

Chapter 4: American Life in the Seventeenth Century, (1607—1692)

The Unhealthy Chesapeake


Recall

How was the quality of life for the Chesapeake Bay settlers?

Notes

- life was short for early Chesapeake settlers
 - malaria, dysentery, typhoid
 - most people did not survive to see 20
- disease-ravaged Chesapeake grew slowly and only due to new immigrants
 - single men in their late teens and early twenties
 - competed for extremely scarce women
 - 1650 outnumbered 6:1
 - 1700 outnumbered 3:2
- families were few and fragile
 - most failed within 7 years due to partner's death
- native-born inhabitants developed immunity to disease
- 1700s Virginia had 59,000 people, Maryland had 30,000

How did the Chesapeake population grow?

 **Early life in the Chesapeake Bay area was hard due to disease. Shortage of women kept the population low and marriages did not last long. However, the colonies still prospered after native-born children started developing immunity to disease.**

The Tobacco Economy

Recall


How did tobacco impact Chesapeake settlers?

Notes

- Chesapeake extremely hospitable for tobacco
 - tobacco crop exhausted the soil
 - demand for land grew
 - commercial growers went into the river valleys looking for land
 - provoked more Indian attacks
- 1630 ships carried around 1.5 million pounds of tobacco out of Chesapeake Bay
- prices dropped but farmers planted more
- needed more labor for tobacco
 - *indentured servants* made their way to America
 - people who had someone sponsor their trip to America and in return labored for 4-7 years
- Virginia and Maryland created the *headright system*
 - stated that whoever paid for the trip of the indentured servant would gain 50 acres of land
 - modestly rich men soon greatly profited


Who were indentured servants?

What happened to indentured servants after they finished their contracts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• brought over 100,000 servants• land started becoming scarce<ul style="list-style-type: none">• masters would punish minor mistakes by extending time of service• after servitude was done, most men had no choice but to work for former masters at low wages
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 **Although the Chesapeake Bay area was harsh to live in, it was great land to grow tobacco on. Because of this, tobacco crop flourished in that area. Growers started venturing out for more land and demanding more workers, which lead to thousands of indentured servants imported from England.**

Frustrated Freeman and Bacon's Rebellion

Recall	Notes
What was life like for young men in the 1650s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• late 1650s single young men were frustrated by no land and no women• 1670 Virginia assembly disfranchised them
What was Bacon's Rebellion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virginia Governor William Berkeley: "How miserable that man is that governs a people where six parts of seven at least are poor, endebted, discontented, and armed."• 1676 Nathaniel Bacon led about 1,000 rebels for what would be known as <i>Bacon's Rebellion</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• attacked Indians, violating Berkeley's wishes for peace• chased Berkeley from Jamestown• torched the capital• civil war in Virginia
Who won Bacon's Rebellion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacon died of disease and Berkeley was able to crush the uprising<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hanged more than 20 rebels• input from Charles II: "That old fool has put to death more people in that naked country than I did here for the murder of my father."• after the rebellion, planters were more careful with their workers<ul style="list-style-type: none">• still wanted cheap labor• looked the Africa

 **Young men were becoming increasingly more frustrated with their crushed dreams of owning land. In 1676, a planter named Nathaniel Bacon led rebels to riot against Virginia's governor, William Berkeley, but Bacon died of illness not long after. Even though Berkeley managed to take control of Virginia again, the tension still remained after Bacon's Rebellion and planters now looked to Africa for more pliant slave workers.**

Colonial Slavery

Recall	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 million Africans imported to the New World in the following three centuries<ul style="list-style-type: none">• only have 400,000 went to North America• early slaves went to South America or sugar-rich West Indies

Why were Africans replacing white indentured servants?

- Africans were brought in as early as 1619
 - 1670 only made up about 7% of the population in Virginia
 - white servants were less costly at the time
- 1680 wages rose in England and less people were willing to risk their lives in America
 - planters were growing worried at the mutinous former servants
- mid-1680s black slaves outnumbered white servants
- 1698 *Royal African Company* lost exclusive control over slave trade

How were slaves imported?

- 1750 blacks accounted for half of Virginia
- South Carolina outnumbered whites 2:1
- most slaves came from West coast, present day Senegal to Angola
 - originally captured by African coastal tribes as prisoners of war
 - branded and bound before forced onto a ship
 - traveled through the *middle passage*
 - death rates as high as 20%

What did the government think about slaves?

- surviving slaves auctioned
- the law separated servant and slave based on skin color
- early "*slave codes*" made blacks and their children property for white masters
- it was illegal to teach a slave how to read or write
- slavery begun for economic reasons, but racial discrimination was a basis was the American slave system



African slaves were imported in mass numbers after England rose wages for its workers and young men weren't willing to risk their lives for the New World anymore. Slaves were captured and packed onto boats to be transported to the New World, where they were auctioned off like property. New laws were put into place to guarantee the superiority of the white man over an African.

Africans in America

Recall

What was life like for slaves?

Notes

- slave life was worse as it got more Southern
 - climate was bad for health
 - labor was life-draining
- life in the Chesapeake tobacco area was easier
 - plantations were closer to each other
 - frequent contact between friends and relatives
 - tobacco required less physical work
- 1720 female slave population began to rise
 - allowed families to start
 - created one of the few slave societies where it grew by natural reproduction
- native-born African Americans contributed to stable and distinctive slave culture
 - mixture of African and American elements of speech

How did African-American culture develop?

How did slaves contribute to the foundation of America?

- South Carolina's coast had evolve a unique language called *Gullah*
- eventually contributed to jazz music, bongo and banjo
- slaves helped build the country
- did the sweaty work

Did slaves ever revolt?

- cleared swamps
- removed trees
- slaves naturally wanted freedom
- 1712 *New York slave revolt* cost the lives of 9 whites and 21 blacks burned over a slow fire
- 1739 *South Carolina slave revolt* saw more than 50 blacks along the *Stono River* try to march to Florida, only to be stopped by the local militia
- slaves eventually replaced indentured servants as they were easier to control
- no slave uprising matched Bacon's Rebellion



Slave life got worse as it got more Southern. They started to developed a unique mixture of African and American cultures. Slaves did the basic work to create a foundation for America. While slaves wanted to be free, it was hard for them to organize and revolt against their masters.