

Unit 2: 1607-1754

Topic 2.2: European Colonization

Learning Objective 1: Explain how and why various European colonies developed and expanded from 1607-1754.

A. Spanish efforts to extract wealth from the land led them to develop institutions based on subjugating native populations, converting them to Christianity, and incorporating them, along with enslaved and free Africans, into Spanish colonial society.

B. French and Dutch colonial efforts involved relatively few Europeans and relied on trade alliances and intermarriage with American Indians to build relationships and acquire furs for export to Europe.

C. English colonization efforts attracted a comparatively large number of male and female British migrants, all of whom sought social mobility, economic prosperity, religious freedom, and improved living conditions. These colonists lived separately from Native Americans.

Topic 2.3A: Labor, Slavery, and Caste in the Spanish Colonial System

Learning Objective 1: Explain how the growth of the Spanish Empire in North America shaped the development of social and economic structures over time.

A. In the encomienda system, Spanish colonial economies used Native American labor to support plantation-based agriculture.

B. European traders partnered with some West African groups to forcibly extract slave labor for the Americas.

C. The Spanish developed a caste system the carefully defined the status of those in their empire.

Topic 2.3B: The Regions of the British Colonies

Learning Objective 1: Explain how and why environmental and other factors shaped the development and expansion of various British colonies from 1607-1754.

A. The Chesapeake and North Carolina colonies grew prosperous by exporting tobacco, a labor intensive crop initially cultivated by indentured servants and later by enslaved Africans.

B. The New England colonies, initially settled by Puritans, developed around small towns with family farms and achieved a thriving mixed economy of agriculture and commerce.

C. The middle colonies supported a flourishing export economy based on cereal crops and attracted a broad range of European migrants, leading to societies with greater cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity.

D. The colonies of the southern Atlantic coast and the British West Indies used long growing seasons to develop plantation economies based on exporting staple crops. They depended on the labor of enslaved Africans.

E. Distance and Britain's initially lax attention led the colonies to create self-governing institutions that were unusually democratic for the era.

Topic 2.4: Transatlantic Trade

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes and effects of transatlantic trade over time.

A. An Atlantic economy developed in which goods, as well as enslaved Africans and American Indians, were exchanged between Europe, Africa, and the Americas through extensive trade networks.

B. Continuing trade with Europeans increased the flow of goods in and out of American Indian communities, stimulating cultural and economic changes and spreading epidemic diseases that caused radical demographic shifts.

C. The British government increasingly attempted to incorporate its North American colonies into an imperial structure in order to pursue mercantilist economic aims.

Topic 2.5: Interactions Between American Indians and Europeans

Learning Objective 1: Explain how and why interactions between various European nations and American Indians changed over time.

A. Interactions between European rivals and American Indian populations fostered both accommodation and conflict.

B. British conflicts with American Indians over land, resources, and political boundaries led to military confrontations, such as Metacom's War in New England.

C. American Indian resistance to Spanish colonizing efforts in North America led to Spanish accommodation of some aspects of American Indian culture in the Southwest.

Topic 2.6: Slavery in the British Colonies

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes and effects of slavery in the various British colonial regions.

A. All of the British colonies participated to varying degrees in the Atlantic slave trade due to the abundance of land, a growing European demand for colonial goods, and a shortage of indentured servants.

B. As slavery became the dominant labor system in many southern colonies, new laws created a strict racial system that prohibited interracial relationships and defined the descendants of African American mothers as black and enslaved in perpetuity.

Learning Objective 2: Explain how enslaved people responded to slavery.

A. Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist slavery and maintain their family and gender systems, culture, and religion.

Topic 2.7: Colonial Society and Culture

Learning Objective 1: Explain how and why the movement of a variety of people and ideas across the Atlantic contributed to the development of American culture over time.

A. The presence of different European religious and ethnic groups contributed to a significant degree of pluralism and intellectual exchange, which were later enhanced by the first Great Awakening.

B. The British colonies experienced a gradual Anglicization over time.

Learning Objective 2: Explain how and why the different goals and interests of European leaders and colonists affected how they viewed themselves and their relationship with Britain.

A. The goals and interests of European leaders and colonists at times diverged, leading to a growing mistrust on both sides of the Atlantic. British colonists expressed dissatisfaction over issues including territorial settlements, frontier defense, self-rule, and trade.

B. Colonists' resistance to imperial control drew on local experiences of self-government, evolving ideas of liberty, the political thought of the Enlightenment, greater religious independence, and an ideology critical of perceived corruption in the imperial system.