

# Notes — Week 3

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## Period 3

- While controlling the colonies, England employed a mercantilist system

Pros for England
Navy
Economy
Army
Education
Organized Gov't

- Most colonists fleeing religious persecution; Colonists had to pay out of pocket for the trip to America (not government funded)
- Colonists wrote their own laws due to distance from England
- Prior to the American Revolution, no colony had ever won its own independence from a mother country
- Magna Carta (1215) is the first document limiting government power, limits monarch against the nobles
- English Civil War (1641) led by Oliver Cromwell, executed Charles I
- Petition of Right signed by Charles I, limits monarch power against parliament
- English Bill of Rights (1689) passes rights to common males
- The most revolutionary idea at the time was that ordinary people could govern themselves
- Prior to the revolution, most colonists revered the king and used British products
- Britain defeats France in the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War) in 1763 (started in 1756)

- Very little connection between the English colonies (population 3,000,000); Most colonists did not travel farther than 30 miles. Most people (95%) live in the countryside. Most are farmers who own their own land. The opposite is true in England, where most people are tenant farmers
- The aristocracy in Europe is and was protected by law
- George Washington grew up in the poorer middle class. He married a wealthy widow, and was determined to become the richest and most influential person in Virginia
- In 1765, the British Stamp Act places a tax on many manufactured goods in the Americas. The Stamp Act became an outrage in the colonies, as it meant that the colonies did not have a voice in their own laws, as they had been taxing themselves for over 150 years. The tax was seen as arbitrary