

# Jamestown & the Chesapeake



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## England

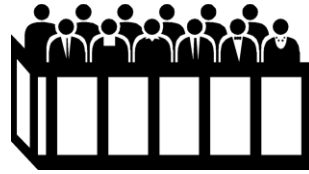
- Liberties
  - Unwritten constitution (started w/Magna Carta)
  - Limited monarch's power
    - Depended on Parliament for revenue
    - English Civil War between Parliament and Crown left Parliament victorious



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## – Common Law

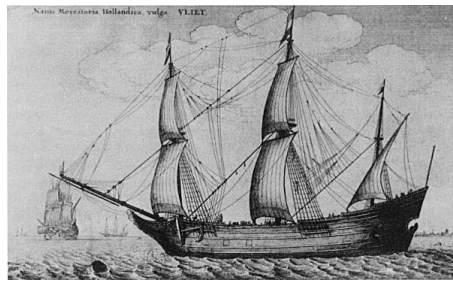
- Habeas Corpus
  - People could only be arrested or have goods seized if a court issued a warrant
- Trial by jury



3

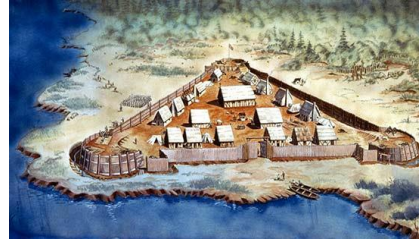


- Joint-stock companies spurred commercial expansion
  - Stockholders pool money to share risks and profits
  - Exploration businesses



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# Spanish vs. English



- Spanish Colonies
  - Conquered empires & replaced them with Spanish authority
  - Regulated all aspects of life
  - Mixed Native and European culture
- English Colonies
  - No empires in North America (why was population so low?)
  - First colonies run by corporations
  - Settlers tried to transplant English life to New World, not mix their culture with Amerindians
    - In the end they modified English life to fit the environment, and forced out Amerindians.

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## Jamestown



- First successful English colony in North America
- Established by Virginia Company in 1607.
  - They hope to find gold or a passage to Asia, but all they found was a swamp. They settled at a bend in the river hoping that no rival Europeans would find & kill them.
  - 14,000 migrated between 1607 and 1624, but by 1624 only 1,132 were left (8%). Starvation, disease, and fights with Indians took the rest.

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## So how did they survive?


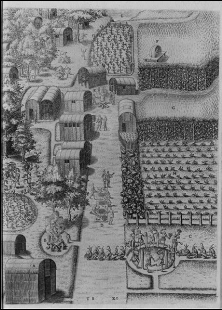


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- John Smith
  - A mercenary hired by the Virginia Company.
  - Saved Jamestown from disaster
  - Said “He that will not work will not eat.”
  - He kept the colony going for a time but it still wasn’t profitable.




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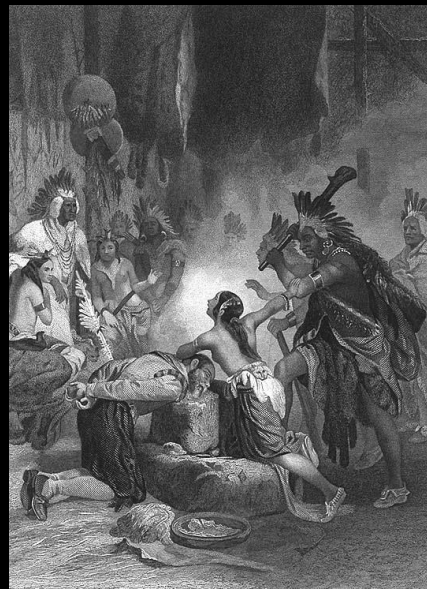
POWHATAN  
*At this Place & within whose Cape Smith was delivered to him prisoner*  
 1607

- Local chief was Powhatan
  - Chief of around 10,000 other Native Americans
    - Subjects belonged to other tribes he had conquered
    - Conquered tribes handed over 80% of their farm crop to Powhatan
  - Powhatan's initial strategy was to watch and wait, although his men did capture Smith when he trespassed on their territory
    - Powhatan almost had Smith executed, but supposedly his daughter Pocahontas begged for his life



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Pocahontas was actually about 11 when she supposedly saved John Smith



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- After John Smith left most of the colonists died of disease or starvation
  - One man was executed for killing his pregnant wife and feasting on her remains

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- Later leaders enforced a strict militaristic discipline
  - Those who tried to escape & join the Indians were hanged or burned at the stake
  - One man caught stealing oatmeal was chained to a tree & left to starve to death as an example



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- Jamestown also attacked the local Indians
  - Pocahontas was kidnapped and held hostage, but she decided to join the English



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- Amerindians were not helpless victims, but independent actors.
- Pocahontas married John Rolfe, who started growing tobacco in Virginia



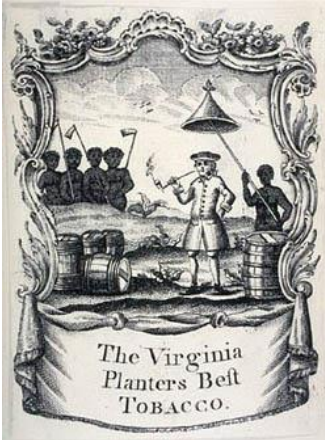
*Matoaka als Rebecca daughter to the mighty Prince Powhatan Emperour of Ananoughcomock als virginia converted and baptiz'd in the Christian faith, and wife to the Swor. M<sup>r</sup>. John Rolfe. Comp. et del. J. W. G.*

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Soon millions of pounds of tobacco were sold in England



17

Tobacco made Virginia rich, but VA needed workers



- Indentured Servants
  - Temporary slaves (3 to 7 years) work in exchange for transportation to the New World
    - **Workers were beaten or raped, but the owner had to give them money, or “freedom dues” at the end of their service**
  - “Headright” system
    - Colonist gets land if he pays for an indentured servant to cross the Atlantic



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- African Slaves

- Dutch traders brought them to Jamestown in 1619
- At first they were treated as indentured servants, not property
- After their term of service ended, some went on to own land and buy their own slaves



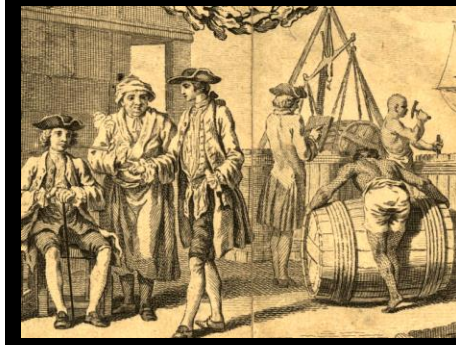
**TO BE SOLD** on board the  
Ship *Bance Island*, on tuesday the 6th  
of *May* next, at *Abley-Ferry*; a choice  
cargo of about 250 fine healthy  
**NEGROES**,  
just arrived from the  
*Windward & Rice Coast*.  
—The utmost care has  
already been taken, and  
shall be continued, to keep them free from  
the least danger of being infected with the  
**SMALL-POX**, no boat having been on  
board, and all other communication with  
people from *Charles-Town* prevented.  
*Aulin, Laurens, & Appleby.*  
N. B. Full one Half of the above Negroes have had the  
SMALL-POX in their own Country.



19



- Eventually the demand for tobacco meant that settlers needed more land and more workers for the fields  
– Who will that anger?



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## Virginia Government

- In 1624 the Virginia Company was dissolved
- Royal colony
  - Royal Governor, Elected Assembly, & Anglican Church
- House of Burgesses
  - Representative assembly
  - Colonists had been allowed a representative assembly since 1619 so the crown allowed it to continue
- Planters began to consolidate their political power in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century



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