

## Session 4: Exploration and Colonization

### The Middle Colonies

- Made up of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware
- Based on their proximity to natural ports, cities such as Baltimore, New York City, and Philadelphia emerged as major centers for commerce and trade.
- The Middle colonies included many characteristics similar to settlements in New England and the South.

### The Middle Colonists

- 1 The Quakers (1660-s)
  - Left England for religious reasons.
  - Settled mainly in Pennsylvania.
- 2 The Catholics (1630-s)
  - Left England for religious purposes.
  - Settled in Maryland.
- 3 The Dutch (1620-s)
  - Came to the Americas for economic purposes, mainly as traders.
  - Set up a major trade port on Manhattan Island (New Amsterdam) as well as posts in present-day New Jersey and Delaware.

### Other Groups Settling in the Middle Colonies

- Huguenots- French Protestants
- Jews
- Quakers
- German-Speaking Immigrants

### Quaker Society

- Religious Principles:
  - Supported churches without ministers.
  - Promoted freedom of religion, pacifism, equality and cooperation, love for the fellow man.
- Political Methods:
  - Led by William Penn, developed a government based on representative assembly.
  - Philadelphia became the capital for the Quaker society which Penn called his "holy experiment."
- Social Characteristics:
  - Welcomed all into the Quaker society including Native Americans.
  - Flexible society led to the formation of a strong middle class.

## Economy of the Middle Colonies

- Geographic Conditions:
  - Various land conditions and a moderate climate allowed for a mixed economy of agriculture and commerce.
- Types of farming:
  - Small scale farming produced a variety of goods like wheat, corn, and livestock.
- Goods produced:
  - Mix of crops as well as various craft and artisan goods.
- Labor force:
  - Mix of professional artisans and craftsmen as well as indentured servants and some slaves in certain regions.