I. Conquest by the Cradle

• A distinguishing characteristic shared by the rebellious colonies was population growth:
  – 1700: There were fewer than 300,000 souls, about 20,000 of whom were black.
  – 1775: 2.5 million inhabited the thirteen colonies, of whom half a million were black.
  – White immigrants were nearly 400,000; black “forced immigrants” were about the same.

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I. Conquest by the Cradle (cont.)

• The colonists were doubling their numbers every twenty-five years.
• 1775: The average age was about sixteen.
• 1700: There were twenty English subjects for each American colonist.
• 1775: The English advantage had fallen to three to one.
  The balance of power was shifting.

II. A Mingling of the Races

• America was a melting pot from the beginning, with numerous foreign groups (see Map 5.1).
• Germans were about 6% or 150,000 by 1775:
  – They fled religious persecution, economic oppression, and war in the 1700s and settled chiefly in Pennsylvania.
  – They were primarily Lutherans.
  – Known Pennsylvania Dutch, they were 1/3 of the colony’s
population, living in the backcountry.

II. A Mingling of the Races

- Scots-Irish numbered around 175,000, or 7% of the population, by 1775:
  - Although non-English, they spoke English.
  - Over centuries they had been transplanted to northern Ireland.
  - Their economic life had been hampered.
  - In the early 1700s ten of thousands came to America.
  - They became the first settlers of the West.

II. A Mingling of the Races (cont.)

- Scots-Irish (cont.):
  - When they came up against the Allegheny Mountains, they moved southward to Maryland and down Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley.
  - They built flimsy log cabins.
  - They proved to be superb frontiersmen.
  - By the 1800s, they had settled along the eastern Appalachian foothills.

II. A Mingling of the Races (cont.)

- Scots-Irish (cont.):
  - Pugnacious, lawless, and individualistic, they brought the Scottish secret of whiskey distilling.
  - They cherished no love for the British government, or any other government.
  - 1764: The Paxton Boys marched on Philadelphia.
  - A few years later, they spearheaded the Regulator movement in North Carolina.

II. A Mingling of the Races (cont.)

- About 5% were other European groups:
  - French Huguenots, Welsh, Dutch, Swedes, Jews, Irish, Swiss, and
Scots Highlanders
• 49% of population = Anglo-Saxon (Figure 5.1)
• Africans were the largest non-English group:
  – They were 20% of the colonial population in 1775.
  – The South held 90% of slaves.
• New England had the least ethnic diversity.

II. A Mingling of the Races (cont.)
• The middle colonies, especially Pennsylvania, received the bulk of later white immigrants.
• Outside of New England about one-half were non-English in 1775.
• Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, 18 were non-English and 8 were not born in the colonies.

III. Africans in America
• In the deepest South, slave life was severe:
  – The climate was hostile to health.
  – The labor was life-draining.
  – The rice and indigo plantations were a lonely life.
• Blacks in the tobacco-growing Chesapeake region had a somewhat easier lot:
  – Tobacco plantations were larger and closer to one another than rice plantations.
III. Africans in America (cont.)

- Blacks in Chesapeake region (cont.):
  - The size and proximity of plantations permitted slaves more visits with friends and relatives.
  - As the population of female slaves rose by 1720, family life was possible.
  - Growth was then mainly by natural increase, while the deeper South still depended on importation of slaves.
- Number of slaves in the North grew as well.

III. Africans in America (cont.)

- The language Gullah evolved among South Carolina blacks.
- Slaves helped build country with their labor:
  - Some artisans: carpenters, bricklayers, tanners.
  - Mostly manual laborers: cleared swamps, etc.
- Slaves resisted their oppression:
  - 1712: New York slave revolt
  - 1739: South Carolina slave revolt on Stono River

IV. The Structure of Colonial Society (cont.)

- America seemed a shining land of equality and opportunity, except for slavery.
- But on the eve of revolution, America was showing signs of
IV. The Structure of Colonial Society (cont.)

- Wars enriched merchant princes in New England and the middle colonies.
- Wars created a class of widows and orphans.

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- Wars created a class of widows and orphans.

IV. The Structure of Colonial Society (cont.)

- In New England, with open land less available, descendants faced limited prospects:
  - Farms got smaller.
  - Younger children were hired out as wage laborers.
  - Boston’s homeless poor increased.
- In the South, large plantations continued their disproportionate ownership of slaves:
  - The largest slaveowners increased their wealth.
  - Poor whites increasingly became tenant farmers.

IV. The Structure of Colonial Society (cont.)

- Lower classes further swelled by the stream of indentured servants:
  - Many ultimately achieved prosperity.
  - Two signed the Declaration of Independence.
- Less fortunate were 50,000 paupers and convicts (“jayle birds”) involuntarily shipped to America.

IV. The Structure of Colonial Society (cont.)

- Least fortunate of all were the black slaves:
  - They enjoyed no equality with whites.
  - They were oppressed and downtrodden.
  - Some white colonists worried about the growing number of slaves in colonies.
  - British authorities, however, resisted any attempt to limit the transatlantic slave trade.

V. Clerics, Physicians, and Jurists

- Colonial professions:
  - Most honored was the Christian ministry, but by 1775 ministers had
V. Clerics, Physicians, and Jurists

• Colonial professions:
  – Most honored was the Christian ministry, but by 1775 ministers had less influence than earlier.
  – Most physicians were poorly trained.
  – First medical school was established in 1765.
  – Aspiring young doctors served as apprentices.
  – At first, lawyers were not favorably regarded.

VI. Workaday America

• Agriculture was the leading occupation, employing 90% of people (see Map 5.2):
  – Tobacco the main crop of Maryland and Virginia.
  – Middle (“bread”) colonies produced much grain.
  – Overall, Americans enjoyed a higher standard of living than the masses of any country.
  – Fishing ranked far below agriculture, yet was rewarding, with a bustling commerce.
  – Commercial ventures were another path to wealth.

VI. Workaday America (cont.)

• Triangular trade (Map 5.3) was very profitable.
• Manufacturing was of secondary importance.
• Household manufacturing (spinning and weaving by women) added impressive output.
• Skilled craftspeople few and highly prized.
• Lumbering was the most important manufacturing activity.
• Colonial naval stores were also highly valued.

VI. Workaday America (cont.)

• But an imbalance of trade developed by 1730s.
• 1733: British passed Molasses Act to squelch North American trade w/ French West Indies.
• Americans responded with smuggling.
• This foreshadowed the impending imperial crisis:
Headstrong Americans would rather revolt than submit to dictates of a far-off Parliament that seemed bent on destroying their livelihood.

**VII. Horsepower and Sailpower**
- America, with a scarcity of money and workers, suffered oppressive transportation problems:
  - Roads did not connect to major cities until 1700s.
  - Roads were often clouds of dust in summer and quagmires of mud in winter.
  - Dangers included tree-strewn roads, rickety bridges, carriage overturns, and runaway horses.
  - Population clustered along banks of navigable rivers.

**VII. Horsepower and Sailpower (cont.)**
- Taverns sprang up along main routes.
- Gossips also gathered at taverns.
- Taverns helped crystallize public opinion and proved to be hotbeds of agitation as the revolutionary movement gathered momentum.
- Mid-1700s: Intercolonial postal system started.

**VIII. Dominant Denominations**
- 1775: Anglican and Congregational the tax-supported “established” churches: Table 5.1.
- Most people did not worship in any church.
- In colonies that had established churches, only a minority belonged (see Table 5.2).
- The Church of England:
  - Members were called Anglicans.
  - Official faith in Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, part of New York.
VIII. Dominant Denominations (cont.)
• Church of England (cont.):
  – In England, it was a major prop of kingly authority.
  – In America, the Anglican Church fell short of its promise.
  – It was less fierce and more worldly than the religion of Puritanical New England.
  – Sermons were shorter.
  – 1693: The college of William and Mary (Virginia) was established to train a better class of clergy.

VIII. Dominant Denominations (cont.)
• Congregational Church:
  – It grew out of the Puritan Church.
  – It was formally established in New England (except Rhode Island).
  – At first it was supported by taxing all residents.
  – Congregational and Presbyterian ministers grappled with political questions.
  – Anglican ministers hesitated to resist the crown.
• For the time, religious toleration in colonies.
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IX. The Great Awakening
• Spiritual conditions of the colonies:
  – In all colonial churches, religion was less fervid in early eighteenth century than before.
  – The Puritan churches in particular sagged under the weight of two burdens:
    • Their elaborate theological doctrines
    • Their compromising efforts to liberalize membership requirements
IX. The Great Awakening (cont.)

• Clerical intellectualism sapped the spiritual vitality from many denominations.

• Arminianism—Jacobus Arminius challenged the Calvinist doctrine of predestination:
  – He claimed that *all* humans, not just the “elect,” could be saved if they accepted God’s grace.
  – This doctrine was considered a “heresy.”

• 1730s–1740s: Great Awakening exploded:
  – Started by Jonathan Edwards in Massachusetts.
  – Sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”:
    • Warned that relying on “good works” was a folly
    • Said Christians must depend solely on God’s grace
    • Provided lurid detail on hell
  – George Whitefield’s evangelical preaching revolutionized spiritual life in the colonies.

IX. The Great Awakening (cont.)

• Orthodox clergymen (old lights) were skeptical of the emotionalism and theatrical antics used by revivalists.

• New lights defended the Awakening for revitalizing American religion.

• Congregationalists and Presbyterians split over this issue, and many joined the Baptists or Methodists.

IX. The Great Awakening (cont.)

• The Awakening left many lasting effects:
  – The emphasis on direct, emotive spirituality seriously undermined the old clergy.
  – Many schisms increased the number and competitiveness of
American churches.
– It encouraged new waves of missionary work.
– It led to the founding of colleges.
– It was the first spontaneous mass movement.
– It contributed to a growing sense of Americanism.

47 □ X. Schools and Colleges
• Education was first reserved for the aristocratic few:
  – Education should be for leadership, not citizenship, and primarily for males.
  – Puritans were more zealous in education.
  – The primary goal of the clergy was to make good Christians rather than good citizens.
• A more secular approach was evident by the 1800s.

48 □ X. Schools and Colleges (cont.)
• Educational trends:
  – Education for boys flourished.
  – New England established schools, but the quality and length of instruction varied widely.
  – The South, because of geography, was severely hampered in establishing effective school systems.
  – Wealthy southern families leaned heavily on private tutors.

49 □ X. Schools and Colleges (cont.)
• The general atmosphere in colonial schools and colleges was grim and gloomy:
  – They emphasized religion and classical languages (Latin and Greek).
  – They focused on doctrine and dogma, not reason and experiment.
  – Discipline was severe.
  – College education was geared toward preparing men for the ministry.
(cont.)

- Nine colleges were established during the colonial era (see Table 5.3):
  - Student enrollments were small, about 200.
  - Instruction was poor, with curriculum heavily loaded with theology and “dead languages.”
  - By 1750, there was a distinct trend toward “live” languages and modern subjects.
  - Ben Franklin helped launch the University of Pennsylvania, first college free from any church.

XI. A Provincial Culture

- Art and culture still had European tastes, especially British.
- Colonial contributions:
  - John Trumbull (1756–1843) was a painter.
  - Charles Willson Peale (1741–1827), known for his portrait of George Washington, ran a museum.
  - Benjamin West (1738–1820) and John Singleton Copley (1738–1815) were famous painters.

XI. A Provincial Culture (cont.)

- Other colonial contributions:
  - Architecture was largely imported and modified to meet peculiar conditions of the New World.
  - The log cabin was borrowed from Sweden.
  - 1720: Red-bricked Georgian style introduced.
  - Noteworthy literature was the poetry of enslaved Phillis Wheatley (ca. 1753–1784).
– Benjamin Franklin wrote *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

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56  XI. A Provincial Culture  
(cont.)
• Science was slowly making progress:
  – A few botanists, mathematicians, and astronomers won repute.
  – Benjamin Franklin was considered the only first-rank scientist produced in the American colonies.

57  

58  XII. Pioneer Presses  
• Americans were generally too poor to buy books and too busy to read:
  – Byrd family of Virginia had largest collection, about 4,000 volumes.
  – Benjamin Franklin established in Philadelphia the first privately supported circulating library.
  – By 1776 there were about 50 public libraries and collections supported by subscription.

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59  XII. Pioneer Presses  
(cont.)
• Printing presses:
  – They first printed pamphlets, leaflets, and journals.
  – 40 newspapers existed on eve of the Revolution.
  – Newspapers were a powerful agency for airing colonial grievances and rallying opposition.

60  XII. Pioneer Presses  
(cont.)
• Zenger trial (1734–1735): John Peter Zenger assailed the corrupt royal governor.
• The Zenger decision helped establish the doctrine that true statements about public officials could not be prosecuted as libel:
– It was a banner achievement for freedom of the press and for the health of democracy.
– It pointed the way for the open discussion required by the diverse society.

61 XIII. The Great Game of Politics
• There were three kinds of colonial governors:
  – By 1775, eight colonies had royal governors appointed by the king.
  – Three had governors selected by proprietors (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware)
  – Connecticut and Rhode Island elected their own governors under self-governing charters.

62 XIII. The Great Game of Politics
(cont.)
• Each colony had a two-house legislature:
  – Upper house was appointed by the crown in 8 royal colonies and by the proprietor in 3 proprietary colonies. It was chosen by voters in 2 self-governing colonies.
  – Lower house was the popular branch, elected by the people (property-owners).
    • In some colonies the backcountry areas were seriously underrepresented and resented the colonial elite.

63

64 XIII. The Great Game of Politics
(cont.)
• Self-taxation through representation was a privilege Americans cherished above most others.
• London generally left colonial governors to the mercies of the legislatures.
• Colonial assemblies asserted authority over governors by withholding their salary.

65 XIII. The Great Game of Politics
(cont.)
• Administration at the local level varied:
  – County governments remained the rule in the South.
The Great Game of Politics (cont.)

Town meetings predominated in New England.
The middle colonies used a mixture of the two forms.
• Town meetings, with open discussion and open voting, were a cradle of self-government.

The ballot was by no means a birthright:
• Upper classes, fearful of democratic excesses, were unwilling to grant the ballot to everyone.
• 1775: Still religious and property qualifications.
• About half of adult white males disfranchised.
• But right to vote was not impossible to attain because it was easy to acquire land.
• Yet, eligible voters often did not exercise this privilege; instead they deferred to the elite.

By 1775 America was not a true democracy socially, economically, or politically.
• But colonies were far more democratic than Europe.
• Democratic seeds were planted, later bringing forth a lush harvest.

Colonial Folkways

Everyday life was drab and tedious:
• Food was plentiful, but the diet was coarse and monotonous.
• Basic comforts were lacking.
• Amusement was eagerly pursued where time and custom permitted.
By 1775, British North America looked like a patchwork quilt:
– Each colony was slightly different, but all were stitched together by common origins, common ways of life, and common beliefs in toleration, economic development, and self-rule.
– All were physically separated from the seat of imperial authority.
– These facts set the stage for the struggle to unite.