

Faith and Empire

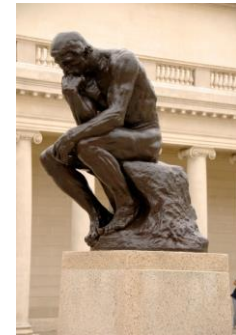





1

The Enlightenment

- Belief in using reason & research to study all aspects of life
- Four major principles
 1. There is an order to the world
 2. Human reason has the power to understand all things
 3. Individuals have natural rights
 4. Society will progressively improve



2

- Montesquieu
 - Separation of powers
- Voltaire
 - Freedom of speech
- Rousseau
 - Popular sovereignty



It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets.

Voltaire



"I have never made but one prayer to God, a very short one: Oh Lord, make my enemies ridiculous. And God granted it."

Voltaire

GeniusQuotes.net

3

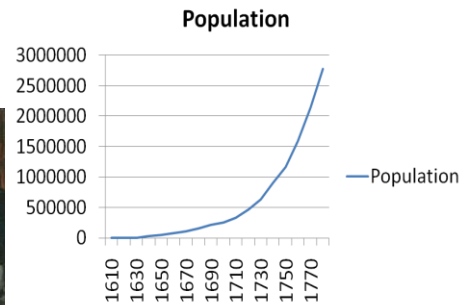
Benjamin Franklin



- Most important colonial figure of the Enlightenment
 - Philosopher, author, and scientist
 - Deist
 - Deism is belief that God is like a clockmaker
 - **planned the universe & set it in motion, but does not interfere**

4

Colonial Population



- Once the colonies were stable, population grew quickly
 - Scarce labor encouraged large families
 - **Most women had 6 or 7 children by age 40.**
 - **In 1700 ratio of British at home vs. colonies was 20:1, by 1775 it was 3:1**

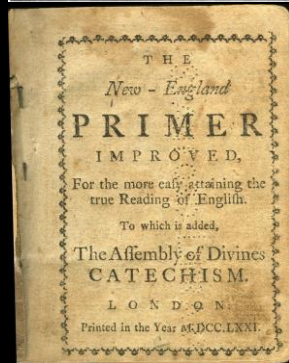
Women in the Colonies



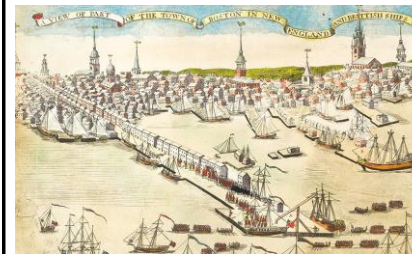
- Considered inferior
 - Obey husbands, nurture children, and maintain the household
 - Social custom & legal codes ensured that women remained without power
 - Could not vote, preach, hold office, attend school, own property (unless they were widows), or bring a lawsuit

Education


- Usually the responsibility of the church & family, not the state
- New England placed a high priority on education
 - **Wanted all to be able to read the Bible**
 - **Since everyone lived in close proximity schools were more feasible**
 - **Harvard College established in 1636**
- Less education in the South
 - **Gentry might send their children to England or hire tutors, but there were few schools**



Colonial Cities



- Isolated; had closer connection with London than with each other
 - Few roads, and all were made of dirt
 - Harbors allowed NY & Charleston to prosper
- Dirty, crowded, and dangerous
 - Most important gathering place was the tavern
 - **Place to drink, read the newspaper, & socialize**
 - **Example of a party in 1787. The banquet was in honor of General George Washington. The place was Philadelphia's City Tavern. It was a wild party -- political types and men dressed in wigs. In total, 55 revelers were there, down on Second Street. And this is what they drank: Fifty-four bottles of Madeira; 60 bottles of claret; 8 bottles of old stock; 22 bottles of porter; 8 bottles of hard cider; 12 bottles of beer; and 7 large bowls of punch.**

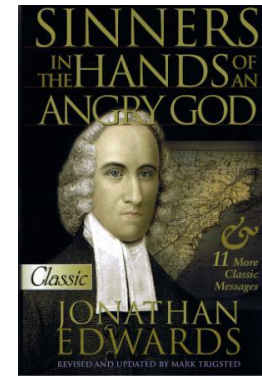


- Colonial cities had a large influence on culture, commerce, and politics
 - Urban elite were merchants
 - Next were artisans (carpenters, smiths, etc)
 - Sailors & unskilled workers at bottom

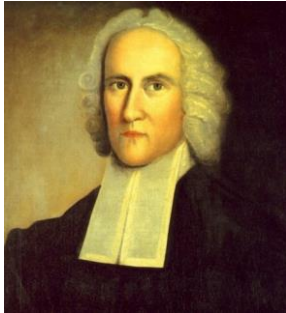
9

The Great Awakening

- A widespread revival of faith that encouraged religious freedom and egalitarianism
- New Light vs. Old Light
 - Reaction against the Enlightenment
 - First evangelical crusade
 - Challenged ministers' authority
 - Aroused commoners & upset gentry
 - Unified colonies



10



- Two most important ministers – Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield
 - **Edwards: *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God***
 - Laments the state of society/morals and predicts downfall
 - American tradition from Puritans to environmentalists
 - We need to be the City upon a Hill, but we aren't living up to it
- Spirit and reason continue to compete in America to this day



11



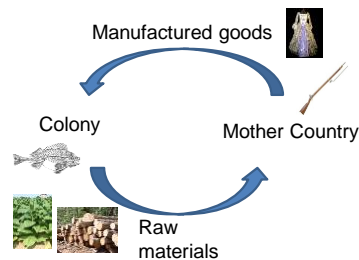
The Imperial Perspective

12

Mercantilism



- Nationalistic economic theory
 - All wealth is finite, or fixed
 - Thus one nation can only gain wealth at the expense of another
 - Nations should “keep money in the family,” or stay self-sufficient
 - Colonies exist to support the mother country
 - Maximize exports & minimize imports



13

Navigation Act of 1660



- Enforced mercantilism
 - Meant to stop Dutch ships from trading with the colonies
- Colonies could sell “enumerated” goods ONLY to England
 - Ex. Tobacco, indigo, sugar, rice, hemp
- All imports to the colonies had to come from England and have taxes paid on them
- Fortunately for colonials, enforcement was spotty and smuggling was easy



14