

MR. LIPMAN'S APUS POWERPOINT CHAPTER 5

➤ *Small steps towards democracy*



Themes of Chapter

- Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Begins
 - Triangle Trade
 - Exports to Other Nations Grow
 - Great Awakening
 - Zenger Trial
 - Democracy starts to spread slowly
- 

Increase in population in America in 1700s

- In 1700 there were 300,000 people in America; 20,000 blacks
- By 1775 there were 2.5 million people in America; 500,000 were black
 - 400,000 were new immigrants; an additional 400,000 were black slaves
 - The rest was due to the natural fertility of Americans; colonists doubled their numbers every 25 years

➤ America as a melting pot

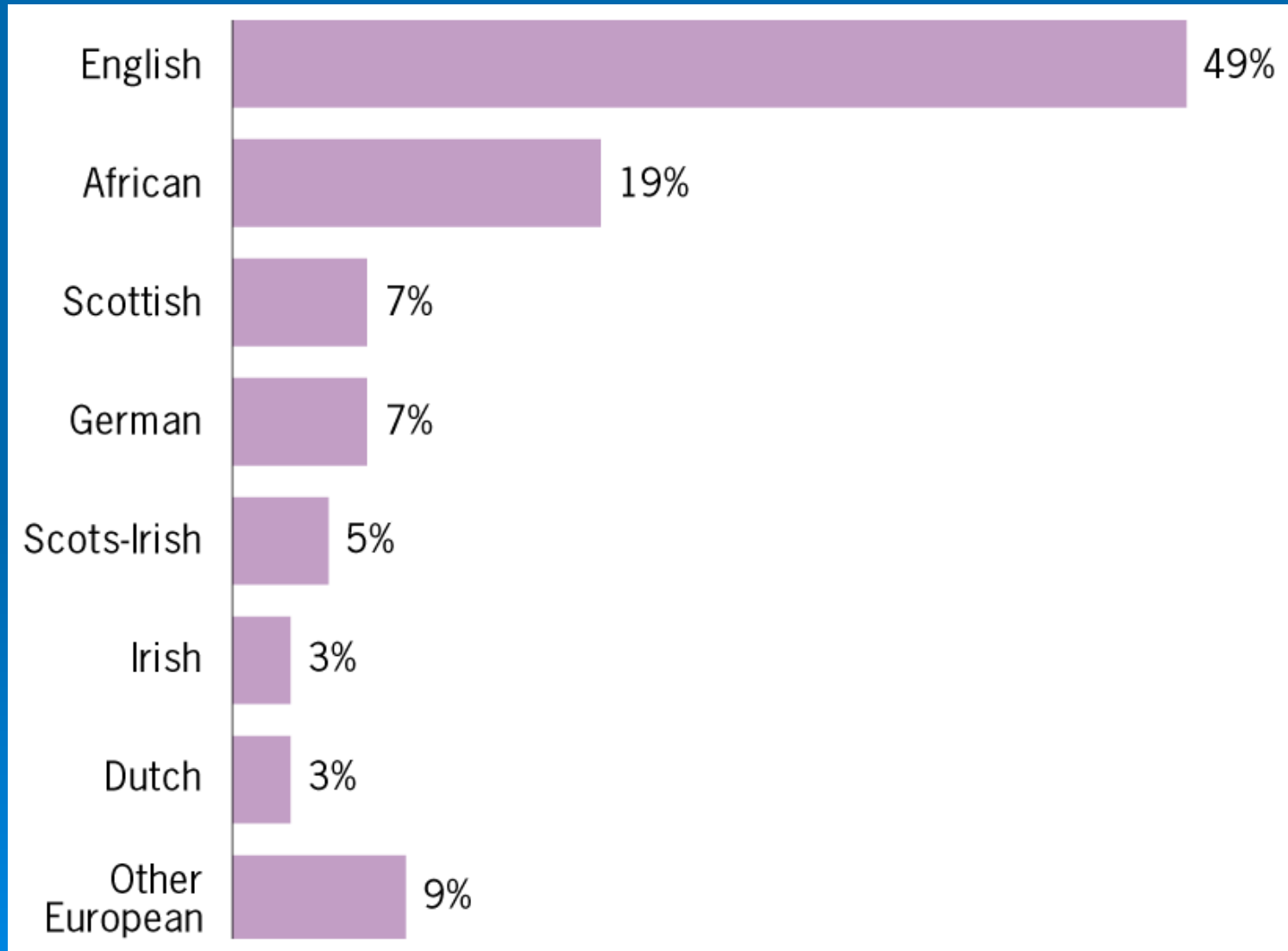
➤ Germans

- By 1775 were 6% of the population (150,000)
- In the early 1700s, they settled chiefly in Pennsylvania
 - Known as Pennsylvania Dutch (“Deutsch” means German)
 - Moved to the backcountry and worked on farms
- Not loyal to British crown
- Clung to German heritage and language

➤ Scots-Irish

- By 1775 were 7% of the population (175,000)
- Had been exiled to Ireland before emigration to America
- Settled chiefly in Pennsylvania as squatters, but also rural Maryland, Virginia, and Carolinas
- Quick to attack and retaliate against Indians
- No loyalty to British government
- Rebelled against colonial governments dominated by eastern elites

Ethnic and Racial Composition of the American People, 1790



➤ Agriculture

- 90% of the colonists were involved
- In the Chesapeake, mainly tobacco & some wheat
- In the Middle colonies, primarily grain (the “bread” colonies) was grown
- Americans enjoyed a higher standard of living because of agriculture than any other people in history before

➤ Fishing (including whaling)

- Principally in New England
- Stimulated shipbuilding
- Served as training for future navy

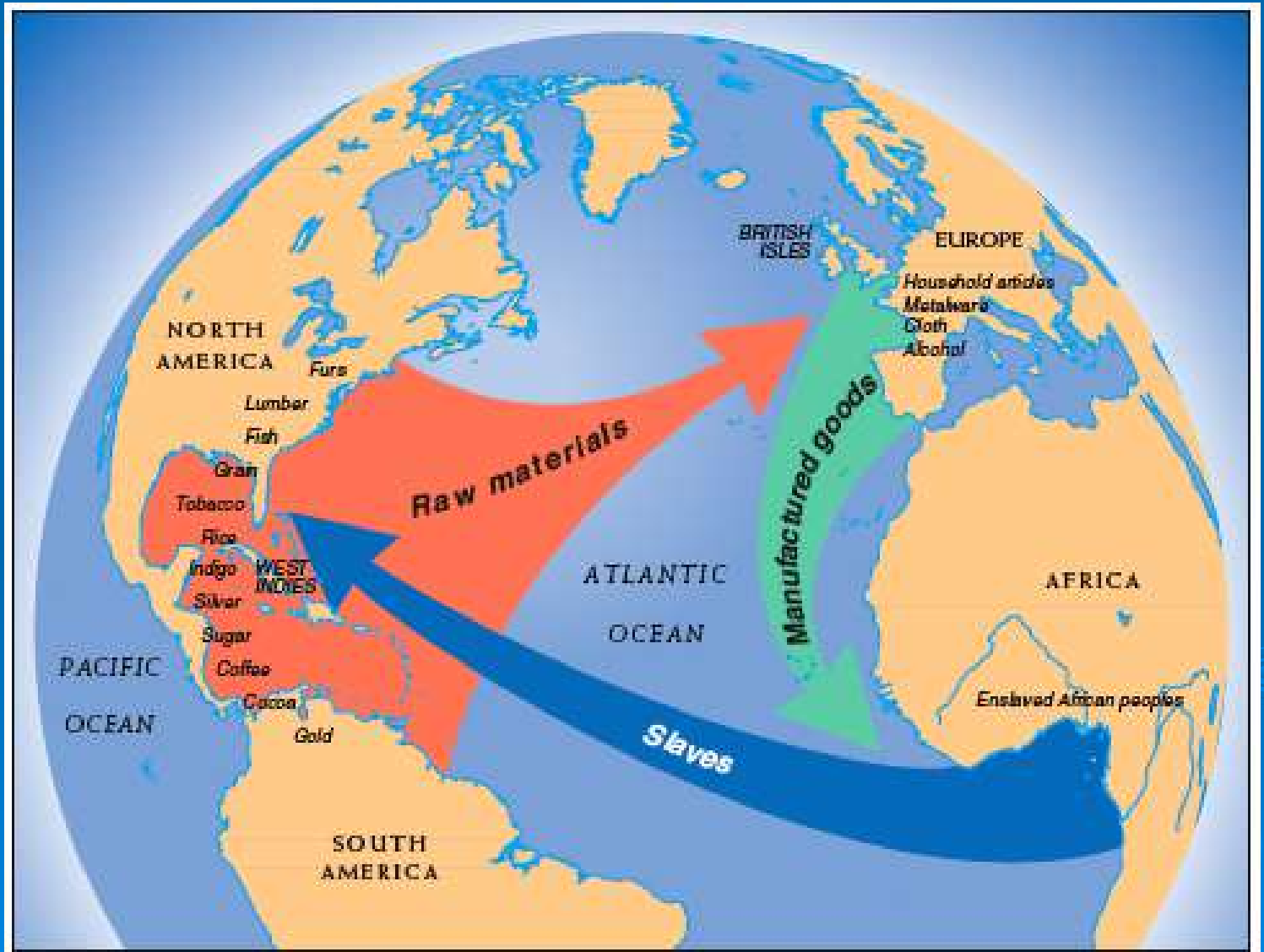
➤ Commerce (trade)

- Especially in New England, New York, and Pennsylvania
- Shipped food and forest products to Caribbean
- Brought gold, wine, and oranges to Europe
- Brought industrial goods from Europe

➤ Triangular trade

- Very profitable, though small in relation to total colonial commerce
- Rum and raw materials shipped from North to England to Africa for slaves
- Slaves to West Indies for molasses
- Molasses to New England and distilled into rum

Triangular Trade across the Atlantic



➤ Manufacturing

- Secondary to farming because plenty of good land and British restrictions on industry
- Rum, beaver hats, iron forges, household manufacturing (spinning, weaving), carpentry
- Lumbering was the most important single manufacturing activity for shipbuilding (primarily in New England)

➤ Shipbuilding

- Colonies had important (and relatively rare) materials such as tar, pitch, rosin, and turpentine
- Huge trees in colonies used for British ships; colonists were restricted from cutting some down because of this

➤ A growing trade imbalance between Britain and colonies

- Americans (with increasing population) demanded more and more British products
- British population was reaching a saturation point for imports from America
- Americans found new markets for their goods in foreign countries

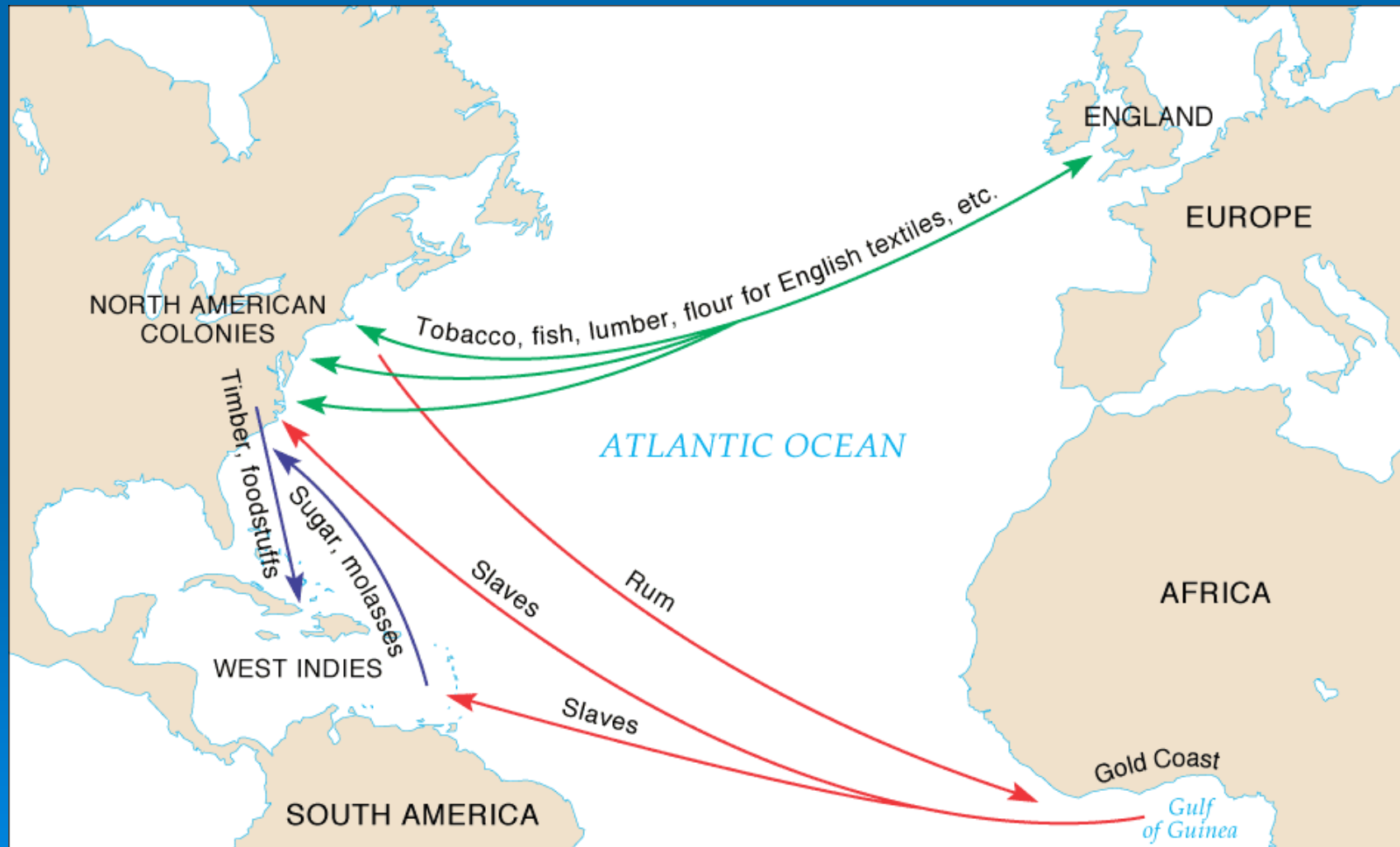
➤ Foreign trade

- Exports to Europe had to pass through Britain & pay a slice of the profits
- Most important trading partner for colonists was trade with West Indies

➤ 1733 – Molasses Act

- British West Indian planters pressured Parliament to stop American trade with French West Indies
- Would cripple American foreign trade and hurt colonists' standard of living
- ***Colonists got around law by smuggling and bribing***

Colonial Trade Patterns in 1770



RELIGION ISSUE

- Two “established” (tax-supported) churches in 1775 – Anglican and Congregational
- Considerable part of population did no worship at any church
- In those colonies that had an established religion only a minority of people belonged to that church

The Great Awakening

➤ By mid 1700s, religion less fervent than in the 1600s:

- The Puritan church had 2 burdens:
 1. Elaborate doctrines
 2. Compromises to liberalize membership requirements
- Puritan preachers preached overly complex, intellectual, and boring sermons, beyond the understanding of the membership

- Great Awakening began in 1734 in Massachusetts with **Jonathan Edwards**
 - Edwards preached “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
 - Fought idea that good works were enough to be saved – God’s grace was only way to get to heaven
 - Preaching style was learned and closely reasoned, but used brutal doctrines to catch people’s attention

➤ In 1738 George Whitefield became prominent

- Used speaking skills to reach people
- Travelled the colonies, preaching in outside forums to thousands of people
- Preached message of human helplessness and divine omnipotence
- Countless sinners converted; the “saved” groaned, shrieked, and rolled around on ground under influence of God’s power

➤ Whitefield also inspired many imitators

➤ Effects of the Great Awakening

- Increased membership of “new light” churches (Baptists, Presbyterians)
- Undermined “old light” religions (whose authority had come from education)
- Increased number and competitiveness of American religions
- Encouraged missionary work
- “new light” universities founded (Princeton, Brown, Rutgers, Dartmouth)
- First mass movement of American people
 - Broke down sectional and denominational lines
 - Gave Americans sense that they were a single people

Schools and Colleges

- Elementary schools existed in middle colonies and South
 - Some tax-supported, some private
- Schools in South hampered by population spread out over large areas
 - Wealthy families used private tutors for their children

Corporal Punishment in Schools: Could We Use Some Today?



➤ Literature

- Phyllis Wheatley

- Was a poet who as a slave girl brought to Boston at age 8

- Benjamin Franklin

- Edited Poor Richard's Almanack (1732 – 1758)
 - Collection of quotes and sayings; homespun wisdom like “Honesty is the best policy”
 - More widely read in America than anything else but Bible
 - Also wrote his famous Autobiography

➤ Pamphlets, leaflets, journals

- Printed by hand-operated printing presses
- By 1775, 40 colonial newspapers were in print
 - Weeklies consisting of 1 large sheet, with complex essays signed with Roman-sounding names
 - “news” might lag weeks behind the event
- Newspapers were powerful way colonists could rally support around rebellion against British

➤ The Zenger case

- Arose in New York
- John Peter Zenger, newspaper printer, brought to court for criticizing a corrupt royal governor
- Charged with seditious libel (sedition means inciting a rebellion; libel means printing something that damages someone's reputation)
- British law said the truth or falsity of what Zenger wrote did not matter {can't criticize "king"}
- Zenger's lawyer (Andrew Hamilton) eloquently argued that "the very liberty of both exposing and opposing arbitrary power" was at stake

The Trial of Peter Zenger



➤ The Zenger decision

- Jury sided with Hamilton, returning verdict of not guilty
- Because it was contrary to existing law, it was not immediately accepted by other judges
- Helped establish doctrine that true statements about public officials were not libellous
- Made newspapers (eventually) free to publish responsible criticism of powerful officials

The Great Game of Politics

- In 1775, the 13 colonies had governments that took a variety of forms
- Colonial governors
 - 8 had royal governors
 - 3 (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware) were under proprietors who appointed governors
 - 2 (Connecticut, Rhode Island) elected their own governors under self-governing charters

➤ Colonial legislatures (assemblies)

- Most had 2-house legislatures
- The upper house was chosen by those who appointed the governor (the crown, proprietors, or voters in self-governing colonies)
- The lower house was chosen by people (those with enough property to qualify)
- Backcountry voters were generally underrepresented and resented governmental elites
- Self-taxation through direct and local representatives was an important privilege colonial to voters

➤ Colonial assemblies' attempts to assert their authority

- Withheld governor's salary unless he did what they wanted ("power of the purse")
- The London government should have paid governors from independent sources
 - 1767 – Townshend taxes arranged to pay governors independent of legislatures; but by that time colonists were already angry over taxation & became angrier over new taxes

➤ Democracy

- In 1775, America was not a true democracy
- **BUT** America was far more democratic than England and the rest of Europe, and America was moving toward democracy

- By mid 1700s colonies growing together and becoming similar
 - All basically English in language, customs, and Protestantism
 - Widespread presence of diversity (ethnic/religious) led to some toleration
 - People had opportunities for social mobility that Europeans did not have
 - All had some self-government (though not full democracy)
 - Communication and transportation among the colonies was improving

Keys to the Chapter

- Triangle Trade
- Great Awakening
- Zenger Trial
- Power of the Purse