"The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas and form new opinions... We have no princes, for whom we toil, starve and bleed. We are the most perfect society now existing in the world. Here man is free as he ought to be...Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men, whose labors and posterity will one day cause great change in the world."

Hector St. John
1759
**AM COLONIAL POPULATION**

**GROWING FAST:**

- **1700:** 300,000 (20,000 black)
- **1775:** 2.5 M (500,000 black)

16 average age

doubled every 20 years

natural production

diverse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Subjects to Am Colonists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Colonial Population, 1660–1780

rural population: 90%
MINGLING OF THE RACES

GERMANS

Fleeing religious persecution, economic oppression and war

Primarily Lutheran

“Pennsylvania Dutch;” 1/3 of colony’s population living in backcountry.
MINGLING OF THE RACES

SCOTS-IRISH

Escaping persecution and economic oppression in N Ireland

“First settlers of the West” to move beyond the already settled Germans

And moved south into MaryL and Virginia along Appalachian foothills

7%

Pugnacious, individualistic and lawless

Great frontier people

No love lost for British government (or Govt)
Trouble on the Growing Pennsylvania Frontier: The Paxton Boys

The Village of Paxton, a few miles east of Harrisburg in eastern Pennsylvania, became a hotbed of racial and political unrest during Pontiac’s Rebellion. Still part of the frontier in the 1760s, the area was populated by many rough-and-tumble Scots-Irish immigrants who had grown weary of the colonial assembly’s inattention to their vulnerability to attack. Requests for soldiers — or guns, powder and lead at the very least — were ignored by the legislators, many of whom were Quakers with strong pacifist convictions.

A group of Paxton men took matters into their own hands in December 1763 and raided a small settlement of Conestoga Indians in Lancaster County. The frontiersmen’s fury was misplaced, however, since those natives had long lived in peace with their neighbors and had not participated in any way in the current uprising. Six Indians were killed in the attack and 14 taken captive; all of the prisoners were murdered several weeks later.

News of these events prompted Governor John Penn to issue warrants for the arrest of the perpetrators, but sympathetic frontiersmen refused to assist in bringing the Paxton Boys to justice.

The malcontents next singled out a settlement of Moravian Indians who lived near the town of Bethlehem. Fortunately for these peaceful Christianized natives, they managed to flee from their homes for protection in Philadelphia, which was then capital of Pennsylvania and the headquarters of a contingent of British soldiers. The Paxton Boys were outraged that the government would spend tax monies on protecting Indians, but would provide nothing for the defense of its citizenry. The Moravian Indians remained in protective custody in Philadelphia for more than a year.

In January 1764, a group of Paxton Boys began a march on the capital; the number of participants has been estimated to be between 600 and 1,500. As the mob neared Philadelphia, panic reigned. The strange spectacle of pacifists arming themselves with muskets and rolling cannon into public squares was observed. Church bells tolled the alarm. A possible disaster was averted in early February, when Benjamin Franklin and other civic leaders ventured out to consult with the mob’s leaders. An accommodation was reached in which the march was disbanded in return for the arrangement of a meeting between Paxton leaders and colonial officials. This airing of grievances occurred, but little was done for the plight of the frontiersmen.
During the late and present Indian War, the Frontiers of this Province have been repeatedly attacked and ravaged by Skulking parties of the Indians, who have with the most Savage Cruelty murdered Men, Women, and Children without distinction, and have reduced near a thousand Families to the most extreme distress. It grieves us to the very heart to see such of our frontier inhabitants as have escaped savage fury with the loss of their parents, their children, their wives or relatives, left destitute by the public, and exposed to the most cruel poverty and wretchedness while upward of 120 of these savages, who are with great reason suspected of being guilty of these horrid barbarities under the mask of friendship, have procured themselves to be taken under the protection of the government, with a view to elude the fury of the brave relatives of the murdered, and are now maintained at the public expense.
Trouble on the Growing Pennsylvania Frontier: The Paxton Boys

As white settlers push west, Am Ind relations will continue to be source of conflict.

Growing division between established politics of cities and rural settlers questioning authority representation in government
Unrest in North Carolina: The Regulator Movement

Beginning in 1768, a series of incidents and confrontations between the western farmers and common folk and the wealthy, eastern political officials reached a climax. One of the many issues was a tax to pay for the new palace for Governor Tryon in New Bern. A poll tax, or a tax on all at the same rate citizens was also passed.

Farming interests in western North Carolina resented the actions of local court officials. This feeling was particularly strong in Anson, Granville, Halifax, Orange and Rowan counties.

Efforts to reform the assessment of taxes and fees were unsuccessful; the courts and assembly were not responsive and seemed to favor the causes of the wealthy tidewater elements.

Regulator Movement in North Carolina Regulator groups arose to close down local courts (which in this era were analogous to county commissions) and suppress tax payments; rioting broke out in several counties. In May 1771, Governor William Tryon led militia forces against the Regulators and defeated them handily at Alamance Creek.
For years, many citizens had been organizing opposition to the abuses of power by many of the local officials.

The Regulators were formed in 1768 to “regulate government officials and their gross abuses of power and position.”

In addition to Governor Tryon, the Regulators directly challenged Edmund Fanning, a corrupt government official from Hillsborough.

In 1770, 150 Regulators broke into the Orange County Courthouse and literally dragged Judge Fanning from the bench by his heels. They then took him outside and spanked him in front of the townspeople with sticks and switches.
The Battle of Alamance

With this action, Governor Tryon could not ignore such vigilante justice in the state. In May 16th, 1771, Governor Tryon used over 1400 soldiers from the state militia to track down and corner the Regulators who were encamped near Alamance Creek, near present-day Greensboro. After a nearly two-hour battle, Tryon and the militia defeated the Regulators.
Mecklenburg Resolves

According to North Carolinian lore, some citizens of Mecklenburg County gathered in Charlotte on May 20, 1775 and signed a declaration of independence from Britain — the first such move in the American colonies.

Documentary evidence of this event, however, is lacking. Regardless of whether the "Meck Dec" actually existed or not, the historical record does support a later meeting on May 31, 1775 in which the Mecklenburg Committee of Safety adopted a series of resolutions.

All laws originating from the king or Parliament were voided.

The actions of royal military and civil officials was suspended.

A call was put out to other colonies to govern themselves through provincial congresses.

Royal officials who continued in their duties in North Carolina were to be arrested.

These resolutions were sent to the North Carolina delegation at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia where they were received, but never presented to the full assembly.
CHPT 5: Colonial Society on the Eve of Revolution (1700-1775)
AGRICULTURE

Leading occupation – employing 90% of people
CHPT 5: Colonial Society on the Eve of Revolution (1700-1775)

The map illustrates the major trade routes and points of trade during the 18th century. Key locations include:

- **North America**: New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, Wilmington, and New Orleans.
- **West Indies**: Jamaica, Barbados, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Santo Domingo.
- **South America**: Lima, Potosi, and Rio de Janeiro.
- **Europe**: London, Bristol, and Amsterdam.
- **Africa**: Luanda and Angola.

The map highlights the exchange of goods such as tobacco, sugar, molasses, rum, iron, and slaves, connecting various regions across the Atlantic Ocean.
WORKADAY AMERICA

TRIANGULAR TRADE

manufacturing secondary importance

high female household manufacturing output

skilled craftsmen, highly prized

lumbering most important manufacturing

Ams had an overall higher standard of living than the masses of any country.
an imbalance of trade develops…

**Molasses Act (1733)**

Law by Parliament to squash Am Col trades with French West Indies

we become great smugglers….
DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION

taverns spring up along main rural routes: THE place to gather.
drink, gossip, discuss current events

intercolonial postal system by 1700s.

printing presses; independent newspapers, pamphlets.....
WORKADAY AMERICA

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION

...journals.

Poor Richard’s Almanac (1732-1758) aphorisms, whit, stories, household tips..

reflected, promoted Am Col values

COMMUNICATION

UNITY, SHAPES CULTURE, SHARED EXPERIENCES AND FORMULATES OPINIONS

a successful journal of aphorisms, advise, household hints, entertainment
John Peter Zenger was a German immigrant who printed a publication called *The New York Weekly Journal*. This publication harshly pointed out the actions of the corrupt royal governor, William S. Cosby. It accused the government of rigging elections and allowing the French enemy to explore New York harbor. It accused the governor of an assortment of crimes and basically labeled him an idiot.

In 1733, Zenger was accused of libel, a legal term whose meaning is quite different for us today than it was for him. In his day it was libel when you published information that was opposed to the government. Truth or falsity were irrelevant.

The first jury was packed with individuals on Cosby's payroll. Throughout this process, Zenger's wife Anna kept the presses rolling. Her reports resulted in replacing Cosby's jury with a true jury of Zenger's peers.

When the trial began and Zenger's new attorney began his defense, a stir fluttered through the courtroom. The most famous lawyer in the colonies, Andrew Hamilton of Philadelphia, stepped up to defend Zenger. Hamilton admitted that Zenger printed the charges and demanded the prosecution to prove them false. In a stirring appeal to the jury, Hamilton pleaded for his new client's release. "It is not the cause of one poor printer," he claimed, "but the cause of liberty." “**There is no libel if the truth is told.**"

The judge ordered the jury to convict Zenger if they believed he printed the stories. But the jury returned in less than ten minutes with a verdict of not guilty.
GREAT AWAKENING
1730s

Jonathan Edwards

of devout New Eng Puritan family

Attended Yale; studies divinity and modern, changing philosophies and ideas

Causes

Felt Am Cols becoming complacent in their faith; distracted by their daily lives and worldly affairs.

Divisive issues within the Puritan Church

Age of Reason: Newtonian science of natural laws; independent thought
Preached with fury and conviction, people flocked to listen

“God is an angry judge, and humans were sinners!”

Edwards most notable sermon, “In the hands of an angry God.”
GREAT AWAKENING
1730s

George Whitfield (1714-1770)

British actor and Anglican cleric moves to and travels Am Cols

1,000s would gather to hear his open air, emotional sermons; converting Am Inds and slaves

Converts Am Inds and slaves

Inspires others to spread the word of God; movement spreads like wildfire

newspapers printed sermons

The dramatic George Whitefield preaching in the open-air.
GREAT AWAKENING
1730s

Long-Term Effects
Common message, shared experience brought Am Cols together

New Light Ministers
As GrA grows, new preachers not ordained; refused to accept new styles of worship
challenge established church authority

Old Light Ministers
started new divinity schools (Princeton, Brown, Rutgers)
and split/grow denominations

Division
More religious competition
BUT because no one denomination would dominated, more religious
tolerance.

Am Cols can unite under shared experiences

An Am Rev Warm-Up?
If we can challenge authority/leaders of the church…