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## Colonial Political Ideologies (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century)

### Rights of Englishmen

- What governs English colonies
- English common law
  - Multiple different laws
  - Magna Carta signed by King John (forced into it) in 1215
    - Right to trial by jury of peers
    - Protections for private property
    - Promise of due process (can't skip steps) of law
    - No one is above the law, not even the King
    - Gives Parliament right to enforce taxes
  - English Bill of Rights (1689) 
    - Right to petition
    - Habeas corpus → right to know what crime you are accused of
    - Limits on excessive fines/punishments

### Hobbes vs. Locke:

- English law shaped by them
- Thomas Hobbes
  - Natural law (world if no government) → some rights, pessimistic view of nature
    - “nasty, brutish, and short”
    - Does not like governing by human nature
  - He supports a monarchy so that order is kept
- John Locke
  - Argues that all men are equal
  - Only creating government for added protection
  - Government is social contract to protect rights & liberty → decided by the people rather than monarchy
    - People will give up certain rights (ex. Right to murder others) to be protected from others murdering them
  - Needs “legitimate government”
  - If the government/social contract doesn't work, people have right to overthrow
  - Government based on consent of those governed
  - Government has to be limited
  - Whole point is to protect natural rights (life, liberty, property)
  - Duty to resist tyrannical government (abuse of power) → new government
- Two ways of thinking (Hobbes vs. Locke) shaped colonialism

### The British Government:

- Balanced between monarchy and parliament (constitutional monarchy)
- Parliament → legislative body
  - House of Lords
    - Have to be nobility to be apart of this (Duke, Duchess, etc)
    - Elected representatives → only elected by landowning males
  - House of Commons
    - Do not have to be nobility, can be average person
    - Elected representatives → only elected by landowning males
- Public demonstrations → for those who are not landowning males
  - Can throw a fit and hope that government listens (basically protesting)
  - Did this when they felt their rights were violated
    - “rights” varied because sometimes argued against rights of others groups

### Mercantilism:

- Economic policy/theory that British and other colonies used to run their colonies
- Every government is competing with all other governments
  - Everybody cannot be happy → someone will lose in someone else’s gain
  - Zero sum → balancing at 0
  - Other people doing well means I am missing out (in terms of resources)
- Gold and silver → resources to compete for
- Relies on “favorable balance of trade”
  - More exports than imports → more selling than buying, how can we make a profit

### Navigation Acts, 1651-1763:

- Laws passed to help mercantilism
  - Colonies could only use English/British ships to transport goods (cannot ask Spanish to do it for cheaper)
  - Certain goods could only be shipped directly to England
    - Goods shipped to England, then resold to other parts of Europe
  - English government would pay bounties to Americans if they produced certain goods (ex. Tobacco)
    - Then put higher tariffs on tobacco to force people to buy English tobacco
    - Goods would be cheaper in Britain
  - Require colonies to not compete with England in major manufacturing
    - Can take all raw materials, but if started producing cloth, furniture, etc, it is not okay
      - Cotton sold to Britain, cloth made in Britain, you can buy the cloth from Britain at an increase in price

### Triangular Trade:

- Economic sphere rather than a triangle

- Enslaved Africans moved to North America (small number to Europe)
- Sugar/molasses, rum (raw materials) grown in plantations in North America that run on slave labor are sent to Europe
- Europe then sells manufactured goods back to North America and some to Africa
- Taxes
  - In every transition of goods, the British make money by charging taxes → benefits the government

#### Incentivizing Colonization:

- British people want people to move to North America so that Triangle of Trade can work
- Incentives included:
  - Joint Stock Companies → incentive of money, less financial risk
  - Self government → enticing because colonies had their own government and you could be a part of it
  - Land grants → if you moved to North America, the British would give away “free land”

#### Salutary Neglect

- To make people stay in the colonies → stayed out of colonial business
- Did not enforce laws on colonies → can neglect enforcing Navigation Acts
- Smuggling was allowed, English didn't interfere
  - British didn't want to spend on enforcement to avoid taxes
  - Taxes meant government could get overthrown because they were too high
- Ineffective admin → people paid others to govern in the colonies for them so that they didn't have to move
- Bribery
- Support in future conflict
  - If conflict arises with other nations, needs support from British colonies
  - Was not harsh on laws to ensure that the colonies would help them if needed

#### Colonial “Democracy”:

- By mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, most North American colonies converted into royal colonies
  - Governor of colony answers directly to king
- People don't like democracy → they see it as an anarchy, “mob rule”
- Only people who can vote are male property owners because they aren't “mob”
- More property-owning males in America than in England because more land in America
- Disenfranchised (those who can't vote)
  - Women cannot vote because they are property of father/husband
  - Enslaved people are also property
  - Indentured servants → owe labor to a person who paid for their passage