

## The Middle Colonies (Mid-Atlantic Colonies)

### I. Characteristics of the **Middle Colonies: NY, PA, NJ, DE**

- A. Excellent land for farming: region became known as the "bread colonies" for exports of grain; also fruits and vegetables.
- B. Three rivers – Susquehanna, Delaware, and Hudson – provided a the means to tap the fur trade in the interior.
- C. Less aristocratic than New England and the Southern colonies (except NY)
  - Land holdings were intermediate in size (except NY)
- D. Fewer industries than New England; more than in the South
  1. Shipbuilding and lumbering also important (not as large-scale as New England)
  2. Shipping and commerce
- E. Population was the most ethnically mixed; religiously tolerant; democratically controlled (less so in NY)
  - Yet, much factional conflict among groups.

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### II. **New York**

- A. Rise of the Dutch in North America
  1. Henry Hudson, Englishman who was employed by the Dutch East India Co., sailed into Delaware and NY bays in 1609, and traveled up the Hudson River.
  2. **New Netherlands** founded in 1623-1624 on the Hudson River by **Peter Minuit**
    - a. Established by the Dutch West India Company for quick-profit fur trade.
    - b. **Manhattan Island** bought from Amerindians for about \$30.
      - The tribe that sold the land didn't actually own it but Dutch lay claim to the land anyway.
  3. **New Amsterdam** (later NYC) founded as company town/sea port
    - a. City run by the DWIC in the interest of the stock-holders.
    - b. Little religious toleration, free speech, or democratic practices.
    - c. Much grain production for export along the Hudson River Valley
    - d. **Patroonship**: Aristocratic structure; resembled serfdom
      - Huge estates granted to promoters who would settle 50 persons on them. (One estate in Albany was larger than Rhode Island!)
      - Lowly laborers worked long hours growing grain for export.
      - After repeated protests, a semi-representative body was finally granted.

- e. Cosmopolitan town: by 1640's 18 languages were spoken there
- f. Intermarriage between Dutch settlers and Amerindians was not uncommon (in contrast to English settlers who rarely intermarried or had sexual relations with Amerindians or Africans).
  - Intermarriage was at times a means of tapping the fur trade (French traders also intermarried for economic opportunity).

**B. Challenges to New Netherlands and defeat by England.**

1. Amerindians, in retaliation for Dutch violence, massacred settlers.
  - A fort was built as a defense; located at today's Wall Street.
2. New England was hostile to growth of New Netherlands; saw the Dutch as a threat.
3. Swedes trespassed on Dutch lands on the Delaware River.
  - a. Established **New Sweden** between 1638-1655
  - b. In 1655, a Dutch force led by **Peter Stuyvesant**, ended Swedish rule.
  - c. Swedish colonists were absorbed by New Netherlands.
4. 1664, Charles II ordered the military removal of the Dutch from New Netherlands.
  - a. Peter Stuyvesant was forced to surrender without firing a shot.
  - b. Charles' brother, the Duke of York, given control over the area.
5. Name of the colony was changed to **New York**.

**C. New York Chapter of Liberties (1683)**

1. Granted freedom of religion to all Christians and gave all landholders suffrage.
2. Important as a step leading to eventual democracy in New York.
3. Limitations:
  - a. Much land in the hands of a few landowners or speculators.
  - b. New York retained feudalistic traits more than any other colony in the North (resembled southern plantation owners).

**D. NY became a royal colony in 1685 when James II became king.**

E. NY flourished under English rule, profiting from trade with Iroquois, and attracting agricultural workers.

**F. Autocratic in character**

1. Discouraged many Europeans from coming to NY; this retarded population growth.
2. **Leisler's Rebellion in NYC (1691) occurred in response**
  - a. Remnants of patroonships led to popular discontent as huge estates were parceled out to upper-class whites, crowding out poor farmers.
  - b. Jacob Leisler governed New York between 1689-91 and

- introduced some democratic practices and redistribution of land to poor laborers.
- c. In 1691, the English government sought to remove him.
  - d. A combination of poor whites and farmers led by Leisler put up armed resistance.
    - Inspired by the "Glorious Revolution" and the overthrow of the Dominion of New England.
  - e. The revolt failed, Leisler was hanged, and parceling out of huge estates continued.
  - f. Significance: demonstrated growing disaffection of lower classes against the privileged classes (Bacon's Rebellion had occurred 15 years earlier).
    - Other rebellions would follow in the 18<sup>th</sup> century: Carolina Regulator Movement (1739), Paxton Boys in Pennsylvania (1764).

### III. Pennsylvania (founded in 1681)

#### A. Quakers in England emerged during the mid-1600's (Religious Society of Friends)

1. Non-conformist in nature: more radical than the Puritans in opposing authority
  - a. Refused to support the Anglican Church with taxes
  - b. Did not employ a paid clergy
  - c. Took no oaths
  - d. Made no deference to authority figures
  - e. Pacifists: refused military service; advocated passive resistance
2. Simple and democratic; sought religious and civic freedom
3. Believed in an "inner light," not scripture or hierarchy, and saw all men as equal in God's eyes.
4. Suffered persecution in New England and other colonies for opposing authority.

#### B. William Penn

1. 1681, gained a huge grant from the king in return for money owed to his father.
2. Primary motive for founding a colony: haven for Quakers
3. Secondary motives: Experiment with liberal ideas in gov't while making a profit.
  - **"Holy Experiment"**: Penn allowed religious toleration among many denominations in Pennsylvania
4. Pennsylvania became the best advertised of all the colonies.
  - a. Pamphlets were distributed in England, Netherlands, France, and Germany.
    - Promised cheap land, freedom of religion, and representative government.

- b. These generous land policies attracted many immigrants.
- c. PA also attracted carpenters, masons, shoemakers, and other manual workers.

### C. Success of Pennsylvania

1. The colony became a major producer of grain and successfully traded with Amerindians in the fur trade.
2. All Swedes, Finns, and Dutch in the area were naturalized.
3. Philadelphia was carefully planned and became one of the largest cities in North America.
4. Representative gov't was established with landowners having voting rights.
  - a. No tax-supported state church
  - b. Freedom of worship guaranteed to all residents
  - c. No provisions were established for military defense as it was against Quaker pacifist doctrine
  - d. Quakers were strongly against slavery and eventually established the first abolitionist societies during the Revolutionary era.
5. Penn bought land from Amerindians and the Quakers fostered excellent relations with them initially.
6. By the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, relations with Native Americans had deteriorated.
  - a. The "Walking Purchase" of 1737 swindled the Lenape (Delaware) Indians out of hundreds of thousands of acres.
  - b. Penn's descendants were less interested in building on the good relations with Amerindians that William Penn had fostered.
7. By 1700, Pennsylvania was 4th largest colony (behind VA, MA, and MD)
  - a. Quakers were shrewd businessmen; exported grain and other foodstuffs as part of the Atlantic trade.
  - b. PA attracted a large German population.

- IV. **New Jersey** started in 1664 as Quaker settlement; 2 proprietors received area from the Duke of York (the future king of England).
- 1702, the two Jerseys were combined as a royal colony.

### V. **Delaware** was granted its own assembly in 1703.

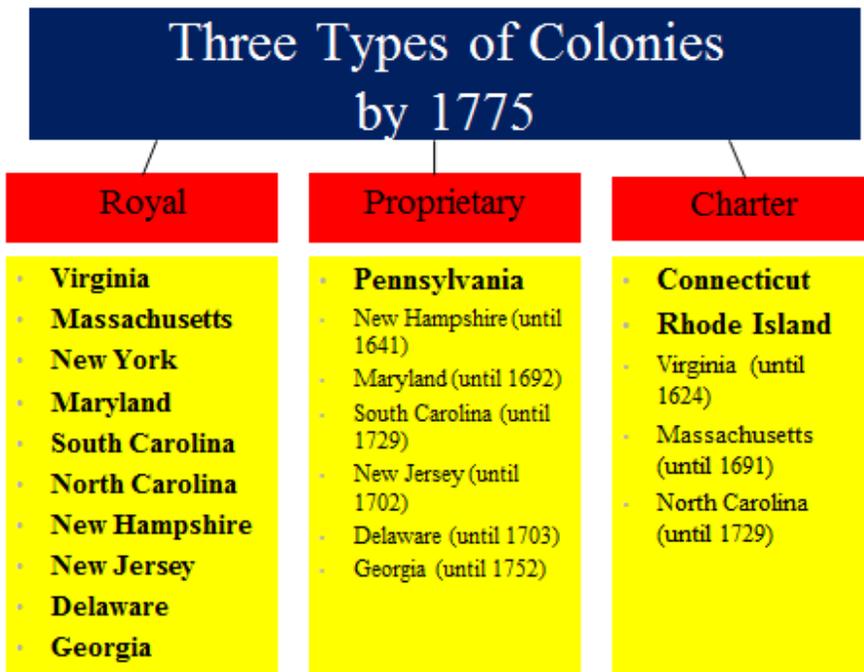
- A. Contained a large Quaker population
- B. Remained under the governor of Pennsylvania until the American Revolution

### VI. Colonial society in the 17th Century

#### A. Class

1. Most immigrants were neither at the top or bottom of society.
  - a. Few class distinctions existed on the frontier where many

- colonials lived.
- b. Upper-class pretensions were resented to a larger degree than in Europe; egalitarian society was desired
2. Upper-class attempt at reproducing European stratification in America did not succeed.
    - a. Common people were too numerous to be subjugated
    - b. Emerging middle class became increasingly influential
    - c. Democratic traditions in many colonies provided a hedge against complete upper class control.
    - d. Rebellions against upper classes failed to topple them
      - Bacon's Rebellion (1676)
      - Leisler's Rebellion (1691)
- B. Colonial lifestyle
1. Most colonists were farmers (about 80% by the American Revolution)
  2. Compared to most 17<sup>th</sup>-century Europeans, Americans had a higher standard of living.
    - a. Land was cheap, although less available in the southern plantation system.
    - b. Wages were about three times that of Europe.



**Note:** *This sub-unit is a lower probability area for the AP exam. In the past 10 years, 2 questions have come wholly or in part from the material in this chapter.*

## **MAJOR CONCEPTS FOR 17TH CENTURY COLONIAL AMERICA**

### **1. Why was the Protestant Reformation ultimately important to the creation of America?**

- Calvinism drove the will of the Puritans to establish a religiously pure colony in America
- Most of early America was Protestant (except certain Catholic pockets)
- Protestantism became one of the defining characteristics of American culture: work ethic, democratically structured churches, religious toleration among different religious groups (except some Puritans and some officials affiliated with the Anglican Church)

### **2. How were the Puritan immigrants important to the growth of democracy in the New World?**

- Congregational church in MBC: Townhall meetings, church members could vote
- Simple manhood suffrage in Rhode Island
- Fundamental Orders in Connecticut River colony

### **3. Significance of New England Confederation?**

- First step towards colonial unity

### **4. Major effects of Dominion of New England?**

- Puritan influence permanently reduced
- Common revolutionary sentiment throughout the colonies

### **5. Similarities among all 13 colonies**

- mostly English
- possessed British freedoms
- self-government (though not all democratic)
- religious toleration (to at least some degree in each colony)
- educational opportunity (most in New England; least in South)
- economic opportunity and social self-development
- increasingly unique from the British monarchy in character

### **6. Differences among the three colonial regions.**

#### **a. New England:** Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire

- Puritan dominated in many areas, less religiously tolerant, more restrictions on civic participation, more industry, less available farm land

#### **b. Middle Colonies:** New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware

- Ethnically diverse, religiously tolerant, democratic, Quakers contributed to human freedom, farming, lumbering, ship building, shipping, trade, fur trapping
- c. **Southern Colonies:** Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia
  - Plantation economy, aristocratic, slavery, cash crops, scattered population, expansionary, some religious toleration (Church of England dominant)

### Terms to Know

Middle Colonies (mid-Atlantic Colonies)	New York
New Netherlands	New York Chapter of Liberties
Peter Minuit	Leisler's Rebellion
Manhattan Island	Pennsylvania
New Amsterdam	Quakers
Patroonship	William Penn
New Sweden	"Holy Experiment"
Peter Stuyvesant	New Jersey
	Delaware

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