

England and Its Colonies Prosper

THIRTEEN COLONIES Throughout the 1600s and 1700s, more British colonies in North America were founded, each for very different reasons. In 1632, King Charles I granted land north of Chesapeake Bay to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore. Calvert's son Cecil, the second Lord Baltimore, named the colony Maryland, after Queen Henrietta Maria, Charles's wife. In 1663, King Charles II awarded a group of key supporters the land between Virginia and Spanish Florida, a territory that soon became North and South Carolina.

In 1732, an English philanthropist named James Oglethorpe, along with several associates, received a charter for a colony he hoped could be a haven for those imprisoned for debt. Oglethorpe named the colony Georgia, after King George II. Few debtors actually came to Georgia, and the British Crown assumed direct control of the colony in 1752. By that time, the Crown had begun to exercise more and more control over colonial economies and governments.

The thirteen British colonies existed primarily for the benefit of England. The colonies exported to England a rich variety of raw materials, such as lumber and furs, and in return they imported the manufactured goods that England produced. The thirteen colonies that became the original United States were founded over a period of 125 years. Together, the colonies represented a wide variety of people, skills, motives, industries, resources, and agricultural products.

MERCANTILISM AND THE NAVIGATION ACTS Beginning in the 16th century, the nations of Europe competed for wealth and power through a new economic system called **mercantilism** (mûr'kən-tē-lîz'əm), in which the colonies played a critical role. According to the theory of mercantilism, a nation could increase its wealth and power in two ways: by obtaining as much gold and silver as possible, and by establishing a favorable balance of trade, in which it sold more goods than it bought. A nation's ultimate goal was to become self-sufficient so that it did not have to depend on other countries for goods.

The key to this process was the establishment of colonies. Colonies provided products, especially raw materials, that could not be found in the home country.

In 1651, England's Parliament, the country's legislative body, moved to tighten control of colonial trade by passing a series of measures known as the **Navigation Acts**. These acts enforced the following rules:

- No country could trade with the colonies unless the goods were shipped in either colonial or English ships.
- All vessels had to be operated by crews that were at least three-quarters English or colonial.
- The colonies could export certain products, including tobacco and sugar—and later rice, molasses, and furs—only to England.
- Almost all goods traded between the colonies and Europe first had to pass through an English port.

The system created by the Navigation Acts obviously benefited England. It proved to be good for most colonists as well. By restricting trade to English or colonial

Vocabulary

charter: A document issued by a monarch or other authority creating a public or private corporation

The Thirteen Colonies to the 1700s



New England colonies

Massachusettsshipbuilding, shipping, fishing,
lumber, rum, meat products
New Hampshireship masts, lumber, fishing, trade,
shipping, livestock, foodstuffs
Connecticutrum, iron foundries, shipbuilding
Rhode Islandsnuff, livestock

Middle colonies

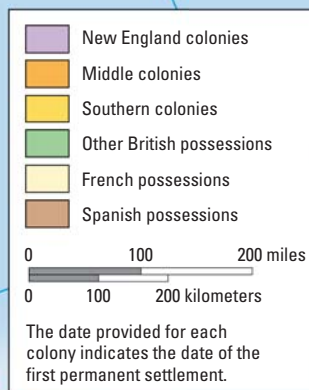
New Yorkfurs, wheat, glass, shoes,
livestock, shipping, shipbuilding,
rum, beer, snuff
Delawaretrade, foodstuffs
New Jerseytrade, foodstuffs, copper
Pennsylvaniaflax, shipbuilding

Southern colonies

Virginia.....tobacco, wheat, cattle, iron
Maryland.....tobacco, wheat, snuff
North Carolinanaval supplies, tobacco, furs
South Carolina.....rice, indigo, silk
Georgiaindigo, rice, naval supplies, lumber

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

Region Which colonies are noted for their industrial activity, such as building, rather than agricultural activity?



ships, the acts spurred a boom in the colonial shipbuilding industry and helped support the development of numerous other colonial industries. 1

MAIN IDEA

Analyzing Effects

1 What effects did the Navigation Acts have on both Britain and its colonies?

COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS Whatever their form of charter, by the mid 1700s, most colonies were similar in the structure of their governments. In nearly every colony, a governor appointed by the Crown served as the highest authority. The governor presided over an advisory council, usually appointed by the governor, and a local assembly elected by landowning white males. The governor had the authority to appoint and dismiss judges and oversee colonial trade.

In addition to raising money through taxes, the colonial assembly initiated and passed laws. The governor could veto any law but did so at a risk—because in most colonies the colonial assembly, not the Crown, paid the governor's salary. Using this power of the purse liberally, the colonists influenced the governor in a variety of ways, from the approval of laws to the appointment of judges.

GROWING SPIRIT OF SELF-DETERMINATION The colonies were developing a taste for self-government that would ultimately create the conditions for rebellion. Nehemiah Grew, a British mercantilist, voiced one of the few early concerns when he warned his compatriots about the colonies' growing self-determination in 1707.

A PERSONAL VOICE NEHEMIAH GREW

“The time may come . . . when the colonies may become populous and with the increase of arts and sciences strong and politic, forgetting their relation to the mother countries, will then confederate and consider nothing further than the means to support their ambition of standing on their [own] legs.”

—quoted in *The Colonial Period of American History*

Aside from a desire for more economic and political breathing room, however, the colonies had little in common that would unite them against Britain. In particular, the Northern and Southern colonies were developing distinct societies, based on sharply contrasting economic systems.

SECTION 3

ASSESSMENT

1. TERMS & NAMES For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- John Smith
- Jamestown
- joint-stock companies
- indentured servant
- Puritan
- John Winthrop
- King Philip's War
- William Penn
- Quaker
- mercantilism
- Navigation Acts

MAIN IDEA

2. TAKING NOTES

Identify the effects of each of the causes listed in the chart below.

Cause	Effect
Virginia colonists need labor to grow tobacco	
Puritans are persecuted in England	
William Penn acquires Pennsylvania	
Parliament passes the Navigation Acts	

CRITICAL THINKING

3. EVALUATING

In your judgment, what were the benefits and drawbacks of using indentured servants for labor in Virginia? Support your judgment with references to the text. **Think About:**

- the labor demands of growing tobacco
- the characteristics and cost of indentured servants
- the causes and consequences of Bacon's Rebellion

4. PREDICTING EFFECTS

Reread Nehemiah Grew's prediction for the colonies in the Personal Voice above. How do you think the British government would respond to his prediction? What issues do you see arising as potential sources of tension between the colonies and Great Britain?