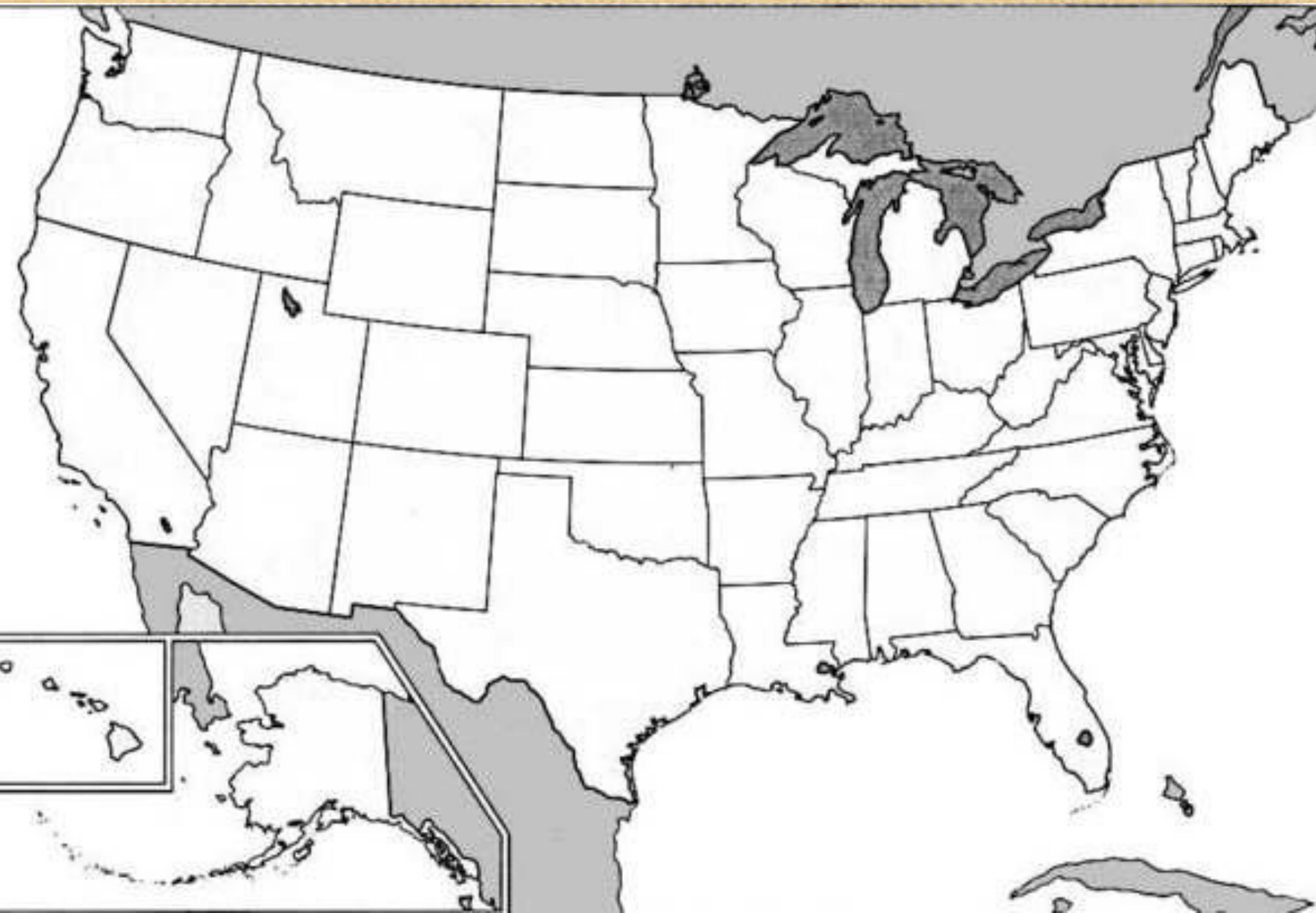


# Colonial Ways of Life

1607-1763

Chapter 3



## ★ *An American Story* ★



William Byrd II, a wealthy eighteenth-century Virginia planter, played a central role in his colony's government. In addition to serving as colonel of the county militia and as a member of the House of Burgesses, Byrd founded the city of Richmond and experimented with a variety of crops on his plantation. His wealth gave him the leisure to pursue cultural interests, and he amassed over 4,000 books—the biggest private library in the colonies. He left behind several diaries detailing life on Southern plantations. On January 27, 1711, he noted:

“I rose at 5 o'clock and read two chapters in Hebrew and some Greek in Lucian. I said my prayers and ate boiled milk for breakfast. . . . I settled several accounts; then I read some English which gave me great light into the nature of spirit. . . . In the afternoon my wife and I took a little walk and then danced together. Then I read some more English. At night I read some Italian and then played at piquet [a card game] with my wife. . . . I said my prayers and had good health, good thoughts, and good humor, thank God Almighty.”

—quoted in *The Growth of the American Republic*

- Chesapeake

- Tobacco

- Few roads & Towns

- Toleration Act (except for Catholics and Jews)

- Indentured servants

- 7 year contract to pay for passage to colonies

- No money to become settlers

- Yeoman farmers

- freemen

# Southern Colonies- Economy



*This indenture made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ yeere of our Sovereign Lord King Charles, etc., between \_\_\_\_\_ of the one party, and \_\_\_\_\_ on the other party, Witnesseth, that the said \_\_\_\_\_ doth hereby covenant, promise and grant to and with the said \_\_\_\_\_ his Executors and Assignes, to serve him from the day of the date hereof, until his first and next arrivall in Maryland; and after for and during the term of \_\_\_\_\_ yeeres, in such service and employment, as the said \_\_\_\_\_ or his assignes shall there employ him, according to the custome of the Countrey in the like kind. In consideration whereof, the said \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for his passing, and to find him with Meat, Drinke, Apparell and Lodging, with other necessities during the said terme; and at the end of said terme, to give him one whole yeers provision of Corne, and fifty acres of Land, according to the order of the countrey. In witsesse whereof, the said \_\_\_\_\_ hath hereunto put his hand and seale, the day and yeere above written.*

*Sealed and delivered in \_\_\_\_\_*

*In the presence of \_\_\_\_\_*

- Maryland
  - Tobacco
  - Catholics
- South Carolina
  - Rice
  - Bermuda
- Georgia
  - Indigo
  - Debtors
- plantations



Indentured Servants were both men and women.



### *Indentured Servants*

- *Trans-Atlantic fare paid in full by master*
- *Work contract signed for a specified period of time*
- *Provided room and board while working*
- *“Freedom dues” often provided at end of contract*

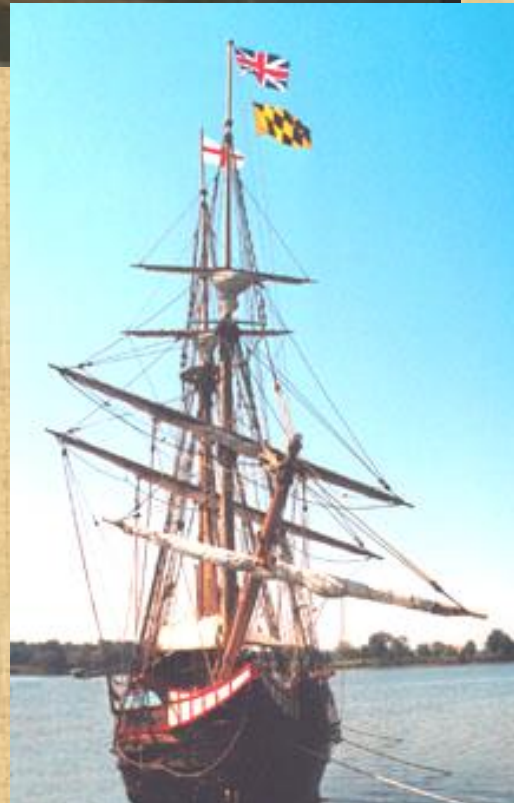
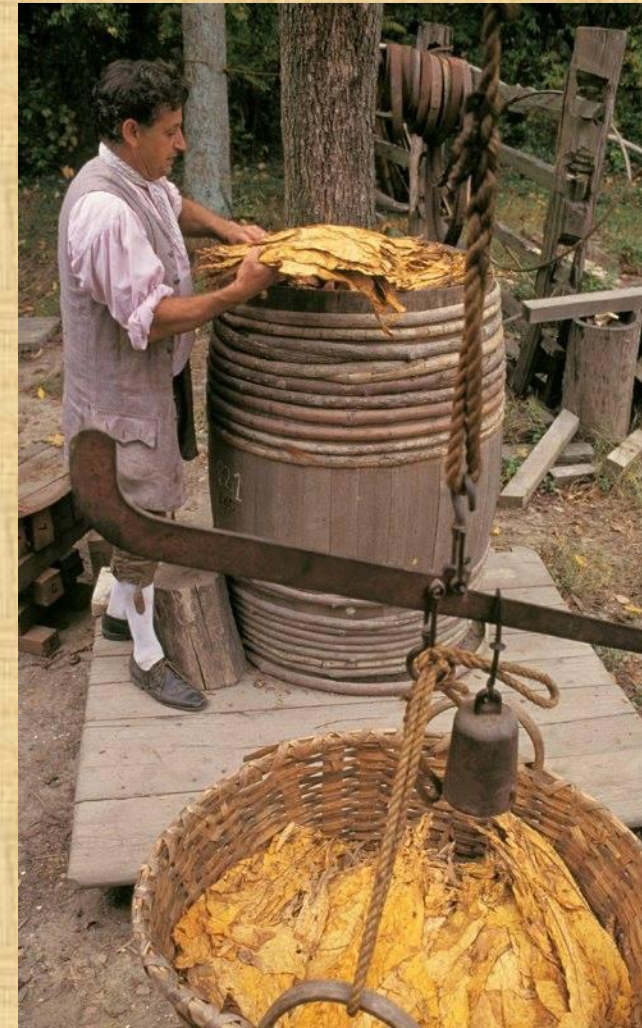
- 1600s plantation
  - small
  - Warm climate
  - good soil
  - long growing season
  - Export crops



# Southern Society

- Planters
  - A few large plantations
- Farmers
  - Most plantations small
  - Few slaves
- Land





# Chesapeake Money

Price varies b/c of supply & demand



# Gov. Berkley

- Tax exemption
- Voting
- Indian lands
- Tidewater vs. Backcountry





# Bacon's Rebellion

- Land & Indians & Taxes
- Slavery & Indentures
  - Middle Passage
  - Slave Codes to control slave owners' use of slaves
  - Regulated slavery
- Prevent new rebellions
  - have land for new settlers
  - Use more slave labor

*But the circumstance which struck us most forcibly was how it was possible for such a number of human beings to exist, packed up and wedged together as tight as they could cram, in low cells three feet high...exposed to the open sky...at 89 degrees. The space between decks was ...3 feet 3 inches high; the size of one was 16 feet by 18 ...into this were crammed the 226 women and girls 226 into one space 288 feet on average to each of the women not more than 13 inches.*

*---adapted from Rev. Robert Walsh, 1829*



# Williamsburg (1699-1770s)



- Town life

New England's soil was thin and rocky, and from the earliest days, many settlers knew they would have to depend on the sea for their livelihood. Although some people back in England believed New England offered only a meager existence, the Reverend Francis Higginson learned otherwise. One of New England's earliest settlers, Higginson here describes the rich fishing off the coast of New England:

“I saw great store of whales and grampuses, and such abundance of mackerels that it would astonish one to behold. . . . There is a fish called a bass, a most sweet and wholesome fish as ever I did eat. . . . Of this fish our fishers may take many hundreds together, which I have seen lying on the shore, to my admiration. Yea, their nets ordinarily take more than they are able to haul to land. . . . And besides bass, we take plenty of skate and thornback, and abundance of lobsters; and the least boy in the plantation may both catch and eat what he will of them.”

—from “On the Riches of New England,” *The Annals of America*

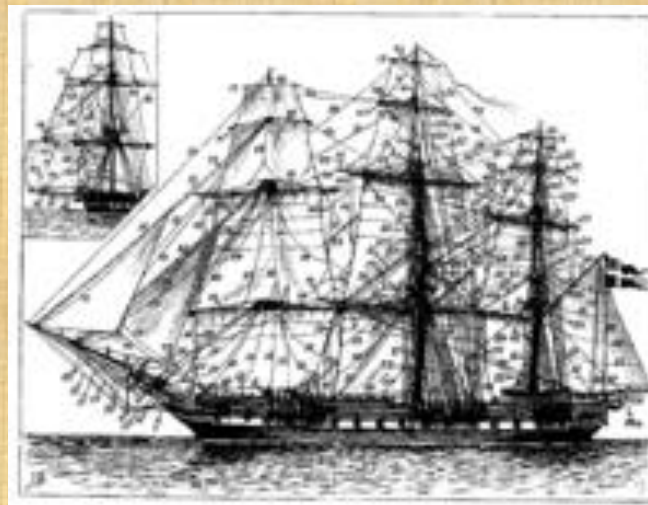


# New England & Middle Colonies

- Economy
  - Fishing-codfish
  - Whaling
    - Bone, oil, fuel
  - Lumbering
    - Water fall line provided power for sawmills
  - Shipbuilding
  - Small farms b/c poor land & weather
    - apples & corn
  - Towns along coast b/c of fall line



Cape Cod, Mass.



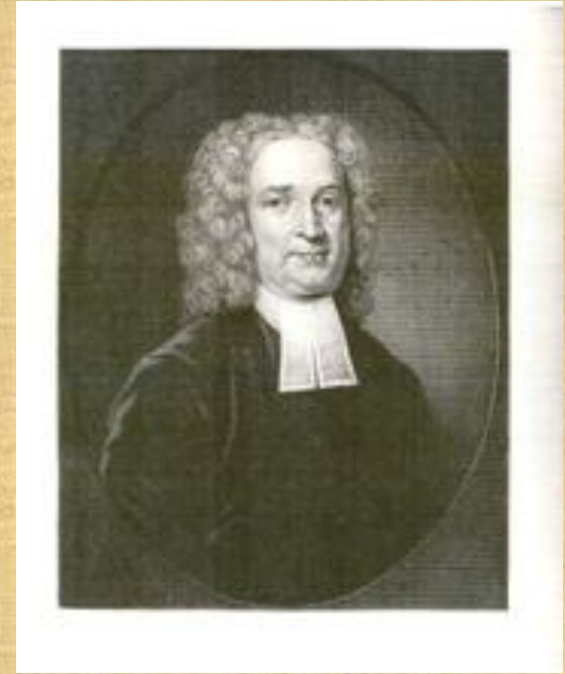


*The New England Colonies consisted of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Colonists who settled in these colonies during the 1600s and 1700s faced rocky soil and winter that were long and cold; conditions which kept farm sizes small. Much of the land was covered in forest, and the waters off the northern Atlantic coast were full of cod.*



# New England Economy

- Triangular Trade
  - Sugar
  - Slaves
  - Rum
- Artisans
  - Indentured servants
- Merchants class
  - Business owners
  - Lumber & water powered saw mills
- Growth of cities along the coast



Cotton Mather



- New England Towns
  - Town Meetings
  - Puritans
    - Holy Watching
    - Neighbors' behavior
    - Church & state
  - Salem

*More than once it has been said, too, that the Salem witchcraft was the rock on which the theocracy shattered.*  
*---George L. Burr, 1914*



Persons found guilty were burned, stoned, drowned, or pressed to death

Chorus:	You're Dammed if you do,	There was a man named Roger
He's a Puritan-----	And you're Dammed if you	Williams,
He looks like	don't,	Who spoke against us Puritans of New
Constipation,	It don't matter,	England.
But its Predestination,	If you sink your boat.	I could not allow him to lie this way,
Yes.	Cause-----	So I banished him out of
		Massachusetts Bay,
		Cause-----
He's a Puritan-----	You have no choice,	
A Puritan-----	You can't even figure,	Now did you hear about that slut
Oh Yes, a Puritan.	God has already chosen,	named Anne,
	By pointing his finger,	She always had something on the other
	Cause-----	hand,
I believe in Heaven,		I could not put up with her smut,
And I believe in Hell,	Well I came to settle here in New	So I banished her with a kick in the
But nothing you can	England,	Butt,
do,	To build a city upon the hill,	Cause-----
Will ring my bell,	But I won't put up with	
Cause---	troublesome men,	Later in our History,
	For I will send them to the	We dealt with some very ugly witches,
	savage Indian,	They lived in Salem and I can say,
	Cause-----	They certainly were a group of b-----
		.
		We hanged them, pressed them, and
		burned them at the stake,
		But don't you fret, its the Devil I really
		hate,
		Cause-----

*You are strictly to give in charge to all his Majesty's officers, that they be very careful not to suffer any European goods, other than what are by the aforesaid law and Proclamation accepted, to be imported into New England.*  
---Edmund Andros




- Dominion of New England
- Edmund Andros
- Tyrant
- Nullified
  - Deeds
  - Marriages
  - Teachings
  - Puritan religion
- Objective
  - Reduce Puritan power
  - Restore Monarchy's power

# Middle Colonies

- Grains (wheat)
  - Small farms
  - labor intensive but profitable
- Business & Trade
  - Indians
  - Europe
- Pennsylvania's
  - German (Penn. Dutch towns)
  - Scotch-Irish (frontier)
  - Quakers





In the later 1600s and early 1700s, Parliament passed a series of laws that restricted and controlled colonial manufacturing. One of these laws affected the hat industry, and another affected the iron industry. These laws annoyed many colonists, including Benjamin Franklin, who argued:

“The hatters of England have prevailed to obtain an act in their own favor restraining that manufacture in America. . . . In the same manner have a few nail makers and a still smaller body of steelmakers (perhaps there are not half a dozen of these in England) prevailed totally to forbid by an act of Parliament the erecting of slitting mills or steel furnaces in America; that Americans may be obliged to take all their nails for their buildings and steel for their tools from these artificers [craft workers].”

An article in the *Boston Gazette* also complained:

“A colonist cannot make a button, a horseshoe, nor a hobnail, but some sooty ironmonger or respectable buttonmaker of Britain shall bawl and squall that his honor’s worship is . . . maltreated, injured, cheated, and robbed by the rascally American republicans.”

—adapted from *The Rise of American Civilization*

- Imperial System
- Mercantilism
- Navigation Acts
- Dominion of New England
- Glorious Revolution
- Toleration Act
  - Allowed most protestants freedom of religion

### *The Navigation Act of 1660*

*For the increase of shipping and encouragement of the navigation of this nation..., no sugars, tobacco, cotton-wool, indigos, or ginger..., of the growth, production or manufacture of any English plantation in America,... shall be shipped, carried, conveyed or transported from any...English plantations to any land...other than to such English plantations as do belong to his Majesty...*





English merchants trading with English Colonies in Triangle Trade  
Barrels important for shipping almost everything.



Early on Sunday morning, October 6, 1723, a 16-year-old boy from Boston stepped off a boat onto Philadelphia's Market Street wharf. Within just a few years, Benjamin Franklin would stride into American history. That day, however, he simply wanted to find breakfast:

“I was in my working dress, my best clothes being to come round by sea. I was dirty from my journey . . . and I knew no soul nor where to look for lodging. I was fatigued with traveling, rowing, and want of rest; I was very hungry; and my whole stock of cash consisted of a Dutch dollar and about a shilling in copper.”

With some of his money Franklin bought “three great puffy rolls . . . and, having no room in my pockets, walked off with a roll under each arm, and eating the other . . . I made . . . a most awkward, ridiculous appearance.”

Franklin's passion for books and writing led him to Philadelphia, where he achieved success as a printer, writer, scientist, and philosopher. By the time he was 42, the man who popularized the proverb “Time is money” could afford to retire and devote himself to public life.

—adapted from *Colonial Pennsylvania: A History*

# Governmental Ideas

- Locke
  - People can be shaped by society
  - People have Natural Rights
    - Life
    - Liberty
    - Property
- Magna Carta
- Mayflower Compact
  - [List of passengers](#)

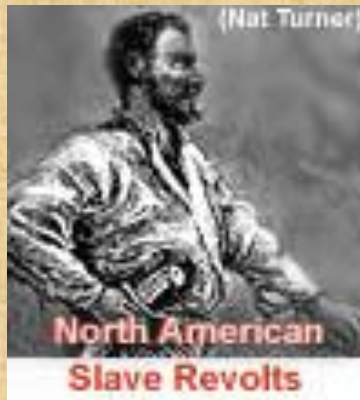


# Diverse Society

- Population
  - Large families for free workers
- Women
- Health-Cotton Mather
- Immigrants (many to middle colonies)
  - Dutch
  - German
  - Scotch-Irish
  - Jews

# Africans

- Slaves
  - Language barrier
  - Oppression
- Resistance
  - Stono Rebellion



# Enlightenment

- Locke
  - Humans are molded by their societies
  - Life, liberty, property
- Montesquieu
  - Separation of Powers
- Rationalism
  - Logic
  - Reason
- Individualism



Montesquieu

- Great Awakening
  - Revivals
  - Equality before God
  - Jonathan Edwards
  - George Whitefield
  - Individualism



*If we calmly consider the nature of the thing itself, nothing can well be imagined more directly contrary to common sense than to suppose that millions of people should be subjected to the arbitrary, precarious pleasure of one single man, who has naturally no superiority over them in point of authority...What unprejudiced man can think that God made all to be thus subservient to the lawless pleasure and fancy of one so that it shall always be a sin to resist him?*

*---Jonathan Mayhew, Boston 1750*