

Session 2: Exploration and Colonization

The background of the slide is a classical landscape painting. It depicts a large, light-colored building with a portico and columns, situated on a green lawn. The building is surrounded by lush trees and foliage. In the distance, a rainbow is visible in the sky, adding a sense of wonder and hope to the scene. The overall style is reminiscent of 18th or 19th-century landscape art.

**THE BRITISH SOUTHERN
COLONIES**

Class Objectives

- ▶ **Locate and identify** the 4 Southern colonies
- ▶ **Compare** the two types of colonists who immigrated to the Southern colonies.
- ▶ **Identify** the founders of the Jamestown Colony in 1607 and the importance of the Virginia House of Burgesses.
- ▶ **Compare** the differences of treatment of American Indians by the English, Spanish and the French.
- ▶ **Define** 4 key aspects of the Southern Economy
- ▶ **Differentiate** between Indentured Servants and Slaves
- ▶ **Define** 4 Key aspects of the Social and Religious system in the Southern Colonies

The Southern Colonies

- ▶ Made up of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia (and sometimes Maryland)
- ▶ The first of the established British colonies in North America
- ▶ The Southern colonies were founded for purely economic reasons.



The Southern Colonist

The English Cavalier

- **Economic Status:**
Wealthy landowning nobility
- **Ethnic Background:**
English
- **Where they Settled:**
Coastal lowlands in the east
with the best land for large
plantation farming.



The Southern Colonist

The Frontier Settler

- **Economic Status:**

Poor former indentured servants

- **Ethnic Background**

Scotch-Irish, and poor English

- **Where they settled:**

Small subsistence farms in the west near the Appalachians.



The Jamestown Colony: 1607



- ▶ First successful English colony in North America.
- ▶ Originally founded by the Virginia Company a British joint-stock corporation.
- ▶ The colonists were led by John Smith a former soldier and adventurer.
- ▶ Established as an economic venture, the settlement eventually became a royal colony controlled directly by the British Crown.

Jamestown



- ▶ *big picture* – Jamestown almost failed due to disease and starvation, but ultimately succeeded due to John Smith's leadership and tobacco's profitability
- ▶ **joint-stock companies** – def.
 - funded and maintained the first English colonies through private investment and with charters from the English gov't
 - ▶ **Virginia Company** – founded Jamestown in 1607

Successes

- ▶ New settlers arrived at perfect time
- ▶ **Tobacco** – “*Brown Gold*”
– introduced by John Rolfe in 1612
- ▶ **Headright System** –
solved labor issues = 50
acres for any plantation
owner who paid for
passage of a laborer, who
then became an
indentured servant in
return, immigration
expanded significantly



Problems

- ▶ Everyone looking for gold and profit
- ▶ Disease from bad water
- ▶ Starvation – too many people looking for gold, not enough planting crops
- ▶ Relations with the Powhatan Indians = tense at best
- ▶ **“Starving Time”** = winter of 1609-1610



Early Forms of Government



- ▶ The Royal Colonies of the South, (VA, NC, SC, GA) were governed by wealthy, land-owning aristocrats under the supervision of the King of England and Parliament
- ▶ The Virginia House of Burgesses was the first elected colonial legislature in the Americas, established in 1619.
- ▶ The Virginia House of Burgesses still exists today as the Virginia Assembly, making it the oldest legislative system in the United States.

European Treatment of Natives

- ▶ **The Spanish:** "... we have also raised them (natives) up into social and political life, we have banished their barbarism, changed their wild customs into humane ones, and brought to them many useful and necessary things from our own land; we have taught them the real cultivation of the soil, how to build houses, to live in towns, to read, to write, and many other arts to which they were formerly totally alien."-- *Juan de Solorzano Pereyra, Politica Indiana*
- ▶ **The French:** "The French exceed in industry, economy, and the arts of conciliating the affections of mankind....This people have a country where more is to be affected by managing [the Indians] than by cultivating the ground; where a peddling commerce, that requires constant motion, flourishes more than agriculture or a regular traffic; and where their obedience to a wise government serves them for personal wisdom."-- *Edmund Burke, An Account of European Settlements in America*
- ▶ **The English:** "We shall by degrees change their barbarous natures, make them ashamed... of their savage nakedness, inform them of the true god, and of the way to salvation, and finally teach them obedience to the kings Majesty and to his Governors in those parts." *Sir William Strachey The imperial goal of England in History and Travel*

"Whereas we are advised by you to observe rules of Justice with these barbarous and perfidious enemies, wee hold nothing unjust, that may tend to their ruin... Stratagems were ever allowed against all enemies , but with these neither faire War nor good quarter is ever to be held, nor is there other hope of their subversion, who ever may inform you to the Contrary" They called for a "perpetual war without peace or truce." *The Virginia Council's position on warfare with the Indians*

The Settlers Clash with Native Americans

- ▶ relations with American Indians got worse over time
- ▶ no intermarriage like the Spanish
- ▶ colonists wanted more land for tobacco, Native Americans resisted
- ▶ 1622 – Opechancanough's revolt – wiped out 1/3 of VA settlers, plus company was in debt, King James revoked the company's charter
- ▶ 1624 – VA = **royal colony** – def. a colony under the direct control of the king

Economy of the South

▶ Geographic Condition:

- low coastal plain in the east and foothills and mountains in the west. Charleston, SC became one of the few major trade ports in the South

▶ Cash Crops:

- Tobacco, Rice, and Indigo
(NO COTTON YET!)

▶ Labor Force:

- indentured servants and later slaves to work large plantations.

▶ Class Division:

- The wealthy owned plantations, the poor hunted and relied on subsistence farming and trade with the natives.



The Indentured Servant

For freight or passage apply to Scot and Brown, merchants in Glasgow, or Captain William M'Cunn, in Greenock.

W A N T E D,

To go to Virginia, under indentures for a few years;

A Young Man, who understands L A T I N GREEK, and MATHEMATICS, to serve as a Tutor in a gentleman's family.

A lad who has served an apprenticeship as a surgeon, to live with one of his own profession.

Two Gardeners, who understand their business well, particularly the work in a garden.

These, properly recommended, will meet with suitable encouragement, on applying to Buchanan and Simson, merchants in Glasgow.

THAT the FOGGAGE of the Laigh Park of Boogs, consisting of sixty four acres, or thereabouts, is to be set till December next, and entered to

- ▶ How they arrived: Most indentured servants came over via the “headright system”. (a system in which anyone who paid their own way or another's to the New World received 50 acres of land.)
- ▶ Length of service: indentured servants had to labor for **4-7 years** before being freed and gain ownership of their own land.
- ▶ Ethnic Make-up: poor English, Scot-Irish and African.

African Slavery

- ▶ How they Arrived: Slaves began arriving in the 17th century from Africa via the “middle passage” (part of the triangular trade from Africa to the Americas).
- ▶ Length of Service: slaves had a life term
- ▶ Ethnic Make-Up: African



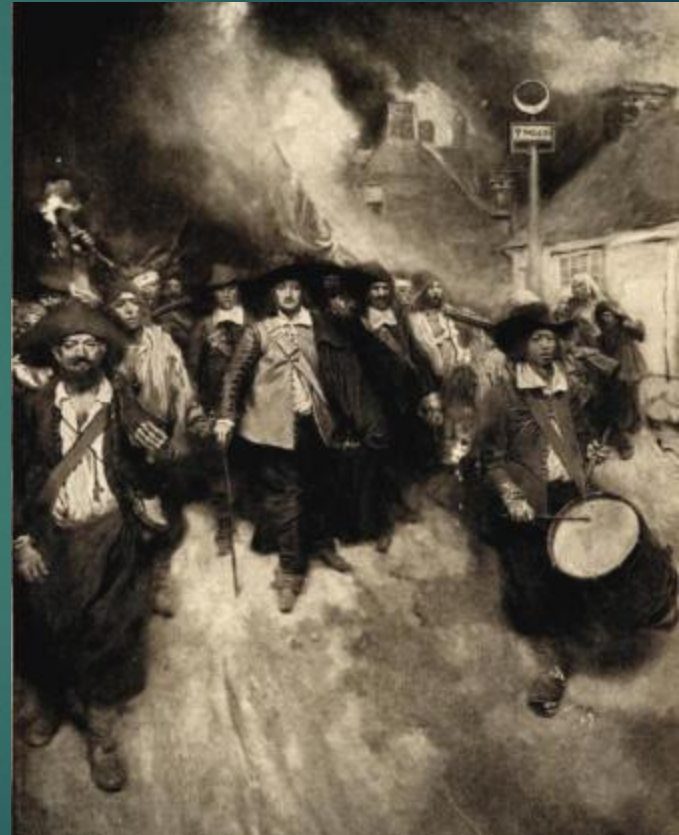
Impact of the Slave Trade

- ▶ **Disease** killing native populations = not a stable work force
- ▶ **African slavery** = alternative for labor
- ▶ demand grew quickly – Africans already resistant to European diseases
- ▶ **Trans-Atlantic slave trade** grew quickly, key part of new Amer. economic system
- ▶ Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade – **12 million people** taken from Africa by early 1800s



Economic Differences Split Virginia

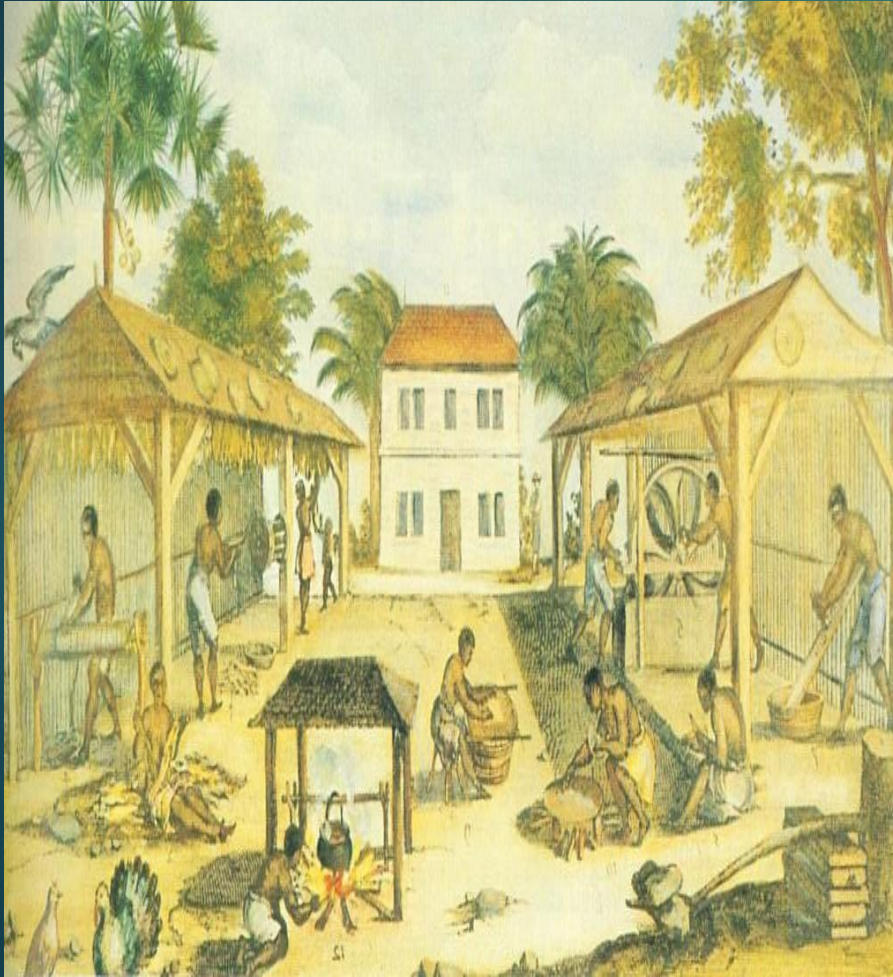
- ▶ Wealthy “cavalier” planters in Eastern VA – had tons of land and money, represented by **Governor Berkeley**
- ▶ former indentured servants in Western VA and frontier – no land, no money, no protection from Natives, represented by **Nathaniel Bacon**



Bacon's Rebellion

- ▶ **Bacon's Rebellion** – poor whites in west (including former indentured servants) revolted against VA gov't – WHY?
 - ▶ resented lack of protection from Native Americans
 - ▶ resented lack of representation in the House of Burgesses
 - ▶ revolted and marched on and burned Jamestown
 - ▶ Bacon died, Berkeley took over
 - ▶ SIG – led to more planters to chose African slaves over indentured servants b/c revolt was less likely

Social and Religious



- ▶ **Social Structure**: Dominated by family status and land ownership.
- ▶ **Land Ownership**: The wealthy owned plantations with slaves, the poor lived on the frontier.
- ▶ **Political Structure**: The aristocracy (wealthy elites) controlled the government.
- ▶ **Religious Affiliation**: Anglican (Church of England)