

- The Beginnings of Colonial America (chap. 2)
- Purpose: To gain an understanding of
 - the background of English colonization in continental North America
 - the earliest successful English colony in continental North America, the “Southern” aka **Chesapeake** region (Virginia and Maryland)
 - the founding and early development of the Carolinas and Georgia
 - Major problems faced in the Chesapeake, and the other Southern colonies
 - Timeframe: the 17th century (mostly)

Europeans colonize North America

- In the 16th and 17th centuries, the main focus of European colonization was the **Caribbean, South, and Central America**.
- Spain conquered the largest American empire.

- North America was colonized by less powerful European nations, like France, Holland, Sweden, and England.
- Chapter 2 & 3 focus on the two earliest regions of English colonization in North America: the Chesapeake and New England.

English Migration to North America

- In the long run, the English colonies proved more successful than others.
- The main reason for this was the great number of migrants that left England in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Reasons for English Migration

- Demographic reasons:
 - Population growth
 - Internal migration to cities
- Economic reasons:
 - Decline in real wages
 - Farm **enclosures**
 - **Mercantilism**
 - **Joint stock companies**
- English power increase:
 - Victory over the **Spanish Armada**, 1588
- Religious unrest (Henry VIII, Bloody Mary, Eliz. I, Mary of Scotland)

the Chesapeake (southern) colonies

The Founding of Jamestown,

- In 1606, King James I granted overlapping land grants in Virginia to two **joint-stock** companies, the Virginia company of London and the Virginia company of Plymouth.



Chesapeake Bay



- The Plymouth company's attempt in modern-day Maine was a failure.
- In 1607, the **Virginia company of London** sent 144 colonists to Virginia. Only 104 even survived the journey.
- In an area the local Native Americans called Tsenacomoco, these survivors founded Jamestown, in modern-day Virginia.



John Rolfe



Captain John Smith



JAMESTOWN 1607



The Pocahontas Myth

- Pocahontas was the daughter of Powhatan.
- She "saved" John Smith in a mock execution ritual.
- During the first Anglo-Powhatan war (1610-12), the settlers kidnapped her and held her captive for several years.



- Of the original 104 settlers, only 38 survived the first winter. John Smith, a soldier of fortune, took over the colony's leadership in 1608, imposing military discipline and improving conditions. After he left the colony in 1609, discipline collapsed again.



- In the second "starving time", of 1609 400 of 500 died.

Virginia: Native American Relations

- The Jamestown colonists had landed in a Native American power struggle.
- Powhatan, the leader of a powerful confederacy, hoped to get the English on his side.
- The English could provide various militarily and economically useful goods.



a drawing of a 17th century Virginia Native American

- Initially, relatively good cooperation between the English and the Native Americans.
- Until the English no longer needed the Amerinds.
- Three Anglo-Powhatan Wars: 1610-14, 1622-32, 1644-46. Powhatan confederacy crumbled afterwards.

- John Rolfe found a profitable staple crop: **tobacco**.
- Initially, tobacco was hugely successful. The crop shaped Virginia's way of life.
- Tobacco was **Land** and **Labor** intensive. Dispersed plantations, not compact villages, and **slavery** were the result.

Early Colonial Tobacco

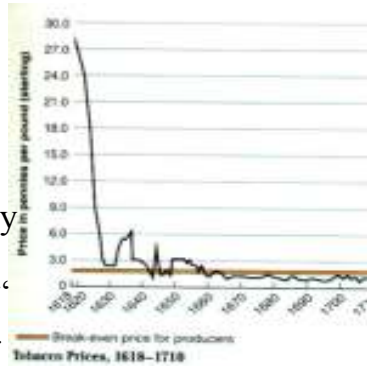
- 1618** — Virginia produces 20,000 pounds of tobacco.
- 1622** — Despite losing nearly one-third of its colonists in an Indian attack, Virginia produces 60,000 pounds of tobacco.
- 1627** — Virginia produces 500,000 pounds of tobacco.
- 1629** — Virginia produces 1,500,000 pounds of tobacco.

Virginia: Labor

- Tobacco cultivation was very labor intensive, but labor was in short supply. Planters therefore turned to **indentured servants** as a solution.
- Indentured servants were single young men and women who came to America, especially Virginia, mainly in the 17th century.
- Instead of paying their passage, they agreed to work for a fixed term, usually seven years. Their contracts could be bought and sold.

- For every servant a planter brought to Virginia, he received extra land. This was called the "**headright**" system.
- However, hard work, harsh treatment, and disease resulted in a devastating mortality rate of more than 40% in the first year.
- So why after **1660**, were indentured servants increasingly replaced by African slaves?

- The tobacco boom did not last.
- After 1660, only the so-called “First Families“ (FFV) did well.



Maryland

- In 1632, Charles I gave Cecilius Calvert (Lord Baltimore) a colonial charter.
- In 1634, Maryland was founded, the first colony without a starving time.



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Other “southern colonies”

- **S. Carolina** 1670
 - Most slave intensive colony (rice, indigo, tobacco)
 - Tied to the West Indies (Barbados)
 - STRICT aristocracy
- **N. Carolina** 1653:
 - Rebels, Squatters, Malcontents (Scots-Irish)
- **Georgia** 1733:
 - Buffer colony with Spanish Fla.
 - Paternalistic philanthropic experiment
 - Failed due to over control and lack of incentives

Carolina

- Carolina was granted to a group of proprietors in 1663.
- North Carolina was settled starting in 1665 by Virginians, and became much like Virginia.
- South Carolina was settled by colonists from Barbados. Its staple was rice and it was similar to the West Indies colonies.
- The split into North and South was formalized in 1729.



Georgia

- Founded in 1732, Georgia was not a Restoration colony.
- Proprietor James Oglethorpe intended a debtor colony, a military outpost against Spanish Florida.
- Savannah was designed with its military purpose in mind.
- Originally, alcohol and slavery were forbidden.
- In 1752, Georgia became a royal colony, growing rice and allowing slavery like S. Carolina.



a sketch of Savannah