INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON BRITISH COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

New England

Mayflower Compact

political control in the hands of male church members
 visible saints

• town meetings (theocratic)

• taxes used to support the Congregational Church



Chesapeake

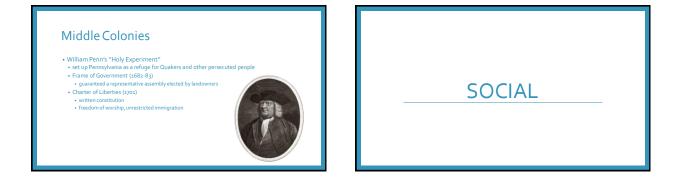
• taxes supported the Church of England

land ownership = prerequisite for political participation
 House of Burgesses (elected assembly)

POLITICAL

- voting
- Maryland Toleration Act (1649)
 guaranteed freedom of religion
 passed in order for Catholics to worship freely





New England

• social order and class as God given

- demand for religious conformity
- patriarchal
- Half Way Covenant
 caused by declining Puritan membership
 could become a partial member even if had not had "conversion"

- Education

 I literacy in order to read the Bible
 Old Deluder Act (56,7)

 states that Satan tries "to keep men from the knowledge of scripture by keeping it in an
 unknown tongue"
 intended to move educational responsibility from parents to town
 mostly did not work Education



Chesapeake

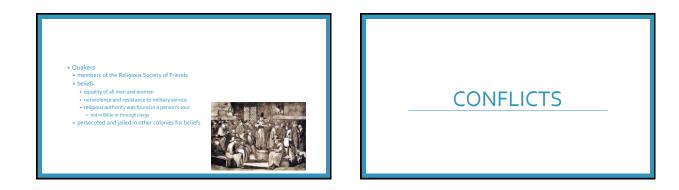
- social order more based on economic factors rather than religious
- Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts
 Church of England missionary organization
 sent clergy and religious literature to the colonies
 supported schools, new churches
 counter to Catholic missionaries

Middle Colonies

- society marked by diversity and toleration
 Anglicans
 Quakers
 Dutch Reformed

- Lutherans
- Puritans





New England

- Roger Williams
 originally a respected Puntan minister in Boston
 believed that a person's conscience was beyond the control of any civil or church
 authority
- Puritan leaders order banishment from Mass. Bay
 settles Providence (Rhode Island) 1636
- uniqueness
 recognized rights of Indians
 allowed freedom of religion





THE GREAT AWAKENING (1730-1740)

Overview

- series of religious revivals aimed at restoring devotion and piety
- attempt to turn people back to God
- reaction to the Enlightenment
- Key Figures
 Jonathan Edwards
 George Whitefield



Causation

- feeling that religion had become dry and dull • belief that religion should become more internal
- ability for people to read and interpret Bible for themselves



Characteristics

 "Fire and Brimstone" sermons large, emotionally charged crowds



Major Figures

- George Whitefield
 reached all classes of colonists
 preached that "good works" and "godly lives" would bring salvation
 gave semons in open air revivals



Effects

- birth of deep religious convictions in the colonies
- new churches
- *New Light" colleges to train men for the ministry
 Harvard
 Yale
 Princeton
 Dartmouth

• development of ideas of equality and right to challenge authority • birth of charitable organizations



The Great Awakening	Puritanism
emotion as sign of true faith emphasis on feeling salvation by faith alone	 calm, serious, formal emphasis on reason a virtuous life

Significance

• brought independence from clergy increased "diversity" of religion • encouraged a democratic spirit • first mass movement in US history