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The Colonies Come of Age

Britain defeats France in North America. Tensions grow between Britain and its colonists. Colonial slavery becomes entrenched, particularly in the South.



Women planting a field of onions at Wethersfield.



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1 England and Its Colonies

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England and Its Colonies Prosper

Mercantilism

- English settlers export raw materials; import manufactured goods
- **Mercantilism**—countries must get gold, silver to be self-sufficient
- Favorable balance of trade means more gold coming in than going out

[Map](#)

The Navigation Acts

- **Parliament**—England's legislative body
- England sees colonial sales to other countries as economic threat
- 1651 Parliament passes **Navigation Acts**: laws restrict colonial trade

[Chart](#)

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Tensions Emerge

Crackdown in Massachusetts

- Some colonists resent Navigation Acts; still smuggle goods abroad
- In 1684 King Charles revokes corporate charter; creates royal colony

The Dominion of New England


- In 1685, King James creates **Dominion of New England**
 - land from southern Maine to New Jersey united into one colony
 - to make colony more obedient, Dominion placed under single ruler
- Governor **Sir Edmund Andros** antagonizes Puritans, merchants

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World Atlas](#) *continued* **Tensions Emerge****The Glorious Revolution**

- King James unpopular in England: is Catholic, disrespects Parliament
- **Glorious Revolution**—Parliament asserts its power over monarch, 1689
- Parliament crowns Mary (James's daughter) and William of Orange
- Massachusetts colonists arrest Governor Andros, royal councilors
- Parliament restores separate colonial charters
- 1691 Massachusetts charter has royal governor, religious toleration

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England Loosens the Reins

Salutary Neglect

- Smuggling trials in admiralty courts with English judges, no juries
- Board of Trade has broad powers to monitor colonial trade
- England's **salutary neglect**—does not enforce laws if economic loyalty

The Seeds of Self-Government

- Governor: calls, disbands assembly; appoints judges; oversees trade
- Colonial assembly influences governor because they pay his salary
- Colonists still consider themselves British but want self-government

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2 The Agricultural South

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A Plantation Economy Arises

The Rural Southern Economy

- Fertile soil leads to growth of agriculture
- Farmers specialize in **cash crops** grown for sale, not personal use
- Long, deep rivers allow planters to ship goods directly to markets
- Plantations produce most of what farmers need on their property
- Few cities grow: warehouses, shops not needed

[Map](#)

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Life in Southern Society

A Diverse and Prosperous People

- In 1700s, many German, Scots, Scots-Irish immigrants settle in South
- Southern population mostly small farmers
- Planters are minority but control economy
- By mid-1700s, growth in export trade makes colonies prosperous

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- Women have few legal or social rights, little formal schooling
- Most women cook, clean, garden, do farm chores
- Rich and poor women must submit to husbands' will

Indentured Servants

- In 1600s, male indentured servants are 1/2 to 2/3 of immigrants
- In 1700s, reports of hardship keep European laborers away



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Slavery Becomes Entrenched

The Evolution of Slavery

- **Slaves**—people who are considered the property of others
- English colonists increasingly unable to enslave Native Americans
- Indentured servant price rises; slaves work for life, are better buy
- Most white colonists think Africans' dark skin justifies slavery


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- 3-way **triangular trade** network ties colonies, Africa, West Indies:
 - New England exports rum to Africa
 - Africa exports slaves to West Indies
 - West Indies export sugar, molasses to New England

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continued **Slavery Becomes Entrenched****The Middle Passage**

- **Middle passage**—middle leg of transatlantic trade, transports slaves
- 20% or more of Africans on ship die from disease, abuse, suicide

[Image](#)**Slavery in the South**

- 80–90% of slaves work in fields; 10–20% work in house or as artisans
- Slaves work full-time from age 12 until death
- Owners beat, whip slaves considered disobedient, disrespectful



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Africans Cope in Their New World

Culture and Family

- Africans in North America have different cultures, languages
- Slaves preserve cultural heritage: crafts, music, stories, dance
- Merchants, owners split families; slaves raise children left behind

Resistance and Revolt


- Slaves resist subservient position, try to escape
- 1739 **Stono Rebellion**—planter families killed, militia defeats slaves
- Colonists tighten slave laws, but slave rebellions continue

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3 The Commercial North

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Commerce Grows in the North

A Diversified Economy

- Cold winters, rocky soil restrict New Englanders to small farms
- Middle colonies raise livestock, crops; export surplus
- Diverse commercial economy develops in New England, middle colonies
- By mid-1700s, merchants are powerful group in North

Urban Life


- Growth in trade leads to large port cities like New York, Boston
- Philadelphia second largest city in British empire; has urban plan



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Northern Society Is Diverse

Influx of Immigrants

- 1700s, large influx of immigrants: Germans, Scots-Irish, Dutch, Jews
- Immigrants encounter prejudice, clash with frontier Native Americans

[Chart](#)

Slavery in the North

- Less slavery in North than in South; prejudice still exists
- Slaves have some legal rights, but highly restricted

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- Women have extensive work responsibilities but few legal rights
- Only single women, widows can own businesses
- Wives must submit to husbands

Witchcraft Trials in Salem

- In 1692, false accusations of witchcraft lead to trials, hysteria
- Many accusers poor, brought charges against rich
- Several victims were women considered too independent



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New Ideas Influence the Colonists

The Enlightenment

- For centuries philosophers used reason, science to explain world
- **Enlightenment**—movement in 1700s emphasizing reason, observation
- Enlightenment ideas spread quickly through books, pamphlets
- **Benjamin Franklin** embraces Enlightenment ideas
- Other colonial leaders also adopt Enlightenment views

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- Puritans lose grip on Massachusetts society, membership declines
- **Jonathan Edwards** preaches people are sinful, must seek God's mercy
- **Great Awakening**—religious revival of the 1730s and 1740s
- Native Americans, African Americans, colonists join new churches
- Interest in learning increases; Protestants found colleges
- Both movements question authority, stress individual's importance

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4 The French and Indian War

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Rivals for an Empire

Britain and France Compete

- In 1750s, Britain, France build empires; both want Ohio River Valley

France's North American Empire

- France claims St. Lawrence River region, Mississippi Valley
- By 1754, French colony of **New France** has small population
- French colonists mostly fur traders, missionary priests
- French have good relations, military alliances with natives

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Britain Defeats an Old Enemy

The War Begins

- France and Britain fight two inconclusive wars in early 1700s
- French build Fort Duquesne in Ohio Valley, land claimed by Virginia
- In 1754, **George Washington** is sent to evict French; is defeated
- **French and Indian War** begins—fourth war between Britain and France

Early French Victories

- General Edward Braddock's army ambushed near Fort Duquesne
- 1755–1756, British lose repeated battles to French, native allies

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- **William Pitt** helps British win battles; Iroquois join British
- In 1759, British capture of Quebec leads to victory in war
- Treaty of Paris ends war (1763); land divided between Britain, Spain

[Map](#)**Victory Brings New Problems**

- Ottawa leader **Pontiac** fears loss of land; captures British forts
- British use smallpox as weapon; Native Americans greatly weakened
- **Proclamation of 1763**—colonists cannot settle west of Appalachians

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The Colonies and Britain Grow Apart

British Policies Anger Colonists

- Halt to western expansion upsets colonists
- Tensions in Massachusetts increase over crackdown on smuggling
- Writs of assistance allow searches of ships, businesses, homes

Problems Resulting from the War

- Colonists feel threatened by British troops stationed in colonies
- Prime Minister **George Grenville** sets policies to pay war debt
- Parliament passes **Sugar Act** (1764):
 - duty on foreign molasses halved
 - new duties placed on other imports
 - smuggling cases go to vice-admiralty court



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