

Colonial Economies



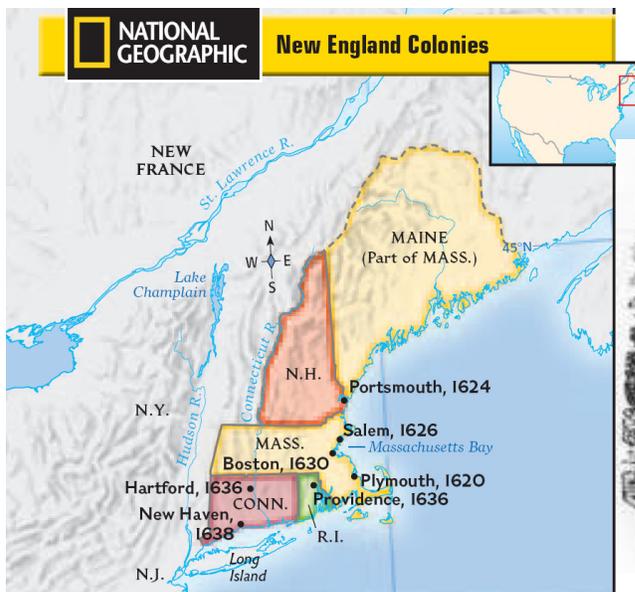
population increase:

1700: 250,000

1775: 2,500,000

Most colonial economies were based on agriculture

New England Colonies



prospered in fur trapping, lumbering, shipbuilding, and fishing



thin, rocky soil, long winters, and short growing season

most colonists practiced subsistence farming: growing just enough of a product for their families to eat or use (not more of it to sell)

Middle Colonies



better land and climate

able to sell wheat, cattle, and hogs to other colonies and nations

Pennsylvania Deutsch
(Dutch)

(we call them Amish)

great farmers:
used fertilizer and
crop rotation

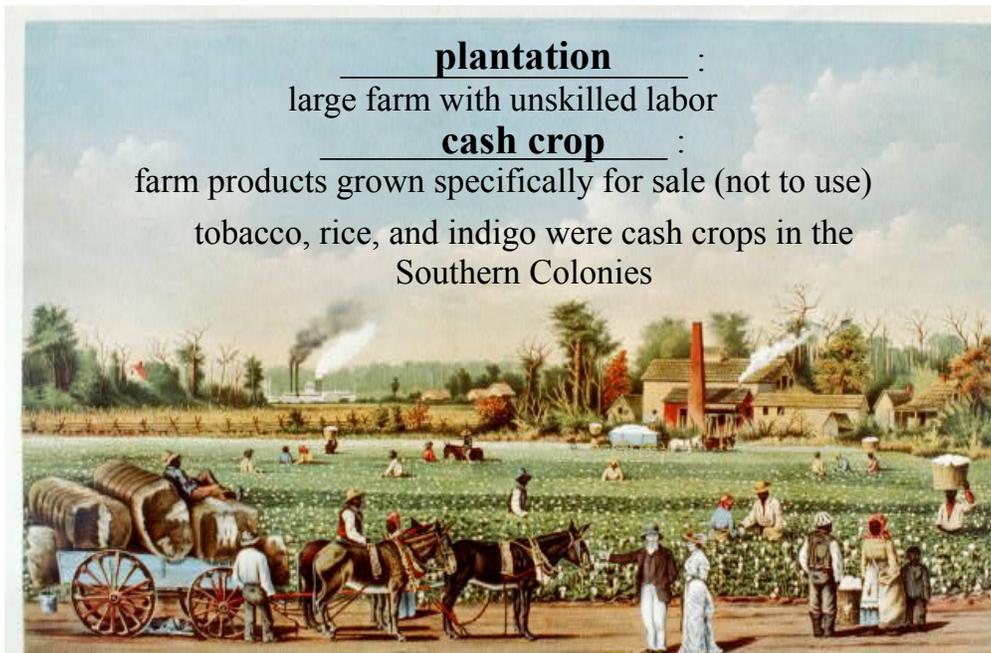


Southern Colonies

the South didn't have a lot of factories:

they had great soil and a long growing season,
so they farmed instead

plantation :
large farm with unskilled labor
cash crop :
farm products grown specifically for sale (not to use)
tobacco, rice, and indigo were cash crops in the
Southern Colonies



Social Structure of the Southern Colonies



plantation owners

became very rich

they basically ran everything in the south (society and politics)

a few large plantations had hundreds of workers (indentured servants or slaves)

yeoman farmers owned small farms
work force of only 30 or fewer workers



The Impact of Slavery on the Colonial Economy

the first Africans arrived as indentured servants
(Jamestown, 1619)

plantation owners did have some indentured servants who had come from Europe looking for jobs

when the economy in Europe improved, the number of people who came to the New World declined



Why Use Africans as Slaves Instead of Native Americans?

plantations needed workers

tried to enslave Native Americans; that didn't work

> they quickly died from disease

> they rebelled with the help of local allies

Africans were the preferred slaves because

> they were immune to most European diseases

> Africans had no friends or family in the Americas to help them resist or escape enslavement

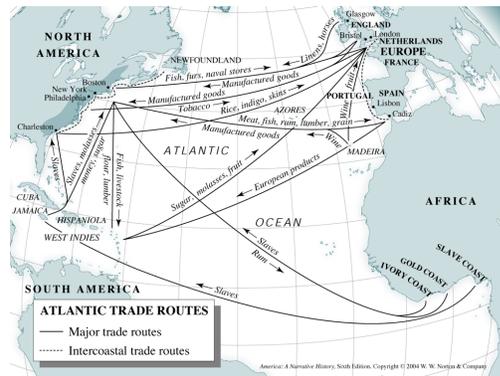


An Indian sent into Slavery.

Triangle Trade

Or Triangular-ish Trade

“Middle Passage:” horrible conditions suffered by slaves in middle leg of triangular trade



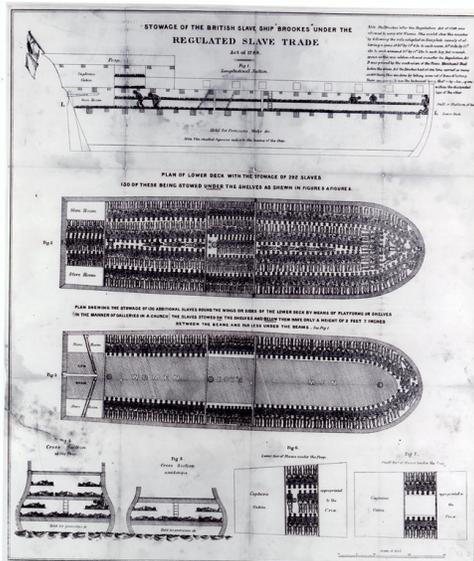
ships left Europe with manufactured goods
(knives, swords, guns, cloth, rum)

sailed to West Africa and traded for slaves

sailed to Caribbean islands and
up the east coast of North America

traded for sugar, molasses, cotton, tobacco

ships returned to Europe to trade for manufactured goods



Slave population increase:

1700: 28,000

1775: 500,000

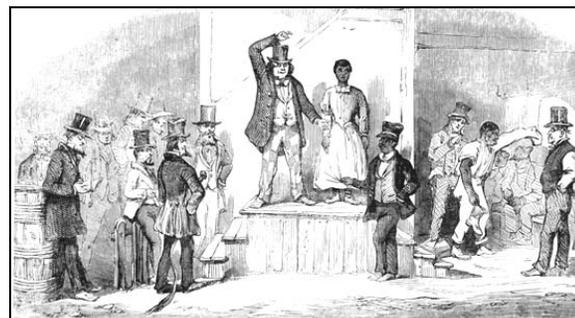


10 LIKELY and VALUABLE
SLAVES
AT AUCTION.

On THURSDAY the 24th inst.
WE WILL SELL,
In front of our Office, without any kind of bid or reserve for cash,
AT 11 O'CLOCK,

10 AS LIKELY NEGROES
As any ever offered in this market; among them is a man who is a
superior Cook and House Servant, and a girl about 17 years old, a
first rate House Servant, and an excellent seamstress.

BROOKE & HUBBARD,



Olaudah Equiano, *The Middle Passage* (1788)

Born in Benin (Africa), Equiano was enslaved at the age of 11. He was shipped off to the English colony of Virginia, where he was put to work. Less than a month later, he was purchased by a lieutenant in the British Royal Navy. Under this master Equiano would move to England, educate himself, and in 1766, secure his freedom. His narrative, written in English in 1789, is a rare glimpse of the slave trade from the point of view of the slave.



...The first object which saluted my eyes when I arrived on the coast was the sea, and a slave ship, which was then riding at anchor, and waiting for its cargo. These filled me with astonishment, which was soon converted into terror when I was carried on board. I was immediately handled and tossed up to see if I were sound by some of the crew; and I was now persuaded that I had gotten into a world of bad spirits, and they were going to kill me ...

When I looked round the ship too and saw a large furnace of copper boiling, and a multitude of black people of every description chained together, every one of their countenances expressing dejection and sorrow, I no longer doubted of my fate; and, quite overpowered with horror and anguish, I fell motionless on the deck and fainted. When I recovered a little I found some black people about me, who I believe were some of those who brought me on board, and had been receiving their pay; they talked to me in order to cheer me, but all in vain. **I asked them if we were not to be eaten by those white men with horrible looks, red faces, and loose hair. They told me I was not...**

I was soon put down under the decks, and there I received such a salutation in my nostrils as I had never experienced in my life: so that, with the loathsomeness of the stench, and crying together, I became so sick and low that I was not able to eat, nor had I the least desire to taste anything. I now wished for the last friend, death, to relieve me; but soon, to my grief, two of the white men offered me eatables; and, on my refusing to eat, one of them held me fast by the hands, and laid me across I think the windlass, and tied my feet, while the other flogged me severely. I had never experienced anything of this kind before.

and although, not being used to the water, I would have jumped over the side, but I could not; and, besides, the crew used to watch us very closely who were not chained down to the decks, lest we should leap into the water: and I have seen some of these poor African prisoners most severely cut for attempting to do so, and hourly whipped for not eating...

I inquired what was to be done with us; they gave me to understand we were to be carried to these white people's country to work for them. I feared I should be put to death, the white people looked and acted, as I thought, in so savage a manner; for I had never seen among any people such instances of brutal cruelty.

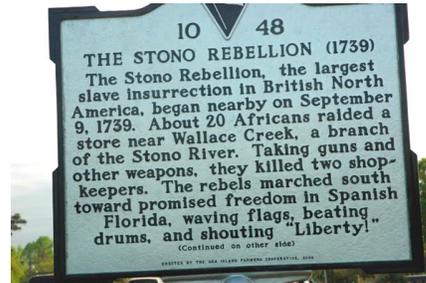
The stench of the hold while we were on the coast was so intolerably loathsome, that it was dangerous to remain there for any time, and some of us had been permitted to stay on the deck for the fresh air; but now that the whole ship's cargo were confined together, it became absolutely pestilential. The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. This produced copious perspirations, so that the air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died. This wretched situation was again aggravated by the galling of the chains, now become insupportable; and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated. The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole a scene of horror almost inconceivable. Happily perhaps for myself I was soon reduced so low here that it was thought necessary to keep me almost always on deck; and from my extreme youth I was not put in fetters. In this situation I expected every hour to share the fate of my companions, some of whom were almost daily brought upon deck at the point of death, which I began to hope would soon put an end to my miseries. Often did I think many of the inhabitants of the deep much more happy than myself. I envied them the freedom they enjoyed, and as often wished I could change my condition for theirs...

One day they had taken a number of fishes; and when they had killed and satisfied themselves with as many as they thought fit, to our astonishment who were on the deck, rather than give any of them to us to eat as we expected, they tossed the remaining fish into the sea again, although we begged and prayed for some as well as we could, but in vain; and some of my countrymen, being pressed by hunger, took an opportunity, when they thought no one saw them, of trying to get a little privately; but they were discovered, and the attempt procured them some very severe floggings. . . .

Resistance to Slavery

methods of resistance included:

- > physically fought back
- > commit acts of **sabotage**
- > work stoppages or slowdowns
- > running away



1712: New York Slave Revolt
(9 whites killed)

1739: Stono Rebellion
(in South Carolina - 21 whites killed)



Despite hardship, a unique African-American culture emerged as a mix of African-and-white cultures.

Blacks evolved their languages, for example Gullah (a variation of Angola).
Certain words joined English: goober (peanut),
gumbo (okra), and voodoo (witchcraft).

Music was unique too with rhythmic beats, the banjo, and bongo drums.
These were the ancestors of jazz.