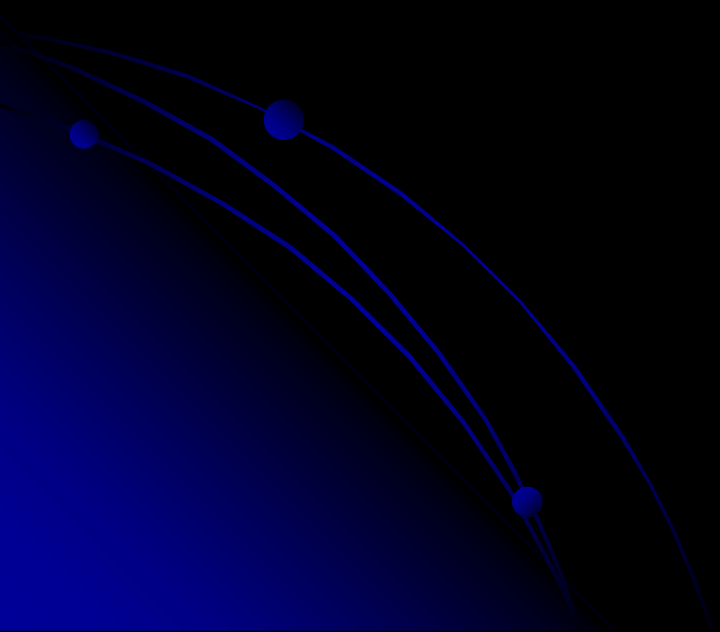


# Colonial Society in the Mid-Eighteenth Century



# Societal Structure



# Population Growth


- 1700 – 300,000 / 1775 – 2.5 million (20% Black)
- High fertility rate
- Largest colonies are VA, Mass, PA, NC, MD
- Only 4 major cities – Philly, Boston, NY, Charleston
- 90% live in rural areas in 18<sup>th</sup> Century / 80% by Revolution
- Immigration
  - South held 90% of slaves
  - NE is least mixed population of all regions
  - Middle is most mixed & most influential
  - Outside of NE, half the population not English in 1775
  - Breakdown of population

English/Welsh – 66%	African – 20%	Scots/Irish – 5.6%
German – 4.5%	Dutch – 2%	Irish – 1.6%
French – 4%		

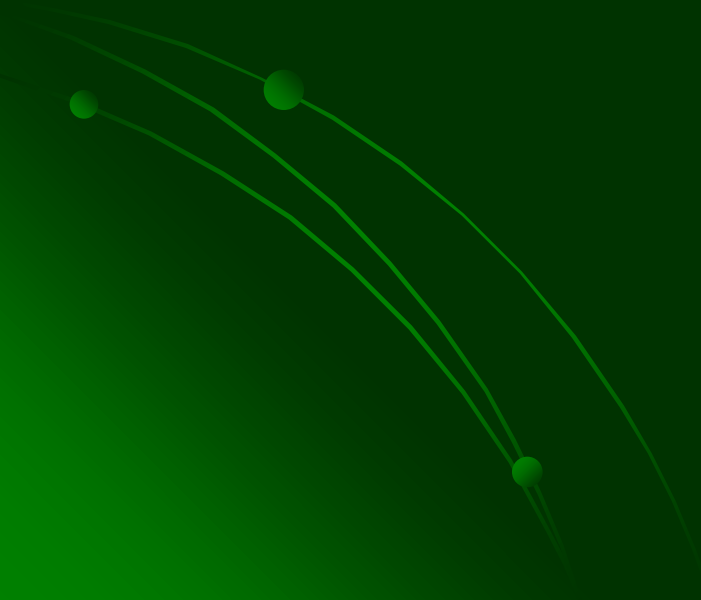
# Structure of Society

- Stratification emerged by mid-1700's
- Small upper class – Church in NE
- Aristocratic plantation owners dominate wealth and influence in South
- Farmers are the majority – owned land
- Tradesmen, manual workers, hired hands – no land
- Indentured servants – no influence
- Slaves
- American's had on average the highest standard of living in the world
- Few class distinctions on frontier

# Characteristics

- Dominant English culture
  - Religious toleration
  - Self government – not all democratic
  - Representative assemblies
  - No hereditary aristocracy
  - Social mobility available
- 

# Economies



# Economies

## A. Triangle Trade

- Used illegally to circumvent Nav. Acts
- NE exports timber, fish, cotton, to French Caribbean for molasses
- NE distills molasses to make rum – mostly goes to RI
- Rum sent to West Indies, then to Gold coast for slaves
- Slaves come to Newport, RI

## B. Land speculation make for wealth

## C. Manufacturing

- Secondary to farming
- Lumber is most important – ship building
- Women spinning in home produce large amounts of cloth
- Small industries – tailoring, shoemaking, baking, metal work, furniture

# Economies

## **D. Increased Trade**

- Population growth creates more demand
- As economy grows, Americans seek other markets
  - exports to France and West Indies get money to buy British goods
  - ignore Molasses Act of 1733
  - Salutary Neglect

## **E. Transportation**

- Poor roads
- Most of population located near rivers
- Taverns on roads serve as important political discussion points
- Postal system developed in mid 1700's

## **F. Differences between Colonies**

- New England – rocky soil, long winters, 100 acre plots, farming limited to subsistence levels, small farms, family does most of work, logging, ship building, fish, rum, distilleries
- Middle Colonies – wheat, corn, rich soil, 200 acres plots, much farming, indentured servants, small manufacturing
- Southern Colonies – subsistence agriculture to large plantations, 2000 acre plots, tobacco, rice, indigo, slavery, self-sufficient plantations



# Politics



# Politics

## A. Structure

- Royal, proprietary, or charter colonies
- Bi-Cameral legislatures were common
  - upper house appointed
  - lower house elected by property owners

## B. Nature of Politics

- Colonial government did not enjoy the power Parliament held
- Colonial government was far more reformed than England
- More direct representation in colonies
- Less corruption in colonial government

## C. Local Government

- NE – Town Hall meetings decided issues
- South – County governments controlled
- Middle Colonies – combination of both

## D. Voting

- Upper class didn't trust commoners – didn't support a democracy
- Property and religious restrictions imposed on voting
- 50% of all white male population could vote

# Politics

## E. Governors

- Had veto power – could dissolve lower house – ruled over judiciary
- Weak – salary controlled by assembly (Power of the Purse)
- Distance from England allowed for undermining of Governor's power

## F. Development of Democratic Ideals

- Tolerance, education, opportunity, freedom of speech, press, assembly, representative government found in all colonies

## G. Needs of the Colonies

- Virtual representation loses favor in place of actual representation
- Colonies have had lots of practice at self government
- Assemblies held control over governors
- Colonies want written document that spelled out their rights

# Politics

## H. Uniting the Colonies

### ➤ Pequot War

- Puritan victory shows value of collective security
- Puritans want Indians (Pequots) to move
- Pequots captured, sold as slaves or fled to neighbor tribes
- Puritans justify extermination of Pequots using Bible

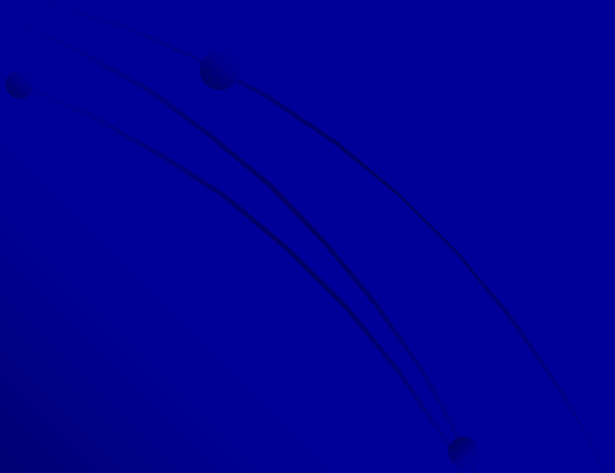
### ➤ New England Confederation Formed

- purpose – defense against Natives, Dutch, & French / slave issues / trade
- significance – first colonial unification
- English Civil War leaves colonies to themselves for a while
- Confederation is exclusively Puritan – no RI or Maine

### ➤ Confederation put to the test

- Metacom (King Phillip) is Wampanoag Chief
- 52 of 90 Puritan towns are attacked
- Indians mirror Puritan attacks on non-combatants – kill women and kids
- most Indians are sold into slavery after the battle
- Metacom drawn & quartered – head displayed for 20 years

# Culture



# Culture

## A. Architecture

- Georgian style of architecture – brick & stucco
- Symmetrical placement of windows and dormers & 2 fireplaces
- Frontier – Log Cabins

## B. Painting

- Benjamin West and John Copley are leaders in Art
- Do mostly family portraits

## C. Literature

- Most writings were about religion & politics (Mather and Edwards)
- Pre Revolution – Jefferson, Adams, Paine
- Ben Franklin – *Poor Richard's Almanac* / starts a library
- Phyllis Wheatley – wrote poetry – taught to read & write by master's mistress

## D. Science

- John Bartram – self taught scientist
- Ben Franklin – electricity, bi-focals, Franklin stove

# Culture

## E. Enlightenment

- Liberty ideas – freedom of religion, press, speech, equality
- Equality of opportunity not economic equality
- Human dignity
- Scientific progress and rational thought would create a better society
- Representative government
- Thinkers
  - John Locke – *Second Treatise on Civil Government* 1690 – natural rights, life, liberty, property, encouraged rebellion if necessary
  - Montesquieu – *Spirit of Laws* 1748 – checks and balances, separation of powers
  - Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations* 1776 – free economy

## F. Deism

- God created the universe and then sat back and let things happen
- Most rejected traditional Christianity
- Influenced Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, and Paine

## G. The New England Way

- Standards for identifying the “Elect”
- Must correctly profess faith
- Must have conversion experience and defend it
- Women are denied the ability to try / must be literate
- Parents are responsible for children being taught the faith – checked by congregation
- Clergy – need to be highly educated
- Helped to enforce religious conformity

# Education





# Education

## A. New England

- Dedicated to and stresses bible reading in community members
- Primary and secondary schools
- High literacy rate

## B. Middle Colonies

- Primary and secondary school education available
- Spread out population makes it hard to run school system
- Many wealthy colonists send children to England for school

## C. South

- Opportunity limited for education except for privileged
- Wealthy can hire tutors
- Population is dispersed – ineffective for schooling common folk

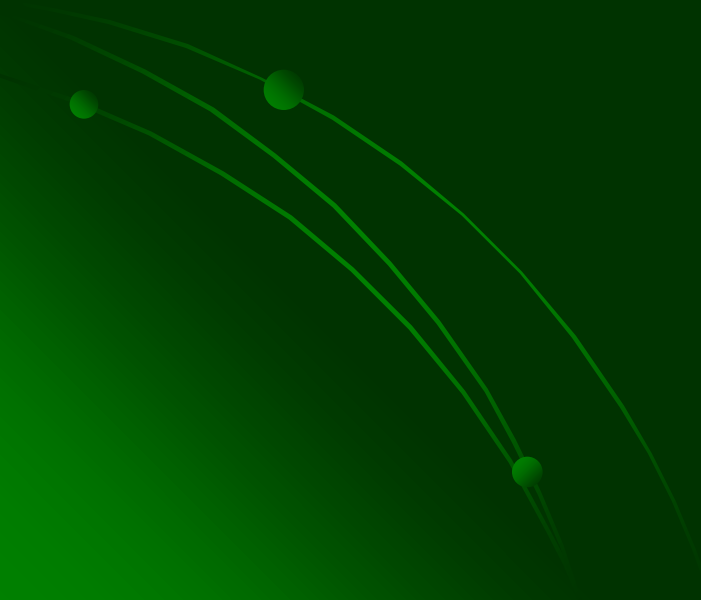
# Education

## D. Higher Education

- Set up to train clergy – not academics
- Improved with the founding of Univ. of Pennsylvania
  - Ben Franklin helps establish
  - free of denominational ties
  - modern curriculum, modern languages, use experiments and reason
- Nine important colleges during colonial period

Harvard (Anglican)	William & Mary (Anglican)
Princeton (Presbyterian)	Penn (Non-denominational)
Dartmouth – (Congregational)	Rutgers (Dutch Reformed)
Yale (Congregational)	Columbia (Anglican)
Brown (Baptist)	

# Class Structure



# Class Structure

- Upper Class – plantation owner, merchants, high gov't officials, clergy
- Middle Class – small farmers, skilled craftsmen, shopkeepers, doctors, teachers
- Lower Class – tenant farmers, hired hands, servants, unskilled workers, indentured servants, free blacks
- Slaves
- (Physicians and Lawyers will gain prominence in time)

# The Press



# The Press

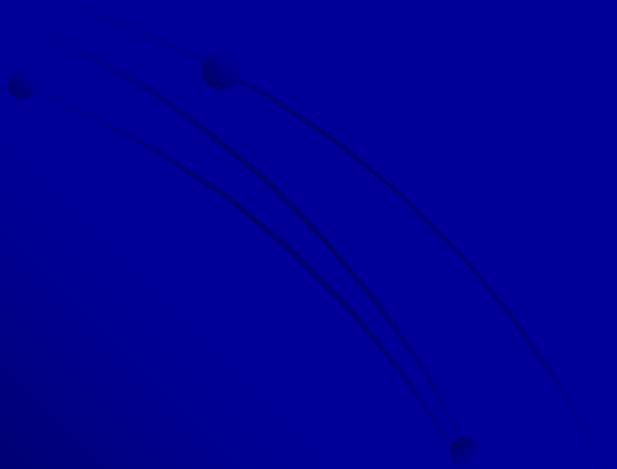
## A. Newspapers

- 40 papers by 1776
- News from England, ad's, cartoons, runaway slave notices, essays

## B. John Zenger

- New York editor
- Charged with libel for criticizing New York Governor
- Andrew Hamilton defends him, said he told truth
- English law states he cannot hurt public image of governor, even if it is true
- Jury acquits him
- Encourages others to take greater risks in criticizing political figures

# Rural Folkways



# Rural Folkways

## ➤ Farmers...

- rarely had time to read newspapers
- worked from sun up to sun down
- spring planting, summer growing, fall harvest, winter planting
- light and heat limited to kitchen fire and candles
- entertainment for well-to-do – cards, horse races in south, religious lectures in north



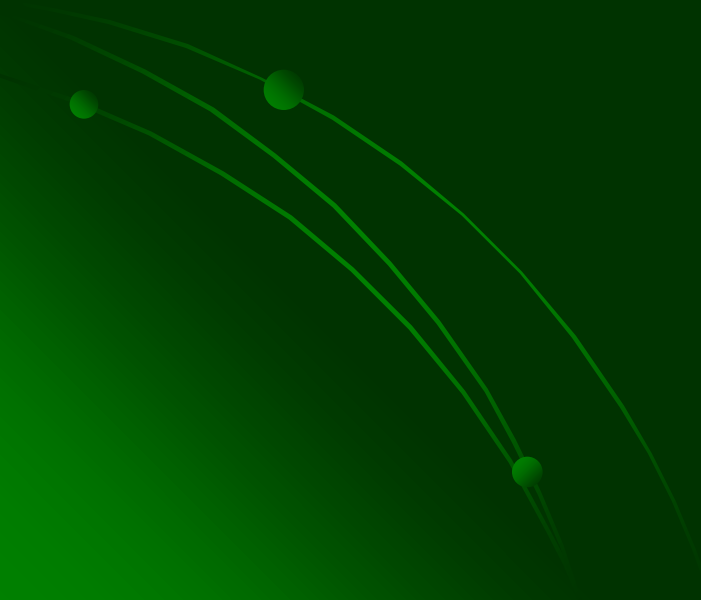
# Family



# Family

- Puritans believed in Nuclear family
- Mather – well ordered family produced good order in society
- Obedience to husband – a good wife was subject to her husbands authority
- Typical family had 5 children with 3 making it to adulthood
- New England – life span to 65
- Middle & South – larger families to work homestead
- Farms – all family had jobs / not always by gender / worked along side of each other
- City – gender based work / some females worked with men
- Women still have very limited rights
- Men mostly worked and had almost unlimited power over wife, including beating her
- Women cooked and cleaned / educated children / worked along side of husband

# Towns



# Towns

- New England town charters given to several families – freedom to lay out town
- Determined own qualifications for voting and government
- Each family gets one acre house lot within half mile of meeting house
- More strips of land outside of town for farming
- Not given more land than needed – created a more urban society
- Town meetings solved disputes through majority rule

# Similarities and Differences of the 13 Colonies



# Similarities and Differences of the 13 Colonies

## A. Similarities

- Mostly English background
- Possessed British freedoms
- Self-government – although not necessarily democratic
- Religious toleration
- Educational opportunities – mostly in NE / less in South
- Economic opportunity and social development available

## B. Differences

- New England
  - Puritan dominant, less tolerant of religions, restrictions on civil participation in government, more industry, less available farm land
- Middle Colonies
  - Ethnically diverse, tolerant of religions, democratic, human freedoms, farming, lumber, ship building, shipping, trade, fur trapping
- Southern Colonies
  - plantations, aristocratic, slavery, cash crops, scattered population, expansionary, some toleration of religion