Growth, Diversity, and Distribution of European and African Immigrants in the Thirteen Colonies

- 1700–1750—colonial population rose from 250,000 to over two million
- Much growth through natural increase
- Large influx of non-English Europeans
- 800 miles along Appalachian Range from western Pennsylvania to western Georgia
- Frontier complex, fluid, and violent mixture of Europeans, Native Americans, and African Americans
Scots-Irish Flee English Oppression

- Largest non-English group
- The Scots fled England for Ireland, and then the Scots-Irish to North America
- Concentrated on the Pennsylvania frontier
- Quick to challenge authority
Germans Search for a Better Life

- First waves similar to Quakers and sought religious toleration
- Later waves sought to improve their material condition
- Admired as peaceful, hard-working farmers
- Tried to preserve German language and customs
- Aroused the prejudice of English neighbors
- Scots-Irish and Germans spread into Shenandoah Valley

Convict Settlers

- Transportation Act of 1718 allowed judges to send convicted felons to American colonies
- 50,000 convicts to America, 1718–1775
  - Some felons were dangerous criminals
  - Most had committed minor crimes against property
  - Life difficult for transported convicts
- British praised system; colonists deplored it
Native Americans Stake Out a Middle Ground

• Disease and European-settled agricultural practices made it difficult for Europeans and Natives to coexist

• Many eastern Indians moved into trans-Appalachian region
  • A “middle ground” where no colonial power was yet established

• Remnants of different Indian peoples grouped, formed new nations

Algonquian couple, 18th-century
Native Americans Stake Out a Middle Ground

- Native Americans continued to trade with Europeans for metal goods and weapons
- Goal of Native American confederacies was to maintain strong, independent voice in commercial exchanges
  - Play English and French against each other
- Increased individual commercial interaction eroded traditional Native American structures of authority
- Over time, Native American population declined in “middle ground”
Spanish Borderlands of the 18th Century

- Spain occupied a large part of America north of Mexico since sixteenth century
- Range from Florida Peninsula to California
- Multicultural, interdependent society created of Spaniards and Native Americans

San Xavier del Bac
Conquering the Northern Frontier

- Spanish presence established in late 1500s
- El Popé led Pueblo Revolt in 1680 driving the Spanish out of New Mexico
- Spanish re-established control in 1692
- St. Augustine, a Spanish military outpost, founded in 1565 to prevent French encroachment, was unattractive to settlers
- 1769—belated Spanish mission settlements in California to prevent Russian claims
Peoples of the Spanish Borderlands

- Slow growth of Spanish population in borderlands
  - Mainly males: priests, soldiers, and administrators
  - Spanish males formed relationships with Indian women resulting in large numbers of mestizo children

- Spanish influence over Native Americans
  - Spanish exploited native labor
  - Natives resisted conversion to Catholicism
  - The Spanish did not have the resources to fully secure the northern frontier

- Spanish influenced region’s architecture and language
The Spanish Borderlands, ca. 1770
The Impact of European Ideas on American Culture

- Rapid change in eighteenth-century colonies
- Growth of urban cosmopolitan culture
- Aggressive participation in consumption

Re-enactors explain the process of wig making and significance of wigs in Colonial life
Provincial Cities

- Only about 5% of population
- Five largest cities: Boston, Newport, New York, Philadelphia, and Charles Town
- Economies were geared to commerce, not manufacturing
- Inhabitants emulated English culture, fashion, and architecture
- Cities were becoming more elegant
American Enlightenment

- Intellectual movement that swept Europe with new, radical ideas
  - Age of Reason

- The Enlightenment’s basic assumptions
  - Optimistic view of human nature
  - God set up the universe and human society to operate by mechanistic, natural laws
  - Those laws can be found through reason

- Mixed reception in America
  - Americans defended church, embraced search for practical ways of improving life
Enlightenment

- **Thomas Hobbes** believed people are naturally cruel, greedy, and selfish.
  - People entered into a *social contract*, in order to live in an organized society.
  - Only an absolute monarchy can ensure an orderly society.

- **John Locke** believed people are basically reasonable and moral.
  - People have certain *natural rights*.
  - A government has a duty to the people it governs. If a government fails, the people have the right to overthrow it.

- **Baron de Montesquieu** taught that the separation of powers is the best way to protect liberty.
  - Each branch of government should serve as a check on the others.
Thinkers called *philosophes* believed that the use of reason could lead to reforms of government, law, and society.

**Voltaire** defended the principle of freedom of speech.

- Used wit to expose abuses and corruption.
- Opposed the slave trade and religious prejudice.
- Offended the French government and Catholic Church and was imprisoned and exiled.
Rousseau believed that people were basically good.

- In 1762, in *The Social Contract*, he argued that government controls should be minimal and should only be imposed by a freely elected government.
- Felt the good of the community should be placed above individual interests.

David Hume was a Scottish philosopher, historian, economist, and essayist.

- In opposition to the rationalists, most notably Descartes, he concluded that desire rather than reason governed human behavior, saying: "*Reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions.*"
- A strong empiricist, he argued against the existence of innate ideas, concluding instead that humans have knowledge only of things they directly experience.
Benjamin Franklin

- Franklin (1706–1790) regarded as Enlightenment thinker by Europeans
- Started as printer, then satirist in Boston
  - Emulated British styles
  - Moved to Philadelphia
  - Wrote *Poor Richard’s Almanac*
- Achieved wealth through printing business
- Made important scientific discoveries and inventions
  - Experienced with electricity
  - Founded a non-sectarian college, the first fire department, the first library in America
  - Invented bifocals, the Franklin stove
- Symbol of material progress through human ingenuity
Thinkers called **physiocrats** focused on economic reforms. Like the philosophes, physiocrats looked for natural laws to define a rational economic system.

Physiocrats rejected mercantilism in favor of a policy called **laissez faire**.

**Laissez faire** means allowing businesses to run with little or no government interference.

In *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith argued that the free market should be allowed to regulate business activity. He supported laissez faire, but also believed that a government had a duty to protect society, administer justice, and provide public works.
Economic Transformation

- Long-term period of economic and population growth
- England added to existing base of mercantilist rules from 1710s–1750s
  - Colonial manufacture or trade of timber, sugar, hats, and iron restricted
  - Regulations not enforced
- Trade was mainly with England and West Indies; little with Africa
- England enabled the colonists to purchase cheap manufactured products on credit, enriching the living standards.
Birth of a Consumer Society

- English mass-production of consumer goods stimulated rise in colonial imports
- Americans built up large debts to English merchants to finance increased imports
- Trade between colonies increased
  - Inter-coastal trade
  - Great Wagon Road in the backcountry
- Eroded regional and local identities
- Allowed Americans to learn about one another
Religious Revivals in Provincial Societies

- **The Great Awakening**
  - Spontaneous, evangelical revivals
  - Reaction to churches’ earlier failure to take account of people’s emotional needs
  - People began to re-think basic assumptions about church and state, institutions and society

- **Movement occurred among many denominations in different places at different times**
  - New England in the 1730s, Virginia in the 1750s and 1760s

- **Jonathan Edwards sparked it**
  - Reminded people of omnipotent God and predestination
  - Reaction to ministers going “soft” on population
George Whitefield was a dynamic personality and speaker who sustained the revivals.

- Preached outdoor sermons to thousands of people in nearly every colony.
- Skilled entrepreneur and promoter.

Itinerant ministers followed Whitefield’s example:
- Brought Americans closer together, gave them an awareness of a larger religious community, and enhanced their optimism.
- Split established churches into “new lights” and “old lights.”

Despite outbursts of anti-intellectualism, “new lights” formed colleges:
- Princeton (Presbyterian), Columbia (Anglican), Dartmouth (Congregationalist), Brown (Baptist), and Rutgers (Dutch Reformed).
The Voice of Evangelical Religion

- Gave voice to those traditionally silenced

- In 1786, Richard Allen became a preacher at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but was restricted to early morning services.

- He opened his first all black church in 1794 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- In 1816, along with Absalom Jones he started the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first independent black denomination in the United States.
Absalom Jones was born into slavery in Delaware in 1746, eventually married and bought his wife’s and his own freedom.

In 1787 Jones and Allen, founded the Free African Society (FAS), first conceived as a non-denominational mutual aid society, to help newly freed slaves in Philadelphia.

Jones and Allen separated over their different directions in religion, but they remained lifelong friends and collaborators.

He was an African-American abolitionist and clergyman.

In 1804 he was the first African-American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church of the United States.
Effects of the Great Awakening

- Joseph Tracy, the minister, historian, and preacher who gave this religious phenomenon its name in his influential 1842 book *The Great Awakening*, saw the First Great Awakening as a precursor to the American Revolution.

- The Awakening promoted a democratic, evangelical union of national scope.

- It promoted the belief of the free press and the belief that information should be shared and completely unbiased.

- This helped create a demand for the separation of church and state.

- Revivalists held optimistic attitudes toward America’s religious role in world history.

- Fostered sense of American unity.
Clash of Political Cultures

- Colonists attempted to emulate British political institutions
- Effort led to discovery of how different they were from English people

British Parliament, Chamber of the House of Lords
The English Constitution

- The British Constitution universally admired
  - Not a written document, but a system of government based on statute, court decision, and common law

- Believed to balance monarchy (king), aristocracy (House of Lords), and the people (House of Commons)
  - The House of Lords consisted of 180 aristocrats serving with 26 Anglican bishops
  - The House of Commons was composed of 558 members elected by constituencies throughout the realm

- Balance believed to guarantee liberties
The Reality of British Politics

- Less than 20% of English males could vote
- The size of electoral districts varied ranging from several thousand voter to a handful
- “Rotten boroughs” = districts with only a few voters
- Corrupt members of Parliament
- “Commonwealthmen” spoke against corruption, urged return to truly balanced constitution
Governing the Colonies: The American Experience

- Colonists attempted to model England’s balanced constitution
- Royal governors: mid-level, ambitious bureaucrats
- Governors had more powers than king in England
  - Veto legislation
  - Dismiss judges
  - Command provincial military
- Governors’ councils steadily lost influence
- “Middle-class democracies”
- Higher percentage of the population had suffrage than in Britain, but little exercise
- Women and non-whites excluded
- Potential to expel officials always there & checked abuse of power
Colonial Assemblies

- Felt obligation to preserve colonial liberties
- Assemblies controlled colony’s finances
- No incentive for assembly to cooperate with governors
- Governors relied on local elites
- Exercised extreme vigilance against the spread of privileged power
- Similar system of assemblies facing similar problems laid foundation for a larger cultural identity
Britain’s conflicts with continental rivals like France spilled over to colonies

Security threats from these conflicts forced colonists into more military and political cooperation

British colonies overwhelmingly militarily superior to New France but ineffective
King William’s and Queen Anne’s Wars

- King William’s War (1689–1697)
  - French frontier raids on New York and New England
- Queen Anne’s War (1702–1713)
  - Bloody fighting across entire frontier
- European diplomats more concerned with balance of power in Europe than military situation in North America
- Wars fought for control of the Mississippi River Valley
- France extended its presence from Canada into Louisiana
- British saw French expansion as encirclement
King William’s and Queen Anne’s Wars

- Native Americans tried to hold middle ground
  - Iroquois favored British
  - Algonquians favored French
Queen Anne was occupied with the conflict during her reign.
King George’s War and Its Aftermath

- Fought 1743–1748
- 1745—New England troops captured Fort Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island
- 1748—Louisbourg returned to France by Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle
- French built Fort Duquesne to keep British from seizing Ohio River Valley
- Virginians under George Washington failed to expel French
  - Showed one colony alone could not defeat French
Engraving depicting the landing of New England troops near Fortress Louisbourgh in 1745
Albany Congress and Braddock’s Defeat: Albany Plan

- Albany Congress, 1754
- Benjamin Franklin’s idea of central colonial government
  - Elected representatives decide on matters of defense, western expansion, and relations with Native Americans
  - Could levy taxes to support its operations
- Albany Plan failed, disliked by English and Americans
  - Colonial assemblies protective of their right of taxation
  - Parliament saw plan as undermining its power over colonies
Albany Congress and Braddock’s Defeat: Braddock’s Defeat

- 1755—General Edward Braddock led force to drive French from Ohio Valley
- Braddock’s army ambushed, destroyed
- French still in control of Ohio River Valley
Seven Years’ War

1756—England declared war on France

Prime Minister William Pitt shifted strategy to focus on North America

By 1758, French cut off from re-supply

Fort Duquesne abandoned, Quebec captured, last French forces surrendered, 1760

Peace of Paris 1763: France lost

- British got all of North America east of the Mississippi
- Spanish added Louisiana to their empire
Seven Years’ War, 1756–1763

[Map showing key events and locations of the Seven Years’ War]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>European Name</th>
<th>American Name</th>
<th>Major Allies</th>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Major American Battle</th>
<th>Treaty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1689–1697</td>
<td>War of the League of Augsburg</td>
<td>King William's War</td>
<td>Britain, Holland, Spain, their colonies, and Native American allies against France, its colonies, and Native American allies</td>
<td>Opposition to French bid for control of Europe</td>
<td>New England troops assault Quebec under Sir William Phips (1690)</td>
<td>Treaty of Ryswick (1697)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1702–1713</td>
<td>War of the Spanish Succession</td>
<td>Queen Anne's War</td>
<td>Britain, Holland, their colonies, and Native American allies against France, Spain, their colonies, and Native American allies</td>
<td>Austria and France hold rival claims to Spanish throne</td>
<td>Attack on Deerfield (1704)</td>
<td>Treaty of Utrecht (1713)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1743–1748</td>
<td>War of the Austrian Succession (War of Jenkin's Ear)</td>
<td>King George's War</td>
<td>Britain, its colonies, and Native American allies, and Austria against France, Spain, their Native American allies, and Prussia</td>
<td>Struggle among Britain, Spain, and France for control of New World territory; among France, Prussia, and Austria for control of central Europe</td>
<td>New England forces capture of Louisbourg under William Pepperrell (1745)</td>
<td>Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1756–1763</td>
<td>Seven Years' War</td>
<td>French and Indian War</td>
<td>Britain, its colonies, and Native American allies against France, its colonies, and Native American allies</td>
<td>Struggle among Britain, Spain, and France for worldwide control of colonial markets and raw materials</td>
<td>British and Continental forces capture Quebec under Major General James Wolfe (1759)</td>
<td>Peace of Paris (1763)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Century of Conflict: Major Wars, 1689–1763
Perceptions of War

- Expanded horizons of colonists
- Created trained officer corps that knew British vulnerabilities
- British felt colonists ungrateful and not willing to bear their fair share of burden
- Colonists saw themselves as “junior partners” to British
Most Americans bound to England in 1763

- Ties included:
  - British culture
  - British consumer goods
  - British evangelists
  - British military victories

- Americans thought of themselves as partners in an Empire

- To British, “American” equaled “not quite English”