

1 2 **I. The Unhealthy Chesapeake**

- Life in the American wilderness:
 - Life was nasty, brutish, and short.
 - Malaria, dysentery, and typhoid took their toll.
 - Newcomers died ten years earlier.
 - Half of the people born in early Virginia and Maryland died before their twentieth birthday.
 - Few lived to see their fiftieth birthday, sometimes even their fortieth, especially if they were women.

3 **I. The Unhealthy Chesapeake (cont.)**

- Settlements of the Chesapeake grew slowly, mostly by immigration:
 - Most were single men in their late teens and early twenties.
 - Most died soon after arrival.
 - Men outnumbered women, usually six to one.
 - Families were few and fragile.
 - Most men could not find mates.
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4 **I. The Unhealthy Chesapeake (cont.)**

- Chesapeake settlements (cont.):
 - Most marriages were destroyed by death of a partner within seven years.
 - Scarcely any children reached adulthood under the care of two parents.
 - Many pregnancies among unmarried young girls reflected weak family ties.
- Yet the Chesapeake colonies struggled on.
- End of 17th c., white population was growing.
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5 **II. The Tobacco Economy**

- Chesapeake hospitable to tobacco growing:
 - It quickly exhausted the soil.
 - It created an insatiable demand for new land.
 - Commercial growers moved farther up the river valleys, provoking Indian attacks.
- By 1630s the Chesapeake shipped 1.5 million pounds of tobacco, and by 1700 almost 40 million pounds.
- Overproduction depressed prices.

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6 7 **II. The Tobacco Economy (cont.)**

- More tobacco required more labor, but from where?
 - Natural population increase was too slow.
 - Indians often died on contact with whites.
 - African slaves were expensive.
 - England still had a “surplus” of displaced workers and farmers desperate for employment.
- Virginia and Maryland used the headright system to encourage importation of laborers.

8 **II. The Tobacco Economy (cont.)**

- Chesapeake planters recruited some 100,000 indentured servants to the region by 1700.
- These “white slaves” represented more than three-quarters of all European immigrants.
 - Indentured servants led a hard life but looked forward to becoming free and acquiring land.
 - After freedom, they often had to work for former masters at low wages because few received land as part of “freedom dues.”

9 **III. Frustrated Freemen and Bacon's Rebellion**

- Impoverished freedmen were increasingly frustrated with broken hopes and failure to find single women to marry.
- 1670: Virginia assembly disfranchised most landless whites.
- Governor Berkeley faced Bacon's Rebellion (1676) led by Nathaniel Bacon.

10 **III. Frustrated Freemen and Bacon's Rebellion (cont.)**

- Because of Berkeley's friendly policies toward Indians, he refused to retaliate against a series of brutal Indian attacks.
- Bacon and his frontier followers took matters into their own hands.
- After Bacon died from disease, Berkeley brutally suppressed the rebellion.
- Afterwards, planters sought a less troublesome source of labor for tobacco.
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11 **IV. Colonial Slavery**

- In late 17th century slavery expanded:
 - 7 million brought to New World over 300 years.
 - 400,000 came to North America, most after 1700.
 - 1619: First Africans were brought to Jamestown.
 - 1670: Africans = 7% of southern population.
 - Colonists could not afford high prices for slaves.
 - White servants were less costly initially, but less so by late 1600s and seemed more dangerous after Bacon's Rebellion.

12 **IV. Colonial Slavery (cont.)**

- Mid-1680s: More black slaves than white servants came into plantation colonies.
- 1698: Royal African Company lost monopoly.
- Thus Americans, especially Rhode Islanders, entered the lucrative slave trade.
- Most slaves came from west coast of Africa, present-day Senegal to Angola (see Map 4.1).
- Most came via gruesome middle passage.
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14 15 16 17 18 19 **IV. Colonial Slavery
(cont.)**

- In the early 1600s, the legal difference between African slaves and white servants was unclear, but that changed as the number of Africans greatly increased.
- 1662: Virginia statutes began to define the iron conditions of slavery for blacks.
- “Slave codes” marked blacks *and their children* as property (“chattels”) for life.

20 **IV. Colonial Slavery
(cont.)**

- Some colonies made it a crime to teach a slave to read or write.
- Not even conversion to Christianity could qualify a slave for freedom.
- As the 1600s ended, racial discrimination clearly molded the American slave system.
- Slavery then shaped race relations throughout the English colonies.

21 **V. Southern Society**

- As slavery spread, gaps in the South’s social structure widened:
 - A hierarchy of wealth and status became defined.
 - At the top were powerful great planter families: the Fitzhughs, the Lees, and the Washingtons.
 - By the Revolutionary War, 70% of the leaders of the Virginia legislature came from families established in Virginia before 1690 (the “FFVs”).

22 **V. Southern Society
(cont.)**

- Most of the planter elite were hard-working.
- Far beneath the planters were the small farmers, the largest social

- group.
- Still lower were the landless whites.
- Beneath them were those whites serving out their indenture.
- Increasingly black slaves occupied the bottom rung of southern society.
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23 **V. Southern Society
(cont.)**

- Few cities sprouted in the colonial South.
- Thus an urban professional class (lawyers and financiers) was slow to emerge.
- Southern life revolved around the isolated great plantations.
- Waterways were the principal means of transport.
- Roads were terrible.

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26 **VI. The New England Family**

- Contrasts in New England life:
 - New England settlers of 1600s added 10 years to their life span.
 - First generations of Puritans averaged 70 years.
 - They tended to migrate not as single persons but as families, and the family remained the center of New England life
 - New England’s population grew from natural reproduction.

27 **VI. The New England Family
(cont.)**

- Married life in New England:
 - Early marriage encouraged a booming birthrate.
 - Women generally married in their early twenties.
 - They produced babies every two years.
 - Dread of death in birthing haunted women.
 - A married woman could experience up to ten pregnancies and raise as many as eight children.
 - Longevity contributed to family stability.
 - New England “invented” grandparents.
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28 29 30 **VI. The New England Family (cont.)**

- Other contrasts between southern and New England ways of life:
 - The fragility of southern families advanced the economic security of southern women.
 - Because men often died young, southern colonies allowed married women to retain separate title to property and inherit their husband's estates.
 - New England women, however, gave up property rights when they married.
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31 **VI. The New England Family (cont.)**

- A rudimentary concept of women's rights as individuals was beginning to appear in the 1600s.
- Women could not vote, but authorities could intervene to restrain abusive husbands.
- Women had some spheres of authority (e.g., midwifery).

32 **VI. The New England Family (cont.)**

- Laws of Puritan New England sought to defend the integrity of marriages:
 - Divorce was very rare, and authorities commonly ordered separated couples to reunite.
 - Outright abandonment was among the few permissible grounds for divorce.
 - Adultery was another.

33 **VII. Life in the New England Towns**

- New Englanders evolved a tightly knit society based on small villages and farms.

- Puritanism instilled unity and a concern for the moral health of the whole community.
- Society grew in an orderly fashion, unlike in the southern colonies.
- After securing a grant of land from a colonial legislature, proprietors laid out their towns.

34 **VII. Life in the New England Towns (cont.)**

- Also marked out was a village green, where the militia could drill.
- Each family received several parcels of land:
 - A woodlot for fuel
 - A tract suitable for growing crops
 - A tract for pasturing animals
- Towns of over 50 families were required to provide elementary education [see boxed quote on page 72].
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35 **VII. Life in the New England Towns (cont.)**

- 1636: Harvard was founded.
- Puritans ran their own churches.
- Democracy in the Congregational Church led to the same in government.
- Town meetings classrooms for democracy:
 - Elected officials
 - Appointed schoolmasters
 - Discussed mundane matters such as road repairs

36 **VIII. The Half-Way Covenant and the Salem Witch Trials**

- Passage of time dampened the first generation's religious zeal.
- By the mid-1600s, a new form of doom-saying sermon appeared with jeremiads.
- Decline in conversions was alarming.
- 1662: The Half-Way Covenant for Congregational Church membership was established, offering partial membership.

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38 **VIII. The Half-Way Covenant and the Salem Witch Trials (cont.)**

- The Half-Way Covenant weakened the distinction between the "elect" and others.

- Doors of Puritan churches eventually opened to all comers, whether converted or not.
- Strict religious purity was sacrificed to the cause of wider religious participation.
- Women became the majority of churchgoers.

39 **VIII. The Half-Way Covenant and the Salem Witch Trials (cont.)**

- 1692: Salem witch trials occurred:
 - A group of girls claimed to have been bewitched by certain older women.
 - A hysterical “witch hunt” ensued, leading to legal lynching of 20 individuals.
 - 19 were hanged; 1 pressed to death.
 - 2 dogs were also hanged.
- Witchcraft persecutions were common at this time in Europe.

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41 **VIII. The Half-Way Covenant and the Salem Witch Trials (cont.)**

- The reign of horror in Salem also grew from:
 - Turmoil of wars with Indians
 - Unsettled social and religious conditions of evolving Massachusetts, which reflected a widening social stratification (market economy vs. subsistence farming)
 - Traditionalists’ fear of rising commercialism
- In 1693 the governor ended the trials.

42 **IX. The New England Way of Life**

- The story of New England was largely written by rocks:
 - Puritans did not possess the soil; it possessed them by shaping their hard-working character.
 - The difficult land left colonial New England less ethnically mixed than southern colonies.
 - The harsh climate also molded New England.
 - Black slavery was on a modest scale because few staple crops were grown on small family farms.

43 **IX. The New England Way of Life (cont.)**

- Just as the land shaped New Englanders, so they shaped the land:
 - Native Americans left their imprint but did not have a concept of individual land *ownership*.
 - English settlers were different; they felt a virtual duty to “improve” the land.
 - Dramatic changes resulted from introduction of new livestock as cleared forests led to erosion.
 - Repelled by rocks, hardy New Englanders turned to fine natural harbors.

44 **IX. The New England Way of Life (cont.)**

- Calvinism, soil, and climate made for energy, purposefulness, sternness, stubbornness, self-reliance, and resourcefulness.
- New Englanders saw themselves as God’s chosen people.
- They had an incalculable impact on the rest of the nation as they moved westward.

45 **X. The Early Settlers’ Days and Ways**

- The cycles of the seasons and the sun set the schedules of all earliest Americans:
 - Overwhelming majority were farmers.
 - Daily tasks were assigned by gender and age.
 - Life was humble but comfortable compared to Europe because land was cheap.

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47 **X. The Early Settlers’ Days and Ways (cont.)**

- Most white migrants came from neither the richest nor the poorest classes in Europe.
- Crude frontier life did not permit a flagrant display of class distinctions.
- Some elite tried to recreate on a modified scale the social structure of the Old World.

48 **X. The Early Settlers’ Days and Ways (cont.)**

- 1689–1691: Leisler's Rebellion in New York was caused by animosity between lordly landholders and aspiring merchants.
- Efforts to reproduce the finely stratified societies of Europe proved feeble in early America, where equality and democracy found fertile soil—at least for white people.

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