

Chapter 2

Transplantations and Borderlands

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AP US History - September 5nd, 2018

Key Concepts

What are this chapter's key concepts?

- **2.1.I.C:** English colonization attracted a large number of Europeans (mostly British) seeking social mobility, economic prosperity, religious freedom, improved living conditions; focused on agriculture on land taken from isolated natives
- **2.1.III.B:** Natives continually traded with European settlements, leading to cultural/economic changes and the rapid spread of disease
- **2.1.III.E:** Conflict with natives over land/resources/boundaries sparked military confrontations
- **2.2.I.A:** The unification of mixed ethnic groups through colonization increased intellectual exchange, pluralism enhanced by Enlightenment
- **2.2.II.A:** All colonies participated in slave trade (land abundance); New England/port cities used small numbers of slaves while Chesapeake, southern Atlantic coast had large numbers; greatest numbers sent to West Indies

The Early Chesapeake

What were the characteristics of the early Chesapeake settlement?

The initial Chesapeake settlement, was centered in Virginia (led by the Virginia Company and later the crown) and Maryland (led by the Calverts and suffered major religious tensions between Catholics and protestants). Tobacco proved to be an extremely important crop, and, in Virginia especially, tensions with the natives led to great unrest in society, including the Bacon Rebellion.

What were the initial relations between the colonists and the natives in Jamestown?

- Journey of 144 men dwindled to 104 by arrival; named colony Jamestown in honor of King James
- Initial setup had multiple problems
 - Selected swampy peninsula for security from natives, but extremely difficult to harvest; disease rampant
 - Brought no women, reducing focus on community-building and more on hunt for gold
- Colonist survival due to natives' showing agricultural techniques, important crops (**maize**), technology like canoes for river navigation
 - Despite this, English insisted on inferiority of natives, calling them "savages"
- Jamestown remained small for over a decade w/ natives far more powerful than colonists, united in large confederacy
 - Within a few months, only 38 men remained alive
 - Colony owed survival to Captain John Smith, age 27; known for powerful leadership (often at native expense)

Jamestown's survival was almost entirely due to the kindness of the natives, showing the colonists agricultural techniques, new crops, and technology. However, the colonists continually referred to the natives as "savages," despite being overwhelmed in population. The colony's population began to dwindle, but it was kept afloat by Captain John Smith.

How was Jamestown revived?

- London Company did not give up, obtaining new charter and sending nine new vessels to Jamestown
 - Hit by disaster: one vessel ran aground in Bermuda Islands, other lost in hurricane
 - New settlers succumbed to fever by winter-time; after natives had realized threat posed by colonists, blocked off from further expansion, food
- Settlers endured terrible winter between 1609 and 1610
 - When ship in Bermuda arrived in May, found only 60 people alive, all on the brink of death
 - Departed for England but ran into another ship on James River led by De La Warr, new governor
 - * Convinced to return to colony, relief expeditions allowed for beginning of thriving time
- Settlers focused on cultivating tobacco, new crop to English
 - First profitable crop; encouraged planters to move inland
- Working conditions initially extremely harsh for settlers under first few governors, with little clear incentive
 - As many began to deliberately dodge work despite punishment of potential death, Governor Thomas Dale allowed private ownership to provide personal incentive
 - Landowners repaid company with part-time work, grain contributions
- Despite initial rocky leadership, Virginia began to expand, with settlements created beyond Jamestown
 - Order imposed by governors essential to success along with profitable tobacco

Attempts by the London Company to continue sending vessels eventually failed, with native blockades reducing the settlers' food supply. Things were turned around when De La Warr, the first governor, arrived, encouraging all settlers to stay and imposing a harsh regime requiring all to work diligently. Although his successors eventually reduced his harsh policies, his rule, along with the importance of the tobacco crop, were critical to Jamestown's success.

What was the importance of tobacco farming in Virginia?

- Tobacco was initially discovered by Columbus w/ Cuban natives; had developed large stigma in England
 - James I led campaign against it, touting connection to natives, cause of diseases, and profitability for Spanish
- John Rolfe of Jamestown experimented w/ native-grown form of tobacco
 - Especially harsh, leading to high quality tobacco
 - Found many English buyers, spreading tobacco farming throughout Chesapeake area
- Growth of tobacco farming required territorial expansion, further into native-owned territory

Although tobacco was initially extremely stigmatic in England, even disapproved of by James I, John Rolfe's successful strain (from the natives) led to high demand for English-grown tobacco, turning it into a lucrative colonial industry.

What characterized the Virginia settlement after the emergence of tobacco farming?

- Virginia Company, despite emergence of tobacco farming, continued to grow in debt, launching program promoting migration
 - Focused on "headright" system, based on land grants to new migrants based on size of family, number of sponsored immigrants
 - * Allowed many to establish large plantations with servants
 - Brought over ironworkers, craftsmen, women (generally between free and indentured) to diversify economy
 - * Promised all new settlers full rights of English citizen, end to strict rule
- Meeting in Jamestown church where delegates from each community met as House of Burgesses marked first meeting of elected legislature in U.S. (July 1619)
- In August 1619, first Africans came by boat
 - Initially not likely treated with full harshness of slaves
 - Use of black labor limited until 1670s: white indentured servants preferred (eventually scarce, expensive)
- Relationships with natives became increasingly strained
 - Governor Dale led continues assaults against Powhatan group, kidnapping Pocohontas (daughter of chief) and converting her to Christianity; married John Rolfe
 - Although Pocohontas' seizure led to reduced attacks temporarily; after brother took over, attacks continued
 - * Called settlers for trading, massacring 347 whites of all ages, sexes
 - * Failed uprising later pushed Powhatans to finally give up
- Virginia Company, amidst all these events, had become defunct
 - Colony transferred to ownership of Crown

The Virginia Company continued to grow in debt despite the emergence of tobacco farming, forcing them to seek out new settlers and modify their ruling policies to be more democratic. With the settlers' relations with the natives becoming strained, climaxing in the massacre of 347 whites, the Virginia Company went defunct, leading to the colony's transfer into the hands of the crown.

What were the important agricultural techniques which the British learned from the natives?

- Despite continual hostility to natives for backwards technology (even blamed for inability to find gold), relied on techniques to farm New World soil
 - Natives had extremely successful farms
- Despite not adopting all (like field clearing), learned a great deal, especially importance of maize for high yield, sugar source

Although the British refused to learn a significant amount from the natives due to their insisted backwards technology, they most significantly learned about the importance of maize in the North American soil.

What marked the development of society in Maryland?

- Founded by son of Catholic George Calvert as retreat for English Catholics seeking refuge from Anglican-dominated England
 - Lord Baltimore (Cecilius, son of Calvert) received grant carrying remarkable power, sent brother Leonard with 200-300 passengers
 - First village: St. Mary's (named after Queen); native focus on rival tribes allowed Maryland settlers to experience no assaults/plagues/starving
- To attract settlers, Calverts understood need to abandon Catholic emphasis, adopting policy of toleration for all
 - Population quickly dominated by Protestants, soon appointed as governor
 - Political relations remained tense: Protestant majority banned Catholics from voting, repealed Toleration Act
- Labor shortage encouraged "headright" system like in Virginia
 - Major land grants to settlers; focus on tobacco cultivation, eventually driven by African slaves

Maryland was founded by the Calverts, a Catholic family hoping to create a place away from the Anglican-dominated England. However, when the migrants became majority Protestant, they adopted a policy of religious toleration. Politics quickly became turbulent, with the Protestant majority often discriminating against Catholics.

What were the major political tensions in mid-17th century Virginia?

- Having survived key initial hardships and expansion, Virginia began to take on political issues
- In 1642, King Charles I appointed William Berkeley as governor, who remained in power to 1670
 - Initially popular for expansion rounds, defeating of natives in battle
 - Part of native defeat involved large territory boost for settlers, but also promise not to expand beyond a certain line
 - * Challenge created by rapidly growing population (due to success of Oliver Cromwell leading his opponents to flee to colonies)
 - * Established three counties in territory designated for natives only
 - Berkeley soon became autocrat, reducing power to vote to landowners, keeping burgesses in power from year-to-year
 - * Led to underrepresentation of those in "backcountry"
- By 1670s, many indentured servants had completed terms; left without home/money
 - Led to stealing, begging, working throughout colony

Although William Berkeley was initially a popular governor due to his territorial expansion, his growing autocratic regime began to lead to great discontent due to the underrepresentation of those not connected to him. Furthermore, expired indentured servants began to roam the colony without money or a home.

What was Bacon's rebellion?

- Nathaniel Bacon, wealthy young university graduate, arrived in Virginia as member of backcountry gentry (in west)
- Bacon disagreed with eastern leaders most significantly on native policy
 - More directly threatened by native presence, leading him (and other western landowners) to push line of settlement further
 - Unhappy with Berkeley's choice to exclude him from inner circle governor's council, fur trade
- When angry natives struck against western plantation, local groups retaliated, leading to heavy response from natives
 - Bacon became natural leader, defying Berkeley to attack Indians: declared as group of rebels
 - Transitioned to attack against colonial government
 - * Most powerful insurrection against authority in colonial history
- Bacon led army east, first winning temporary pardon but eventually (after pardon was not honored), poised to take over Jamestown; abruptly died of dysentery
 - Troops defeated by arrival of British backup
 - Did lead to Indian signing of new treaty allowing additional lands for settlement (aware of military power of settler forces)
- Rebellion significant for symbolizing settlers' inability to abide by agreements with natives, natives' inability to tolerate additional expansion
 - Revealed bitter competition between eastern and western landowners, potential for great instability in colony pushed by landless men
 - Risk of social unrest from former indentured servants was one of many reasons for promotion of African slave trade (removal of indentured servants)

Bacon, an eastern landowner in Virginia, rebelled against Berkeley by attacking the hostile natives on the western border. He then led a revolution in Jamestown which, although eventually crushed by British troops, represented, in all, the tensions between natives and settlers (especially the inability to abide by agreements), competition between eastern and western landowners, and the risks posed by indentured servants.

The Growth of New England

What characterized the growth of New England?

The New England settlement began with a group of discontent Puritan Separatists fleeing persecution at the hands of the government, for freedom of worship.

- Separatists began to depart England quietly for Holland (known for toleration), but poor job opportunities led many to consider travel to New World
- Scrooby group (group of Separatists) received permission from Virginia Company, slight support of king to settle in British America
 - Funded by merchants, hoping for funds at end of seven years
 - Puritans viewed themselves as pilgrims; travelled from Plymouth on *Mayflower*
 - Long trip forced early settlement on Cape Cod, near Plymouth (established by John Smith years earlier)
 - * Outside of London Company's territory; despite no legal basis, established civil government and proclaimed allegiance to king
- Puritans settled on deserted native village (devastated by plague likely brought by Europeans), faced challenging first winter
 - William Bradford, leader in England, became colony governor; faced numerous personal hardships but remained strong
 - Dramatically changed landscape, including decrease in wild animal population (demand for furs, skins, meats); nearly entirely eliminated native population through smallpox
 - * Farmed mix of native crops (corn, potatoes, peas) and English crops (wheat, barley, oats)
- Experience with natives very different due to devastated population
 - Natives understood importance of cooperation, assisted settlers in gathering seafood, cultivating corn, hunting local animals
 - * Key helpers: Squanto and Samoset (Squanto spoke English due to previous capture by English, time in Europe)
 - * Marked allegiance to natives through invitation to first Thanksgiving in 1621
 - Good relationship did not last long: second smallpox epidemic wiped out most remaining
- Organization poor and profits low until arrival of military officer Miles Standish, leading to trading surplus
 - Fur trade emerged with natives of Maine, population grew
- "Plymouth Plantation" selected Bradford as governor once again, who persuaded Council for New England (successor to Plymouth Company) to allow legal permission to inhabit lands
 - Ended harsh regime, communal labor plan of Standish
 - Distributed land among families, eventually able to pay off financiers with wealth from fur trade
- Pilgrims continually poor, but clung to God's word