

American Social & Cultural History
1607-1865

Second Class

- Finish Discussing the Virginia/Tidewater South Culture
- Discuss the Middle Colonies Culture
- Discuss the Frontier Culture
- Discuss the American Revolution and its Preceding Events

The Virginians/Tidewater South

- Government
 - Colony Level: Governor/Lord Proprietor & Colonial Assembly shared power
 - County & Parish Vestry for local government
 - Dominated by local oligarchies of country gentlemen
 - Only landowners could vote
 - Judges, sheriff, county surveyor & county clerk appointed by governor

The Virginians/Tidewater South

- Local Governmental Functions
 - Held trials and executed sentences
 - Supervised the local militia
 - Licensed taverns & ferries
 - Maintained roads
 - Conducted elections to the colonial assembly
- Vestry
 - Administered the Poor Laws
 - Hired the minister

The Virginians/Tidewater South

- Slavery
 - As time went on, slavery became harsher
 - 1691: Freeing of slaves forbidden unless freed slaves were exiled from the colony
 - 1705: Prohibition of interracial marriage & criminalization of interracial sex by white women
 - As skin color became the mark of slave identity, race began to obscure social class divisions

The Virginians/Tidewater South

- Key Cultural Ideas
 - Education for Elites but not for the Common People
 - Gentlemanly contempt for manual labor
 - Strong sense of “honor”
 - Honor as virtue and good conduct
 - Honor as valor, bravery & willingness to defend his manliness and good reputation

The Virginians/Tidewater South

- Concepts of Liberty and Freedom
 - Freedom as ‘hegemonic liberty’
 - Power to rule and not be overruled by others.
 - The opposite of freedom was slavery
 - Freedom was the special birthright of free-born Englishmen
 - This birthright gave Englishmen the right to rule less fortunate people
 - Freedom did not imply equality
 - One’s status in Virginia was defined by the liberties one possessed. The elite had more liberties than those of lesser rank. Indentured servants possessed few liberties. Slaves had none

The Virginians/Tidewater South

- Concepts of Liberty and Freedom – 2
 - One corollary of ‘hegemonic liberty’ was the idea of self-government and minimal government
 - This led to the following:
 - “No taxation without representation”
 - Concept of freedom as a condition of social independence
 - Concept of dominion over one’s self

The Delaware Valley

- Geography
 - Largely rolling fertile countryside that was moderate in climate with several major navigable rivers
 - This fostered the development of family-owned farms capable of surplus agricultural exports
 - Both banks of the Delaware River were laced with small rivers and creeks, with the fall line only a few miles inland
 - This permitted many fine mill sites within easy reach of the sea

The Delaware Valley

- Geography - 2
 - Close to Philadelphia were large deposits of building stone, coal, copper, iron ore, and dense forests of oak & chestnut.
 - Soil was rich and fertile
- Climate
 - Temperate climate favorable to European settlement
 - Healthier than Virginia and not much inferior to New England
 - Growing season of 180 days

The Delaware Valley

- Corollaries
 - Good grain and cattle producing area
 - Well-suited for commercial and industrial development

The Middle Colonies: New Netherlands

- Founded as a fur-trading colony by the Dutch West India Company
 - In 1614, Dutch established a 50-person colony near present day Albany to trade with the Indians
 - New Amsterdam established in 1625 on Manhattan Island to guard the entrance to the Hudson and to produce grain and cattle for the fur traders and the Dutch West Indies.

The Middle Colonies: New Netherlands

- New Netherlands adopted the Dutch policy of religious toleration
 - This attracted a mix of Dutch Reformed, English Puritans, English and Welsh Quakers, German Protestants, Scandinavian Lutherans, French Huguenots, and Jews
 - Immigrants mostly family groups of modest means and mostly farmers or artisans
 - Dutch were a minority in their own colony with non-Dutch whites nearly half the colonists
 - 10% of the colonists were enslaved Africans

The Middle Colonies: New Netherlands

- Despite its appealing location and policy of religious toleration, the colony attracted relatively few colonists
 - In 1660, the colony had only 5,000 people compared with 25,000 in the Chesapeake and 33,000 in New England.
- Colony faltered because the prosperous Dutch had less reason to leave home than did the English with their masses of roaming poor and their alienated religious dissidents

The Middle Colonies: New Netherlands

- In 1664, the English conquered New Netherlands
- The polyglot population of now New York resisted assimilation to English culture and rallied around a Dutch identity that included membership in the Dutch Reformed Church and the speaking of Dutch rather than English
- Not until the mid-18th century did most of the Dutch colonists begin to adopt the English language and English customs

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Notes re Founding
 - In 1681, the Duke of York granted Pennsylvania to William Penn
 - Penn saw the new colony as a “holy experiment” and an “example to the nations”
 - Unlike Massachusetts, there would be no privileged church, no tax-supported religious establishment, and equal rights for all, including non-Quakers and non-British
 - Later, Penn purchased Delaware from the Duke of York and governed it as a separate colony

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Quaker Beliefs
 - All people were equal before God
 - One approached God through a conversion experience – which was available to all - and the “inner light”
 - The “inner light” served as a guide to understanding the Bible
 - The key parts of the Bible were the New Testament teachings of Jesus

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Quaker Worship
 - Took place at a meeting house with seating normally by order of arrival and not by rank
 - A period of silence during which attendees were expected to turn their minds to the light
 - People then spoke either in the form of preaching or in the form of prayer as the spirit moved them
 - Sometimes no words were ever spoken, yet the meeting was still deemed to be a success

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Quaker Organization
 - Organized as a series of meeting – weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual
 - No formal or ordained clergy – leadership and teaching by elders and overseers
 - Authority came from the decision of the meeting as a whole
 - Although there was no formal ministry, certain articulate men (and women) served as “public friends” – itinerant preachers authorized by the annual meeting and supported by voluntary contributions

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Implications of Quaker Beliefs
 - Use of plain, familiar language with all people, even when addressing aristocrats or the king
 - Refusal to take oaths of either allegiance to the king and state or when giving testimony
 - A life of worldly asceticism
 - Pacifism – a refusal to bear arms
 - Acceptance of ethnic pluralism

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- The England They Left
 - North Midlands
 - An area of high ridges and deep valleys that later was to incubate the Industrial Revolution
 - An area colonized by the Vikings but divided between the Viking origin farmers and shepherds that was alienated from the institutions of church and state that were dominated by the Norman-descended elite
 - An area of hamlets consisting of small clusters of houses that were distinct from both the nucleated villages of East Anglia and the manors of the south and west of England

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Settlers
 - Like the New England Puritans, most came in freedom as families of middling means. Only a third were indentured servants
 - Nearly 10% were Irish.
 - There were also significant numbers of Welsh, Dutch, and Germans – most of whom came from the Rhineland and spoke a mixed German-Dutch Rhenish dialect.
 - The vast bulk of the English Quakers came from the North Midlands.

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Settlement Patterns
 - Small hamlets where there was a church, tavern, or inn, a general store, and craftsmen's shops while the farmers resided on farms outside the hamlet
 - Servicing the hamlets were market towns which could support mills to grind grain and saw lumber plus merchants to market the farmers' produce
 - Ideal settlement pattern was one of separate family farms with houses built in small clusters. This reflected the settlement pattern of the Midlands
 - Most settled as farmers in the rural townships but some artisans and craftsmen stayed in Philadelphia

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Penn's Land Policy
 - Penn acknowledged the Indians as the legitimate owners of the land and treated their culture with respect
 - Penn permitted settlement only where he had first purchased the land from the Indians
 - Penn desired to create a rural society of independent farming families without extremes of wealth and poverty. Thus land distribution was very egalitarian

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Local Government
 - Centered on the county
 - Every county had 3 commissioners, one of whom was elected each fall along with the sheriff and coroner
 - Taxes were low since the Quakers were committed to minimal taxes and minimal government
 - The role of the government was to produce social “order” as the Quakers defined it

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Political Notes
 - Quakers controlled the government of Pennsylvania from its founding in 1682 to 1755
 - To the Quakers, politics was “a part of religion itself, a thing sacred in its institutions and its end”
 - Thus the principles of religion had to be carried into public affairs
 - There were disputes, however, over the application of Quaker beliefs to public affairs

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Issues in Dispute
 - The older non-Quaker Swedish, Finnish, Dutch, and English settlers in Delaware vs the mostly Quaker newcomers in Pennsylvania.
 - The relative powers of the proprietor and the assembly
 - The relative importance of property rights and personal liberties
 - Control of the Judiciary
- Ethnic Disputes
 - English vs Welsh Quakers
 - Quakers & German Pietists vs Scotch-Irish

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Consequences
 - Quaker principles, disputes over the application of those principles, and ethnic pluralism had the following consequences:
 - Political Pluralism and Institutionalized Dissent
 - Organized political parties
 - Ethnic politics

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Lifestyles
 - Housing – reflected both Quaker-Pietist values and North Midlands traditions
 - Quaker Plan House – 3 rooms on the first, a corner stair, and a chimney stack with several fireplaces grouped together on one exterior wall. Fieldstone walls, slate roofs & wood trim were common
 - Four-over-Four House – symmetrical house with four spacious rooms and a central hall on both floors. This resembled the larger homes in northern England

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Lifestyles
 - Family Life: As in other Anglo-American cultures, the nuclear family was the normal unit of residence and the extended family the conventional unit of thought. I.e. grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, and in-laws were all thought of as members of the family

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Lifestyles: Family Life
 - Quaker family was more child-centered and less hierarchical than either Puritan or Virginia families
 - Quaker Views of the family:
 - A union of individuals who were created equal in the sight of God and whose bonds should be love rather than fear
 - A sanctuary of love and goodness in a world of sin and hatred.
 - The primary role of the family was to raise children and promote the spiritual health of its members

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Lifestyles: Family Life
 - Quakers rejected the idea that children were born evil and many denied the doctrine of original sin
 - By the 18th century, Quakers had come to believe that children were ‘harmless, righteous, and innocent creatures’ and incapable of sin until old enough to understand the consequences of their acts
 - Travelers of other faiths often commented on the permissiveness of Quaker parents and also on the extent to which Quaker households were child-centered
 - Quaker parents made use of rewards instead of punishments

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Lifestyles: Clothing
 - Quakers saw clothing in all its forms as an emblem of Adam's Fall
 - Clothing should be functional – cover one's shame and fence out the cold
 - Quakers saw a primary purpose of fashion as arousing the sexual passions
 - Quakers saw costly clothes as creating envy in the world and dividing one Friend from another

The Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania

- Lifestyles: Diet
 - The Quakers saw food and drink as something to be consumed only for subsistence and not for pleasure
 - Common foods were best and best consumed in moderation
 - Just as baking was characteristic of New England and frying of Virginia, so boiling was characteristic of the Delaware Valley. Boiled dumplings and puddings were important parts of Quaker cuisine as was scrapple – a boiled pot pudding of pork and buckwheat adopted from the Germans.

The Middle Colonies: New Jersey

- Notes re Founding
 - 1674 – the Duke of York granted New Jersey to two friends who divided it into East and West Jersey. West Jersey then sold to a consortium of Quakers who then distributed it to 1,400 Quaker colonists who arrived from 1677 to 1681.
 - 1682 – East Jersey bought at auction by a group of Quakers that included William Penn
 - 1702 – British authorities took over both East and West Jersey, combined them into a single royal colony called New Jersey

The Middle Colonies: New Jersey

- West Jersey was predominantly Quaker
- East Jersey was a mixture of Quakers, Puritans, and Dutch settlers from New Amsterdam

The Middle Colonies: Paradoxes

- The English conquest of Delaware and New Netherlands created a geographically contiguous empire stretching from Carolina to Canada, but that conquest absorbed a medley of non-English peoples
- This diversity contrasted markedly with both the Chesapeake and New England where almost all of the white colonists came from England

The Middle Colonies: Paradoxes

- The creation of the new colonies of New Jersey and Pennsylvania compounded the region's ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity by attracting more non-English immigrants.
- The middle colonies defined a distinctive culture and social order that precociously anticipated the American future

The Frontier

- Frontier largely settled by immigrants from the English-Scotch frontier and from Ulster
 - Northern counties of England
 - Scottish lowlands
 - Scottish and English settlers in Ulster
- The inhabitants of the borderlands -- whether Ulster, Lowland Scotland, or northern England
 - were English-speaking

The Frontier

- War and conflict defined much of the culture of this borderlands area
 - The English-speaking inhabitants of this area had little contact with (and much of the contact that did take place was hostile) with their Gaelic-speaking neighbors, whether Irish Catholic peasants, Scottish highlanders, or Welsh cottagers
 - The borderland area was a frequent theater of war
 - From 1040 to 1745, every English monarch but 3 suffered a Scottish invasion or invaded Scotland or both
 - It was an area dominated by local warlords

The Frontier

- In this area of endemic violence,
 - the economy lagged far behind the other parts of England. A large part of the population lived at the edge of subsistence and starved if the crops failed, as they did in 1727, 1740, and 1770.
 - Blood relationships loomed large. Loyalty to the family and the clan ranked far above loyalty to the crown
 - There was little trust in legal institutions. People resorted to either personal violence, clan feuds, or a powerful warlord for vengeance or protection

The Frontier

- The borderland culture was carried across the Irish Sea to Ulster by the Scotch-Irish and Anglo-Irish settlers who settled Ulster.
- In Ulster, Anglo-Irish and Scotch-Irish found another land of endemic violence, where they feuded with each other and both warred with the native Irish.
 - The Calvinist Scots in Ulster resented their Anglican landlords and the fact they were taxed to support an Anglican Church
 - During the 18th century, the Ulster linen industry suffered a prolonged decline

The Frontier

- The borderlands began to be pacified as two formerly warring kingdoms became one,
 - This began with the accession of James VI to the English throne in 1603
 - Passed a major threshold with the Act of Union in 1706-07
 - Was completed with the crushing of the Highland revolts of 1715 and 1745

The Frontier

- In the pacification process
 - The old warrior families were replaced by a new class of entrepreneurs who transformed the economy by changing the traditional forms of land tenure to the disadvantage of the tenants
 - Tenants began to be charged what the traffic will bear and often suffered eviction

The Frontier

- As a result of pacification, economic exploitation, famine, and decline of the linen industry, there was a large scale migration to America
 - Between 1717 and 1775, more than 250,000 emigrated to America
- Characteristics of Emigrants
 - In 1773-1776, 61% of the English migrants, 73% of the Scots, and 91% of those from Ulster traveled in family groups. Among the Scots, the sex ratio was 149 males to 100 females

The Frontier

- Characteristics of Emigrants
 - Most of the emigrants were tenant farmers who owned no land of their own
 - A large minority were semi-skilled craftsmen and petty traders. Many from Ulster had worked in the linen trade, but had been thrown out of work by a major recession from 1772-1774
 - A small minority were landowning farmers
 - Less than 20% of the English and 1% of the Scots came over as indentured servants

The Frontier

- Characteristics of Emigrants
 - About 1%-2% were members of the gentry or persons of wealth
 - They emigrated to avoid downward socio-economic mobility. An example was the grandfather of Andrew Jackson, a rich Carrickfergus merchant
 - While few in number, they quickly established a leadership role in the backcountry and kept it for several generations – e.g. the Polk, Calhoun, Bankhead, Henry, and Houston families

The Frontier

- Characteristics of Emigrants
 - English border migrants were mostly Anglicans with a sprinkling of Protestant sects
 - Scots border migrants and the migrants from Ulster were mostly Presbyterian with a scattering of Roman Catholics
 - Unlike the Puritans, most of the Scottish and Irish Presbyterians believed in ‘free grace’
 - Scottish and Irish Presbyterians also formed the habit of gathering in prayer societies and field meetings. They carried these customs to the American backcountry

The Frontier

- Many of the borderers entered through the port of Philadelphia where Pennsylvania officials encouraged them to settle on the frontier where they could serve as buffer between the Indians and the Quakers
- From Pennsylvania, many drifted south and west along the Appalachian mountains.
- In the late-18th and 19th century, the borderers moved into the parts of the South west of the Appalachians

The Frontier

- Before the borderers arrived, the backcountry was occupied by strong and warlike Indian tribes – the Shawnee, Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminoles.
- Warfare between borderers and Indians began in the late-17th century and continued until the early-19th century
- To the first borderers, the American backcountry was just as dangerous as Ulster and the British borderlands had been

The Frontier

- In the southern highlands, many different sovereignties had created a chaos of conflicting land claims
 - Small tracts of land given out on a headright or bounty system
 - Individual patents of a few hundred acres that were sold for small sums
 - Large tracts of land granted to a few great landowners with connections in London and the colonial capitals

The Frontier

- Socio-economic class structure
 - A few very rich landlords.
 - The top decile of landowners owned 40% to 80% of the land in East Tennessee
 - A middle class that was small by comparison with other colonies
 - A large class of squatters who occupied the land but whose legal title to the land was not recognized
 - A large class of landless tenants
 - 1/3 to 1/2 of the taxable white males owned no land

The Frontier

- The property of the tenant farmers and squatters who owned no land consisted mostly of cattle and pigs
 - In the 18th century, this backcountry underclass that owned no land were referred to as ‘crackers,’ ‘rednecks,’ and ‘hoosiers.’

The Frontier

- Notes About the Backcountry Elite
 - Elite status was dependent upon one's wealth and power
 - A backcountry family that lost its property fell to a lower level of society and lost its elite state. There was no concept of genteel poverty
 - Unlike other elites, it was not distinguished by learning, breeding, intellect, or refinement
 - People who rose to positions of leadership commonly did so by bold and decisive acts
 - The politics of the backcountry consisted of charismatic leaders and personal followings

The Frontier

- Backcountry settlement consisted of isolated farmsteads, loosely grouped in sprawling neighborhoods that covered many miles
- Unlike the road-bound township settlements of New England or the riverine patterns of Virginia, the backsettlers built their houses near springs and brooks

The Frontier

- Housing
 - While log cabins were first introduced into America by the Scandinavians, they were popularized by the borderlands frontier settlers
 - Log cabins had been popular in the British borderlands, the Scottish lowlands, and Ulster
 - Given the fact of insecure tenancy and endemic violence, small and impermanent houses were the norm
 - They were built of the cheapest available materials – turf, logs & mud in Ireland; stone & dirt in Scotland; and logs & clay in America

The Frontier

- Log Cabins
 - Rectangular walls enclosed a single room in which an entire family lived together
 - Floors usually of hard-packed dirt
 - Wall had a few openings for windows
 - Doors in the front and back walls for quick exit
 - Some had a firepit and a hole in the roof; others had a rough open fireplace on the gable end.
 - Standard size was 16' to 17'
 - Spaces between the logs were daubed with clay

The Frontier

- Some Notes About Log Cabins
 - It was an impermanent, simple, rough style of building suitable to a migratory people with little wealth and few possessions
 - It was an inconspicuous structure less likely to attract the attention of robbers or raiders
 - It was a style of building well-suited to a people who had a strong sense of family and a weak sense of individual privacy

The Frontier

- Family Life
 - Clear-cut distinction between men's roles and women's roles
 - Men as fighters and women as tenders of the home
 - Male domination and female dependence within the family

The Frontier

- Sex
 - Little concern for sexual privacy in the design of their houses or the style of their lives
 - Rates of prenuptial pregnancy very high

The Frontier

- Childrearing
 - For boys, the goal of childrearing was to foster pride, stubborn independence, and a warrior's courage
 - This tended to create a society of autonomous individuals who were unable to endure external controls and incapable of restraining their rage against anyone who stood in their way
 - Girls were expected be self-denying
 - Mothers were expected to teach the domestic virtues of Industry, obedience, patience, sacrifice, & devotion to others

The Frontier

- Childrearing
 - Corporal punishment – condemned in the abstract but much practiced in an intermittent way
 - Childrearing tended to be permissive most of the time but punctuated by acts of violence – a problem often compounded by alcohol

The Frontier

- Oral Culture & Literacy
 - Patterns and rates of literacy were very mixed, varying by place, wealth, and rank.
 - Immigrants from the Scottish lowlands, the English borderlands, and Ulster had a 20%-30% illiteracy rate in the mid-18th century
 - The culture placed a high value on memory, especially in areas where illiteracy was high

The Frontier

- Clothing
 - Women normally wore homespun linsey-woolsey
 - Men wore shirts of linen in the summer and deerskin in the winter with loose flowing trousers or breeches
 - Many of the elements of “western dress” derive from the backcountry, although modified by Mexican elements in the 19th century and Hollywood in the 20th.

The Frontier

- Diet
 - Often consisted of curdled or thickened sour milk, butter, bacon, cornbread, and potatoes
 - Griddle cakes and pancakes were very popular. So were grits (made from cornmeal mush) which replaced the oats popular in the British borderlands.
 - The British taste for lamb and mutton yielded to pork, which was either boiled or fried.
 - Backcountry cooking ran more to boiling than to roasting or baking
 - Soups, porridges, and stews were common

The Frontier

- Drink
 - The distinctive backcountry beverage was whiskey.
 - Common table drink even for children (when sweetened with a little sugar)
 - A taste for liquor distilled from grain was uncommon in the south and east of England, but common in north Britain, Scotland, and Ulster
 - In the backcountry, Scotch whiskey (distilled from barley) yielded to Bourbon whiskey (distilled from corn and rye)

The Frontier

- Sports
 - Individual competitions in running, jumping, leaping, and throwing things (axes, spears, sledge hammers & cannon balls)
 - The Scots introduced the Caledonian Games which featured the above events in its competitions
 - Shot put, hammer throw, running broad jump, high jump, pole vaulting, hop-step-and-jump, hurdles, sack races, wheelbarrow races, & three-legged races
 - In the 19th century, athletic clubs, schools, and colleges began to sponsor many of the above events.
 - This eventually led to modern track & field

The Frontier

- Notes on Order
 - While there were official sheriffs, order-keeping was often done by ad hoc groups of self-appointed vigilantes
 - This was less a product of the frontier environment and more the tradition of retributive folk justice that was carried from the British borderlands to the American backcountry
 - Of 326 vigilante movements, 211 occurred in the southern highlands and the southern rim. Most of the remainder were on the fringes of that region

The Frontier

- Key Cultural Concepts
 - In the absence of any strong sense of order as unity, hierarchy, or social peace, the backsettlers saw order as a system of retributive justice
 - Strong libertarianism

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- Once established in America, these regional cultures:
 - Adapted their European origin culture to American conditions
 - Created characteristic institutions and cultural values
 - Experienced a pattern of cultural evolution
 - Puritans became Yankees
 - Virginia Royalist became Whigs
 - Backcountry settlers became frontiersmen
 - Quakers become a minority in the Middle Colonies

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- From their beginnings to the 1760s, England had largely left the American colonies on their own. This reflected:
 - English Crown's fiscal poverty
 - Proprietary colonies
 - Colonies left to defend themselves
 - Political turmoil in 17th century England as crown battled parliament for supremacy
 - England's involvement in a succession of 18th century wars with France

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- Between 1660 and 1760, England's elite created a set of new institutions which still dominate English life
 - A Royal Navy that dominated the seas
 - The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts
 - Bank of England
 - The regimental tradition of the British Army
 - The concept of the king-in-parliament and the institution of the prime minister
 - Whitehall bureaucracy

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- Despite England's military buildup, the colonies were still left to fend for themselves since
 - British military strategy was focused on protecting England and Ireland from French invasion and supporting European allies on the Continent
 - In so far as resources were diverted to the Western Hemisphere, they went to protect the sugar-producing islands of the West Indies

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- In the 17th century when the English economy and state were weak, the Crown had encouraged emigration to reduce unemployment and discontent at home and to exile dissidents from political influence
- In the 18th century, the Crown began to discourage emigration from England so that, in conjunction with the English manufacturers demand for cheap labor, emigration from England declined.
- Thus in the 17th century, 350,000 English emigrated to the colonies; in the 18th century, only 80,000 English emigration, of which 50,000 were convicts

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- While wishing to curtail English emigration, colonial officials still wished to encourage emigration to the colonies
 - In 1740, Parliament passed the Plantation Act which enabled foreign-born colonists to win British citizenship by residing for 7 years in any colony, swearing allegiance to the king, paying a 2-shilling fee, and taking communion in any Protestant church
 - This invented the notion of America as an asylum from religious persecution and political oppression in Europe
 - It also led to the emigration to America of about 100,000 Germans, about 75% of which landed in Philadelphia, with most settling in rural Pennsylvania and some in western Maryland and Virginia

Breaking Away from Britain

- The First Great Awakening
 - Period of Revivalism
 - Revivalism was the consequence of a shift away from the Calvinist concept of grace to a new concept
 - Calvinism – Grace was necessary for salvation, but it could not be earned by man. It was given only to the elect.
 - Revivalism – Grace was necessary for salvation, but it was available to all who freely chose to accept it.
 - Created the itinerant revivalist preacher who seeks to win souls, often via ‘hellfire & brimstone’ sermons – Jonathon Edwards, George Whitfield, John Wesley

Breaking Away from Britain

- The First Great Awakening
 - Led to a split in Congregationalism between the Old Lights and the New Lights
 - Led to the birth of the Methodists
 - Led to the rise of the Baptists (and the Methodists) from fringe religious groups to major denominations
 - Broke up the religious monopoly of the Congregationalists in New England and the Anglicans in the Tidewater South
 - Enhanced the religious pluralism of the Middle Colonies

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The British Victory in the Seven Years War which ended in 1763
 - Permitted the large colonial population to break through the Appalachian Mountains into the vast Mississippi River Valley watershed
 - This led to major Indian wars – one with the Cherokees in the South and the other with the Indians of the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes
 - To mollify the Indians, the British barred settlement west of the Appalachians

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The conquest of Canada deprived the colonists and the British of a common enemy that had united them in the past
 - This victory encouraged the British to restructure the Empire and make the colonists pay a greater share of the costs
 - The victory emboldened the colonists to defy the British because they no longer needed protection from the French

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The Seven Year War brought about 25,000 British troops to the colonies -- the first time that British troops had conducted military operations on the American mainland.
 - English officers were appalled to discover that the colonists routinely ignored imperial regulations, such as the 1733 Molasses Act
 - New Englanders were shocked by the irreligion, swearing, gambling, whoring, and Sabbath-breaking of British troops

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The Seven Years War brought American soldiers from different colonies together in various campaigns
 - The soldiers from different colonies saw that they were more alike than different and that they were all different from the British

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The Seven Years War doubled the British national debt from a prewar £73 million to a postwar £137 million, with interest payments consuming more than 60% of the annual budget.
 - In addition, the crown decided to maintain a 10,000 man garrison in the colonies, primarily in Canada and the Great Lakes
- This led Parliament to begin taxing the colonies

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The colonial leaders saw the new permanent army in North America as a threat rather than as a source of protection
 - The troops provided a pretext for new taxes and the means for enforcing them
 - After making peace with the Indians, British troops were seen as protecting the Indians from the settlers rather than enabling the settlers to dispossess the Indians

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The Colonists balked at new taxes, detecting a dangerous precedent that threatened their prosperity and liberties:
 - The colonists saw liberty as rooted in the notion that a free man paid no tax unless levied by his own representatives. Without such a protection from arbitrary taxation, people gradually but inevitably became enslaved by domineering rulers

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The Seven Year War and the postwar years had marked the first time that large numbers of British troops had been stationed in America. This fact and the increasingly rancorous constitutional debate with Parliament revealed to both British and Americans the divergent development of their societies

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- In Britain, most common men were dependents, either tenants of an aristocratic landlord or landless laborers dependent upon an employer
- In America, most adult free men were landowning 'independent' farmers
- To British eyes, a land of so many independent men and chattel slaves seemed threatening to proper order
 - Insubordinate common people who did not understand deference to their betters
 - Vulgar leaders grown too arrogant from dominating slaves

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- American leaders feared that small new taxes would set precedents for increasing levies that would enrich an official elite around the royal governors while impoverishing common taxpayers and limiting social mobility
 - Colonists defended property rights since property alone made men truly independent and free
 - Colonists defended their traditional liberties as a means to protect their property

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The Stamp Act taxes fell most heavily on newsprint and legal documents
 - this offended four groups capable of causing serious trouble for the British – newspaper printers, lawyers, merchants, & college students
 - These groups constituted the opinion makers of the colonies
 - It politicized the press by making it a forum for discussion and protest, turning protest into a coherent opposition movement
 - It fostered Americanization by creating an awareness of all the colonies being in the same situation and by fostering inter-colonial cooperation

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- Besides taxing the colonies, England tried to bring the American colonies into line with English practices
 - In 1758, the Archbishop of Canterbury tried to create a uniform Anglican religious establishment in the American colonies
 - In 1774, Governor Bernard of Massachusetts proposed the creation of an American peerage similar to that of the Irish peerage
- These constituted additional causes of colonial fear and resentment

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- British policies after 1763 threatened all four American cultures
- Result: the four cultures forgot their differences and joined together in the movement that led to the American Revolution

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The Revolutionary War Went through three phases, each phase waged by one of the regional cultures
 - New England (1775-76)
 - Middle Colonies (1776-78)
 - South
 - Backcountry (1779-81)
 - Coastal South (1779-81)

Breaking Away from Great Britain

- The loyalists who opposed the Revolution tended to be groups outside the major regional cultures
 - The imperial elites in the colonial capitals
 - Ethnic groups who lived on the margins of the major cultures – the polyglot population of lower New York, the Highland Scots of Carolina, and the African slaves
- The Delaware Valley with its pacifist Quaker and German Pietist populations was largely neutral