

A.P. United States History - Study Guide
Ms. Viles - 3rd Hour

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January 20, 2015

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Chapter 1

Exploration

1.1 Introduction

Major European powers were motivated to expand their land for social powers. The two leading powers in Europe at this time were Spain and Portugal, but they each had differing strategies:

Spain trade routes, venture funding, etc.

- Columbus convinced the monarchs of Spain that since he believed that the Earth was smaller than commonly held at the time. He received funding and sailed, eventually hitting land. He thought that he had reached the East Indies, naming the populants of North America, "The Indians".

Portugal trade routes (primarily), they sought to bypass trade merchants in Italy thereby bringing them a greater profit.

Eventually, a treaty known as the *Treaty of Tordesillas* was reached, which divided the claims of the new land. Portugal got Brazil, whereas Spain got the rest of North America.

1.2 Disease and Death

Because a lot of the people of the New World did not have the same immunities as that of those in the Old World, many were struck with disease unknown to them and as a result, died.

1.3 Slavery

Many of the Spanish and Portuguese colonists introduced a system of slavery. This heavily influenced the system of Triangular Trade in the Atlantic.

1.4 The Columbian Exchange

The settlers of the New World acted as carriers for several different elements of culture moving in both directions. From the Old World, the New World received horses, goats, cows, chickens, coffee, and more. In addition, many diseases were transported back and forth, which had a lasting impact on diminishing the population in the New World.

1.5 Spanish Exploitation

The settlers from Spain were highly interested in Silver. As such, they developed a system known as the *encomienda* that would exploit the labor of native people to extract gold and silver and ship it to Spain. Spanish settlers were granted tracts of land and the right to extract labor from local residents. This system closely resembles Old World feudalism.

Eventually, this system was replaced with the *repartimiento*.

1.6 Motivation for Conquest

The Crusades Since the Crusades are considered the death of the European feudal system, they were in dire need of foreign trade goods. They wanted to circumvent the Italian city-states and make a higher profit off of their traded goods.

The Black Death Similarly to the Crusades, the Black Death also played a role in weakening the feudal system of the Old World.

The Renaissance Brought upon an exploratory sense in the population of Europe.

The Protestant and Catholic reformations renewed sense for members of society to spread their religion to new practitioners.

Technological Advances the printing press helped spread information, whereas the compass, astrolabe, and quadrant all helped people to navigate.

1.7 The Impact on Europe

The influx of precious metals dramatically changed the European economy, and helped facilitate the transition from feudalism to capitalism.

1.7.1 The Columbian Exchange

New crop and livestock were brought into Europe, such as turkey, corn, potato, cacao, etc. Spanish sailors also brought syphilis back to Europe, a result of their sexual encounters with women of the New World. Tobacco was also introduced.

1.7.2 Economic Impact

Though one would think otherwise, the fruits of exploration did not impact Spain in a positive way. The influx of gold and silver caused hyper inflation during the 1500s, and made ordinary items much more expensive. As a result, taxes were raised more than 5x in 1500 as well. Spain went into debt to pay the military expenditures that it had incurred from fighting in the new world.

1.8 The Joint-Stock Company

A Joint-Stock company is a form of a limited liability company where shareholders own a proportionate amount of the company, directly varying with the amount of stock that they own. They are only responsible for the part that they own.

1.9 White Superiority

A long-standing set of racist ideals helped settlers exploit non-whites for labor. This hierarchy had a variety of influences.

Chapter 2

Humble Beginnings

2.1 Founding of Jamestown

Investors of a joint-stock company known as the Virginia company were the funding behind the Jamestown expedition. King James I chartered the company and territory in the New World. The expedition nearly failed due to a lack of preparation in the establishment of a new community, growth, and sustenance.

2.1.1 American Indian Neighbors

The relationship between the Jamestown settlers and the American Indians started off positively with many gift-giving ceremonies. However, as the settlers required more and more food, they began to attack the local natives, resulting in sour relationships. This model would continue to serve as the common American/Indian relationship.

2.2 The Development of Slavery

Slavery was used almost as a response to the settlers of the New World requiring more labor than they themselves were able to provide. Racial hierarchies had long lasted in Britain.

2.2.1 Labor Shortages

Due to the labor shortages of the New World, a system of *headright* was put in place which promised a certain amount of land in exchange for your service to it. It was essential in drawing many people to the New World.

2.2.2 Bacon's Rebellion

Nathaniel Bacon championed the cause of the frontier farmers, thus becoming their leader. Bacon led a group of farmers into Jamestown, burning the homes of elite planters and the capital building. Bacon died of disease during the rebellion, and it was soon squandered.

2.3 African Slave Trade

Africans, mostly young males, were brought to coastal ports from Africa, where they were sold to European slave traders, and then transported to the New World in horrid conditions. This part of the journey is known as the "Middle Passage".

2.3.1 The Nature of Slavery in British North America (BNA)

Attitudes towards slavery quickly changed in the British North American colonies. John Casor was among the first slaves to be declared by a civil court as a "slave for life". Laws were passed that gave children of slaves the status of their mother. White Virginians eventually came to see "blacks" and "slaves" as equal terms.

2.3.2 Resistance to Slavery

The main fear of slavery was that it could be used as a catalyst to violent rebellion. This rebellion was uncommon, but attempts did occur. Stono's rebellion is among the most popular, leading slaves to attack a country store, steal weapons, and kill several slave owners. They were all sentenced to death, and their heads were hung aside the road.

2.4 Regional Development in British North America

The new England region was driven more by religious reasons rather than economic gain. These settlers were Puritans, those who were followers of the breakage from the old Catholic Church. Puritans took their inspiration from Calvinism, teaching that salvation was subject to a divine plan, rather than the actions of individuals. Puritans lived lives of strict piety, and placed a great value on the community, believing that it was God's wish for community members to be kind to one another.

2.4.1 The Mayflower Compact, Plymouth

The Pilgrims, (a sub-group of the Puritans) fled England to find more hospitable religious climates. They sought Holland, which at the time had a strong Calvinist presence. They were concerned about the temptations of Holland, and eventually set sail on the *Mayflower* in 1620 following the formation of a joint-stock company.

2.4.2 "A City Upon a Hill"

King Charles I granted a charter to the Massachusetts Bay Company promoting the establishment of a colony in the northern part of British North America, but did not specify where. This granted a high degree of autonomy to the colonists. John Winthrop gave a sermon which would later come to symbolize American Exceptionalism.

2.4.3 New Hampshire

Some Puritans moved north to New Hampshire, but were predated by small fishing villages. A royal decree separated New Hampshire from Massachusetts.

2.4.4 Rhode Island

Puritan dissenter formed Rhode Island, defined by its hallmark separation of Church and State.

Anne Hutchinson

Anne Hutchinson, a deep religious thinker and woman held many discussions of religious ideals in her home, taking Puritan thought to its logical extreme. In 1638, Winthrop tried, excommunicated, and banished Hutchinson and her family.

2.4.5 Connecticut

Some settlers wanted to rid themselves of John Winthrop. Hooker led a group of these to the Connecticut River, and founded the town of Hartford.

2.5 The Middle Colonies

2.5.1 Maryland

Maryland is the first proprietary colony established by England, moving away from granting charters to joint-stock companies. Cecilius Calvert was the proprietor of this colony, focused on the cultivation of tobacco as an export crop, using indentured servitude and slavery to work on the fields.

2.5.2 North Carolina

Formed from separatists of the Carolina colony. Economy closely resembled the Chesapeake colonies.

2.5.3 Pennsylvania

William Penn receives a large piece of land, and is famed for his high degree of religious (and otherwise) toleration.

2.5.4 New Jersey, Delaware

2.5.5 New York

New York functions as a commercial port, but it values slavery as a central position in its local economy.

2.6 The Lower South

2.6.1 Carolina

Mostly planters that had migrated from Barbados.

2.6.2 Georgia

Settled as the barrier between it and Spanish Florida.

2.7 Tensions between Great Britain and North American Colonists

2.7.1 Mercantalism

Mercantilist theory states that countries should seek to grow an empire (ex., Britain) and then reap the benefits of such an empire. This includes redirecting some profit back to the mother country, or taxation.

Britain defined a number of Navigation Acts, seeking to define the colonies as suppliers, and England as a market for manufactured items.

Chapter 3

Nation Building, Revolution

3.1 French and Indian War

The French and Indian war was a war fought over territory in North America. It resulted in a shuffling of territories, with the real losers being the Native Americans. They were pushed out of their homeland, and that land was declared to be for expansion purposes of the colonies.

3.1.1 Pontiac's Rebellion, Proclamation Act

However, following Pontiac's rebellion, the "Proclamation Act" was conceived, preventing the colonists from settling territory west of the Appalachian mountains. Despite this, colonists settled anyway, setting up an attitude that would promote the American revolution.

3.2 British Policies

Britain began enforcing a series of policies that made the colonists not-so-happy. They were also key players in the events following the American Revolution.

3.2.1 The Sugar Act

The Sugar Act lowered existing taxes on sugar imported to North America. However, the act sought to crack down on the high rate of smuggling, thereby strengthening the vice-admiralty courts system, which made the colonists upset.

3.2.2 The Stamp Act

The Stamp Act sought the place stamps (which cost money, hence "tax") on a *lot* of things. This was purely designed to raise revenue. At this time the British stationed troops in Boston, forcing the locals to house and feed these troops.

The Stamp Act Congress

These individuals, held up a congress with the goal of producing a document that outlined their grievances to the British representatives. They felt that they were being taxed unjustly, as a result of a lack of representation. Britain believed in *virtual representation*, where as the colonists sought *direct representation*.

Virtual Representation a form of representative government where every elected official to the parliamentary office is seen as a representative of the whole nation, not a particular section of it. This government

is less effective at getting what a nation wants on a micro-scale, but moves much more quickly than a directly representative government.

Direct Representation a differing form of representative government, where each elected individual is responsible for representing a certain area of the nation, not its entirety. This government is more effective at getting what the individuals want in a micro-sense, but acts much slower.

The Committees of Correspondence

These organizations spread inflammatory information regarding the British government, acting as a sort-of foreshadow to the American Revolution.

Crowd Actions

Sons of Liberty groups harassed, sometimes even attacking officers of the Stamp Act.

3.2.3 The Townshend Acts

These imposed additional taxes on the colonists, on paint, paper, lead, and tea.

3.2.4 The Tea Act

Passed in 1773, the Tea Act eliminated British tariffs from tea sold in by the British East India Company. Though this lowered tea prices, Britain was accused of doing special favors for large companies. This resulted in the Boston Tea Party dumping a lot of tea into the harbor.

3.2.5 The Coercive/Intolerable Acts

The Massachusetts Government Act brought the governance of Massachusetts under direct British control

The Administration of Justice Act allowed authority to move trials from Massachusetts to Great Britain

The Boston Port Act closed the port of Boston to trade

The Quartering Act required Bostonian residents to house British troops upon command

3.3 The War for Independence

Fighting began in 1775 between colonists and British troops at Lexington and Concord. See: *"the shot heard round the world"*.

3.3.1 Factors in the Outcome of the War

- Britain had a large army, a fierce naval force, and a wealth of both funding and experience. However, Britain was far from home, it had enemies, and its formal style of fighting was not well suited for the North American landscape.
- The Patriots had a great leader in George Washington, and support from several talented European generals. Many Patriot soldiers believed in independence, but they did not have a lot of funding, nor a strong, central government.

3.4 Foreign Policy of the Nation

The United States now has the disadvantage of being surrounded by a lot of unfriendly neighbors. Spain, among others (as a result of the French and Indian War) challenged America for land. The question of alliance frequently became discussed. One school of thought was that the United States owed it to France (and other Euro-powers) to help them since they were helped during the revolution. However, others felt that such relationships would entangle the United States in world conflict.

3.4.1 Washington and Neutrality

Washington warned that neutrality was essential to the survival of the nation. During this time, the XYZ affair had occurred, in which delegates were sent to France to discuss a treaty. They were told that discussions would not be had until the United States paid them, and then offered them a loan. No conversation was had with the nation.

3.5 Enlightenment Philosophy

3.5.1 Ideas of John Locke

John Locke published *Two Treatises on Government*, in which he outlined two major ideas regarding government that would later influence the constitution. He said that the government was responsible for protecting the natural rights of people, which were:

1. Life
2. Liberty
3. Property

He also argued that the consent of the government rests in the governed. If the government should fail to do the above, then it is the *right* of the people to overthrow that government via peaceful or violent rebellion.

3.5.2 The Olive Branch Petition

Congress sent the *Olive Branch Petition* to parliament, asking for peace between the two nations, but it was not signed.

3.5.3 Common Sense

Thomas Paine published *Common Sense* in which he suggested that Americans declare independence from Great Britain, because he could not "see a single advantage" to staying with them.

3.6 The Declaration of Independence

Independence was declared! It stated that "all men are created equal" and "endowed by their Creator" with "certain unalienable rights".

3.6.1 State Constitutions

Several states had been encouraged to write up a state constitution, and several did. The ones that didn't updated their charters, but Pennsylvania remained stubborn (more info needed).

3.6.2 The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation put down on paper what had been sort of assumed over the past few years. It was weak, but not ineffective. The structure of the government was a one-house legislature, where each state had two or seven delegates, but each state only got one vote.