

US History Study Guide/Review Semester 1

Europe competes for land in the Americas:

England – colonies on the coast, land in Canada – emphasis on farming, shipbuilding, and whaling. Large need for land is bad for native Americans

France – Great Lakes and Mississippi River valley. Emphasis on trading with natives for fish and furs – little need for land good for Native Americans

Spain – Western North America, Mexico, Central and South America. Emphasis on farming. Forced natives into slavery.

Protestant Reformation

New churches in Europe create groups willing to re-settle in the new world (Colonists)

Lure of free land brings many who could never own land in old European systems

Roanoke

- Sir Walter Raleigh

- Two failed attempts at colonizing Roanoke (North Carolina today) in 1585 and 1587

Jamestown

- Virginia Company (charter from King James) in 1607

- ill prepared, mostly merchants and gentlemen

- John Smith leader who successfully implemented actual work

- Hardships: swamps, disease, cold, drought, poor hygiene all lead to death and even cannibalism

- Native Americans – some positive contact under Smith, but poor relations after that

- Tobacco profits create eventual prosperity (brought by John Rolfe)

- Virginia House of Burgesses – 1st colonial government in 1619

- Growth due to Headright system (free land) if you could afford your ship passage

Plymouth (Massachusetts) - Mayflower colonists

- **Mayflower Compact** (first written plan for Gov't) in 1620

- Planned to settle in Jamestown, but put ashore early to avoid winter

- Helped by natives (Samoset and Squanto) – “1st Thanksgiving”

- Massive Puritan immigration in 1630s (Great Migration) fills towns like Boston and Salem

- Puritans extremely intolerant of other faiths (Salem Witch Trials)

New England Colonies: Shipbuilding, fishing, whaling, craftsmen

Anne Hutchinson – Expelled from MA by intolerant puritans. Attempted to settle Rhode Island (RI)

Connecticut – Founded by Thomas Hooker – escaped Puritan Mass. **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**

Rhode Island – Settled by Roger Williams also fleeing Puritan intolerance. 1st place with religious tolerance

New Hampshire - Founded by John Wheelwright to escape Puritan intolerance

Native American Conflicts in New England

- War with the Pequot (1636)

- King Phillips War (1675) – Metacom/King Phillips (same guy)

Middle Colonies: Industry, merchants, and agriculture

All begin as proprietary colonies...

All promised **free land, religious freedoms, and some self government**

All were **relatively diverse** containing settlers from all over Europe of many different Christian faiths

New York; Founded by James, the Duke of York (later King James II of England)

New Jersey: Founded by Lords Cartaret and Berkley on land south of NY

Pennsylvania: Founded by William Penn, “Holy Experiment” – right for citizens guaranteed by the “Charter of Privileges”

Delaware: Originally Southern PA, separated with independent government

Southern Colonies: Agriculture, agriculture, agriculture

All focused on Agriculture (Cash Crops: Sugar, Tobacco, Indigo, and Rice)

Virginia: 1697- 1st colony (Charter to Virginia Company), 1st government,

Maryland: Proprietor: George Calvert, Act of Toleration guaranteed religious freedoms (as long as by religion you meant Christianity)

North and South Carolina – Began as one proprietary colony – later split due to economic differences: **NC** mostly tobacco farms and poorer, hillier – **SC** mostly sugar plantations and wealthier, flatter

Georgia: Founded as a prison colony (English debtors) – also to create a buffer between the England's colonies and Spanish Florida below, remained loyal to England the longest

Tidewater vs Backcountry

Tidewater dominated by large, wealthy plantations (coastal)

Backcountry dominated by small family farms (hillier) **subsistence farming**

- Fewer Tidewater citizens but they held all the power and influence

Self Rule

- Ultimately by 1760 EVERY colony offered some form of self-government

- While only white male landowners could vote, there were a lot of them due to the generous land grants -

Slavery and Indentured Servitude

- **Slavery** began in Jamestown by 1630

- Southern colonies with Tidewater regions held the majority of the slaves

- Slave trade (triangular trade routes) moved enslaved persons from Africa through the Caribbean and into the colonies

- Slave codes used to regulate slave behaviors due to fear of escape and rebellion

- **Indentured Servants** worked for given period (5 and 7 years were common) to pay of the cost of their passage – this became the mechanism for bringing poorer Europeans to America

Mercantilism:

- a country's wealth equals its power

- colonies could sell their raw materials ONLY to the mother country (England) and buy finished goods ONLY from the England

- England could then benefit from the raw materials AND tax all the transactions

Great Awakening vs Enlightenment

Great Awakening: Religious movement, answers found in faith and family. Leaders were ministers: Jonathan Edwards, George Whitfield

Enlightenment: Philosophical movement emphasizing science, logic, reason, and knowledge. Leaders were also writers: John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Montesquieu

BOTH however favored revolution and independence from England

French and Indian War (AKA 7 Years War)

War between Britain and France

The North American part of the war over settlements, forts, territory in the Ohio River valley

Colonists aid the British

Native Americans ally themselves mostly with the French

George Washington emerges as military here despite loss at Ft. Dusquene/Ft. Necessity (Braddock's fault)

First appearance of guerilla tactics that would be use later in Revolutionary War

Albany Plan of Union: Proposed by Ben Franklin in 1754

1st attempt at unifying the colonies

All colonies voted no p preferring their independence to unity

Treaty of Paris – 1763

Ends the French and Indian War

France is removed from North America – just Spain and Britain left divided at the Mississippi river

Proclamation of 1763

Britain forbids American colonists from moving west across the Appalachian mountains

Meant to ease trouble on the frontier as colonists conflict with Natives - Chief Pontiac's War for example

Angered colonists seeking new farmland in Ohio river valley

The Acts

Following expensive French and Indian War (7 years of fighting here and in Europe) Britain needs money

Increasing attempts by Britain to **control** colonies even as colonists desire **less** control

Sugar Act (1764) - Lowered the taxes on molasses but increased enforcement and tax collection

Quartering Act (1765) - Required towns to build barracks to house British soldiers (redcoats) – would later be expanded in Townshend acts to include private homes

Stamp Act (1765) – Required a stamp to be purchased for all printed materials and legal documents. Viewed by colonists as much worse than the Sugar Act.

- Colonists begin to organize (Stamp Act Congress held and “taxation without representation” argument formed)
- **Boycotts** started as a way to hurt Britain’s economy. - **Letter** sent to protest

Declaratory Act (1766) – Removed Stamp Act but declared Britain had the right to tax and make decisions for the colonies in ALL cases

Townshend Acts (1767) – intended to reduce smuggling by colonists

- Taxed nearly everything imported into the colonies
- Allowed search and seizure on colonist’s property on suspicion of smuggling
- Created the Writs of Assistance (blanket search warrants that violated colonists’ rights)

Boston Massacre March 5, 1770

- Angry colonists in Boston face off with British Redcoats
- Hours of yelling leads to rocks and bottles being thrown at Redcoats
- British soldiers fire into crowd, killing 5 colonists
- Paul Revere creates engraving “The Bloody Massacre” – used as propaganda
- Prints made from the engraving circulated throughout the colonies by **Committees of Correspondence** created by the **Sons of Liberty** to spread info about the brewing revolution

Tea Act (1773)

- Gave tax break to Britain’s East India Co. who then sent cheap tea to the colonies
- Ports in NY and Philly refused tea
- Royal Governor of Massachusetts shut down Boston Harbor until colonists accepted tea
- **Boston Tea Party** (1773) – Colonists dumped 342 chests of tea overboard

Intolerable Acts (1774)

- Series of Acts meant to punish colonists – particularly Bostonians
 - **Administration of Justice Act** - British officials accused of murder in the colonies could receive more favorable trials back home in England
 - **Massachusetts Government Act** - Eliminated colonial government by prohibiting town meetings and filling offices with Royal officials instead of locally elected colonial officials
 - **Boston Port Act** - closed Boston Harbor to all shipping
 - **Quartering Act** – strengthened previous quartering act to include private
 - **Quebec Act (separate)**– basically gave the new 1763 lands to Canada in spite of colonies with western land claims

Loyalists and Patriots

- Loyalists (sometimes called Tories) supported the monarchy and favored remaining British
- Patriots (sometimes called Whigs) supported revolution and separation from England
- Patrick Henry “I am not a Virginian but an American” – “Give me liberty or give me death”

Suffolk Resolves

- Secret Massachusetts government meetings in violation of MA Gov’t Act
- Draft revolutionary document that will clatter Continental Congress

1st Continental Congress

- Met in response to Intolerable Acts
- John Adams, Sam Adams, John Jay, George Washington, etc
- Sent letter of grievances to Britain calling for repeal of ALL acts
- Extended boycott to ALL British goods
- Recommended strengthening colonial militias (the Minutemen)

Lexington and Concord

- Shot heard 'round the world
- Armed conflicts between Redcoats and Minutemen
- Redcoats march out at night (One if by land – two if by sea)
- Warning sent by Paul Revere and others
- Small loss for colonists at Concord
- Giant win for colonists at Lexington – Redcoats forced to retreat, many killed

2nd Continental Congress

- Began to actually govern colonies: post office, printing money, Continental Army run by Washington
- Would eventually draft: Olive Branch petition, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation

Battle of Bunker Hill (1775)

- Hill outside of Boston (Breed's hill) attacked by Redcoats
- eventually taken but at great cost to Britain
- "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes"

Olive Branch Petition

- Drafted by the Continental Congress
- last attempt at peace with England
- ignored by King George who instead prepared for war

British Abandon Boston (1776)

- George Washington secretly moved cannons from Fort Ticonderoga in upstate NY to hills around Boston
- Britain realized it was surrounded and abandoned Boston for Nova Scotia (later to attack NY)

Common Sense (1776)

- hugely popular pamphlet – the best-seller of the era
- called for total and immediate separation from England
- influenced popular opinion and spread patriot message

Declaration of Independence

- Proposed by Virginian Henry Lee
- Approved by the 2nd Continental Congress
- Written by Thomas Jefferson in 4 parts:
 - **Preamble:** Explained why we are separating
 - **Declaration of natural Rights:** "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are **Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness**"
 - List of Grievances: Long list of offences by the King and Parliament (all the acts, etc)
 - Resolution of independence: All ties between the colonies and British government are now dissolved

Revolutionary War

Britain's advantages: money, more soldiers, better equipment, a navy

America's advantages: patriotism, home turf, help from Europe (France especially)

Key Battles and events:

Battle of New York – Britain takes US capital

Trenton and Princeton – George Washington crosses the Delaware river for successful surprise attacks

Battle of Saratoga: Major US victory, viewed as "turning point", convinces France to help US

Valley Forge: George Washington winters troops in PA, starvation, cold, disease

Savannah and Charleston – two key port cities taken from US by Cornwallis

Kings Mountain and Cowpens – two key American victories in the south that weaken British General Cornwallis

Yorktown: French navy helps US box Cornwallis in and he surrenders – war is over – Yankee Doodle is played ☺

Key People in War for Independence:

George Washington – leader of US forces

General Cornwallis – leader of British forces

Baron Von Steuben – Prussian who helped Washington train troops (Euro help)

Marquis de Lafayette – French officer who helped advise General Washington

Benedict Arnold – US officer, decorated in Saratoga, later became traitor

Nathaniel Greene – hero in southern battles, practiced guerilla warfare

Francis Marion – the “Swamp Fox” – practiced guerilla warfare in southern swamps – terrorized Cornwallis

Treaty of Paris 1783 – ended war – US now **independent** country with borders of the Atlantic, the Mississippi River, and the Great Lakes

Presidents:

George Washington: John Adams VP - unanimously elected, Two-term precedent, Had rivals Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton in cabinet, disliked political parties, warned of involvement in foreign wars

John Adams: Thomas Jefferson VP - Adams and Jefferson from different parties (Federalist/Anti Federalist), Angered Americans with Alien and Sedition acts to avoid war with France, Adams not reelected

DOCUMENTS TO KNOW:

Magna Carta 1215: First established limited government in England

Mayflower Compact: 1620 1st written plan for government in the colonies

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut 1633: 1st written Constitution in the colonies

Suffolk Resolves: Mass. Doc that will move Continental Congress toward revolution

Olive Branch Petition: Last attempt at peace with England

Common Sense: Pamphlet written by Thomas Paine calling for separation from Britain

Declaration of Independence: 1776, declared separation from England

Articles of Confederation: 1785 1st attempt at US government – too weak to be successful

US Constitution: 1789 Created current government of the US

- **Constitution** (Ratified in 1789)
- Written by the Constitutional Convention to replace the over-weak Articles of Confederation
- James Madison – “**Father of the Constitution**”
- **Great Compromise** (Connecticut Compromise) created two house Legislative Branch (Congress) to make Laws. **House of Representatives** with representation based on population and the **Senate** with equal representation
- **3/5 Compromise:** Allowed slaves to count as 3/5 of a person for House representation
- **President:** new office creates much controversy – George Washington unanimously elected
- **Bill of rights** added in 1791 to protect the liberties and rights of citizens

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