

# Early English Colonial Society and the Development of Governance

SSUSH 2

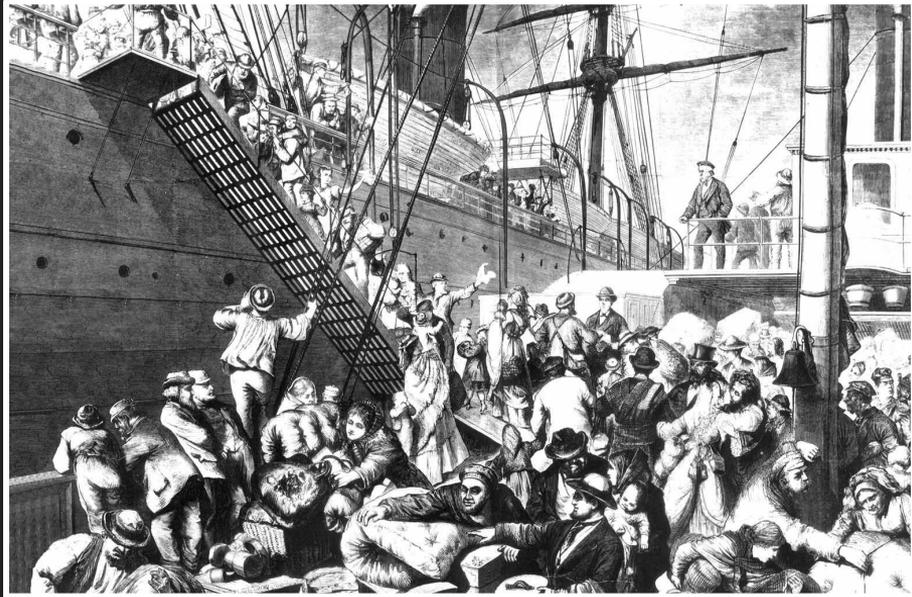
Describe the early English colonial society and investigate the development of its governance.

# What did we just learn?

- Made up of diverse ethnic groups and individuals
  - arrived in North America with different goals and under different circumstances
- Colonies grew quickly
- Economic opportunity, social mobility, and financial gain attracted colonists from many different locations
- Local self-government also emerged during England's early period of salutary neglect
- Not all people came to the English colonies by choice
  - Africans were forced into permanent slave labor arrangements



# What did we just learn?



- The different English colonial regions (Southern, Mid-Atlantic, and New England) developed different societal characteristics
- Unemployment as well as political and religious turmoil prior prompted immigrants to leave England

# What did we just learn?

- Southern Colonies tended to attract young English men seeking financial gain
- New England Colonies, with their religious foundations, tended to attract more English families for settlement.
- The Mid-Atlantic Colonies had greater ethnic and religious diversity than the other regions
- After 1660, England's economy improved
- The more stable conditions led to fewer Englishmen immigrating to America.



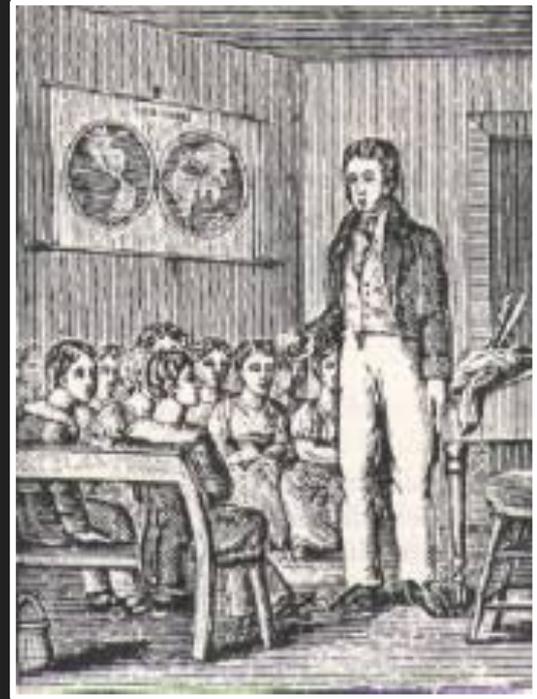
# What did we just learn?



- Other European countries experienced greater economic and political difficulties
  - resulted in heightened Irish, Scottish, and German immigration
- Religion in the colonies varied by region.
- The Great Awakening was the religious response to the Enlightenment
  - emphasized more individual relationships with God
  - Fostered an independence among colonists that would later contribute to independent political thought

# What did we just learn?

- Education was emphasized differently in the colonial regions.
- New England Colonies tended to support the establishment of schools within their townships.
- Population of New England Colonies was primarily concentrated into towns
  - making schools more feasible given the close proximity of students.
  - religious foundation also fostered literacy in order to read the Bible.
- The Southern colonies, with their strong emphasis on large-scale agriculture, were not conducive for formal schools.



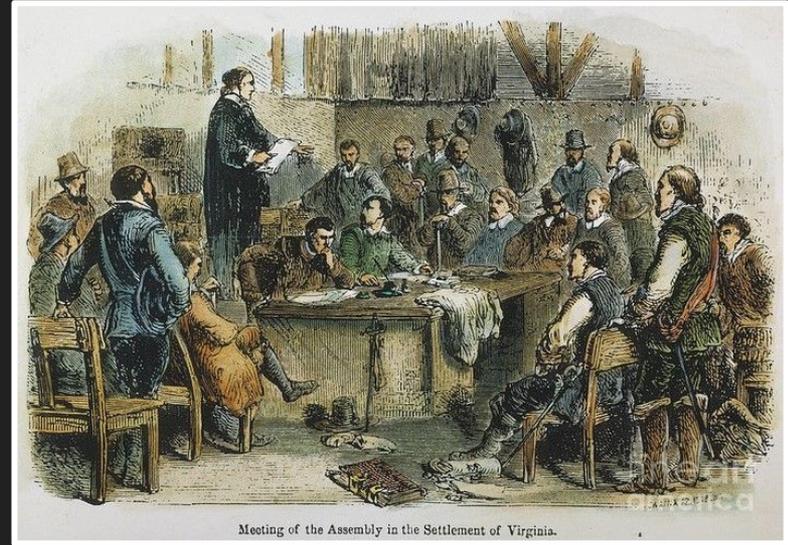
# What did we just learn?



- Fewer towns and cities formed in the Southern Colonies due to landowners being more spread out for farming.
  - There were few locations where a schoolhouse would have been practical.
- Instead, wealthy planters in the Southern Colonies who wanted to educate their children relied on privately hired tutors or sent their children to boarding schools in England.
- The Mid-Atlantic colonies emphasized the importance of education in similar fashion to the New England colonies.

# What did we just learn?

- The colonies developed systems of local self-government
- Most colonies had local assemblies to legislate on local matters while still remaining loyal to the king in England
- Voter eligibility was much greater in the colonies than in England.
- Land was scarce & expensive in England, more abundant & cheaper in the colonies.
- A representative local government in the colonies existed
- England had limited involvement in colonial government matters as long as the mercantilist demand for resources was being met.

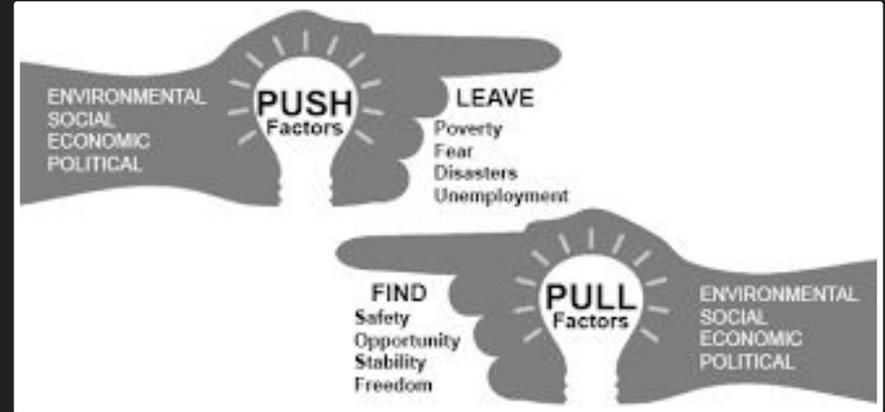


## SSUSH 2 A

Describe European cultural diversity including the contributions of different ethnic and religious groups

# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society

- Various European cultures came to the American colonies.
- Approximately 250,000 Europeans migrated to the colonies by 1700.
- By the American Revolution, the population of the colonies was approaching 2.5 million.
- Ethnic groups living in America during the colonial period
  - Scotland, Ireland, and Germany.
- Various “push factors” led immigrants to seek opportunity in England’s American colonies



# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society



- Most of the Scottish and Irish immigrants settled in the mountainous backcountry frontier located west of established colonial settlements.
  - The unique speech patterns and folks songs characteristic of the Appalachian region can be traced to the Scottish and Irish colonial immigrants
- German immigrants began to populate the American colonies during the early period.
  - Germany was divided into many small rival principalities whose quests for power led to violence.

# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society

- To finance each principalities' defense, the people living there were taxed heavily and often forced into military service.
- The strict control German princes exerted left the commoners searching for better opportunities and autonomy.
- William Penn recruited these disgruntled Germans to immigrate to his new colony of Pennsylvania.
- German immigrants reported back to their kin in Europe about abundant land, plentiful food, cheap taxes, and no forced military service



# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society



- Result = more Germans arrived in America seeking land and opportunity.
- The Mid-Atlantic colonies came into English possession already ethnically diverse
- The cultures represented in these colonies included Dutch, Swedish, Finnish, German, Scottish, and French.
- The various groups had to work together and tolerate the differences between them.

# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society

- Georgia was quite diverse
  - Germans known as the Salzburgers settled in what is now Effingham county, and a group of Sephardic Jews immigrated to Savannah
- Non-English colonists tended to adapt to the culture of the original settlers.
  - Adopted the English language, law, customs, and habits of thought
  - Did not mean that all settlers transformed themselves
- The final result was a unique culture - a blend of English & European characteristics conditioned by the environment of the new world



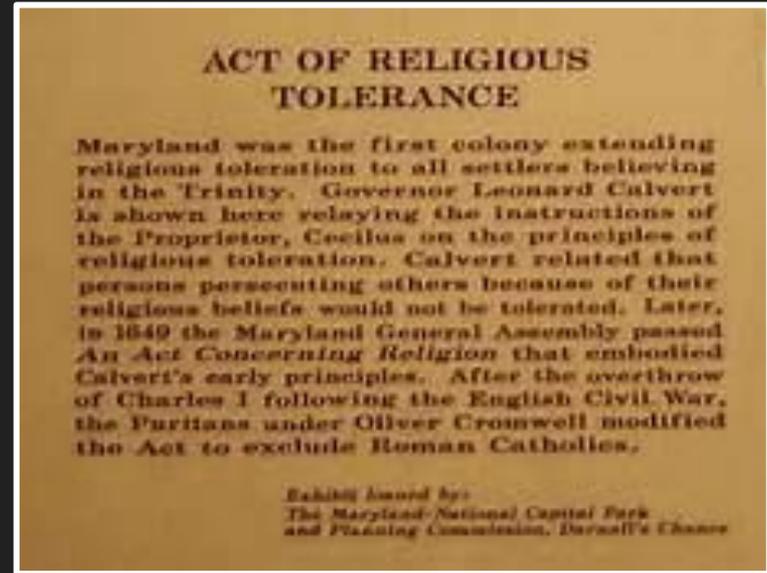
# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society



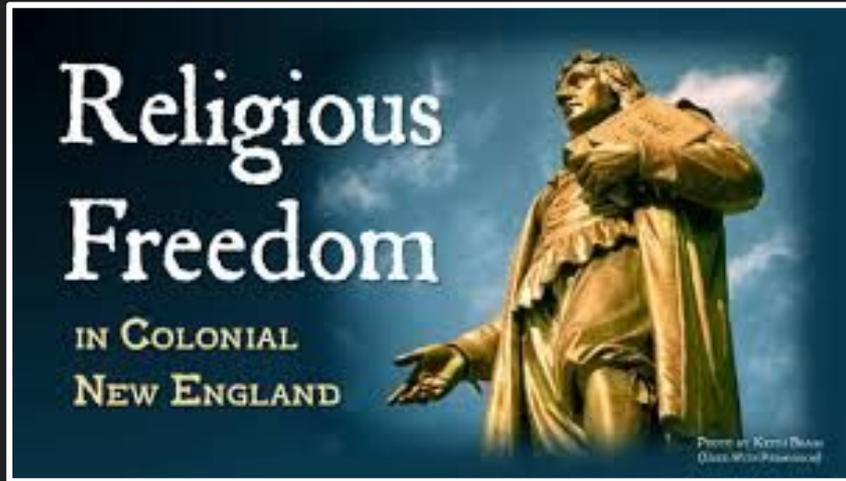
- Elements of these various European cultures came together to create a basis for a uniquely American culture.
  - from language, style, food, and architecture
- Various religious groups also made their way to England's American colonies seeking opportunity for the free practice of their faiths.
- Puritans firmly established their religious values in the New England colonies.
  - they did not tolerate other religious practices in their own colonies.

# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society

- Maryland was established as a colony for Catholics to worship freely
  - legislated their religious protection through the Acts of Toleration in 1649.
- Rhode Island was accepting of all religions including followers of Protestant sects, Catholicism, Judaism, & Quakerism.
  - Quakers settled primarily in Pennsylvania and were also very tolerant of other faiths.
- The diversity of religions meant that no one faith held a majority in those colonies.



# European Cultural Diversity & the Contribution to Colonial Society



- Therefore, no one religion became the established religion in those colonies.
- The American tradition of separating church and state was born from this religious diversity in the colonies.
- The foundation for cultural and religious diversity in the United States was set during the early colonial period with the planting of English colonies that became home to a wide array of immigrants from various countries and religious backgrounds.

# Additional Resources

- National Humanities Center offers a wide variety of on their website pertaining to the ethnic and religious diversity of the American colonies. The title of the online resource collection is “Divining America.” <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/divam.htm>

## SSUSH 2 B

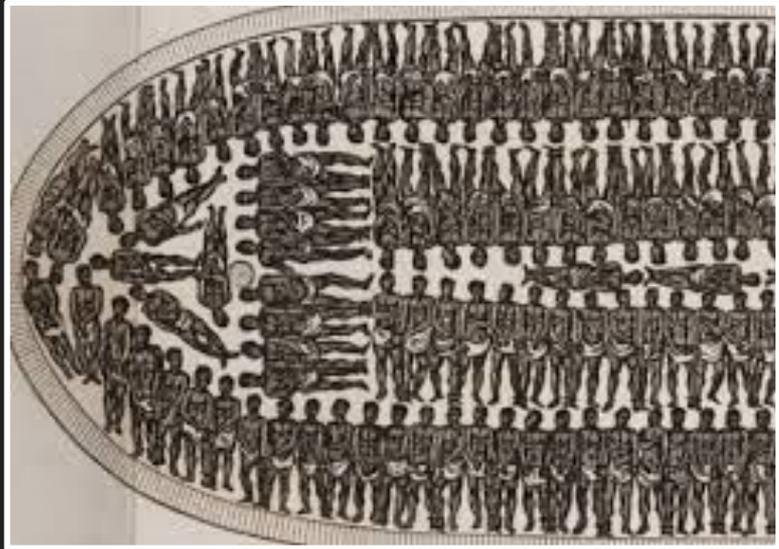
Describe the Middle Passage, the growth of the African population and their contributions, including but not limited to architecture, agriculture, and foodways.

# The Effects of the Middle Passage & the Growth of the African Population

- As farmers prospered in the colonies, they expanded the size of their farms.
- This resulted in a need for workers to plant, grow, and harvest the crops
  - farmers turned to African slaves to fulfill their growing labor needs.
- First African slaves arrived in VA in 1619.
  - In the colonial period approximately 250,000 Africans were imported
  - Majority of these slaves were concentrated in the Southern Colonies
  - Although all of the English colonies had slaves



# The Effects of the Middle Passage & the Growth of the African Population



- African slaves were brought to North America on crowded and dangerous slave ships - “Middle Passage”
  - Between three & four hundred slaves were packed into cargo holds of slave ships
  - Sickness, fear, and brutality was the common experience
  - About two of every ten slaves died during the Middle Passage.
  - [http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the\\_history\\_of\\_american\\_slavery/2015/06/animated\\_interactive\\_of\\_the\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_atlantic\\_slave\\_trade.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html)

# The Effects of the Middle Passage & the Growth of the African Population

- There was no single African culture.
- Slaves represented a large number of different cultures.
- In an effort to control the slaves, slave owners attempted to strip away the cultural identity of their slaves and replace it with their own
- However, the physical isolation of slaves from their masters led to the creation of a new blended culture rather than the replacement of one culture over another.
  - Resulted in the creation of a unique African American culture



# The Effects of the Middle Passage & the Growth of the African Population



- The practice of blending African tribes on a single plantation led to the creation of blended languages such as Creole in Louisiana and Gullah in coastal Georgia.
  - Foods, such as okra, watermelon, yams (sweet potatoes), rice, and even grits have been attributed to cultural blending
- Economically, coastal South Carolina and Georgia owed its prosperity to the introduction of rice that was spread by West African and West Indian slaves.
- African influences can be detected in America's architecture development.

# The Effects of the Middle Passage & the Growth of the African Population

- Slave labor often built the homes & buildings of their masters.
  - traces of Africanism found their way into the styles of buildings being constructed
  - The “shotgun” style home has been traced to a dwelling style popular in Haiti and to a style of hut popular among the people of western Africa.
  - A shotgun house is characterized as being very narrow & long with a front porch.



# The Effects of the Middle Passage & the Growth of the African Population



- Archaeologists also suggest that some of the building materials used on Georgia plantations may have African roots.
- The wattle, daub and tabby material used in early Georgia coastal construction is similar to the woven sticks covered in mud or clay technique of West Africa Ashanti homes.

# Additional Resources

- National Museum of African American History and Culture contains a wide variety of resources online <https://nmaahc.si.edu/cultural-expressions>
- The Smithsonian National Museum of American History has an online resources that details the African slave trade.  
[http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/1\\_4.html](http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/1_4.html)

## SSUSH 2 C

Describe different methods of colonial self-governance in the period of Salutary Neglect.

# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect

- The Catholic monarch, James II, took the English throne in 1685
  - tried to single handedly rule without Parliament.
  - England's Protestant majority was fearful of the new king's unrestricted power.
- James II also put the North American colonies more tightly under his control by revoking charters and combining the New England colonies
  - governed by a governor and council appointed by the King.



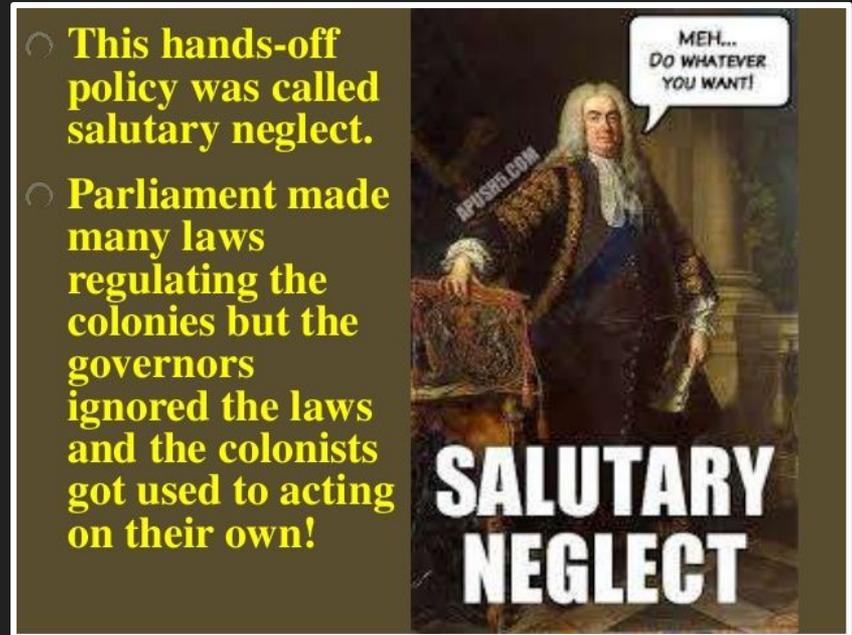
# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect



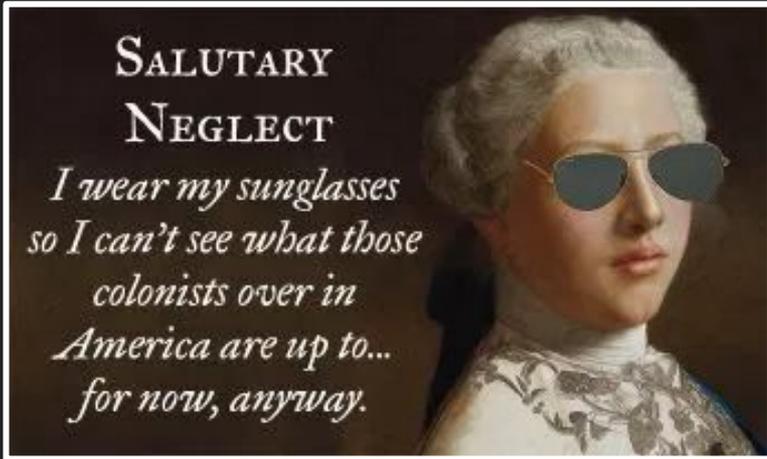
- In 1689, the Glorious Revolution marked the overthrow of James II.
  - replaced by the Protestant monarchs, King William and Queen Mary, who signed the English Bill of Rights
  - The combined colonies of New England were dissolved by the colonies and they returned to their previous colonial arrangement
- One outcome of the reestablishment of the colonies was the combination of Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth into one Massachusetts colony.

# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect

- The colonies re-established their local governments at the time of the Glorious Revolution.
- In 1721, Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister in England.
  - His approach to the colonies became known as Salutary Neglect.
  - believed that the colonies would become more economically productive if they were not restricted by cumbersome policies that limited their ability to trade



# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect



- The colonies were less restricted in their ability to build up their own trade networks and govern themselves because of the policy of Salutary Neglect.
  - As long as England was receiving the colonial resources they needed there would be less oversight
- The colonies had always been somewhat independent of English control
  - due to distance, structure of the colonial governments, and the greater proportion of eligible voters in the colonies.

# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect

- Methods of colonial self-government that existed firmly established a tradition of independence
  - would later lead to revolution between England and her colonies
- Political structure of each colony before the Revolutionary War consisted of a governor and an elected legislature
  - Earliest elected legislature, the **House of Burgesses** was established shortly after Jamestown, Virginia founding
  - long traditions of making local policies and were made up of locally elected colonists



**P** **Political Structure**

- All colonies had bicameral legislatures (2 Houses)
- Lower House Elected
  - Voted on taxation (with representation)
- Governors/Upper Houses chosen differently
  - 8 Royal colonies chosen by the crown
  - 3 Proprietary (MD, PA, DE) appointed by proprietors
  - 2 (CT, RI) had elected governors
- Local Government most important to people
  - New England: Town meetings
  - South: Sheriff/county administrators

# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect

## Colonial Comparisons

### Reasons for Settlement

**New England Colonies:** Escape Religious Persecution

**Middle Colonies:** Established as a result of England taking over nations' colonies.

**Southern Colonies:** Economic Opportunity (Jamestown)

### Political Structure

**New England Colonies:** Representative bodies elected by church members (colony-wide); town meetings (local) practiced direct democracy

**Middle Colonies:** Representative bodies chosen by eligible voters (men with property)

**Southern Colonies:** Representative bodies controlled by wealthy land owners and influenced by British

- Taxes were levied by colonial representatives
  - established the tradition of local taxation
- Many New England colonies had town meetings that met regularly for people to vote directly on public issues.
  - Voting was often restricted to only white males who owned some land.
  - This criteria encompassed a much higher proportion of citizens than other countries - including England.
- Religious restrictions had even been removed from the New England colonies' voter eligibility

# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect

- An expectation emerged that the local legislatures would be responsible for looking out for the interests of all colonists and not just the wealthy.
- This concept played out dramatically with the events surrounding Bacon's Rebellion in Jamestown in the late 1670s.

## Bacon's Rebellion:

- Former indentured servants had worked off their debt but could not afford land in the township itself.
  - Had to move farther into the frontier and often faced conflicts over land with the area's American Indians.



# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect



## Bacon's Rebellion:

- Poor citizens paid taxes & expected the House of Burgesses to provide protections, even though they lived further out from the wealthy Jamestown community.
- Nathanael Bacon led these poor citizens
  - first against the American Indians
  - then against the Jamestown elite
    - including the Royal Governor William Berkeley
- Bacon's Rebellion established an expectation in America that the government would work for the good of all citizens – not just the wealthy.

# Colonial Self-Governance and Salutary Neglect

- The tradition of colonial self-government began with the pledge of majority rule under the Mayflower Compact and the establishment of colonial legislatures.
- During the period of Salutary Neglect, the role of these local assemblies expanded.
  - England scaled back political oversight as long as the resources were being provided to England.
- Political autonomy and self-government in the colonies grew to be an expectation
  - formed an independent American identity that ultimately led to war between England and the colonies.



# Additional Resources

- The Jamestown Rediscovery website of Historic Jamestown has a section of their website devoted to the history of the House of Burgesses.

<http://historicjamestowne.org/history/the-first-general-assembly/>

## SSUSH 2 D

Explain the role of the Great Awakening in creating unity in the colonies and challenging traditional authority.

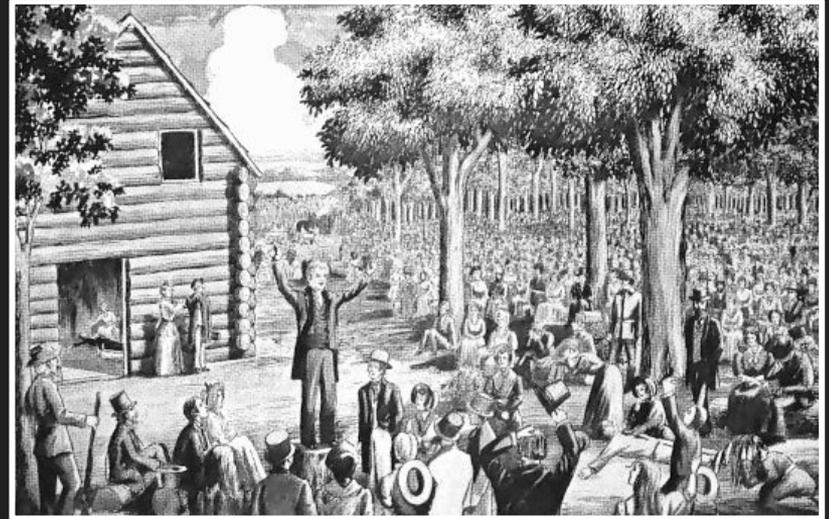
# The Great Awakening



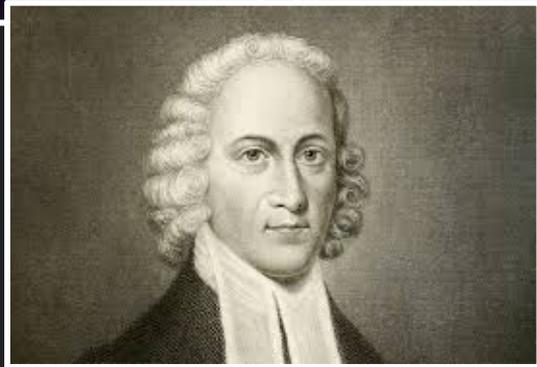
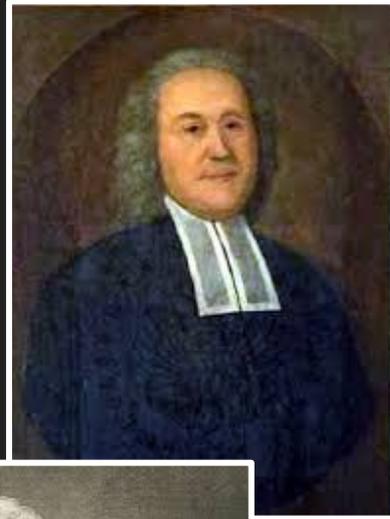
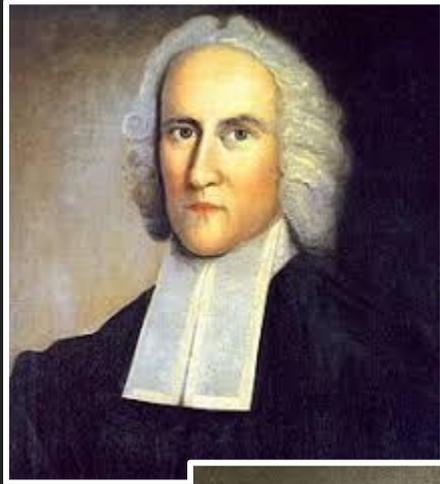
- Was a religious movement influenced by the revivals that were sweeping through England, Scotland, and Germany in the 1730s.
- Spread from Europe to the colonies in the following decade and continued until the eve of the American Revolution.
- Placed an emphasis on individual religious experience rather than religious experience through church doctrine.
- Challenged established authorities
  - colonists questioned the need to follow the Church of England, the English monarchy and its authorities.

# The Great Awakening

- There was a religious and social shared struggle during the Awakening
  - This easily transferred to the shared struggle for independence that was beginning to unify the colonies.
- The Great Awakening was in part a reaction to the Enlightenment
  - emphasized logic and reason
  - stressed the power of the individual to understand the universe based on scientific laws
- Individuals grew to rely more on a personal approach to salvation rather than church rules and dictates



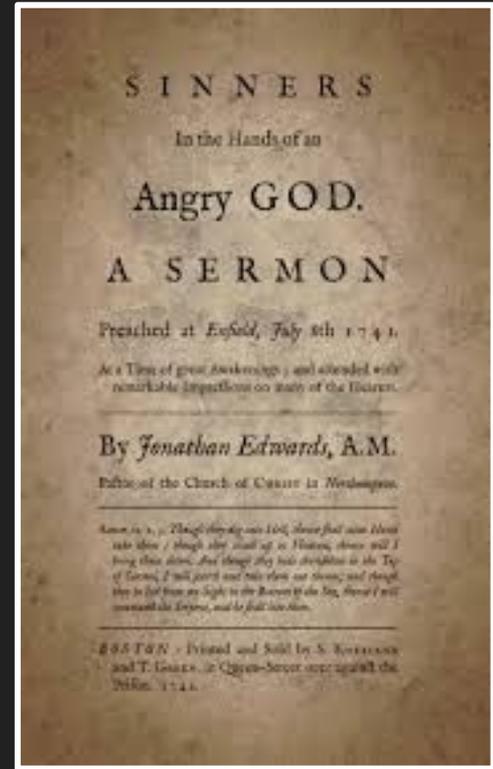
# The Great Awakening



- The Great Awakening had strong appeal across all cross sections of society in each of the thirteen colonies.
  - Urged Christians to adopt a more emotional involvement in Christianity through fervent prayer and personal study of the Bible.
- Pastors' sermons were emotional, appealing to the heart not just the head.
  - Ministers such as Jonathan Edwards, William Tennent, and George Whitefield
- New denominations gained members and challenged some of the old established colonial denominations

# The Great Awakening

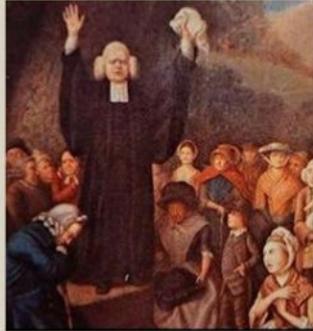
- Practicing religion became an emotional experience and intellectual experience.
- One of the most famous sermons that typifies the religious fervor and emotional nature of the Great Awakening was Jonathan Edwards' "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."
  - The sermon urged the congregation to repent and not provoke God who is all knowing.
- American colonies had been founded on the idea that government ruled on the basis of a covenant relationship with God and the people
  - e.g., The Mayflower Compact



# The Great Awakening

## Results of the Great Awakening

- ☞ Religious diversity and tolerance
- ☞ Because of disagreements between “Old Lights” and “New Lights,” many different denominations were created
- ☞ No one denomination would dominate
- ☞ People accepted the free exercise of religion



- The governance structure of the new churches reflected this idea
- as churches appointed their own ministers and administered their own churches.
- This sense of independence was soon reinforced by the political ideas of John Locke’s social contract and Thomas Paine’s emotional appeal for independence.

# Additional Resources

- <http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2FyZHMueWFsZS5lZHUvY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdwaGlsby9nZXRvYmplY3QucGw/Yy4yMTo0Ny53amV>  
v
- The Library of Congress' Exhibition "Religion and the Founding of the Republic" has an excellent overview of the various religious movements of colonial America, including the Great Awakening. Images and documents from the period are featured in the online collection. <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/rel02.html>