

American History

Talk 4: British America (1700-1756)



Talks so far

➤ Done

- 1. Pre Columbia America 20,000 BC -1500
- 2. The first explorations and settlements 1500-1600
- 3. The English colonies 1600-1700

➤ Upcoming

- 4. British America 1700-1753
- 5. From Unity to Separation 1753-1775 ...September 18th
- 6. Revolutionary War 1776-1783....October 2nd
- 7. The creation of the United States 1783-1789....October 16th

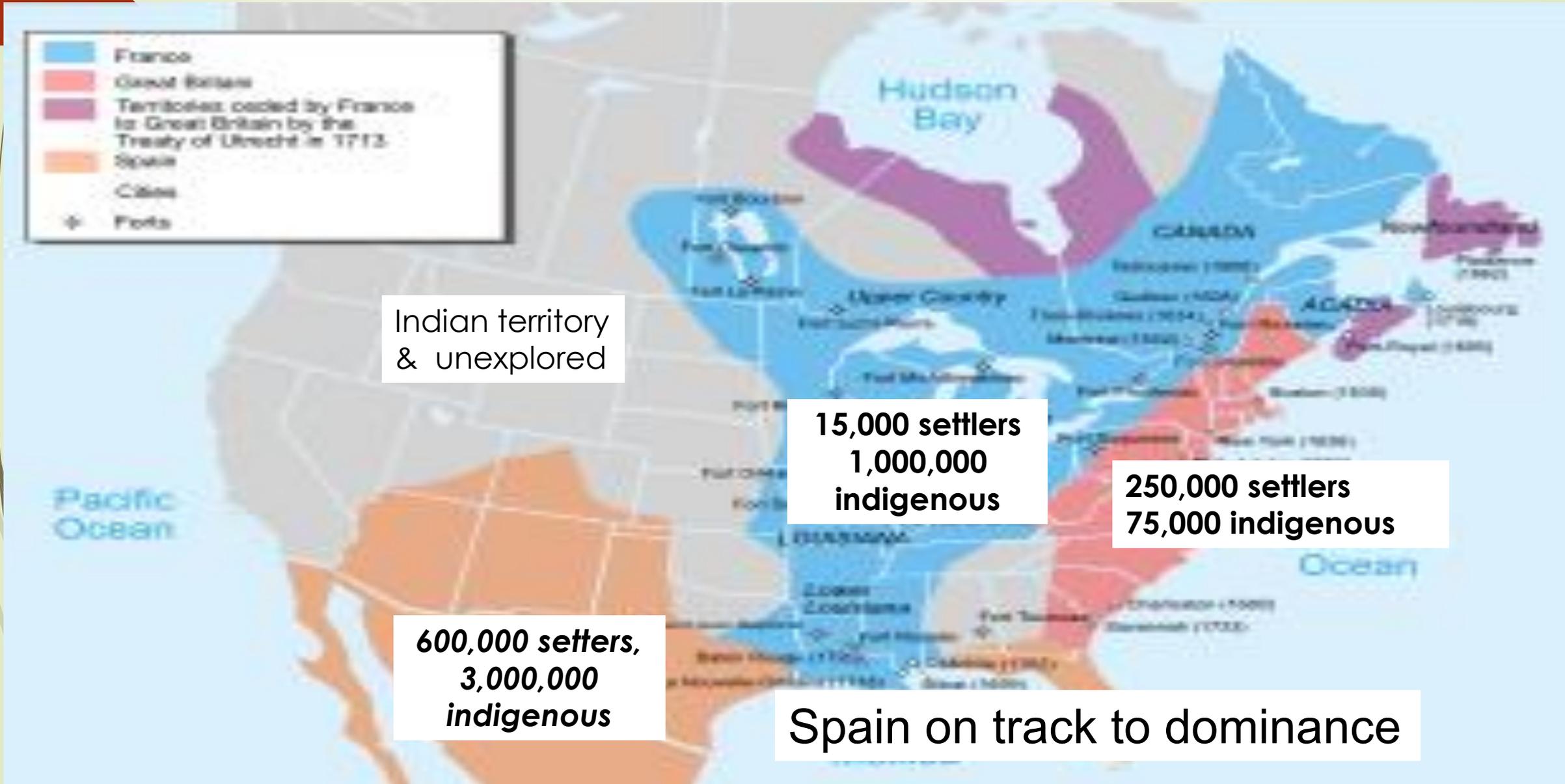
This completes 'Module 1' next Module...
'A Continental Empire' created (1789-1850)

British America Overview

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- British America and its neighbours
- Population growth & new immigrants
- The Georgia Experiment
- How the colonies were governed
- Cultural Changes: Enlightenment and First Great Awakening
- Tour of the colonies

North America 1700





Meet the neighbours

French North America

- Few settlers...despite Sun King (Louis 14th efforts:
- Royal directive, not private companies:
- Filles de Roi 1690's
- 60,000 settlers by 1750 vs 1,600,000 in British America

Filles de Roi 1663: Louis XIV recruits 800 ladies ⁵ for New France





➤ To the north

- Furs fish, and lumber, concentrated in 'Arcadia' and Quebec, interior... forts only
- 100 years war with Iroquois but peace with other tribes secured to fight British
- Population centred in 'Arcadia' and Quebec rest interior forts and traders

➤ To the south

- Louisiana and New Orleans: funded by "Mississippi bubble",
- Supposed to be a model city planned but goes bankrupt.
- Becomes haven for escaped slaves, pirates, deserters,
- New Orleans becomes " a place of a hundred wretched hovels in a malarial wet thicket of willows and dwarf palmettos , infested by serpents and alligators.". French priest 1720

Spain and the America 1700-1763

7



➤ Focus Central and South America,

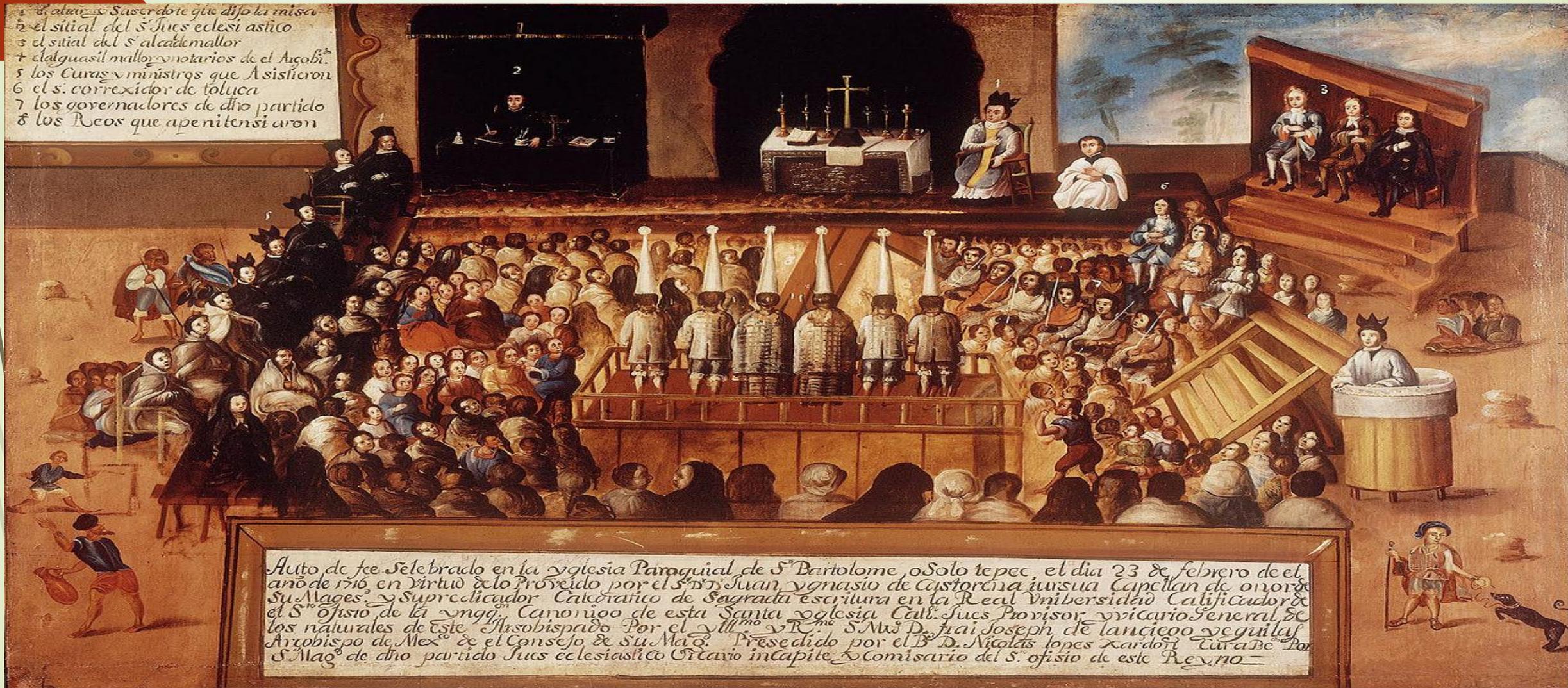
- Indians protected by church, plantation and mining drives demand for African slavery
- Immigrants from all classes encouraged by Bourbons some escaping Inquisition
- Mexico city population at 100,000, triple size of New York and Philadelphia in 1700

➤ Florida,

- Settlers limited to a few forts and missions
- Haven for escaped slaves from Carolinas and pirates

Inquisition arrives and targets 'Conversos', Indians exempt

Auto de fe Mexico City 1700's



Rare public event...only 3% of those accused of heresy executed, 50 executions Mexico and 5,000 in Spain ...over 200 years

Spanish and South West North America

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2,600 settlers in Santa Fe
Indians enslaved and sent
To mines

Spanish demand Pueblos
convert

Popee leads revolt 1680,
Spanish forced to evacuate
500 killed...Popee dies

Spanish reconquer New
Mexico 1692 but abandon
Conversion attempts, grant
Lands to Pueblo chiefs and
Accommodate local custom

Spanish North America: Casta System

Mixed society inter marriage
Accepted as normal

Rights and obligations depend
on birth condition

The idea: room for everyone, a
different room...but unlike in
much British North America
better than no room





British America

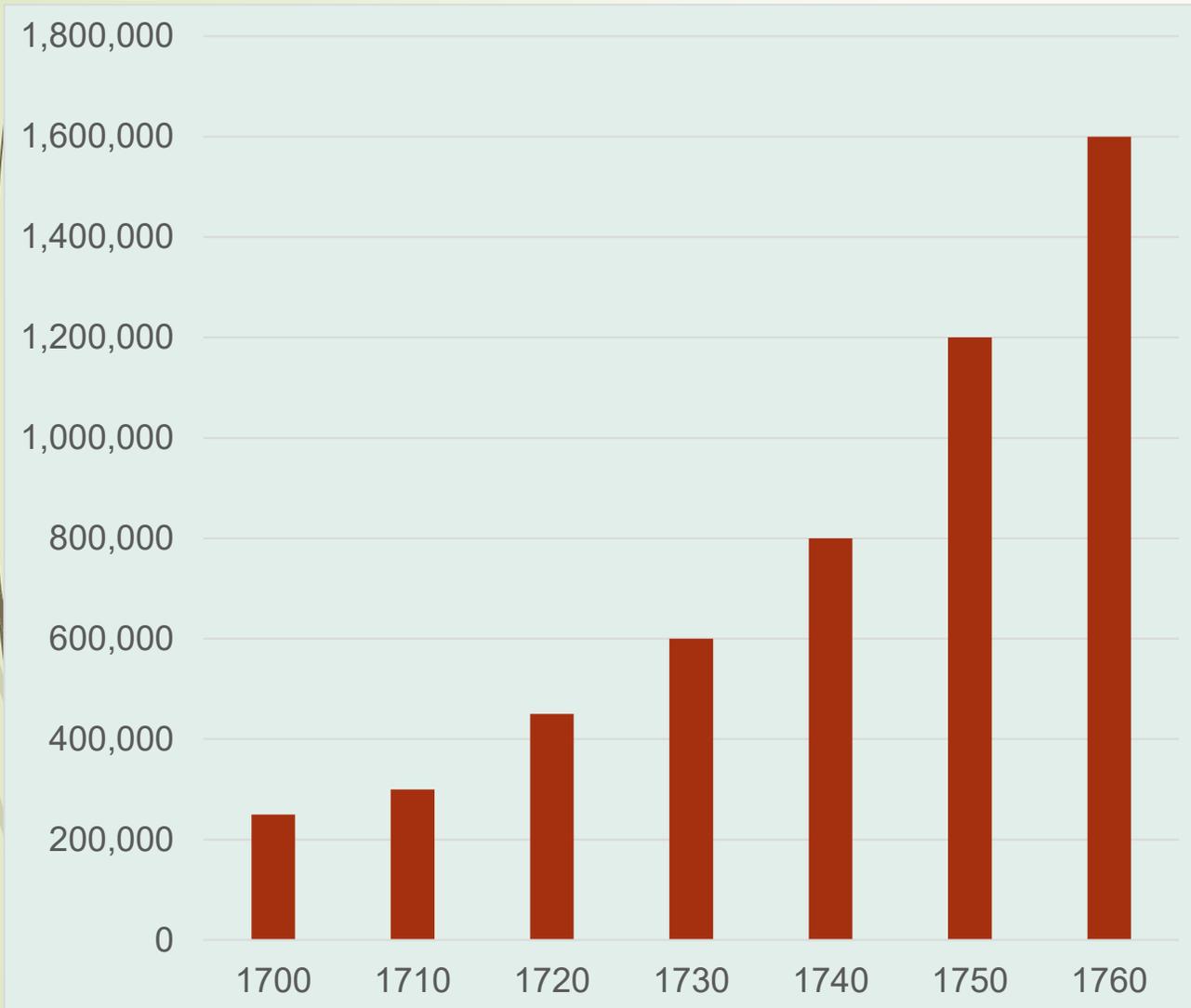
Wars with the neighbours 1700-1750

- ▶ King Williams War (1689-1697) vs France and Spain ...inconclusive
- ▶ Queen Anne's war (1704-1713)..versus Spain British take Newfoundland and Maine (aka Acadia from France)
- ▶ Yamasee War in the Carolinas (1715-17) , united Indian tribes of South East kill 70% Carolina settlers, English reinforce colony and drive Indians west
- ▶ King Georges War (1744-1748) vs France and Spain inconclusive
 - ▶ British invasion of Florida fails,
 - ▶ Spanish invasion of George repelled

British colonial life thrives despite being framed by warfare

British American Population 1700 -1760

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Population doubles ever 20 years...from 250,000 to 1,600,000 by 1760

Most population growth due to high birth rate

500,000 + immigrants over 50 years, largest group slaves from West Africa

1700-1760 Immigrants to British America by type ¹⁴

300,000 slaves from Africa, 90% to South & Mid

100,000 English: mix of Indentured Servants, debtors (Georgia), parolees, younger sons and their families lured by opportunities and higher standard of living

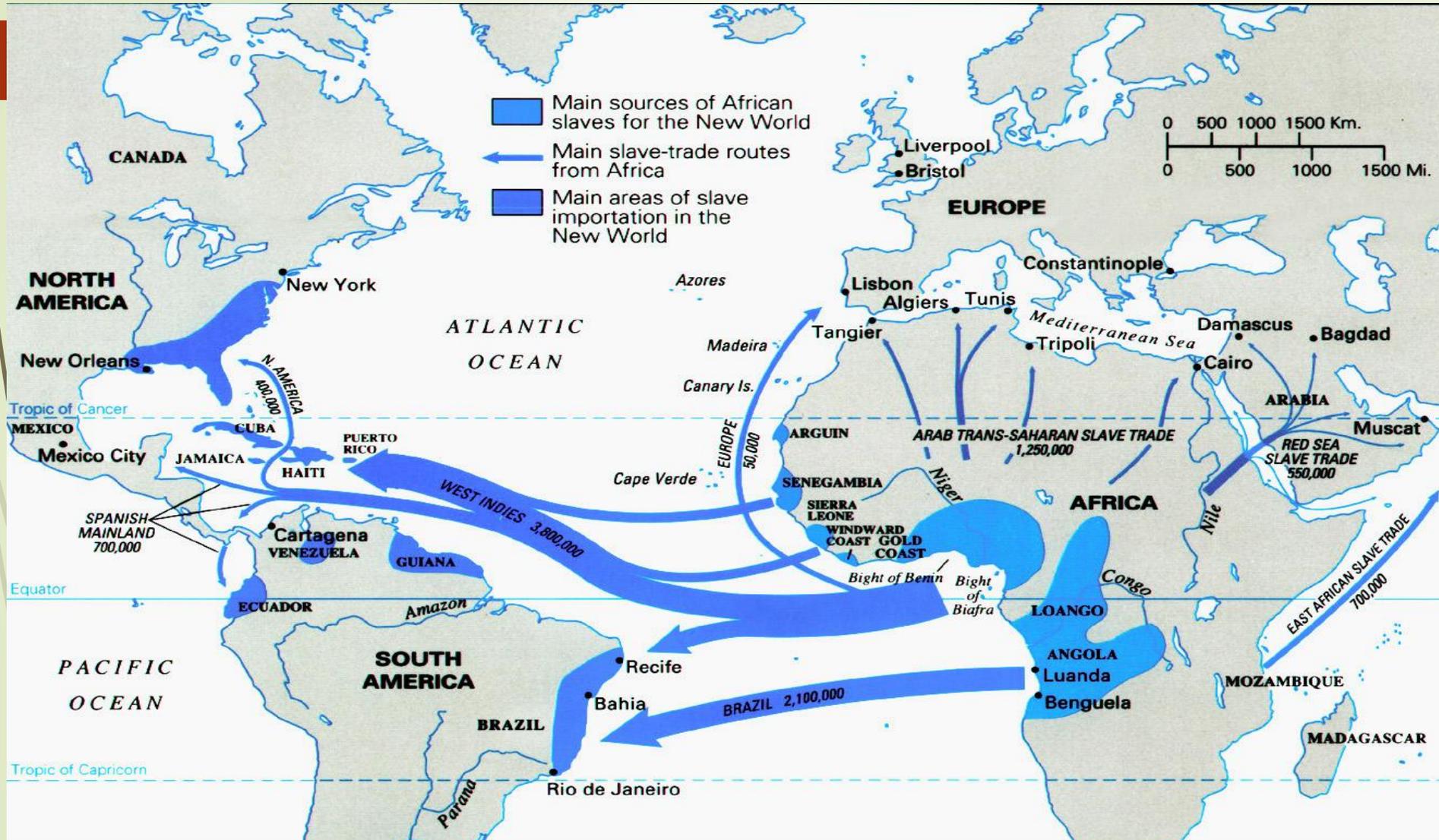
60,000 Germans...Pennsylvania

40,000 Scotch Irish...to mid Atlantic, Hill Country

10,000 Scottish, French, Dutch

Slavery considered 'normal' in 18th century and needs explanation

18th century Slave Trades



Demand triggers

New World, mining, sugar, tobacco, rice & indigo, and cotton

Middle East: domestics, Plantations, soldiers, Construction, eunuchs, harems

African Kingdoms
Demand for Industrial Goods and weapons

Three 'trades' 18th century: White slavery, Islamic, and North Atlantic

White slave trade...Barbary Pirates



CAPT CROKER HORROR STRICKEN AT ALGIERS,
*on witnessing the Miseries of the Christian Slaves chain'd & in Irons
driven home after labour by Infidels with large Whips.* Page ibid

Raids to south Europe
Spain, Cornwall
Iceland from 10th to
Early 18th century.
Major Source of income
Berbers

Reduced to 10's of
Thousands in 18th
Century as
European navies
Grow more powerful

Limited seizures of
Ships, system of pay
Offs and ransoms

Islamic Slavery



Custom and practice
8th to 19th century, 16 million
Slaves transported to Middle
east

30% death rate during
Transportation, 30% death
Rates for males due to
castration

No anti slavery agitation
Or free press, suppressed
By British Navy during 19th
century but continues
Today (banned Saudi Arabia
1962.... ?)

Trans Atlantic Slave Industry

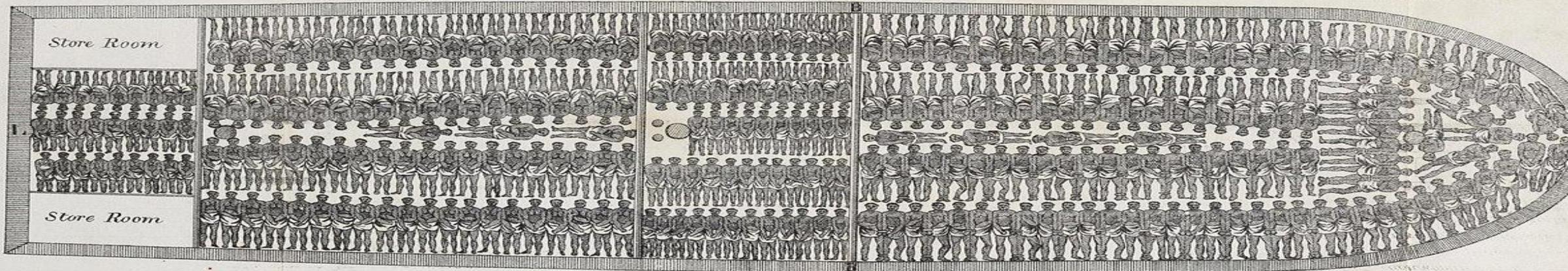
18

- Demand driven by demand to work mines and plantation in South America (mines) West Indies (sugar) as indigenous people die off and secure protection from Catholic church
 - 12 million transported 1500-1880s
 - 10% die in transit
 - 90% to Brazil and West Indies
- African Kingdoms increase supply due to growing demand for Western goods and guns to conquer othersand better prices from Europeans
- North African Trade 'industrialised'
 - British Africa Company transports 40% in 18th century,
 - Distribution centres built along African coast by Europeans and Africans
 - 'Improved' ship design and transportation

British and Slave Trade (volume drives profit)

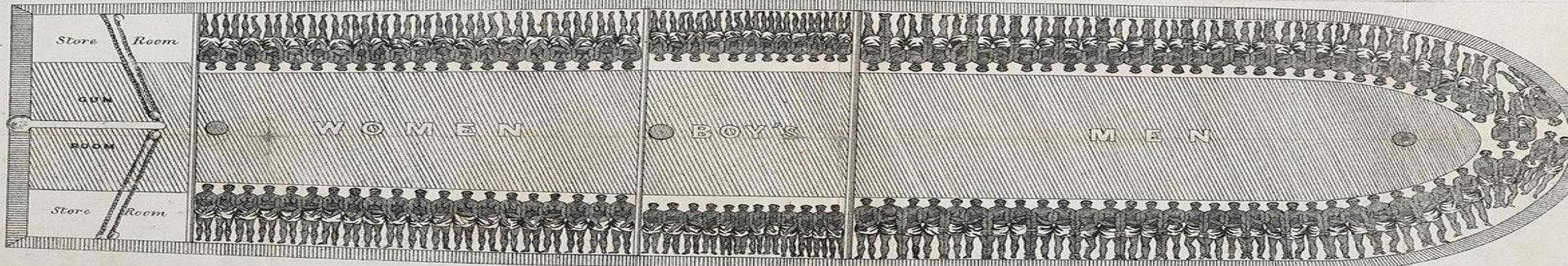
PLAN OF LOWER DECK WITH THE STOWAGE OF 292 SLAVES
130 OF THESE BEING STOWED UNDER THE SHELVES AS SHEWN IN FIGURE B & FIGURE 5.

Fig 2.



PLAN SHEWING THE STOWAGE OF 130 ADDITIONAL SLAVES ROUND THE WINGS OR SIDES OF THE LOWER DECK BY MEANS OF PLATFORMS OR SHELVES
(IN THE MANNER OF GALLERIES IN A CHURCH) THE SLAVES STOWED ON THE SHELVES AND BELOW THEM HAVE ONLY A HEIGHT OF 2 FEET 7 INCHES
BETWEEN THE BEAMS AND FAR LESS UNDER THE BEAMS. See Fig 1.

Fig 3.



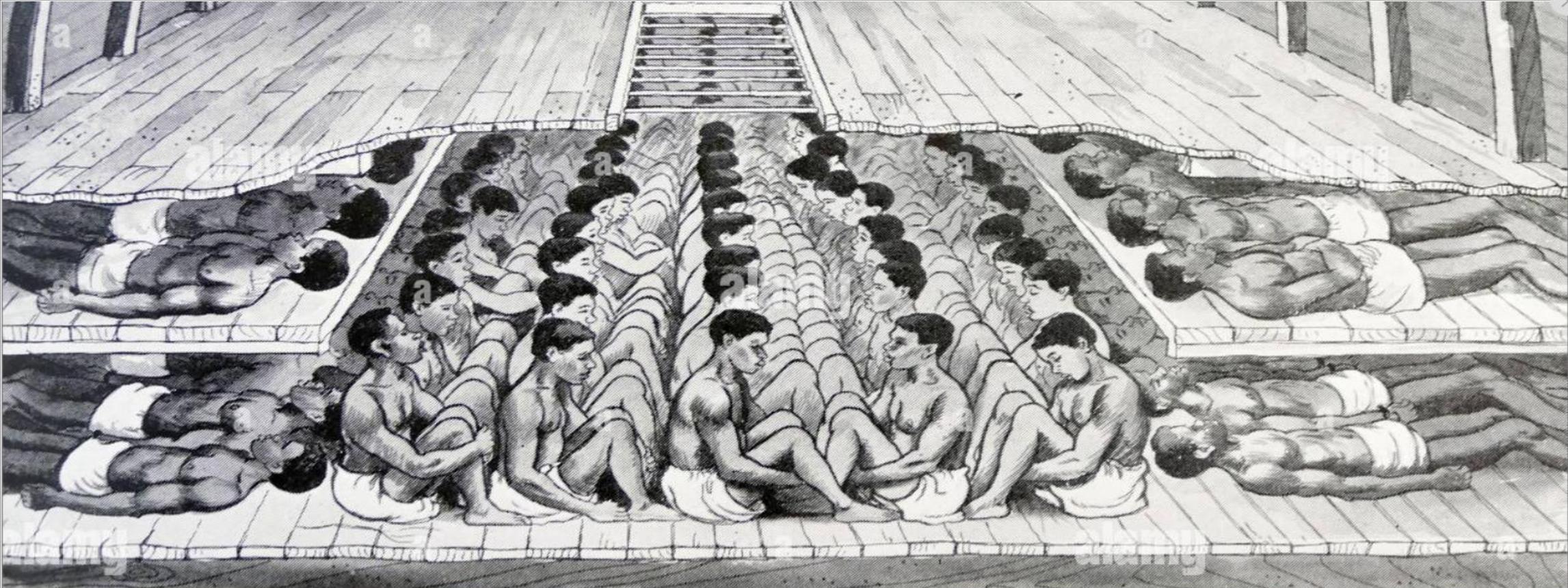
British and Slave Trade: people as cargo

slave life 18th century nor x Illustration showing the h x slave trade pictures - Yaho x Error x slave life 18th century nor x Searching for my slave roc x SAMUEL DELPRATT (1729 x

https://www.alamy.com/illustration-showing-the-human-cargo-of-a-slave-ship-image377042544.html?imageid=787A3B69-4644-410E-AA5A-C... A ☆ [checkmark] [refresh] [print] [share] [clock] Sign in [profile] ... [b]

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15:55 22/07/2023

Earnings upcoming

Type here to search

To be SOLD by AUCTION, On Saturday the 16th of Nov. Inst. at the Dwelling-House of Mr. Nathaniel Wilght, at Holy-Croft, in the Parish of Clent, and County of Stafford, between the Hours of Eleven

TO BE SOLD on board the
Ship *Bance Island*, on tuesday the 6th
of *May* next, at *Afbley-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.

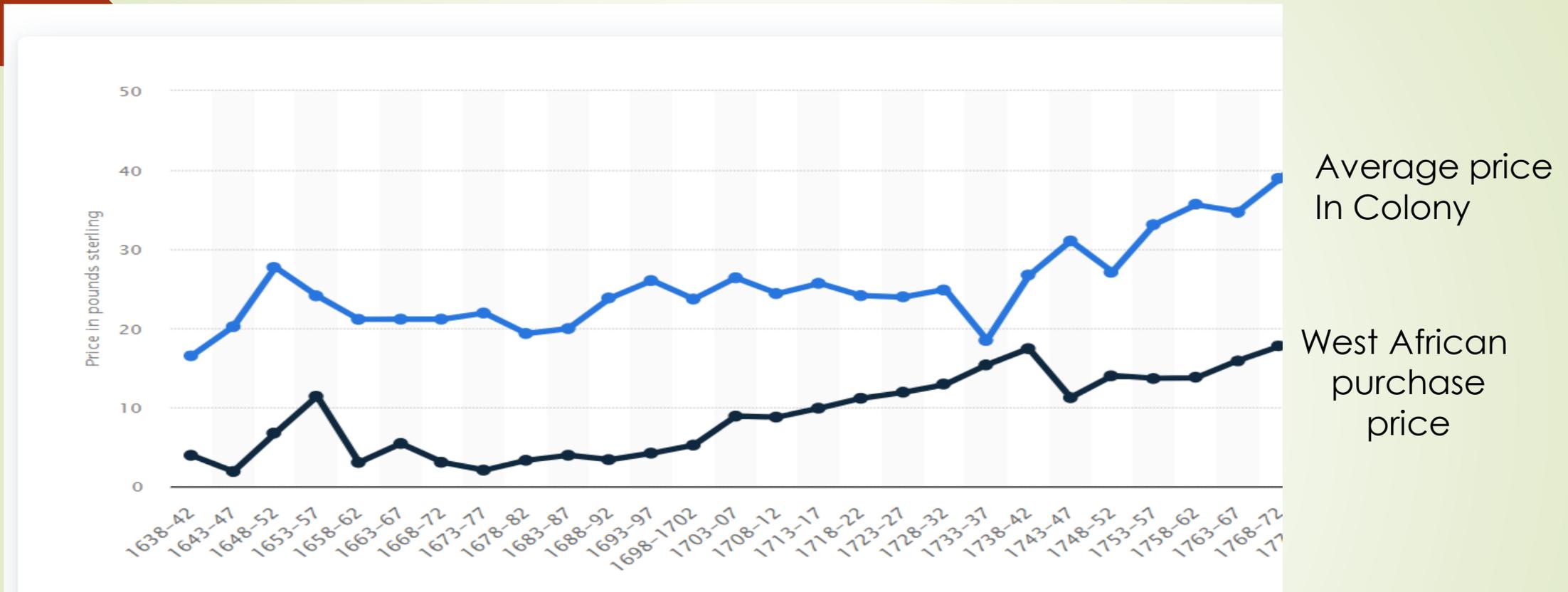
Austin, Laurens, & Appleby.

N. B. Full one Half of the above Negroes have had the
SMALL-POX in their own Country.



An ugly but profitable business!

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£1 in 1750 worth £280 in 2023

Cost of 250 slaves @ £10 x 283 = £700,000,

Price in Charleston 225 x £30 x 283 = £1,910,000 (assumes 10% die en route)

Gross profit = £1.2m less transport and crew cost ... offset by sales of guns to Africans and export of tobacco and sugar to Europe

Slave life north America

- New arrivals separated to prevent communication between tribes
- Conditions better than in West Indies and South America
 - Tobacco, cotton, and rice less deadly than mining and sugar cultivation
 - Chattel slavery laws introduced late 17th century, buy slave, get family,
 - Higher costs of slaves vs South increases property value of Master and incentives care
- Life styles
 - Literacy banned, attempts to prevent exposure to Christianity
 - 'House slaves' and slaves with metallurgical and farming skills become 'elite'
 - Some slaves 'manumitted' by owners or able to buy freedom from allowed work.

20% of Southern colonists own slaves...on average 8 for tobacco, wheat, plantations up 20 several hundred ...1% Northerners

Tobacco Farming Virginia 1750



Other Immigrants

- ▶ The ambitious younger sons of middle class English due to favourable publicity and incentives'Head right' system (right to 50 acres if worked for xxx years)
- ▶ Germans: appeal of Pennsylvania and toleration, wars of Central Europe, and religious persecution of Quakers, Mennonites, Amish,
- ▶ Scotch Irish'...'Border People': economic migrants: Protestants and Ulster....restive, anti authoritarian, fiercely independent, accustomed to violence, opposed to Anglicanism,
- ▶ Scottish Highlanders: deported after supporting Jacobite rebellion followed by 'clearing of Highlanders' to make way for sheep

'Scotch Irish'

- Protestant settlers in Ulster seeking improved opportunities, freedom from high rents, wars with Catholics, seeking 'a land of their own'
- Fiercely resistant to authority & accustomed to use of violence to resolve disputes... 'honour system'... inclined to duels
- Virulently anti catholic and 'others'....such as indigenous peoples.
- Majority migrate West where 'free 'land is available

"we have had 12 or 13 slave of ships from the North of Ireland with a swarm of people."..

John Dickinson, Philadelphia 1710

Scotch Irish (1)



Scotch Irish (2)



They were pioneers, frontiersmen, these Scotch-Irish; their general equipment consisted of a rifle, the Bible, and the Psalms of David.

THE EMIGRANTS' NOONDAY HALT.—[DRAWN BY SOL EYTINGE, JUN., FROM A SKETCH BY MISS MARY L. STONE.]
NORTH CAROLINA SKETCHES.—[SEE PAGE 315.]

“They were pioneers, frontiersmen, these Scotch-Irish: their general equipment consisted of a rifle, the Bible, and the Psalms of David.”(Robert Garland. Early 20th century historian and Pennsylvania councilman

Old west pioneer homes





Intermission

The Georgia Experiment



George 2nd wants new colony to block Spanish

1732, 22 'enlightened' Trustees secure charter to create 'model' colony

James Oglethorpe (1695 -1780)

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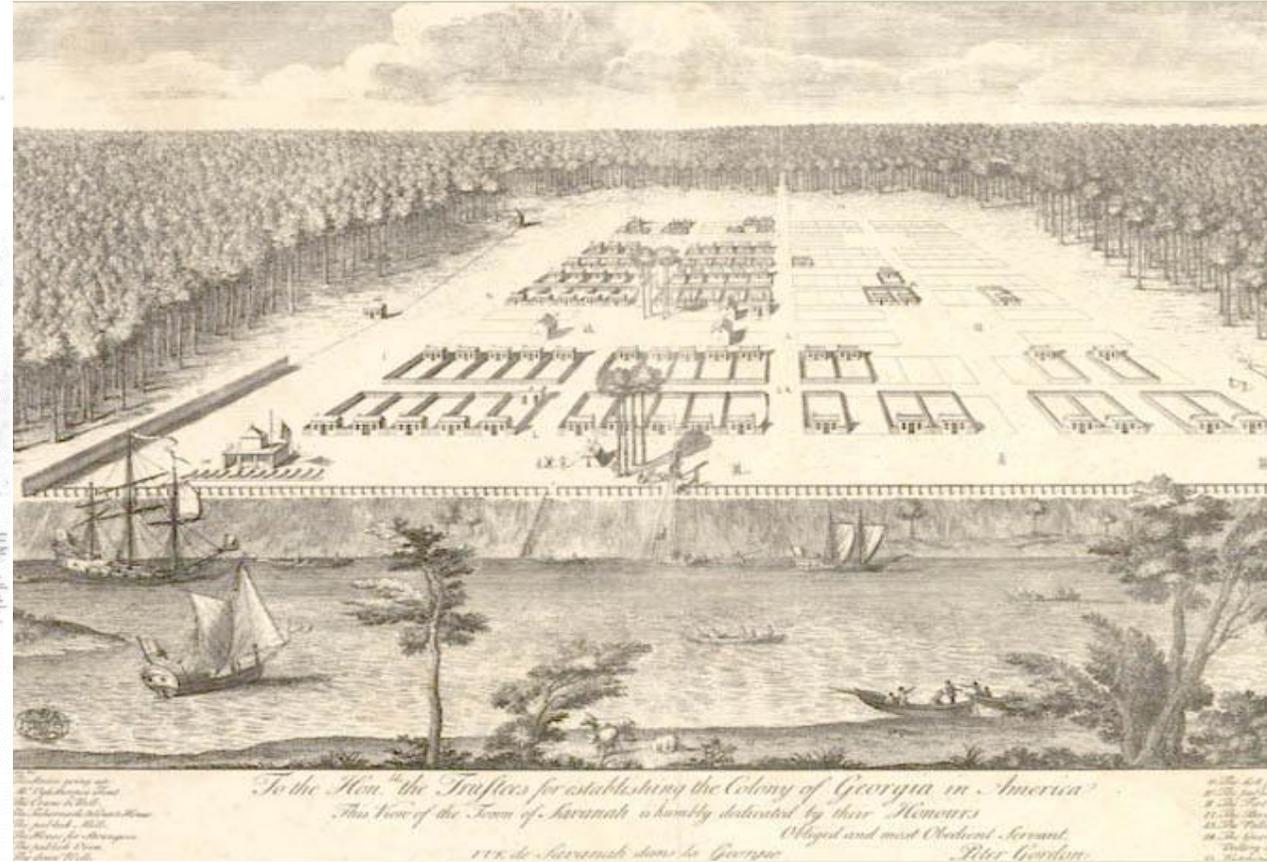
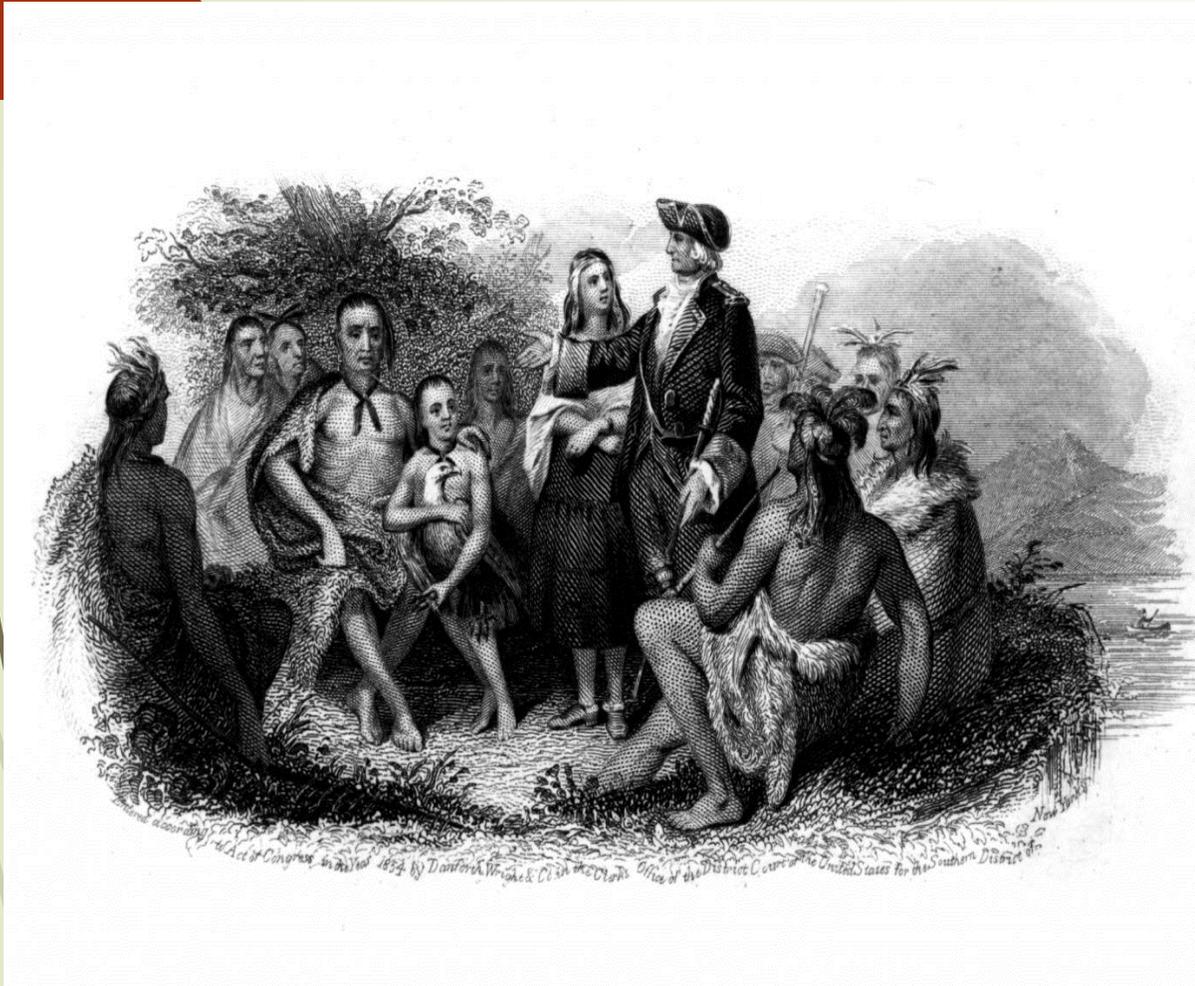


10th son wealthy landowner, soldier,
'Enlightened' thinker ...joins Trustees

Georgia to be a model colony
No slavery, no alcohol, planned cities
, equal sized plots of land, all welcome
Jews, Catholics, Indians to be treated
as friends and neighbours

The great (and short lived) experiment

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Oglethorpe returns to England in 1735 to protect estate
From creditors and introduce Yakimah Indians to Trustees

Oglethorpe introduces Chief Tomochichi of Yakimah to trustees in London 1735



'Malcontents' destroy Georgia experiment ³⁵



Self financed Scottish immigrants to Georgia, not beholden to Trustees

Observe life and prosperity in Carolinas, use of slavery, exemption of whites from physical work and want the same

Lobby Trustees to Legalise slavery, sale of alcohol, end land restrictions. Oglethorpe & Trustees give up

Georgia becomes 'Royal Colony' 1753

Georgia becomes another 'Slave State'another 'might have been



Governance and Culture

Mercantilism

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- ▶ Economic theory dominant through 19th century....still practiced by China...and nationaliststoday.. Trade = War
- ▶ Increase supply of gold by maximising exports and minimising imports
- ▶ The purpose of colonies is to increase the wealth of the motherland, supply raw materials, buy its goods, use its ships

But....

by 1750's British Americans increasingly see themselves as 'British', not colonial peoples

Three Colonial Types

- ▶ Charter ... Shareholders select Governor and Officials...New England, Virginia and Georgia founded as Charter but become 'Royal'
- ▶ Proprietary...Colony 'property' of an Aristocrat: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut
- ▶ Royal.. King and Parliament select Governor and Council

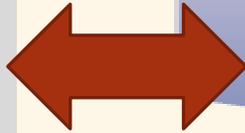
Most colonies start as 'Charter or Proprietary but become 'Royal' due to politics and insolvency as Britain attempts to impose 'rational' government

Three centres of power

- ▶ Parliament and King control Foreign Policy and trade,
- ▶ Governors select "Council' and 'Placemen' to key roles in Government and can veto
- ▶ Assemblies voted by property owners and responsible for local laws and taxes (60% white males vs 15% in England)

Royal Colony

Parliament



BRITISH CROWN



ROYAL GOVERNOR

- appointed by the crown
- oversaw colonial trade

- had final approval on laws
- could dismiss colonial assembly



COUNCIL

- appointed by governor
- advisory board to governor
- acted as highest court in each colony

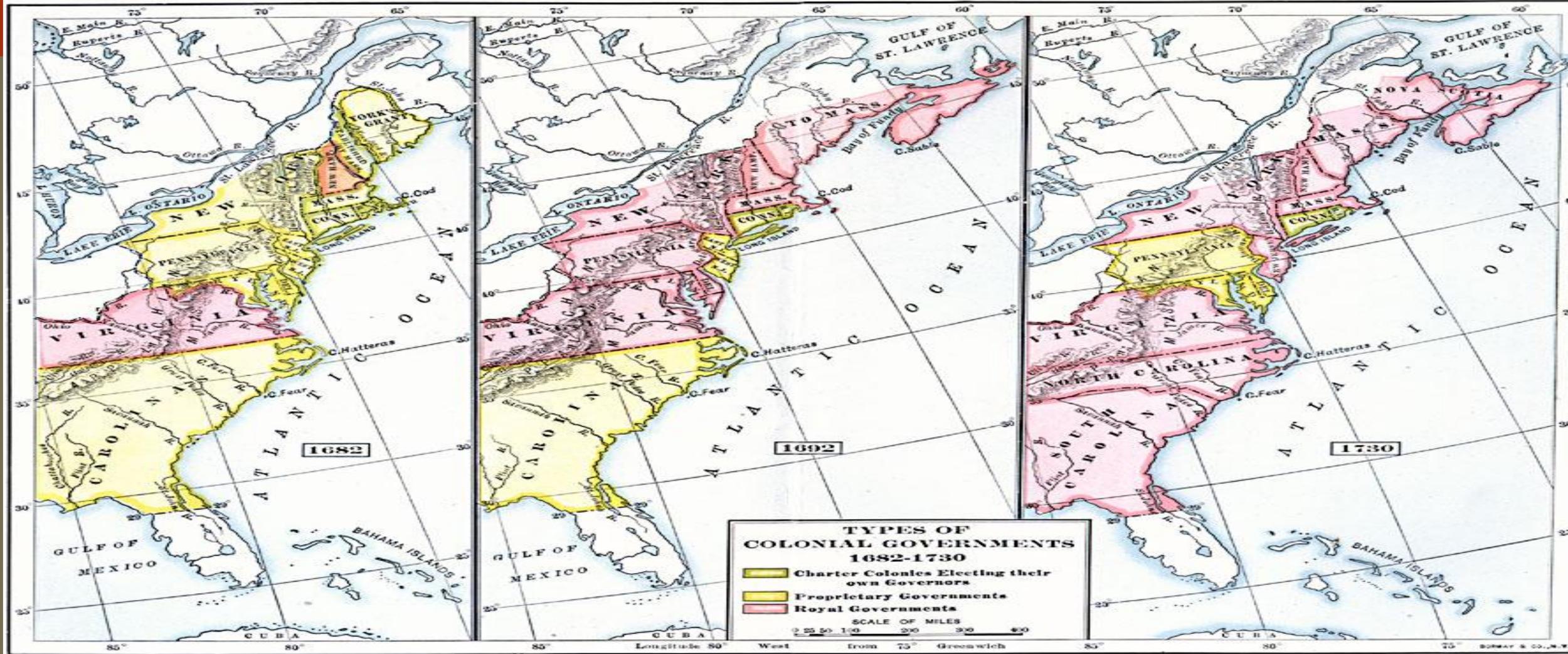


COLONIAL ASSEMBLY

- elected by eligible colonists
- made laws
- had authority to tax
- paid governor's salary

Parliament claims to represent British Americans 'virtually'

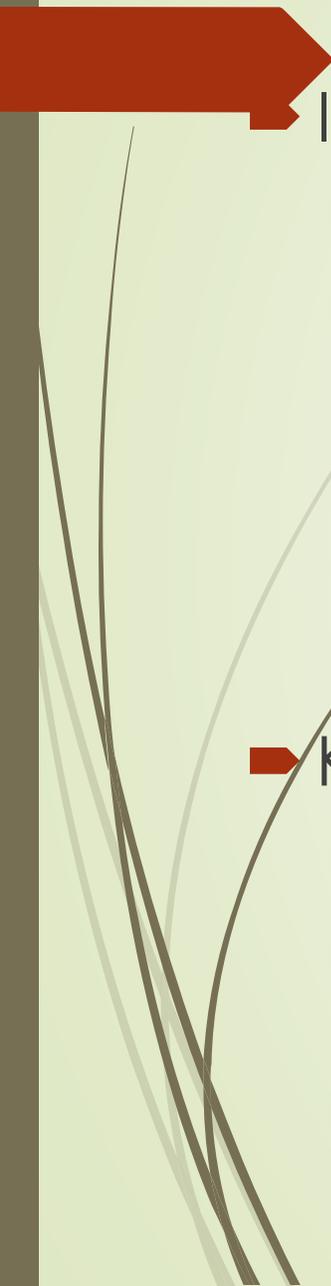
Increase in 'Royal Colonies'



Others go bankrupt or seen as disloyal not sufficiently 'mercantile'

About the 'Enlightenment'

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- 
- ▶ Intellectual movement from Reformation to French Revolution
 - ▶ Rationalism...logic over belief
 - ▶ Progressivism...humans can make world better, contract government and people.
 - ▶ Empiricism... 'good' must be proven
 - ▶ Cosmopolitan....citizens of world, 'nation' a construct
 - ▶ Key thinkers
 - ▶ Francis Bacon (1561-1626) ..empirical thinking
 - ▶ Baruch Spinoza (1632 -1677) ...deism, God remote, imperfect, incomplete
 - ▶ John Locke (1632-1704), Jacque Rousseau (1712-1778)..rights of man

British America fertile ground for Enlightenment thinking

- High literacy rates in New England states and new cities of New York, Boston, Philadelphia
- High participation in civil life, newspapers and coffee shop culture
- New universities (Hartford, Princeton Yale, University of Pennsylvania etc)
- Central to Free Mason and “Deist” thought 21/56 signers to Declaration of Independence were Masons....pyramid and eye on \$1 bill

New generation of ‘British American’ intellectuals emerges during 1750’s
Loyalty to Government dependent ‘On logic and utility’
...not obedience or tradition

First Great Awakening (1730-1740)

- ▶ Church attendance declining in 18th century British American (and British) society
- ▶ North American life...prosperous, agricultural and increasingly materialistic as luxuries become available...ongoing fear of Indians
- ▶ Rise off 'Deism',, even Atheism...John Newton... God the great mathematician
- ▶ Attendance and conformity threatened by profusion of Protestant denominations

Late 17th century...a profusion of denominations

A Catalogue of the severall Sects and Opinions in England and other Nations
With a briefe Rehearfall of their false and dangerous Tenents.



Great Awakening

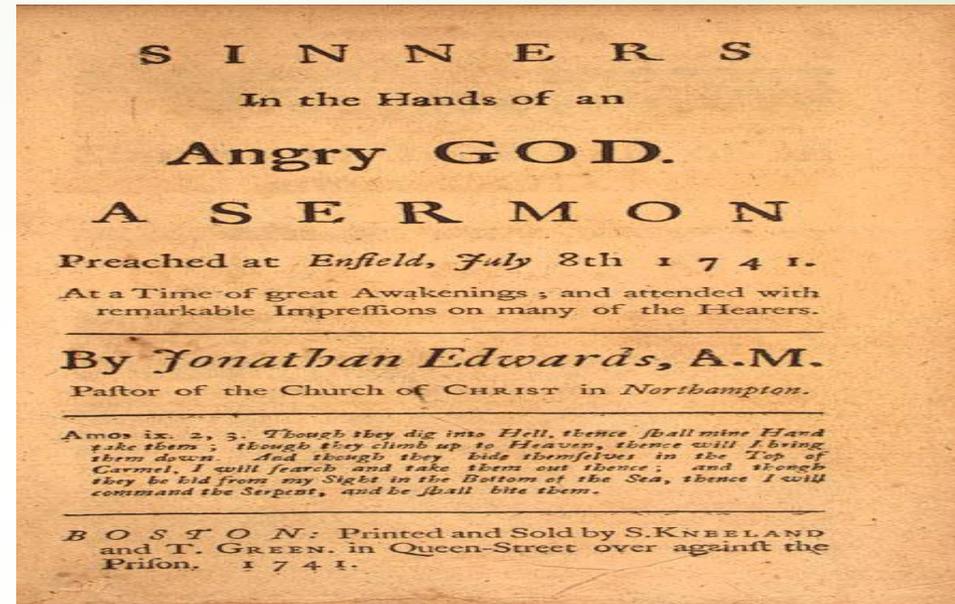
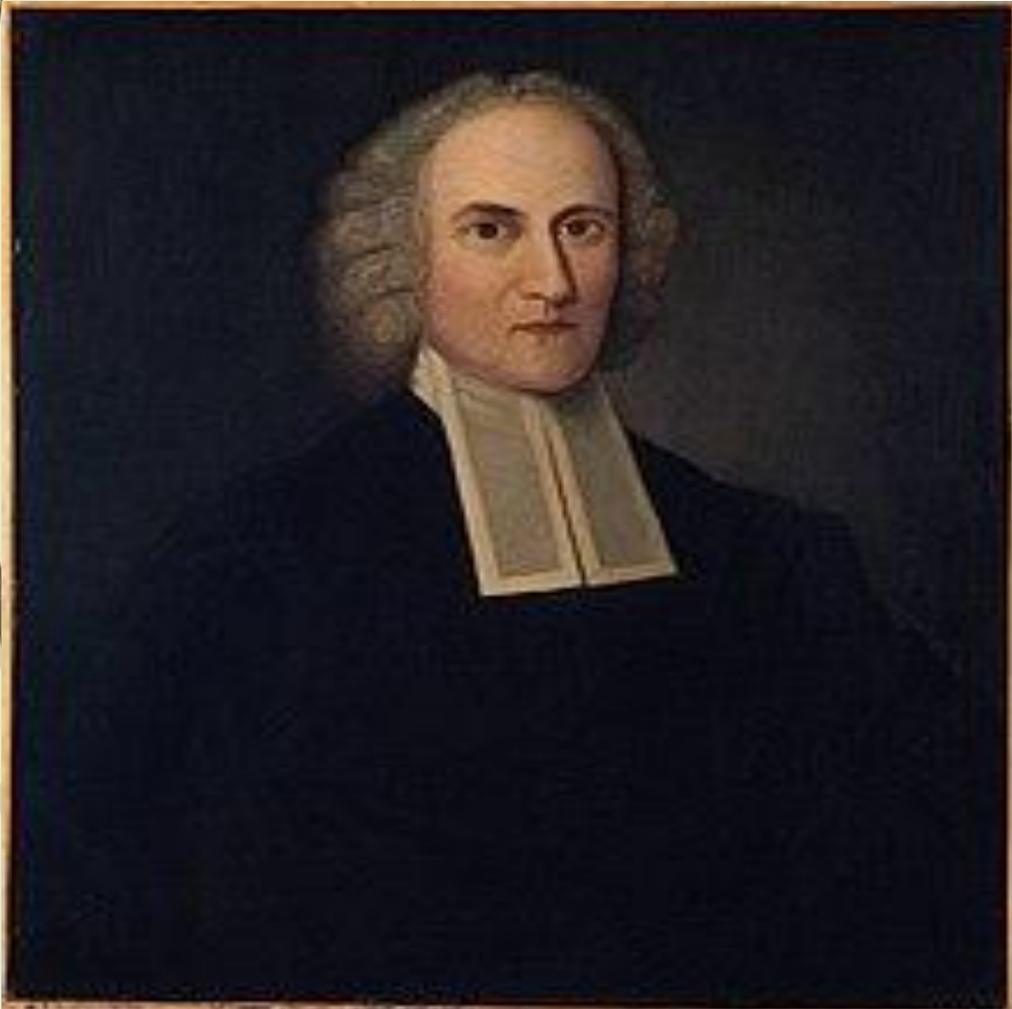
Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

- Born in Connecticut 5th of 11 children of Presbyterian minister
- Child of Enlightenment, attended Yale at age 13, converted to Anglicanism
- Rejected 'Deism' ..God's love and power revealed in nature, not disproved
- Salvation by Faith alone not by 'works' due to man's 'sinful disposition'
- Slavery justified but manumitted his slaves and opposed slave trade...

➤ George Whitfield (1714-1770)

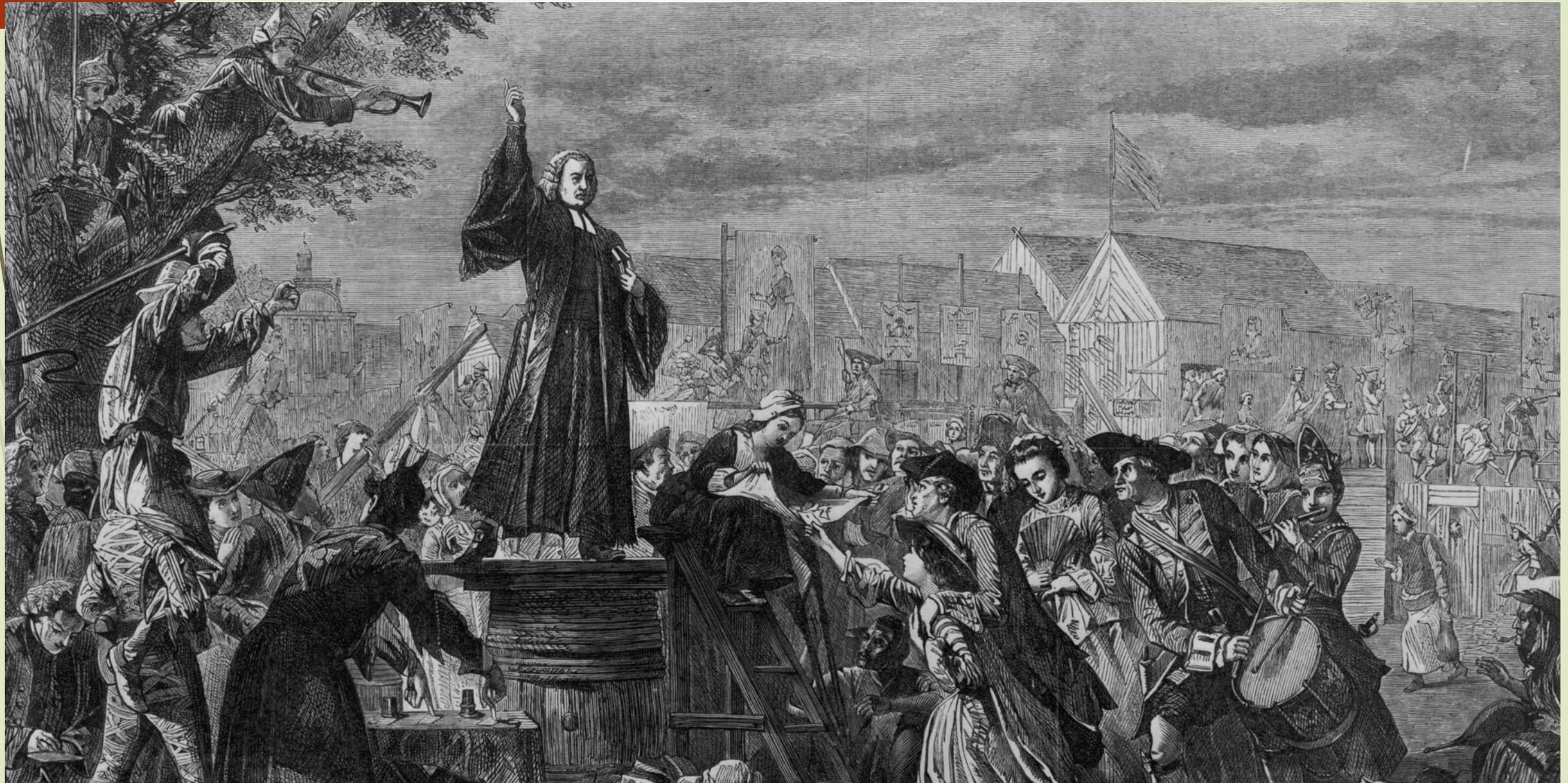
- Son of innkeeper, brilliant student,
- Scholarship to Oxford, meets John Wesley, becomes Anglican minister,
- To America, sets up orphanages, delivers mass meetings 10,000 to 30,000 all across British America
- Preached directly to slaves (yet defended and owned slaves)

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)



“The wrath of God burns against them [sinners], their damnation don’t slumber, the pit is prepared, the fire is made ready, the furnace is now hot, ready to receive them, the flames do now rage and glow. The glittering sword is whet, and held over them, and the pit hath opened her mouth under them.”

George Whitefield mass meeting



Impact Great Awakening

- First mass movement in the British Colonies
- Discredited established Anglican church and government hierarchy...despite its delivery by Anglican ministers..
- Builds conflict with “Enlightenment” thinkers
- Triggered dialogue on slavery and ‘abolitionism’



Tour of the Colonies

Tour of the Colonies 1750

	British %	% voters*	Literacy	Slaves as % Population	Policy vs Indigenous People
New England	90% +	80%	High	2%	Remove/ Eliminate
Mid Atlantic	70%	20%	Med	5%	Assimilate & Cohabit
South	90%	10%	Low	40%	Remove/ Eliminate
Borders/ Interior	90%	40%	Low	10%	Remove/ Eliminate

* Among white males only, estimates based on my reading. Free blacks meeting property requirements legally able to vote in some colonies.

New York Ladies 1770



New York...Wall Street 1770.



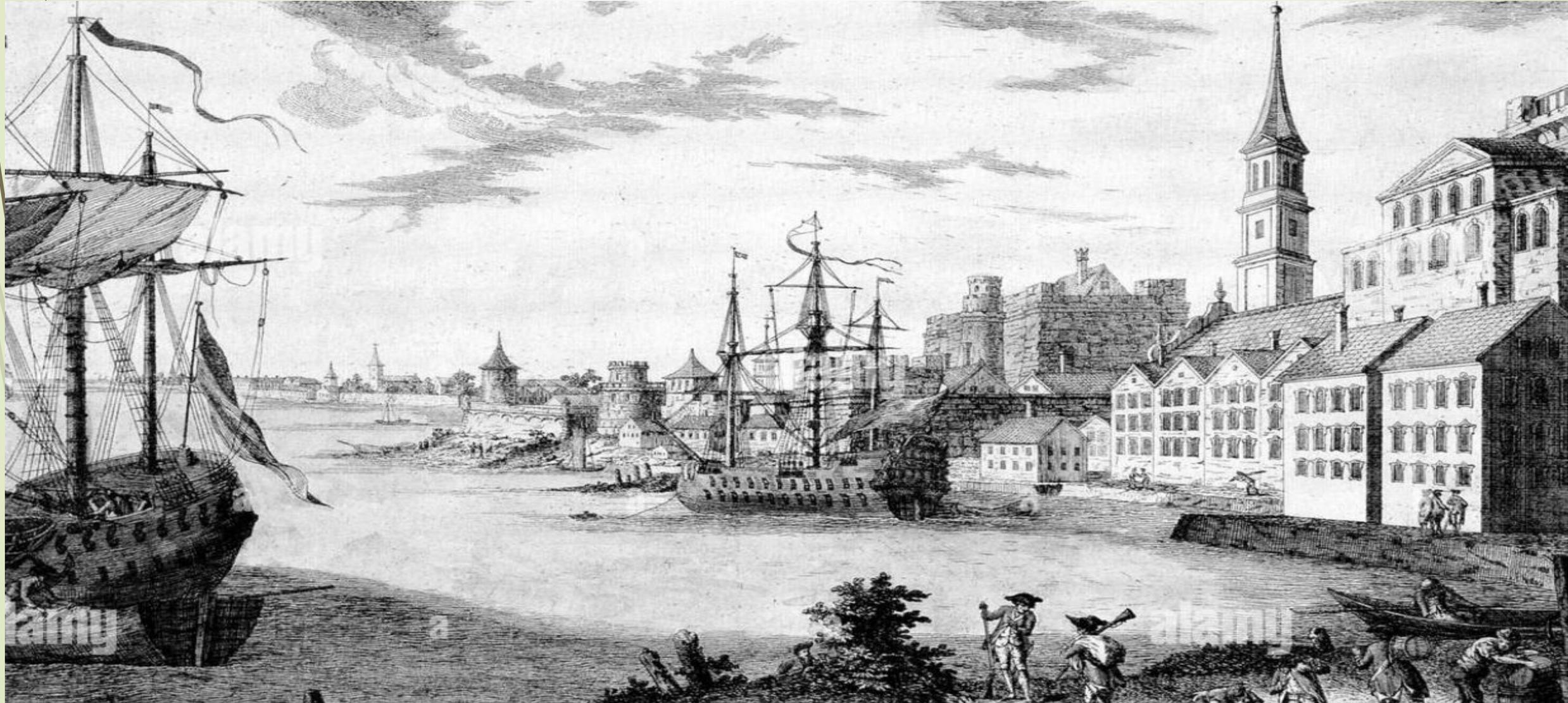
Philadelphia 1750



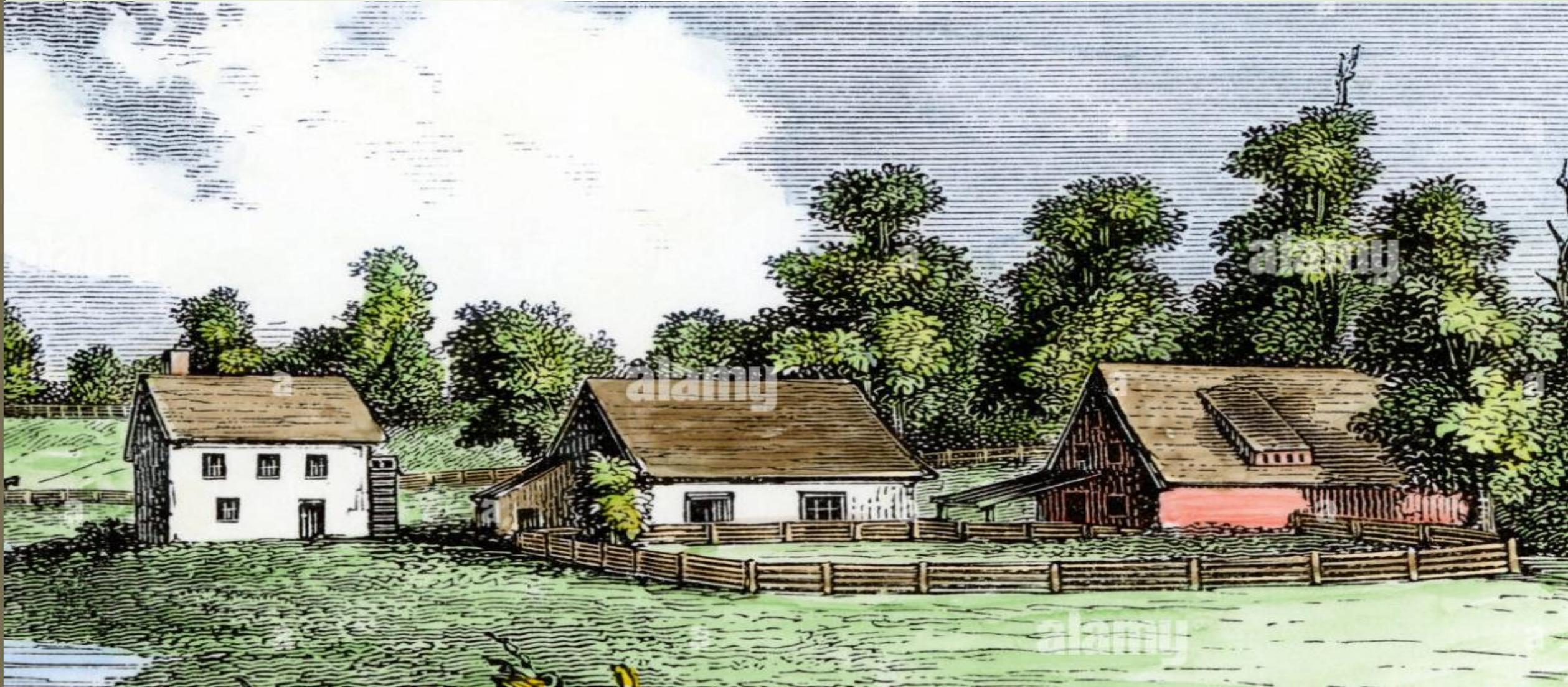
Tobacco Plantation Carolinas 1750



Boston 1750



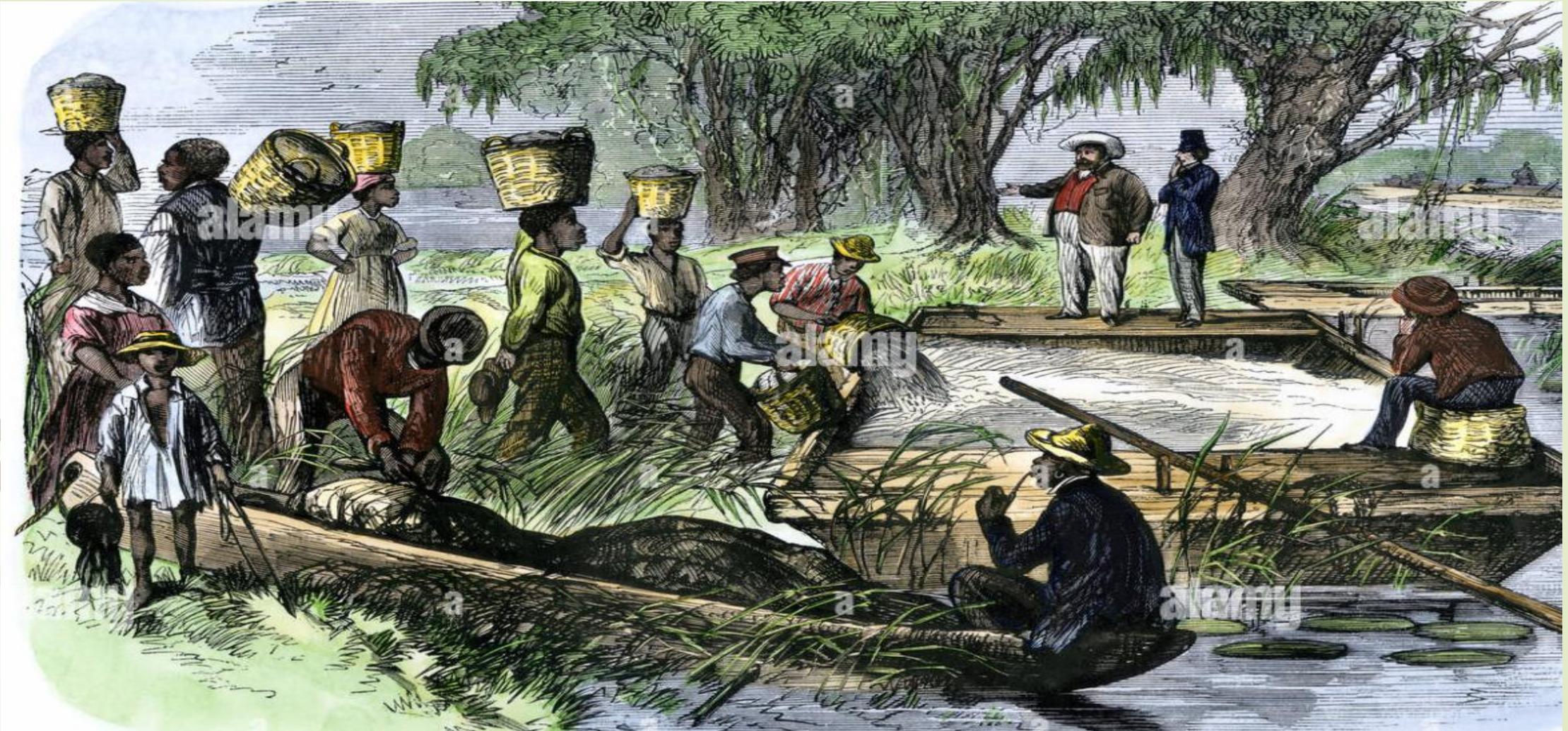
Pennsylvania farm 1760s



Rice Plantation



Loading rice harvest



Border Country



Plantation owner visiting slaves 1760s

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British America 1760



East Anglia

Midlands, Holland, Germany, Swedes

Scotch Irish, the Scotch

Slaves

Atlantik

British America 1750

- A complicated set of 13 colonies prosperous and growing rapidly
- An agrarian economy with first cities (New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Savannah) integrated within the British empire
- 90% of white population still British with shared language and culture
- United by fear of Indians, France and Spain

Britain has a prosperous growing and loyal empire and appears set to rule the Americas.....what could possibly go wrong?