the dominant social institution along the coast

Traditional Culture

- Colonists lived as they did in their homeland at first
- Working the land was the traditional occupation in Europe
- But, in cities, commerce was how people made money

Population Growth-English Colonies

- High fertility and low mortality played a role
- Spain and France limited immigration
- Immigration made British colonies larger:
 - Slavery
 - 400,000 people came from England during the 17th and 18th centuries