

1 2 **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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3 **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.

4 **I. Conquest by the Cradle (cont.)**

- The most populous colonies in 1775 were Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Maryland—in that order.
- Only four cities were of any size: Philadelphia with 34,000, trailed by New York, Boston, and Charleston.
- About 90% of colonists lived in rural areas.
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5 **II. A Mingling of the Races**

- America was a melting pot from 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.

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7 **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.

8 **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.

9 **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.

10 **II. A Mingling of the Races (cont.)**

- About 5% were other European groups:
 - French Huguenots, Welsh, Dutch, Swedes, Jews, Irish, Swiss, and

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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.

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12 **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.
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13 **II. A Mingling of the Races
(cont.)**

- These immigrants laid the foundations for a new multicultural American national identity as different groups intermingled.
- Likewise, the African *American* community was quite variegated in its cultural origins.
- In New England “praying towns” and in Great Lakes villages, different groups of displaced Native Americans intermingled.

14 **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.

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15 **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.

16 **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

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21 **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

stratification and barriers to mobility:

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

22 **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.

23 **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 (“jaylor birds”) involuntarily shipped to America.
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24 **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.

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26 **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.

27 **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.

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30 **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.

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32 **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.

33 **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.
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34 **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.
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36 **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.
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38 39 **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.

40 **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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41 **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

42 **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.”
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43 **IX. The Great Awakening
(cont.)**

- 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.

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45 **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.

46 **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.

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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.

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51 **X. Schools and Colleges**

(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.

52 53 **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.
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54 55 **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.

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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.

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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.
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65 **XIII. The Great Game of Politics (cont.)**

- Administration at the local level varied:
 - County governments remained the rule in the South.

- 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.

66 **XIII. The Great Game of Politics (cont.)**

- 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.
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67 **XIII. The Great Game of Politics (cont.)**

- 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.
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69 **XIV. 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.

70 **XIV. Colonial Folkways (cont.)**

- 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.

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