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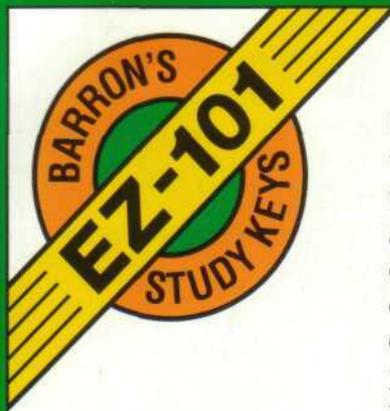
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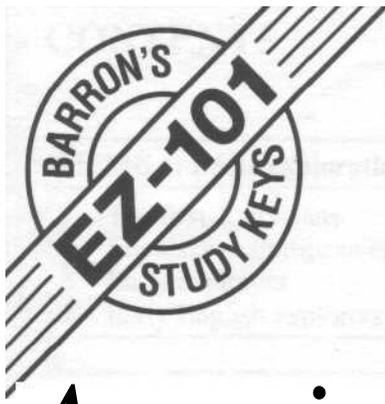
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# *American History To 1877*

**BARRON'S**

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## **Theme 1 EARLY EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT**

"The Western Hemisphere became the meeting ground of three great cultures: the Native American ("Indian"), the European (source of voluntary immigrants), and the African (source of involuntary immigrants, or slaves). Native Americans developed widely scattered and diverse societies. The European encounter was part of a world-wide diffusion of that civilization, impelled by a variety of motives, including economic and religious. English settlements were initially concentrated on the East coast of North America.

### **INDIVIDUAL KEYS IN THIS THEME**

- 1 The first Americans
- 2 Impulses to European exploration
- 3 Early explorers
- 4 Early English explorers and settlements

## Key 1 The first Americans

**OVERVIEW** *Native Americans, who peopled the Western Hemisphere thousands of years before the arrival of the first Europeans, developed diverse cultures but lacked the unity necessary for effective resistance.*

**Mongoloid peoples:** Appear to have migrated across a Bering Strait land bridge from Siberia perhaps 30,000 years ago, gradually spreading over the hemisphere.

- A great cultural diversity developed, including over 1,000 different languages.
- Stable agriculture, town life, and commerce characterized the "high cultures" of Central America (Maya, Aztec) and the Andes (Incas).
- Population estimates for these empires vary widely.

**Native American cultures north of Mexico:** Ranged from the early "mound builders" of the Ohio Valley to the "pueblo" cultures (Hopis, Anasazi) of the Southwest.

- Native Americans showed remarkable respect for and adaptation to their environment. *Example:* Use of "dry farming" and irrigation in the arid Southwest.
- Division of labor was based on gender. Male activity stressed warfare and hunting; female emphasized nurturing of children, planting and gathering of crops, and preparation of food.
- Native American technology had some crucial gaps (use of iron, the wheel).
- Political disunity (the Iroquois Confederacy was a notable exception) prevailed and inter-tribal warfare was common.

**Europeans:** Were initially welcomed and Native Americans often assisted in their adjustment to an alien environment.

- Native Americans were soon, however, conquered, exploited, and sometimes enslaved.
- Indian-European racial mix (Mestizos) and Indian-African blending were most common in Central and South America.
- Native population was decimated by epidemics of European diseases (especially small pox and measles).
- Native economies were shaken by European trade.
- Cultural diffusion occurred in both directions. *Example:* The diet of Europe was transformed by the introduction of corn, beans, and potatoes from the New World.

## Key 2 Impulses to European exploration

**OVERVIEW** *As Europe emerged from the feudal Middle Ages, fundamental changes stimulated interest in overseas exploration and exploitation. Adventurous navigators sought new routes to Asia around Africa and across the Atlantic.*

**Effects of Crusades:** The Crusades (11th-15th centuries) were attempts by European armies to reconquer areas in the Middle East and Spain that had been absorbed by expanding Islam.

- Europeans came into contact with superior Arab cultures.
- Interest in Eastern trade was excited by the fabulous 13th century tales of **Marco Polo**.
- Traditional overland routes, such as the Silk Road, were slow and expensive.
- The Mediterranean trade was dominated by Italian city-states.
- Expansion of the Ottoman Empire (Constantinople fell in 1453) affected trade, adding to the need to find alternate routes.

**Europe:** Fundamental economic, political, and cultural changes in Europe in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries stimulated exploration.

- A commercial revival led to the rise of towns and a new merchant class.
- Deposit banking and joint stock companies created new sources of capital.
- The Italian **Renaissance** stimulated the arts and technology (movable type printing, improved maps and instruments, "carrack" ships).
- With the **Reformation**, new Protestant religions divided Christianity and contributed to rivalry and competition.
- Following incessant feudal wars, monarchs gradually strengthened their control and provided resources, money, and motivation for expansion and conquest.

**Exploration:** Impulses for exploration included:

- A spirit of curiosity and adventure
- Prospective wealth in precious metals, in trade, and in slaves
- The missionary impulse (the cross accompanied the sword)
- National and religious rivalries in the search for prestige.

**Scandinavia:** The earliest known European explorers were Scandinavians or Norse (although there is speculation over earlier possible contacts from Africa and Asia).

## Key 3 Early explorers

**OVERVIEW** When *Europeans sailed westward for Asia they encountered the Americas. Exploitation of resources enriched some Europeans but brought tragedy to Native Americans and enslavement for African Americans.*

**Portugal:** Located in a geographically favorable position, Portugal's pioneers sought an all-water route around Africa to Asia.

- **Prince Henry the Navigator** sent ships to the coast of Africa.
- **Bartholomew Diaz** reached the southern tip of Africa (1488). Trading posts were set up.
- **Vasco da Gama** reached India (1498).
- The first African slaves were brought to Europe by the Portuguese in the 1440s.

**Christopher Columbus:** Unsuccessfully sought funding from the king of Portugal for a "short voyage west to Japan." Then, after Ferdinand and Isabella completed the Christian reconquest of Spain by expelling Islamic "Moors" and Jews (1492), he secured their financial aid to "convert heathen lands."

- After a perilous voyage, three caravels reached the Bahamas where, believing he was in the Indies, Columbus misnamed the natives he encountered.
- Three more trips produced disappointing material rewards.
- Many Arawak Indians of the West Indies were murdered or enslaved.
- Columbus's voyage set in motion a vast westward migration of peoples and significant cultural interchange.

**America:** Named for **Amerigo Vespucci**, a Florentine merchant and navigator who made several trips to the Western Hemisphere after Columbus. Explorations led to competing European territorial claims.

- A declaration by the pope (1493) dividing the "New World" between Portugal and Spain was generally ignored.
- Iberian explorers included **Pedro Cabral** who claimed Brazil for Portugal.
- Other explorers (often Italians sailing for other nations) continued to search for a Northwest Passage.

**Spanish Conquistadores** (conquerors): Created a large empire in New Spain.

- **Cortez** conquered the Aztecs of Mexico; **Pizarro**, the Incas of Peru.
- **Balboa** crossed Panama to the Pacific; **Magellan's** ship sailed around the world.
- **Ponce de Leon** landed in Florida; **Menendez** established a settlement at St. Augustine (1565).
- **Coronado** and others explored the interior in search of gold.

**Spanish empire:** Vast territories in North and South America were administered by a Spanish hierarchy.

- Indians (and later, African slaves) were coerced to work in mines and on farms.
- Some Catholic missionaries denounced treatment of Indians.
- The flow of wealth to Spain led to inflation and eventual economic decline.

### KEY FIGURES

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**Christopher Columbus:** A Genoese captain who sailed for Spain, his miscalculation opened the New World and its native population to European exploitation.

**Ferdinand Magellan:** After finding a passage through South American straits he was killed in the Philippines, but one of his ships was the first to circumnavigate the earth.

## Key 4 Early English explorers and settlements

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**OVERVIEW** *With the support of strong monarchs and capital from investment companies, England began to plant settlements in North America. The first successful one was at Jamestown, Virginia (1607).*

**King Henry VIII:** Broke with the pope over economic, political, and social differences (including his divorce and remarriage in 1529).

- His daughter, **Queen Elizabeth I**, encouraged Sea Dogs such as Drake and Hawkins to loot Spanish treasure ships.
- **The Spanish Armada's** attempt to invade England was turned back (1588).
- England's naval strength could then help open trans-Atlantic ventures.
- Enclosure of land to raise sheep for a profitable woolen industry led to rural unemployment, movement to cities, and pressures for overseas settlement.
- A rising merchant class invested in *joint stock companies* (corporations) for speculation at home and abroad (the Muscovy Company was founded in 1553).
- Richard Hakluyt's books encouraged English settlement.

**Early English failures:** Humphrey Gilbert secured a royal charter and private investment but his attempts to establish a colony on Newfoundland failed. Walter Raleigh's "Virginia" settlement on Roanoke Island (now North Carolina) vanished (the "Lost Colony").

**The Jamestown settlement:** Two profit-seeking Virginia Companies (London and Plymouth) were chartered by King James I in 1606. The next year three ships landed settlers at Jamestown, Virginia.

- Great difficulty was experienced adjusting to the new environment: during "the starving time" many died of disease and insufficient food.
- **Captain John Smith**, who dominated the colonial council, enforced discipline and overcame political dissension.
- Crucial assistance was offered by Chief **Powhatan** and his Algonkian Indian Confederacy.
- **John Rolfe** (who married Pocahontas, Powhatan's daughter) successfully planted a cash crop of tobacco which was marketed despite the King's expressed distaste for "the filthy weed."

- As tobacco exports boomed, more land was put under cultivation, further straining relations with Native Americans.
- Pressure on the Indians to convert to Christianity and to become farmers also led to conflict.
- Warfare ended with a treaty "recognizing" English authority.
- In 1624 Virginia's Charter was revoked and it became a royal colony.

### **Virginia Society and Government:**

- Over 60% of settlers arrived *indentured* (obliged to work for a set period of years to pay off their passage money).
- Later, *headrights* of fifty acres enticed settlers who bought a company share and transported themselves to the colony.
- Ninety "younge, handsome and honestly educated maydes" (young women) were sent by the Company in 1619.
- The same year a Dutch slave ship deposited twenty African blacks. It is believed they were considered indentured and that legalized slavery developed somewhat later.
- Also in 1619 the first General Assembly of Virginia met in Jamestown (including a governor, councilors, and *burgesses*).

**The Plymouth Colony:** The Pilgrims, "Separatists" who had left the Church of England, migrated to Holland in 1609 seeking religious tolerance. To maintain their English identity they sailed for America, with the permission of the Virginia Company.

- The *Mayflower* reached Cape Cod in 1620.
- Beyond Company control, the "Saints" (Pilgrim leaders) established a compact before landing at Plymouth.
- Although not actually a constitution, the document provided a precedent for later voluntary democratic compacts.
- Poorly prepared for the harsh climate, half of the settlers died the first winter.
- The Pokanoket Indians, who were seeking allies, befriended the colonists. Squanto acted as advisor and interpreter.
- Governor **William Bradford** wrote a history of the colony.
- Political decisions were made by *town meetings* and, later, by elected assemblies.

### **KEYQUOTATION**

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We solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one of another, Covenant and combine ourselves together in a civil body politic.

*The Mayflower Compact*

## Theme 2 COLONIAL BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

Although settlers brought British cultural traditions and institutions with them, these were soon altered to adjust to the new environment. On the North American coast three regions (in addition to the moving frontier) developed into distinctive economic and cultural sections. Three types of colonial government developed: self-governing, proprietary, and royal. Puritanism molded New England, where commerce took on growing economic importance. The Southern Colonies began to develop plantation agriculture employing slave labor. The Middle Colonies blended the economies of the other two sections and welcomed ethnic diversity. Conflicts developed, first with Native Americans and then among social and regional groups.

### INDIVIDUAL KEYS IN THIS THEME

- 5 Puritan New England
- 6 Middle Colonies
- 7 Southern Colonies
- 8 Colonial economies
- 9 Society and labor
- 10 Colonial culture
- 11 Colonial turmoil

## Key 5 Puritan New England

**OVERVIEW** *The Puritans were English religious dissenters, many of whom migrated to Massachusetts. From there the Puritan influence spread to other New England colonies.*

**Puritanism:** Began as a faction within the Church of England. It sought to return Christianity to its "pure," primitive, Biblical roots.

- Puritans criticized the Anglican Church for retaining too much of the Roman Catholic Church's ritual and hierarchy.
- Puritans stressed the Calvinist doctrine of *election* (pre-destination) as well as the importance of both divine grace and good works (as a sign of salvation).
- They believed religion should be applied to daily life and to the functioning of government.
- Puritan Congregationalists challenged the Stuart concept of centralized church-state control.
- *Separatists* broke away from the English Church (see Key 4).

**The Great Migration:** The flight of Puritans to the New World lasted from 1629 to 1640.

- King Charles I granted a royal *charter* (1629) to the Puritan-controlled Massachusetts Bay Company.
- Perhaps 50,000 left England, the majority settling in the West Indies colonies.
- Motives combined a sense of religious mission (a new "covenant") with economic opportunity (many settlers were from the middle class).
- Boston became the capital and hub of the New England settlement.
- Migration increased and decreased with political events in England (Civil War, Cromwell's Puritan Commonwealth, the Stuart Restoration).

**The "Bible Commonwealth":** Religion permeated society.

- While affirming loyalty to a "purified" Church of England, Congregationalists were convinced of their special mission. ("We shall be as a city upon a hill.")
- Each congregation was self-governing (with no hierarchy).
- The Bible and the sermon held central importance.
- The clergy formed a powerful intellectual elite but did not claim political power.
- The General Court (legislature) was elected by adult male church

- members (*freemen*). The charter of 1691 provided for a property-holding requirement.
- Democratic roots lay in individual congregational control and in town meetings.
- Puritans emphasized the "work ethic" and material progress.
- The somber image of the Puritans is exaggerated. "Blue laws" stressed observance on the Sabbath, but moderation, rather than a ban on worldly pleasures, was the rule.

**Conflicts:** Religious quarrels and challenges to orthodoxy plagued the "peaceable kingdom."

- Massachusetts became the "Mother" of other New England colonies.
- "Responsibility for fellow men" resulted in lack of privacy and intolerance toward dissenters.
- Reverend **Roger Williams**, who advocated church-state separation and defended the land rights of Indians, was banished in 1636. He founded the colony of Rhode Island.
- **Anne Hutchinson** (see below) was exiled in 1638.
- **Thomas Hooker** led migrants seeking better land into the Connecticut Valley. Its General Court adopted the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** (a constitution) in 1639.
- In Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692 trials for witchcraft led to twenty executions and imprisonment of over 100.
- As Puritan enthusiasm declined, a council of ministers adopted the "Half-way covenant" in 1662, permitting partial membership in the congregation.

### **KEY FIGURES**

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**John Winthrop** (1588-1649): An English lawyer, his Puritan convictions impelled him to migrate to Massachusetts Bay, where he was repeatedly elected governor. He was the first president of the New England Confederation (1643).

**Anne Hutchinson** (1591-1643): At her meetings she stressed God's gift of grace and salvation through direct contact with the divine. Tried for sedition and contempt for authority (and female presumption?), she was banished and emigrated to Rhode Island.

## Key 6 Middle Colonies

**OVERVIEW** *The colonies that developed between New England and the Chesapeake attracted a variety of religions and nationalities and soon developed thriving economies.*

**Dutch New York: Henry Hudson**, sailing for the Dutch East India Company, sought a Northwest Passage through the continent. In 1609 he found the river that bears his name. Soon after, Dutch fur trading posts were established on Manhattan Island and at Fort Orange (Albany).

- New Amsterdam, the capital, was built on land purchased from the Indians by **Peter Minuit**.
- The expanding Dutch absorbed Swedish settlements on the Delaware River (1650s).
- Although the company offered large feudal tracts of land to *patroons* who would bring groups of settlers, the population remained sparse.
- New Amsterdam (New York) was a "company town" which offered little religious or political toleration.
- A mixed population, including English on Long Island, was ineffectively governed.

**English New York:** King Charles II of England granted the area to his brother, James, the Duke of York, after three Anglo-Dutch Wars.

- The Dutch surrendered to an English fleet without a fight (1664).
- Black slaves made up one-fifth of the diverse population of New York City.
- The Dutch influence persisted for some time.

**New Jersey:** Established in 1664 when the Duke of York turned over the lands between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers to two noble proprietors who divided it into East and West Jersey. In 1702 they were merged as a crown colony.

**Pennsylvania:** Established as a refuge for Quakers by **William Penn**, who received a royal land grant as a result of his father's friendship with the Stuart monarchy.

- The Quakers, who believed in direct inspiration from God and who refused to defer to political authority, were persecuted in England.
- As proprietor of the colony, Penn offered religious toleration as he recruited settlers with promotional literature.

- Quakers were pacifists and attempted to treat the Indians fairly. Penn learned an Indian language and purchased land by treaties.
- German and Scotch-Irish settlers who arrived later did not relate as well to the Indians.
- Some German settlers retained their cultural uniqueness (the "Pennsylvania Dutch").
- Penn's proprietary government offered more political involvement by freemen than most colonies did.
- A wide variety of national and religious groups were attracted to the colony.
- The town of Philadelphia prospered commercially, rivaling Boston.
- Philadelphia rapidly developed into a political and cultural center.
- Conestoga wagons were constructed by German farmers near Lancaster.
- Pennsylvania's farms produced abundant grain.

**Delaware:** At first part of Penn's royal grant, after 1701 it chose its own assembly. Its separation from Pennsylvania came during the American Revolution.

### KEY QUOTATION

No man, nor number of men upon earth hath power or authority to rule over men's consciences in religious matters.

*Charter of West Jersey, 1677*

God hates persecution.

William Penn

## Key 7 Southern Colonies

**OVERVIEW** *Like the pioneer settlement in Virginia, other Southern Colonies featured plantation economies growing staple export crops that required a supply of field labor.*

**Maryland:** The second Chesapeake Bay plantation colony was founded in 1634 under a royal proprietary charter granted to **Lord Baltimore** (George Calvert).

- The profit motive was combined with the intention to provide a haven for fellow Roman Catholics.
- **An Act of Toleration** was passed in 1649 (Key 26).
- As in Virginia, tobacco raising was profitable, creating a demand for field labor, primarily indentured servants but also African-American slaves.

**The Carolinas:** After his restoration, King Charles II granted a charter to eight court favorites for this large land area between Virginia and Spanish Florida. To encourage immigration, religious tolerance was provided. In 1729 it split into North and South Carolina.

**North Carolina:** Populated by migrants from Virginia, it developed a reputation for democratic independence. The chief export crops were tobacco and timber products.

**South Carolina; First** populated by planters who brought slaves with them from Barbados in the West Indies. Warring Indian tribes sold some captivis to whites as slaves.

- Plantations produced tropical crops such as rice and indigo.
- The prosperous port of Charleston had an aristocratic and cosmopolitan tone (French Protestant refugees had settled there).

**Georgia:** The last of the English mainland colonies, founded in 1732.

- A royal charter was granted to trustees who would establish a military "buffer" between the Carolinas and Spanish Florida.
- General **James Oglethorpe**, the founder, was a promoter of prison reform and sought to make the colony a refuge for debtors.
- Initially alcohol and slaves were forbidden in the colony.
- A varied population included large numbers of Germans.
- In 1753, when the charter expired, Georgia became a royal colony.

## Key 8 Colonial economies

**OVERVIEW** *Economic systems varied widely through the British North American colonies. Sectional economic differences were largely determined by variations in climate and geography.*

**Agriculture:** Land acquired by European settlers had been transformed to a limited extent by Native Americans who had already occupied it.

- Throughout the colonial period over 90% of the economy was agricultural.
- Most early settlers engaged in subsistence (self-sufficient) farming; this pattern continued on the frontier.

**New England:** A harsh climate and rocky soil made farming difficult and led to a diversified economy.

- Land was usually granted to a group (often a congregation) and then *towns* subdivided it among families.
- Profitable fishing industry included whaling (oil was used for lighting).
- Shipbuilding and coastal and trans-Atlantic commerce were economically important.
- Some small-scale manufacturing began despite discouragement from Britain.

**Middle-Atlantic economy:** Blended economies of the other two regions.

- This area became the colonial "bread basket" as its climate and soil produced a grain surplus.
- River systems and ports such as Philadelphia and New York City provided access to the back country and to overseas commerce.
- Merchants and artisans flourished in coastal towns.

**Southern Colonies:** With a favorable climate and abundant land, developed the *plantation* system.

- Staple export crops were often grown on large estates. *Examples:* tobacco in Virginia, rice and indigo dye in South Carolina.
- 50-acre *headrights* went to settlers (see Key 4).
- Southern farms tended to be scattered; there was less urban development.

**Frontier areas:** Provided opportunities for venturesome individuals.

- Conditions were harsh on isolated farms.
- Beyond the reach of government authority, both individual and cooperative efforts were necessary.

## Key 9 Society and labor

**OVERVIEW** *Although most voluntary settlers were transplanted Europeans, the economic conditions in the colonies and the evolution of the slave system produced a significantly different social structure.*

**Population:** Growth in British North America was extraordinary.

- Despite high infant mortality and low life expectancy (though higher than in Europe), population doubled each generation.
- Population in the thirteen mainland colonies had reached 2.5 million by 1775, and 4 million by the 1790 census.
- Men outnumbered women, particularly in the early period, resulting in somewhat better status for females than in Europe.
- African-Americans constituted nearly 20%. Indians were not counted.

**Women:** Tended to marry early and bear many children.

- Married women were deprived of most legal rights.
- Most women were limited to domestic roles, but some became active in farming, crafts, business, and education.

**Family:** The basic social and economic unit.

- Children were economic assets in an agricultural society and families tended to be large.
- Parents taught children their gender roles and responsibilities.
- Epidemic diseases, such as smallpox, diphtheria, and, in the South, malaria took heavy tolls, especially in towns.

**Class:** Differences existed despite leveling influences, but were not as extreme as in Europe.

- The "better sort" (upper class) included wealthy merchants, Southern land-owning gentry, and professionals.
- Class status was sometimes reflected in peoples' clothing and in seating in church.
- The largest group was farmers with small holdings.
- Lowest status fell to propertyless whites, indentured servants, and slaves.
- Opportunities for upward social mobility were generally greater than in Europe.

**Towns:** Had 10% of colonial population by 1775.

- Philadelphia, with about 34,000 people, passed Boston as the largest city.

- Town facilities were primitive. Fires and crime were major threats to safety.
- Punishments (flogging, hanging) for crimes were harsh (Quakers in Philadelphia introduced a reform *penitentiary* system).
- Taverns, in towns and along *post roads*, were important social centers.
- Southern *tidewater gentry* (a numerically small group) often had town houses in addition to Georgian mansions on their plantations.

**European ethnic mix:** Greatest in the Middle Colonies (*Example:* Germans in Pennsylvania), but African-American slaves gave the South the greatest racial diversity (African-Americans were the *majority* in South Carolina through most of the 18th century).

**Labor:** Scarce and expensive and new sources were constantly sought.

**Indentured servitude** (see Key 4): A major source of labor in the colonies in the 17th century.

- Contracts provided for labor (usually seven years) to pay passage from abroad.
- English courts often sent convicts, debtors, and political prisoners as indentures.
- At termination of service, "freedom dues" (often 50 acres, equal to a headright) were usually provided.

**Slavery:** Gradually supplanted indenture, particularly in Southern Colonies, by the 18th century (see Key 4).

- By 1780 slaves represented 90% of the population of the British West Indies. Only 5% of the slaves brought to the Western Hemisphere entered North America.
- The earliest slave traders were the Portuguese and Dutch and, later, the English (Royal African Company, 1662).
- Peoples from West Africa, of varying languages and cultures, were captured and transported in conditions of great cruelty. Charleston, South Carolina, was the main port of entry.
- Native Americans (Indians) were rarely successfully enslaved. They sometimes provided sanctuary for runaway slaves.
- Some white Barbados sugar planters brought their slaves to the Carolinas.
- By the 1660s perpetual and hereditary servitude (a "controlled" labor supply) had become well established.
- Racial prejudice helped to implant the system.
- Laws (*slave codes*) gradually acknowledged the "peculiar institution," particularly in the South.

## Key 10 Colonial culture

**OVERVIEW** *Colonial culture and values, originally patterned after England's, were reflected in the press and education systems and in the person of Benjamin Franklin.*

**Localized cultures:** Varied geographically.

- A majority of the population was illiterate and relied primarily on oral communication.
- Communities, especially in New England, focused on their churches as well as special political or civic events, such as election days or the training of the militia.
- A less concentrated population, the growth of slavery, and an Anglican church controlled from England all restrained cultural development in the South.
- In all sections a small but influential cultural elite emerged in the 18th century.

**Painting:** Was provincial and lacked patronage.

- Miniature portraits were popular.
- Untrained ("primitive") artists painted "genre" (realistic, everyday) scenes.
- Many painters went to Europe to study.
- Under royal patronage **Benjamin West** painted large historical scenes ("The Death of Wolfe") in his London studio.
- Colonial *sculpture* took forms such as gravestone and ship figure-head carving.

**Music:** Focused on religious works.

- "The Bay Psalm Book" (1640) was the earliest Colonial hymnal.
- Pennsylvania Germans stressed choral and organ music.
- Concerts were occasionally presented by musical societies.

**Theater:** Despite Puritan and Quaker disapproval, grew in popularity.

- English touring groups presented Shakespeare plays.
- **Thomas Kean** organized the first acting company (in Philadelphia).

**Architecture:** Attempted to duplicate familiar European structure but also adapt to new environments.

- New England "salt box" houses and Southern plantation houses represent extremes of regional styles.
- Swedes introduced the log cabin.

**Newspapers:** Became significant public influences.

- The first newspaper, *Publick Occurrences*, (Boston, 1690) was suppressed by the British governor after four days.
- Approximately forty newspapers were being published by the 1770s.
- **John Peter Zenger** was jailed by the New York Assembly in 1735 after his newspaper had criticized that body.
- At his trial for seditious libel, Zenger's defense was based on the truth of what has been printed. He was acquitted.

**Education:** New England was the leader, in part because of stress on the importance of Bible reading.

- In general, education was a luxury, a sign of status, and was provided primarily to males.
- A Massachusetts law of 1647 required all towns of over 50 families to provide an elementary school.
- The first colleges (Harvard, 1638; William and Mary, 1693) focused on training clergy.
- The first book printed in the colonies was the *Bay Psalm Book* (1640).
- The influential *New England Primer* (around 1690) taught the alphabet through religion.
- Southern planter gentry secured private tutors for their sons.

**Benjamin Franklin:** Seen as the "symbolic American" and as a personification of the Enlightenment.

- Self-educated, he was multitalented: a printer, scientist (experiments with electricity), inventor, statesman, writer (*Poor Richard's Almanac*, *Autobiography*).
- Civic contributions to Philadelphia helped lead that city to national prominence (a circulating library, a fire company, an academy, the American Philosophical Society).

## Key 11 Colonial turmoil

**OVERVIEW** *Colonial stability was periodically shaken by conflict, sometimes reflecting changes in England, more often resulting from tensions in America.*

**Native Americans:** Frequently clashed with colonists.

- When the **Pequot** Indians resisted white expansion in Connecticut, the English and Indian allies virtually wiped out the tribe (1637).
- **King Philip's War** (1675-76) Indian attacks on Puritan towns, inflicted heavy casualties. Failure to form tribal alliances crippled the Native American resistance in New England.

**Bacon's Rebellion** (1676): A major popular uprising.

- Falling tobacco prices, scarcity of land for freed indentured servants, and fears of Indian attack contributed to tensions on the Virginia frontier.
- Underrepresentation in the colony's legislature and resentment toward **William Berkeley**, the royal governor, added to the unrest.
- After clashing with the Indians, rebels: under the leadership of **Nathaniel Bacon** marched on Jamestown and burned the capital.
- Bacon suddenly died and the rebellion was crushed.
- The uprising reflected the tensions between tidewater aristocrats and poorer, politically deprived, frontiersmen.
- A new royal governor was ordered to restrict colonial independence or political autonomy.

**Imperial control:** Continued to tighten under James II.

- The *Dominion of New England* was created to unify colonial administration (1686).
- Charters were revoked, assemblies dissolved, and Governor **Andros** of Massachusetts was given extraordinary powers.

**The Glorious Revolution** (1689): Replaced James II with Protestant monarchs **William and Mary**.

- Massachusetts colonists overthrew Andros.
- In New York (Leisler Rebellion) and Maryland, popular uprisings deposed governments temporarily.
- The Glorious Revolution reasserted parliamentary power in London, but royal control was reimposed on the American colonies.

## Theme 3 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Britain attempted to operate its colonial empire under the profitable system later referred to as *mercantilism*. After victory over France and Spain in four inter-colonial wars, Britain attempted not only to regulate trade but also to raise revenue through taxation of the colonies. Growing resistance from Americans led eventually to the outbreak of fighting and the proclaiming of independence. Despite divided support for the cause at home, the revolutionaries were able to combine foreign aid with British blunders and with survival tactics to secure victory. Independence was accomplished, but the Revolution's impact on American society is debatable.

### INDIVIDUAL KEYS IN THIS THEME

- 12** The mercantile system
- 13** Wars for world empire
- 14** A new imperial policy
- 15** Taxation controversy
- 16** The crisis deepens
- 17** A struggle for men's minds
- 18** Lexington to Saratoga
- 19** Revolution in the West, at sea, and in the South
- 20** A social revolution?

## **Key 12** The mercantile system

**OVERVIEW** *The implementation of the doctrine of mercantilism, which attempted to create a powerful, prosperous, nation state through regulated economic self-sufficiency, was complicated by the self-governing traditions of the British North American colonies.*

**Imperial Britain:** Attempted to follow a widely practiced and highly nationalistic commercial theory later known as *mercantilism*.

- Nation states were seen as pursuing the limited wealth of the world.
- Each nation sought to become economically self-sufficient.
- Another goal was to achieve a *favorable balance of trade* (the value of exports should exceed the value of imports).
- Home industries would be protected from foreign competition.
- Colonies could benefit the mother country by providing inexpensive raw materials as well as a guaranteed market for manufactured goods.
- The system should result in a net flow of gold and silver to the mother country.
- To guarantee its effective operation, mercantilism required government regulation.
- To operate profitably and safely, large merchant and battle fleets were necessary.

**Legislation:** Parliament passed a series of **Trade and Navigation Acts** (1651 to 1673) designed to benefit England in its commercial competition with Holland and others.

- Colonial trade was to be carried on only in English or colonial ships.
- Certain *enumerated* goods (sugar, tobacco, naval supplies, furs) could be sold only to England by her colonies.
- Nearly all foreign goods could be imported to the colonies only if they were shipped through England and paid import taxes there.
- England paid "bounties" to encourage production of some materials in the colonies.
- Later, colonies were forbidden to make or export certain goods that competed with English products (Woolen Act, Iron Act, Hat Act). Colonial interests appeared to be subordinated to those of the mother country.

**The Board of Trade:** Created in 1696 to deal with colonial questions.

- On advice of the Board, the Crown could disallow actions of colonial legislatures.
- The Board, an advisory group, brought a measure of efficiency to governing the empire.
- However, there were many other overlapping authorities and management was inefficient.

**Colonial development:** Was affected by mercantilism.

- Large numbers of black African slaves were imported to work on plantations, particularly on the West Indies sugar crop.
- Many articles not on the "enumerated" lists could be freely transported and sold abroad.
- A colonial unfavorable balance of trade drained hard currency to pay for imports.
- Debtors sought inflation through the printing of paper money.

**Efforts at mercantilism:** Benefitted some in the empire (ship builders in New England) and hurt others (Virginia tobacco growers).

- Some protested the policy's effects.
- Some colonists, resistant to rigid regulation, resorted to smuggling and other profitable methods of evasion.

## ***Key 13*** Wars for world empire

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**OVERVIEW** *Europe's dynastic wars were reflected in an international struggle for colonial empire. In North America the climax was the French and Indian War.*

**Balance of power wars:** Erupted between England and France four times in less than a century. Each European war had a sideshow struggle in North America.

- War of the League of Augsburg (King William's War, 1689-97) tried to block expansion by King Louis XIV of France. In North America, it involved mostly frontier raids.
- War of the Spanish Succession (Queen Anne's War, 1701-13) sought to prevent the possible union of France and Spain. Border warfare occurred again in New England and in the Carolina-Spanish Florida area.
- After a preliminary skirmish with Spain known as the War of Jenkins's Ear, England fought France and Spain in the War of the Austrian Succession (King George's War, 1744-48), at the conclusion of which the status quo was restored in North America.
- Six years later (1754) warfare resumed on the North American frontier.

**French colonies:** New France controlled North America's most important inland waterways, extending from the St. Lawrence River through the Great Lakes, and down the Mississippi River to New Orleans.

- In a vast area underpopulated with Europeans, fur traders and Jesuit missionaries promoted friendly relations with Native Americans.

**The Albany Conference:** Convened by London's Board of Trade in 1754.

- Delegates from seven colonies met with Iroquois chiefs to prepare defenses.
- A Plan of Union was proposed by Benjamin Franklin:
  1. A "Grand Council" of colonies would oversee defense, Indian relations, and trade and would have tax power.
  2. A royally appointed executive would have a veto.
  3. Colonial assemblies as well as England's government rejected the plan.

**The French and Indian War (1754-1763):** Began in North America. Two years later it became the international "Seven Years War."

- In a strategic and disputed area, the Ohio Company, organized by Virginians under a royal charter, speculated in land and the fur trade.
- A French chain of forts (including Duquesne) was extended into western Pennsylvania to check the English.
- Virginia sent militia under young Major **George Washington** to protest French incursions.
- Washington built a stockade but was forced to surrender it (July 4, 1754).
- General Braddock, with two English regiments and colonial militia, was ambushed and routed by French and Indians en route to Ft. Duquesne (1755).
- The English deported and dispersed French "Acadians" from Newfoundland.
- In upstate New York expeditions against French forts failed.
- American colonists failed to provide a united war effort.

**British victory:** With **William Pitt** in charge in London and Prussian allies producing victories in Europe, the fortunes of war changed.

- With aid from their fleet, English troops took Louisbourg and the French burned and abandoned Ft. Duquesne.
- In 1759 ("The Year of Victory") attacks on Canada began to succeed. With Iroquois allies the English took Niagara and then forts on Lake Champlain. Quebec was successfully stormed (both commanders, Wolfe and Montcalm, were killed) and in 1760 Montreal fell.
- **Pontiac**, an Ottawa Chief, forged a western confederation which fought on until 1766 (see Key 14).
- England was victorious against the French and Spanish in the West Indies, the Philippines, and in India.

**The Treaty of Paris (1763):** England emerged as the major colonial power in the world.

- England secured all French territory in North America (to the Mississippi) as well as Spanish Florida.
- French territory west of the Mississippi became part of New Spain.
- France retained some West Indies islands.
- England's domination of India began, with Robert Clive's victories in Bengal.

## Key 14 A new imperial policy (1763)

**OVERVIEW** *Successful conclusion of the war with France resulted in significant changes in British policies toward the North American colonies, beginning with a new policy on western lands.*

England: George III became king of England in 1760.

- The Treaty of Paris (1763) added vast areas in India and North America to the British Empire (see Key 13).
- Domestic politics involving factions within the Whig Party (which had led the Glorious Revolution in 1688) held England's attention.
- Frequent cabinet changes helped to create an unstable colonial policy.

**American colonists:** Had grown accustomed to running their own affairs (period of "salutary neglect," 1714-39).

- Through royal governors the colonies dealt with the monarchy more than with Parliament.
- Colonial assemblies held the right of taxation ("power of the purse").
- Colonial contributions to the war effort had often seemed half-hearted or non-existent.

**Native Americans:** Losers in the French and Indian War.

- With the collapse of New France, Indians were no longer able to play off European powers against each other.
- Cherokee lands in the South were opened to the English.
- **Pontiac** formed an alliance of Northwest tribes and in 1763 attacked Detroit and other English forts and settlements.
- Pontiac's war ("conspiracy") ended by treaty in 1766.

**Western frontiersmen:** Resented the lack of protection against the Indians.

- In Pennsylvania *Paxton Boys* massacred peaceful Indians, then marched on Philadelphia.
- In the Carolinas, *Regulators* were finally subdued by militia (Battle of Alamance, 1770).

**The Royal Proclamation of 1763:** Drew a line along the Appalachian Mountains.

- Americans were forbidden to settle west of the line in Indian and former French areas.
- A new Quebec colony was created west of the mountains.
- Americans soon ignored or defied the line.

## Key 15 Taxation controversy (1764-66)

**OVERVIEW** *Parliament's efforts to raise revenue in the colonies were met with growing resistance. The repeal of the Stamp Act gave an impression of a colonial victory.*

**George Grenville:** The new finance minister in 1763, he sought to raise money to help pay the cost of 10,000 British troops left in the colonies for their protection. The war had doubled the British national debt.

**Revenue acts:** Existing laws were more strictly enforced; new legislation was enacted.

- American smuggling to evade the 1733 **Molasses Act** tax was to be halted by rigid enforcement.
- **The Currency Act** of 1764 banned paper currency as legal tender. A shortage of hard currency as a result of an unfavorable trade balance (see Key 12) had a deflationary effect.
- **The Sugar Act**, also passed by Parliament in 1764, cut the molasses tax in half but added duties on other imports and provided for enforcement.
- **The Stamp Act** of 1765 required a tax stamp on most printed material and legal documents. This alienated important colonial leaders such as lawyers, merchants, and journalists.
- **A Quartering Act** required the colonies to provide housing and provisions for British troops.

**Protests:** Took a variety of forms.

- **James Otis** argued in 1761 in a Boston court against *writs of assistance* (general search warrants to enforce mercantilist laws).
- Otis protested the Stamp Act by appealing to the *natural rights* of English subjects including the right to be taxed only with their consent.
- Grenville's government offered the theory of *virtual representation*: each member of Parliament represented the interests of the entire empire.
- "No taxation without (*actual*) representation" was the American slogan.
- The Virginia House of Burgesses adopted the four most moderate of **Patrick Henry's** Stamp Act Resolves.
- Mass meetings and demonstrations by mobs occurred throughout the colonies.
- **Sons of Liberty** chapters linked resistance leaders.

- Distribution and sale of the stamps was effectively halted.

**The Stamp Act Congress:** Met in New York City in October 1765.

- Delegates from nine colonies issued a series of documents.
  1. A "Declaration of the Rights and Grievances of the Colonies" was adopted.
  2. A petition for relief was sent to George III.
  3. An appeal was addressed to Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act.
- A distinction was again drawn between imperial *regulatory* laws (permissible) and internal *taxation* (objectionable).
- American merchants organized nonimportation associations to apply pressure on Britain's economy.

**Repeal of the Stamp Act:** By Parliament in March 1766.

- Followed another change of ministers in London.
- In the parliamentary debate, Edmund Burke and others spoke sympathetically of the colonists' plight.
- **The Declaratory Act**, passed at the same time, affirmed Parliament's power to pass laws affecting the colonies "in all cases whatsoever" but did not specifically mention taxes.

### KEY QUOTATION

Pro Patria

The first Man that Either distributes or makes use of Stamp Paper let him take care of his House, Person and Effects.

Vox Populi

We dare!

New York City poster, October 1765

## Key 16 The crisis deepens (1766-74)

**OVERVIEW** *The British government's efforts to tighten controls on the colonies and to raise revenue by various taxes met with growing resistance from American radicals hastening the drift toward revolution.*

**The Townshend Acts:** Passed by Parliament in 1767.

- Acts of the New York Assembly were suspended until the assembly obeyed the Quartering Act.
- Duties (external taxes) were placed on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea (which could only be legally imported from England).
- Customs (tariff) administration was now to be centered in Boston.
- Money raised would pay governors and other English officials, independent of colonial legislatures.

**Resistance to new taxes:** Mounted again.

- **John Dickinson's** *Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer*, objecting to all forms of taxes for revenue, were widely distributed.
- The governor dissolved the Massachusetts legislature after it circulated a protesting *Circular Letter*.
- Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty organized protests and helped enforce *nonimportation* boycotts against English imports.
- Growing mob action divided colonial opinion.
- Additional British troops were sent to Boston (1768).

**Boston Massacre** (March 1770): Occurred when British troops fired on a mob.

- **Crispus Attacks**, an escaped slave, was one of the first to die.
- Defended by **John Adams**, all but two soldiers were acquitted.

**Parliament:** With **Lord North** now heading the government, Parliament *repealed* all the Townshend duties *except* the tax on tea (to emphasize Parliament's authority).

- A three-year lull in agitation followed.
- **Committees of Correspondence** provided a network for American resisters.

**The Tea Act of 1773:** Designed to bail out the East India Company.

- Taxes (and price) were reduced, undercutting American merchants and smugglers.
- In Boston, a *Tea Party* dumped a cargo of tea into the harbor, and resistance occurred elsewhere.
- Other "tea parties" occurred in Charleston, S.C., and Annapolis, Md.

**Coercive Acts:** A series of laws that colonists called "Intolerable Acts," passed by Parliament in March 1774.

- Boston port was closed until the tea was paid for.
- British officials and soldiers could be sent to England for major trials.
- A new Quartering Act brought soldiers into Boston.
- More offices were made appointive in Massachusetts, where General Thomas Gage soon became military governor.
- A separate Quebec Act set up an undemocratic government in that expanded colony and provided the Catholic Church with special privileges.
- Sympathy and assistance for Boston came from other colonies.
- Thomas Jefferson's *Summary View* argued for allegiance to the king but not to Parliament.

**First Continental Congress:** Met in Philadelphia in September 1774.

- Fifty-five delegates attended from twelve colonies.
- A series of resolutions and protests were adopted.
- Resolutions agreed with Parliament's right to regulate external commerce but not to regulate internal colonial affairs.
- A Continental Association was formed to boycott British imports.
- In Parliament, Burke and others spoke in favor of reconciliation.
- As royal governments collapsed, rebel *committees of safety* and congresses took over.

**Second Continental Congress:** Was called for May 1775.

- Lord North's Conciliatory Resolution failed to achieve a compromise.
- Parliament declared Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion.

### KEY FIGURE

**Samuel Adams:** A leading rebel agitator, he initiated the Committees of Correspondence, helped plan the Boston Tea Party, and as a delegate to the Continental Congress supported immediate independence.