

A Few Colonial Rebellions Illustrating Conflict and Competing Interests

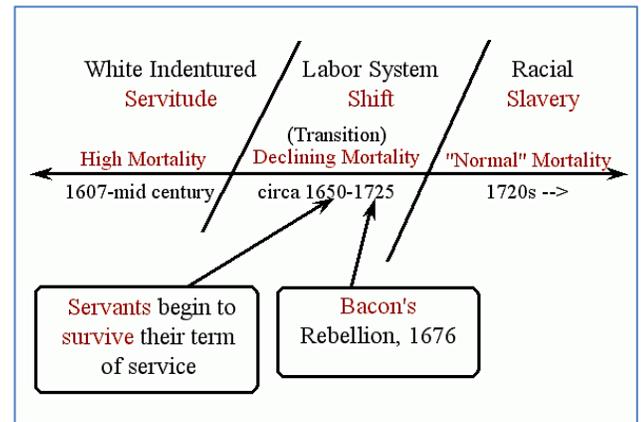
Bacon's Rebellion Virginia 1676

- Causes:** -High taxes and low prices on crops
 -Indentured servants not receiving land or receiving frontier land/Indian land
 -Indian raids and no support from Jamestown

Events: Governor Berkeley was slow to respond to pleas from frontiersmen; Nathaniel Bacon sympathized with indentured servants struggling on frontier; Bacon's unofficial army was raised to stop the Indians, the governor denounced him and denied him a commission and his newly won seat in the House of Burgesses...

Bacon's forces captured Jamestown, but eventually (after Bacon's sudden death from dysentery) Berkeley regained the town but was soon fired by the King

- Effects:** -Change in Virginia government did occur
 -Turn to use of slaves rather than indentured servants



Leisler's Rebellion: New York 1689

Causes: -Tension between royal officials and upper class vs. middle class and masses

-Glorious Revolution in England led to Leisler taking control away from Edmund Andros's deputy Francis Nicholson by using the militia

Events: Leisler remained in control of NYC for two years...William and Mary refused to recognize his service...Leisler became tyrannical (jailing political opponents etc)

Effects: -King sent new royal governor and troops which ultimately defeated Leisler's militia
 -Leisler was hanged



Stono Rebellion: South Carolina: Sept. 1739:

Causes: -Spanish proclamation of freedom to slaves escaping to Florida

-War of Jenkins Ear

-Disruption in Charleston from an epidemic (less confidence in govt.)

-Security Act- required all whites to carry guns to church, slaves were often allowed to work for themselves on Sundays

Jenkins's Ear, War of, 1739-41, struggle between England and Spain. It grew out of the commercial rivalry.

Events: -20 slaves gathered near the Stono River, armed themselves by killing gun store owners. Heading South they killed Godfrey family, spared the owner of Wallace's tavern but continued murdering along the rest of the way.

Late afternoon they stopped near Edisto River, between 20 and 100 whites pursued them and killed or eventually captured all but one of the now fifty to sixty slaves

Effects: Negro Act was passed: Slaves no longer could: Grow their own food, Assemble in groups, Earn their own money, Learn how to read

(Some of these restrictions existed before the rebellion but were laxly enforced)



Regulator Movement: Carolinas 1760's

Causes: -Isolation from eastern establishment led to the creation of a movement to "regulate" life on the Carolina frontier (i.e. establish courts)
-Unhappiness with provincial government among frontiersmen (Dishonest sheriffs, taxes, illegal fees)

Events: They tried peaceful change, but legal changes were too slow so they turned to violence and lawlessness (refused to pay fees, terrorized officials, disrupted court proceedings); 1771 a militia was sent out to stop them by Governor Tryon - Battle of Alamance Creek: two hour skirmish cost 18 total deaths

Effects: -Symbolic of unrest among colonials against royal governments
-Boldness of challenge was an example to later revolutionaries



Paxton Boys: Pennsylvania- February 1764

Causes: -Indian raids along Pennsylvania frontier
-Quaker refusal to help the frontiersmen in any way (pacifist beliefs)

Events: 1500 men set out to attack Philadelphia; A Quaker merchant who set out to find out where they were brought word back to Philadelphia about the size and anger of the force. The residents of Philadelphia quickly organized militia units, 2 a.m. fire bells rang out to warn of impending Paxton Boys, Royal Governor went directly to Benjamin Franklin's house. The next day, Franklin rode out to meet with Paxton leaders where he arranged for them to peaceably present their case to the governor and Assembly.

Effects: -Revolt petered out but many natives were slaughtered
-Minor practice for American Revolution, spirit of rebellion growing
-Willingness to use arms to resolve difficulties



List three major causes for colonial conflict. (*think thematically*)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

To what extent were these rebellions successful in accomplishing their goals?

1. Bacon:
2. Leisler:
3. Stono:
4. Regulators:
5. Paxton Boys