Chapter 4

English Colonies In an Age of Empire
1660s-1763
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- Economic Development and Imperial Trade in the British Colonies
- The Transformation of Culture
- The Colonial Political World
- Expanding Empires
- A Century of Warfare
- Conclusion
Learning Objectives

• What were the goals of British trade policy?
• How did new intellectual and religious trends reshape colonial culture?
• How did the “Glorious Revolution” affect colonial politics?
• What was the “backcountry”? Who settled there and why?
Learning Objectives (cont'd)

• What role did the colonists play in the French and Indian War?
Economic Development and Imperial Trade in the British Colonies
The Regulation of Trade

• In the trade competition among European nations, England pursued a policy of national self-sufficiency based on mercantilism that used government intervention in the economy to increase national wealth.
The Regulation of Trade (cont'd)

- Government legislation required English ships carry all imperial trade, channeled colonial trade through England, and provided advantages for English manufacturers.
The Regulation of Trade (cont'd)

- English trade policies succeeded and the colonial economy expanded twice as fast as England’s did.
  
  - **Mercantilism**
    - Economic system whereby the government intervenes in the economy for the purpose of increasing national wealth. Mercantilists advocated possession of colonies as places where the mother country could acquire raw materials not available at home.
The Regulation of Trade (cont'd)

- **Enumerated products**
  - Items produced in the colonies and enumerated in acts of Parliament that could be legally shipped from the colony of origin only to specified locations, usually England and other destinations within the British Empire.
The Colonial Export Trade and the Spirit of Enterprise

- The core of Anglo-American trade were staple crops such as sugar, tobacco, rice, and indigo produced by slave labor. After 1750, wheat became major colonial export.
New England merchants prospered by developing a transatlantic trade with England and the West Indies. They built thousands of ships and eventually dominated shipping within the empire.
FIGURE 4–1 Average Annual Value of Colonial Exports by Region, 1768–1772

- Sugar: £3,188,000
- Rum: £714,000
- Other: £10,000
- Total: £3,911,000

- Tobacco: £756,000
- Grain: £199,000
- Other: £91,000
- Total: £1,047,000

- Rice: £306,000
- Indigo: £112,000
- Deerskins: £37,000
- Naval stores: £32,000
- Other: £66,000
- Total: £552,000

- Grain: £379,000
- Flaxseed: £360,000
- Wood products: £29,000
- Iron: £28,000
- Livestock, meat: £20,000
- Other: £34,000
- Total: £527,000

- Fish: £152,000
- Livestock, meat: £90,000
- Wood products: £65,000
- Whale products: £82,000
- Other: £70,000
- Total: £439,000

Pounds Sterling (millions)

- West Indies
- Chesapeake
- Lower South
- Middle Colonies
- New England
The Import Trade and Ties of Credit

- The colonies were a major market for English manufactured goods. By the late 1760s, over 4 million pounds worth of English manufactured goods were imported into the colonies.
- A small but significant portion of the import trade was with Native Americans.
• British merchants provided easy credit, especially to planters who charged the costs of purchases and transportation against future crop profits.
### British Imperial Trade Regulations, 1651–1733

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Act</th>
<th>Key Features</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navigation Act of 1651</td>
<td>Aimed to eliminate Dutch competition in overseas trade&lt;br&gt;Required most goods to be carried in English or colonial ships&lt;br&gt;Required crews to be at least half English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navigation Act of 1660</td>
<td>Required all colonial trade to be carried in English ships&lt;br&gt;Required master and three-quarters of crew to be English&lt;br&gt;Created list of enumerated goods, such as tobacco and sugar, that could be shipped only to England or another English colony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staple Act of 1663</td>
<td>Required products from Europe, Asia, and Africa to be landed in England before being shipped to the colonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plantation Duty Act of 1673</td>
<td>Attempted to reduce smuggling&lt;br&gt;Required captains of colonial ships to post bond that they would deliver enumerated goods to England or pay the “plantation duty” that would be owed in England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation Act of 1696</td>
<td>Plugged loopholes in earlier laws&lt;br&gt;Created vice-admiralty courts in colonies to enforce trade regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolens Act of 1699</td>
<td>Forbade export of woolen cloth made in the colonies, to prevent competition with English producers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hat Act of 1732</td>
<td>Prohibited export of colony made hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molasses Act of 1733</td>
<td>Placed high tax on French West Indian and other foreign molasses imported into colonies to encourage importation of British West Indian molasses</td>
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Becoming More Like Britain: The Growth of Cities and Inequality

• The growth of commerce stimulated the rise of seaport cities. Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and Charleston rivaled many British provincial towns in population and had similar cosmopolitan characters.

• Two out of three artisans lived in colonial cities, many laboring in trades related to overseas commerce.
Becoming More Like Britain: The Growth of Cities and Inequality (cont'd)

- Colonial manufacturing occurred in workshops attached to the houses of artisans. The workforce included other family members, journeymen, and apprentices.
- Over time, the gap between the rich and poor widened leading to poverty in the cities and relief efforts.
The Transformation of Culture
Goods and Houses

- As they felt more secure economically, 18th-century Americans purchased items to make their lives more comfortable. Among other things, chairs replaced benches, carpets covered wooden floors, and walls featured mirrors and portraits.
- Prosperous colonists built grand houses that had rooms for specialized uses such as private bedrooms and parlors.
The Governor’s Palace in Williamsburg, Virginia
Shaping Minds and Manners

- Wealthy colonists cultivated genteel manners seeking to emulate the English gentry.
- Balls, musical performances, and fancy dinners reinforced wealthy colonial beliefs that they were a better class of people than ordinary settlers.
Shaping Minds and Manners (cont'd)

- Literacy rates were high among white colonists stimulating the growth of newspapers, almanacs, and other books.
- Educated colonists were especially interested in Enlightenment thought, such as Benjamin Franklin who was elected to the Royal Society of London.
Shaping Minds and Manners (cont'd)

- **Age of Enlightenment**
  - Major intellectual movement occurring in Western Europe in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Inspired by recent scientific advances, thinkers emphasized the role of human reason in understanding the world and directing its events. Their ideas placed less emphasis on God’s role in ordering worldly affairs.
By the time he was in his forties, Benjamin Franklin had already achieved considerable fame as an author, scientist, and inventor.
Colonial Religion and the Great Awakening

• In New England, religion remained at the core of society and had accommodated changing attitudes through the Halfway Covenant that eased baptism requirements.

• In the South, the Congregational Church consolidated its authority in the early 1700s.
Halfway Covenant

- Plan adopted in 1662 by New England clergy to deal with the problem of declining church membership. It allowed adults who had been baptized because their parents were church members but who had not yet experienced conversion to have their own children baptized. Without the Halfway Covenant, these third-generation children would remain unbaptized until their parents experienced conversion.
Colonial Religion and the Great Awakening (cont'd)

- **Great Awakening**
  - Tremendous religious revival in colonial America. Sparked by the tour of the English evangelical minister George Whitefield, the Awakening struck first in the Middle Colonies and New England in the 1740s and eventually spread to the southern colonies by the 1760s.

- **New Lights**
  - People who experienced conversion during the revivals of the Great Awakening.
The Colonial Political World
The Dominion of New England and the Limits of British Control

• Before 1650, England made little effort to exert centralized control over its North American colonies.
• King James II attempted to tighten imperial control by combining the colonies into larger provinces, starting with the Dominion of New England.
The Glorious Revolution ended the Dominion practice but led to changes in the territory and governance of some colonies. For example, Massachusetts expanded to include Plymouth and Maine, and a new charter ended exclusive Puritan control.
The Dominion of New England and the Limits of British Control (cont'd)

- **Dominion of New England**
  - James II’s failed plan of 1686 to combine eight northern colonies into a single large province, to be governed by a royal appointee (Sir Edmund Andros) with an appointed council but no elective assembly. The plan ended with James’s ouster from the English throne and rebellion in Massachusetts against Andros’s rule.
The Dominion of New England and the Limits of British Control (cont'd)

**Glorious Revolution**
- Bloodless revolt that occurred in England in 1688 when parliamentary leaders invited William of Orange, a Protestant, to assume the English throne and James II fled to France. James’s ouster was prompted by fears that the birth of his son would establish a Catholic dynasty in England.
The predominance of church steeples in this engraving of colonial New York's skyline testifies to the religious vitality of the city.
Salem Witchcraft

• In the absence of an established government in Massachusetts, an outbreak of accusations of witchcraft in Salem grew to unprecedented proportions.

• Salem’s crisis occurred against a backdrop of local economic change, which created friction between agrarian and commercial interests.
Salem Witchcraft (cont’d)

- Various social tensions contributed to the frenzy of witchcraft accusations.
The Legacy of the Glorious Revolution

- The Glorious Revolution returned stability to England and led to the passage of the Bill of Rights.
- Parliament assumed equal power with the crown and claimed full authority over the colonies.
Diverging Politics in the Colonies and Great Britain

• English people on both sides of the Atlantic likened the state to a family. States worked best when all members fulfilled their responsibilities.

• Another popular idea was that government should reflect the hierarchical organization of society and was reflected in England by the monarchy and Parliament.
Diverging Politics in the Colonies and Great Britain (cont'd)

- American colonial society grew closer to the British model but had some differences, including the absence of an aristocracy.
Diverging Politics in the Colonies and Great Britain (cont'd)

- A major issue was the distinction between virtual and actual representation. The colonies had experienced actual representation and were skeptical of virtual representation, leading to disputes between colonial governors and the colonists.
Diverging Politics in the Colonies and Great Britain (cont'd)

- **Virtual representation**
  - The notion, current in eighteenth-century England, that parliamentary members represented the interests of the nation as a whole, not those of the particular district that elected them.

- **Actual representation**
  - The practice whereby elected representatives normally reside in their districts and are directly responsive to local interests.
Expanding Empires
British Colonists in the Backcountry

• Most of the Atlantic coast was settled by 1760, meaning new German, Scotch-Irish, and English immigrants had to settle in the backcountry. Most lived on subsistence farms.

• Tensions grew between backcountry settlers and older seacoast communities regarding political representation in colonial legislatures.
British Colonists in the Backcountry (cont'd)

• Tensions also emerged when settlers encroached on Indian lands.
• The Spanish and French responded to English expansion by expanding their territories and strengthening relations with Indian peoples.
FIGURE 4–2 Population Growth in British Mainland Colonies, 1700–1760

- **Total**
  - 1700: 260,400
  - 1760: 1,593,600

- **New England**
  - 1700: 92,400
  - 1760: 449,600

- **Middle Colonies**
  - 1700: 53,500
  - 1760: 427,900

- **Chesapeake**
  - 1700: 98,100
  - 1760: 502,000

- **Lower South**
  - 1700: 16,400
  - 1760: 214,100
The Spanish in Texas and California

- Spanish fears of French expansion in the southwest led to the creation of buffer zones in Texas and California.
- The Spanish constructed an extensive system of forts and missions in California.
The Spanish in Texas and California (cont'd)

- The scarcity of Spanish settlers and coercive control of the Indian population left Spain at a disadvantage compared to the strong commercial empires of France and England.
The French along the Mississippi and in Louisiana

- French expansion followed the major waterways of the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River into the interior of North America.

- In the 18th century, forts, trading posts, and villages were founded, forming a chain of way stations between Canada and the Gulf of Mexico.
• French Louisiana contained a diverse population and some plantations were established, but the French approach to empire was based on Indian alliances.

• French expansion along the Mississippi Valley drove a wedge between Florida and Spain’s other mainland colonies and blocked English expansion westward.
A Century of Warfare
European wars had colonial theaters. King William’s and Queen Anne’s wars ended indecisively.
Imperial Conflict and the Establishment of an American Balance of Power, 1689–1738

- European nations financed wars on credit. England created a huge funded debt to harness its economy to military ends. The growing debt led to increased taxes stimulating the rise of Country or “Real Whig” ideology that feared the growth of state power threatened liberty.
The Iroquois League adopted a policy of neutrality in 1701, using their strategic location to play the French and English against each other.

- King William’s War
  - The first Anglo-French conflict in North America (1689–1697), the American phase of Europe’s War of the League of Augsburg. Ended in negotiated peace that reestablished the balance of power.
Imperial Conflict and the Establishment of an American Balance of Power, 1689–1738

- **Queen Anne’s War**

- **Country (Real Whig) ideology**
  - Strain of thought first appearing in England in the late seventeenth century in response to the growth of governmental power and a national debt. Main ideas stressed the threat to personal liberty posed by a standing army and high taxes and emphasized the need for property holders to retain the right to consent to taxation.
Grand Settlement of 1701
- Separate peace treaties negotiated by Iroquois diplomats at Montreal and Albany that marked the beginning of Iroquois neutrality in conflicts between the French and the British in North America.
King George’s War Shifts the Balance, 1739–1754

• King George’s War was initially between England and Spain but France soon joined on the Spanish side. Conflict broke out in North America.

• The war and the peace had strong repercussions. The colonists were shocked that Louisburg was returned to the French. The English were outraged by New York’s illegal trade with the French.
King George’s War Shifts the Balance, 1739–1754 (cont'd)

- The French tried to halt colonial expansion of trade with their Indian allies by building a series of forts in the Ohio country.
- The Iroquois suffered as the French were no longer committed to Iroquois neutrality and Ohio valley Indian groups challenged Iroquois claims of control.
King George’s War Shifts the Balance, 1739–1754 (cont'd)

- **King George’s War**
  - The third Anglo-French war in North America (1744–1748), part of the European conflict known as the War of the Austrian Succession. During the North American fighting, New Englanders captured the French fortress of Louisbourg, only to have it returned to France after the peace negotiations.
King George’s War Shifts the Balance, 1739–1754 (cont'd)

- **Treaty of Lancaster**
  - Negotiation in 1744 whereby Iroquois chiefs sold Virginia land speculators the right to trade at the Forks of the Ohio. Although the Iroquois had not intended this to include the right to settle in the Ohio Country, the Virginians assumed that it did. Ohio Valley Indians considered this treaty a great grievance against both the English and the Iroquois.
### The Colonial Wars, 1689–1763

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name in the Colonies</th>
<th>European Name and Dates</th>
<th>Dates in America</th>
<th>Results for Britain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King William’s War</td>
<td>War of the League of Augsburg, 1688–1697</td>
<td>1689–1697</td>
<td>Reestablished balance of power between England and France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s War</td>
<td>War of the Spanish Succession, 1702–1714</td>
<td>1702–1713</td>
<td>Britain acquired Nova Scotia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George’s War</td>
<td>War of the Austrian Succession, 1739–1748</td>
<td>1744–1748</td>
<td>Britain returned Louisbourg to France, British settlers began moving westward, Weakening of Iroquois neutrality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French and Indian War</td>
<td>Seven Years’ War, 1756–1763</td>
<td>1754–1763</td>
<td>Britain acquired Canada and all French territory east of Mississippi, Britain gained Florida from Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The French and Indian War, 1754–1760: A Decisive Victory

- The outbreak of war between Britain and France led to the idea of the Albany Plan of Union but it was rejected.
- From 1754–1758, the war favored the French but the tide turned in 1758 to the British.
The French and Indian War, 1754–1760: A Decisive Victory (cont'd)

- William Pitt soothed colonial dissatisfaction with the war by promising reimbursements to the colonies in proportion to their contributions.
The Iroquois decision to enter the war on the side of the Anglo-Americans sealed the defeat of the French.

- **Albany Plan of Union**
  - Plan put forward in 1754 by Massachusetts governor William Shirley, Benjamin Franklin, and other colonial leaders, calling for an intercolonial union to manage defense and Indian affairs. The plan was rejected by participants at the Albany Congress.
The French and Indian War, 1754–1760: A Decisive Victory (cont'd)

- **French and Indian War**
  - The last of the Anglo-French colonial wars (1754–1763) and the first in which fighting began in North America. The war (which merged with the European conflict known as the Seven Years’ War) ended with France’s defeat and loss of its North American empire.
By Charles Willson Peale in 1772. It depicts him in his military uniform from the French and Indian War.
In his most famous painting, American artist Benjamin West depicted the death of the British general James Wolfe at the Battle of Quebec.
The Triumph of the British Empire, 1763

- The British victory in the French-Indian War created the impression that British arms were invincible.
- The **Treaty of Paris**, 1763, ended the French presence of the North American mainland, though France retained their West Indian sugar islands.
The Triumph of the British Empire, 1763 (cont'd)

- England received all French lands east of the Mississippi River except New Orleans, while Spain received the trans-Mississippi West and New Orleans.
- Britain emerged as the dominant European power.
Conclusion
Conclusion

- In 1763, the colonists experienced a moment of great promise and patriotism to the British Empire.