Colonial America, Part II
The Carolinas

- Chartered in 1663 and 1665
- Originally intended to be an aristocratic colony like Maryland
- First expedition to the colony in 1670
- 1680 found a port city in what is now South Carolina (renamed Charleston in 1690)
- Constitution written in 1669
- Created a rigid social order: Aristocrats, local land owners, ordinary settlers, landless whites, slaves
- Never truly materialized; aristocrats never heavily involved, none come to colony
- Nonetheless, society highly stratified; sets model for South
- Economy predicated on plantations; especially in South (rice farming)
- 1729: Split into North and South Carolina
New Netherlands and New York

- Originally a Dutch settlement
- 1664: Charter granted to James, Duke of York to form colony
- 1673: Dutch reclaim colony
- 1674: English retake
- Colony of New York very diverse
- James favored large landowners
- No legislature established; would be added later
- However, extensive network of local governments
- 1702: New Jersey partitioned from New York
The Quaker Colonies

- Quakers were a religious movement from England formed during the 1600s
- Quakers given name because they trembled at the name of God
- A Protestant group with a unique set of beliefs
- No Church organization or clergy
- Gender equality
- No predestination
- No original sin
- Everyone contains within them a light of god
- Pacifists
- Beliefs made them outcasts in England
- Many within the movement desired for a new home in which to practice their beliefs
- However, Quakers were persecuted in New England by Puritans; needed their own colony
Pennsylvania and Delaware

- Quakers gained a valuable convert in William Penn (right), son of Sir William Penn, an important military leader
- 1674: Penn purchased land in New Jersey for followers
- 1681: Penn given land by Charles II to erase a debt; becomes Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania is personal property of William Penn
- 1682: Penn arrives in colony; attract Quakers from all over Europe
- 1701: Penn issues Charter of Liberties
- 1703: Delaware created from Pennsylvania
Georgia

- Founded by General James Oglethorpe in 1733
- Named after George II (right)
- Founded as a colony to serve as a buffer between South Carolina and Spanish Florida
- Founded with two groups: Debt Convicts and Charity cases
- Georgia originally forbade plantations, slaves, Catholics
- 1740: Land restrictions ended
- 1750: Slavery allowed
- Two changes transform Georgia; make it similar to Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland
Colonial Society

- 13 British Colonies in North America by 1733
- Colonies are all distinct places
- However, patterns have emerged
- Clearly, two distinction regions in the colonies: North and South
- By 1700: 250,000 people live in the colonies
- These people were diverse, as were their reasons for coming to the colonies
- Important to note that no nobles came to the colonies
- Whatever the differences in wealth, there were no family distinctions in the colony
- Land and wealth brought status, not birthright
Northern Society

- As a whole the North was more populous
- Life expectancy was higher in the North (65-71)
- North enjoyed cooler climate and better drinking water
- Stable family life; population roughly equal between men and women
- Families were enormously important; influenced much of life
- Men and women were not equal
- Women had mostly domestic duties
- In much of the North, life dominated by the church
- Wealth gaps were not as great in the North as the South
- Higher degree of literacy and education
- Much more economic diversity
Southern Society

- Less populated than the North
- Lower life expectancy; Men only live to about 40
- Disease more common in humid climate; poor drinking water
- ¼ of children do not survive infancy
- Many more men than women; legacy of the earliest days of colonial development in Jamestown
- Disparity in gender populations created tensions, but also opportunities for women
- Wealth gap between rich and poor much more pronounced than the North
Since Bacon’s Rebellion, slaves have replaced indentured servants on plantations

- Slavery is a common practice in the Americas
- Slave Trade is brutal, horrendous
- Lives of slaves difficult in ways beyond our modern imaginations
- Slave trade is a lucrative business
- 1700: c. 25,000 slaves in colonies
- 1769: c.250,000 slaves in the colonies
- Slavery not confined solely to the South
- But highest concentration of slaves in the South
- Slaves constitute as much as 10 percent of the population in the South
The Colonial Economy

**The Northern Economy**
- Small, self-sufficient farmers the most common
- Development of commerce
- Limited banking, merchant activity
- Small amount of industry
- More economic diversity
- More urban population; numerous towns and cities
- Urban areas are centers of commerce
- Commercial interests often put them at odds with English government

**The Southern Economy**
- Defined by the Plantation
- Plantations are commercial agriculture endeavors
- Plantations vary in size; many are quite large
- Plantation owners are powerful political figures and forces
- Plantations worked by slaves
- Agriculture is commercial; not self-sufficient
- Plantations exude enormous economic influence on South
- Crops vary based on location – Rice in South Carolina, Georgia; Tobacco in Virginia, Maryland
Relationship with England

- Important to remember that colonies were commercial endeavors
- England has a financial stake in their success
- Purpose of a colony is to generate income
- Colonies governed by the economic theory of mercantilism
- Colonies exist to benefit mother country
- Colonies were designed to be economically dependent
- Navigation Acts: Woolen Act (1699), Hat Act (1732), Iron Act (1750)
- Acts designed to favor English commercial interests and English businesses
- In theory, England regulated the economy
- However, a black market thrived and England only marginally enforced these acts
Colonial Culture

During the Colonial period, the residents of British North America continued many of the trends established by the original colonists. Religion continued to be an important part of the colonial experience as evidenced by the Great Awakening, led by Jonathan Edward (top left) and the Salem Witch trials (center). However, increasingly, colonists proved to be quite tolerant and a vibrant secular culture emerged. Additionally education and literacy, especially in the North, continued to be important. Several major colleges were founded during the colonial period, including Harvard.