BRITAIN AND ITS COLONIES

Chapter 2
FOCUS QUESTIONS

• What were Britain’s reasons for establishing colonies in North America?

• Why did the first English colony, at Jamestown, experience hardships in its first decades?

• How important was religion as a motivation for colonization?

• How did British colonists and Indians adapt to each others presence?

• Why was it possible for England to establish successful colonies by 1700?
BRITISH BACKGROUND

- Isolated from the continent
- British rulers shared power with nobility with representatives in a bicameral legislature
  - House of Lords
  - House of Commons
- The Magna Carter
  - Parliament can enact or modify laws
- The Common Law
  - All are equal in eyes of the law
Intuitions that support colonization

• Joint stock companies
  • Private owners shared the risk, not the government
  • Some received Royal Charters

• The enclosure movement
  • Land that was available to the public for grazing animals and growing food, and change it to privately owned land, usually with walls, fences or hedges around it
BRITISH BACKGROUND

- King James I (Stuart)
  - Promoted theory of divine right
  - Puritans vs Anglicans
  - Swore to banish puritans
  - Offended Anglicans by ending war with Catholic Spain

- Charles I
  - Controlling
  - Disbands parliament 1629-1640
  - Taxed on his own
  - Allowed persecution of Puritans

- 1638 Scotland rebels
  - Charles reinstates parliament to raise taxes
  - They refuse
  - Charles attempt to have 5 members arrested
  - 1642 England rebels, captures King Charles in 1646, beheaded 1649
BRITISH BACKGROUND

- Oliver Cromwell
  - Commander of the parliament army
  - Military dictator
  - Dissolves parliament and calls himself “lord protector” aka the Protectorate
  - Religious tolerant to all except Catholics and Anglicans
  - Dies in 1658 and weak son fails to take over
  - Army takes control in 1660
  - parliament elections and they install Charles II
BRITISH BACKGROUND

- James II
  - Openly Catholic
  - Authoritative stance
  - Has Catholic son
  - Leaders bring in protestant daughter Mary and William (Dutch) to rule as joint monarchs

- James II flees to France

- Period known as Glorious Revolution
  - English Bill of Rights (1689)
  - Gave up royal right to suspend laws, appoint special court, keep standing army, levy taxes only with Parliament consent

The English Bill of Rights

- The king could not raise taxes or raise and army without the consent of parliament.
- It guaranteed trial by jury.
- It outlawed cruel and unusual punishment.
PATTERNS OF BRITISH COLONIZATION

- Joint-stock companies
- Colony source of
  - gold and other minerals
  - Products like wine, citrus fruits and olive oil
- Could free England from the dependence on Spain
- Products needed for navy
- Opportunity to trade with Indians
- Transplant jobless vagrants from Britain to Americas
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - VIRGINIA

- 05/06/1607 - 105 men and boys reach Chesapeake Bay (4 months at sea)
- Expected to find gold, easy money, friendly Indians
- Found disease, drought, starvation, and death

Powhatan Indians
- 10,000 total
- 200 villages
- Chief Powhatan collected tribute (80% of corn grown)

Captain John Smith
- Leadership and self promotion
- Only 38 of 105 survived first 9 months
- “he that will not work shall not eat”
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - VIRGINIA

- 1609 England send more
- New charter with governor
- Promise free land after 7 yrs
  - New colonists hit “starving time”
  - 1609-1610
- Lord De La Warr
  - 6/10/1610 – 150 men
  - “Irish tactics” on Indians
- Next 7 years barely survive until...tobacco
  - John Rolfe
  - Virginia Company 1616
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - VIRGINIA

- Pocahontas
  - Saves Smith in 1607
  - Took for ransom in 1613
  - Converts & takes name Rebecca
  - Marries John Rolfe 1614
  - Dies in England 1617
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - VIRGINIA

- Headright policy – 1618
  - Virginians given 2 headrights (50 acres)
  - Immigrants who paid for passage given 1 headright
    - Could get another headright for each passage paid

- Sir Edwin Sandys
  - Relaxed military regime
  - “rights of Englishmen”
  - 07/30/1619 – first General Assembly of Virginia met in the Jamestown church
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - VIRGINIA

- Events of 1619
- First General Assembly of Virginia met in the Jamestown church
  - House of Burgesses
- 90 women arrive
  - Men rush to buy them for 125 pounds of tobacco
- Dutch bring first African Slaves over (20)
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - VIRGINIA

- Indians ‘massacre’
  - 350 colonist include Rolfe
- English show no mercy
  - 1607: 24,000 Algonquians
  - 1669: 2,000 Algonquians
- Stability
- 1607 – 1624 total number of colonist who migrated were 14,000
  - 1,132 alive in 1624
- Virginia company dissolved
  - Becomes royal colony
- Social inequality?

By 1676 a fourth of all freeman were landless
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - VIRGINIA

- Bacon’s Rebellion (1675)
- Tough times in 1670s
- Bacon defies Governor Berkley
  - Bacon wants Indian genocide
  - Burns Jamestown
  - Died a month later
- Berkley regains control and hangs 23 rebels
- Royal commission makes treaties with Indians

Rebellion convinced many better to bring in African slaves
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES - MARYLAND

- **Calverts**
  - Sir George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore wanted refuge for persecuted English Catholics
  - First proprietary colony (1634)
  - Allowed to make laws with consent of Freemen

- **Colonial Government**
  - Divided into two houses in 1650
  - Mainly because of protestants who had become freemen
  - Tobacco took well with soil
  - Long coastline helpful in trade
New England colonies differ…

- Middle class immigrants
- Soil not as fertile
- Shorter growing season
  - Infectious disease less rampant
  - Longer life expectancy
- 17th century
  - 21k colonist in New England
  - 120k Chesapeake Bay colonies
- End of 17th century more in New England
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES – PLYMOUTH (1620)

Divine Mission

• Self-describes “saints”
• Religiously devout
• Create a model Christen society living according to God’s commandments
• Purify their churches of all Catholic and Anglican rituals
• Beacon of righteousness for wicked England to rival
Pilgrims

- Most radical Puritans “separatists” or nonconformists
- Gave up on Church of England
- Saw themselves as “godly” & wanted no “papist” rituals
  - No holy water
  - No elegant robes
  - No jeweled gold crosses
  - No worship of saints/relics
  - No kneeling for communion
  - No bishops or archbishops
  - No organ music
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES – PLYMOUTH (1620)

William Bradford

- 100 men, women & children set sail in Mayflower
- “saints” and “strangers”

Mayflower Compact

- 41 Pilgrims leaders enter agreement to abide by the laws mad by leaders of their own church
- Important bc no charter only land grant
- Civil government grew out of church
Squanto

- Dec 20th
  - Settled in what they called Plymouth
  - Was abandoned Indian village
- Half died first winter
- Met Squanto in 1621 who taught them how to fish and grow corn
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES – MASSACHUSETTS BAY (1630)

Puritans

• Very similar to pilgrims but believed the could reform Church of England

Massachusetts Bay Company

• Joint stock company
  • Took charter with them instead of being ruled from London

• 700 on 10 ships
  • Less than a year 17 more ships with 100 more came in (Boston)

John Winthrop

• “City upon a hill”
• Despised democracy
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES – MASSACHUSETTS BAY (1630)

Evolution of gov’t

- Trading company to provincial govt
  - Charter gave power to Court who elected governor and assistant
  - Freemen only chose assistants at first
  - Formed the General Court
    • Split it into Bicameral legislature

The Great Migration

- Brought 80,000 Britons to new world over next decade
  • sugar islands of West Indies (more in first half of 17th C.)
SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES – RHODE ISLAND (1636)

Roger Williams

- Pro democracy
- Govts & religion should be separate
- All faiths treated equally
  - Including Indians
  - Seen as refuge for rogues
- 1652 passed 1st law in N. America outlawing slavery

Anne Hutchson

- Knowledgeable and quick witted
- Banished as a leper not fit for “our society”
IV. INDIANS IN NEW ENGLAND

• French and Spanish built trading outposts
  • Deal directly

• English practiced “God given” right to fish and use land
  • Wanted Indians separate villages
  • Goal was subordination not collaboration

New England Indians

North: hunter-gatherers
South: more horticultural

• All fragmented never uniting
IV. INDIANS IN NEW ENGLAND

**Pequot War**

- 1636 accuse Pequot of murdering colonist
- Burn Pequot village and shot/killed fleeing men, women and children
- Declared God guided action
- Pequot organize and attack but entire villages in area are destroyed and entire tribe is dissolved in treaty
IV. INDIANS IN NEW ENGLAND

King Phillips War

- John Sassamon, Christian Indian found dead in frozen pond after warning colonists
  - Wampanoag assault 50 towns
  - So close to Boston they enact America’s 1st conscription laws
- Eventually disease, food & supply shortage end Indian revolt
  - Metacomet eventually capture and head put on pole for 20 yrs in Plymouth as gruesome reminder

King Phillips War devastated last of Indian culture in New England
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES - CAROLINAS

The Lord proprietors

Carolina given to 8 loyal allies during English Civil War

N. Carolina remote scattering of farms (Albemarle)

S. Carolina recruited British planters from West Indies to duplicate the sugar plantation system.
  • 1st ones at Charles Town aka Charleston
  • Next 20 yrs half of colonist came from Barbados
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES - CAROLINAS

“Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina”

• Drafted by one lord proprietor and his secretary, John Locke

• Encourage practice to give land grants to every immigrant

• Religious toleration encouraged immigration
  • even to Jews and “heathens”
Indian relations

- S. Carolina was to be commercial farming but took time so traded with Indians
  - 54,000 deerskins per year to England
- Began Indian slave trading
  - Tribes were turned on one another
  - 1670-1715: 50k Indians sold as slaves in Charles Town alone
  - As it spread up coast triggered colonial warfare and massive migrations
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – NEW YORK

Origins of New Netherlands

- Older than new England
- Trading outpost from the Dutch (Holland) who were financial giants with the largest merchant ship fleet
- Started with buying Manhattan from local tribes

New Sweden

- Dutch spread too rapidly and Delaware taken over by English

***Commercial warfare
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – NEW YORK

Settlements by patroons

- Receive large estate if you could house 50 people within 4 yrs
  - Meant to supply trading posts and protect colony’s “front door”

- Transplanted feudal manor to New World

Ethnic Diversity

So diverse few had allegiance to absolute governors control

British Takeover

Without a single shot fired
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – NEW YORK

First arrival of Jews

1654: New Amsterdam (NY) 23 homeless and poor Jews arrive from Brazil

Church ask the Dutch director to expel them

- He called them “deceitful”, “very repugnant” “blasphemous”

Dutch India company disagreed

Not until 17th C. could they worship in public

100 yrs later Jews only represented 1/10 of 1 percent of entire colonies population
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – NEW YORK

The Iroquois League

Interior of NY
12,000 members by 50 chiefs

Competition was the French and their Indian allies

Iroquois League expanded their trading hunts into the Great Lakes region

Forced to make peace with the French in 1701

But played British off against the French in the meantime to make thriving fur trade
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – PENNSYLVANIA

Quakers

Emerged from English Civil war and most influential radical religious group

1647: Discarded all formal sacrament or even a ministry

Refuses to name persons of rank

Tolerance of complete religious freedom, equality of sexes and full participation of women in religious affairs
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – PENNSYLVANIA

William Penn

Father was admiral

Inherited all father’s estates

Encouraged diverse faiths to new colony. Had 1000 by 1681

Growing town at Schuylkill & Delaware Rivers, called it Philadelphia (City of Brotherly Love)

Penn paid Indians for land and learned native tongue
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – PENNSYLVANIA

Penn’s Frames of Governments

Similar to others except freemen elected council members as well as the assembly.

Governor had no veto but as proprietor Penn did.

Hoped to prove govt could work with Quaker principles with out oaths or wars.

And that religion could flourish without govt support and absolute freedom to choose.

Eventually give Delaware as well who eventually had own assembly but same governor.
VI. RESTORATION BROUGHT NEW PROPRIETARY COLONIES – GEORGIA (1732)

James Oglethorpe

Appointed to head the province

Carefully and geometrically planned the town of Savannah

Colony failed as a Utopia with land holding limit, illegal rum and no slave policy (1759)

Successful as buffer from Spain’s Florida

Became royal colony with effective govt

Switch from wine and silk to rice, indigo lumber beef and pork with trade from West Indies
VII. GENERAL PATTERN OF BRITISH SETTLEMENTS

English crown not absolute like French and Spain

No direct control

Private investments

Welcomed variety of nationalities

Contiguous settlement patterns unlike Spain's far flung conquest and France's far reaching trade posts

Coastline became a ‘highway’ but also a way to separate ideas of old world with new.