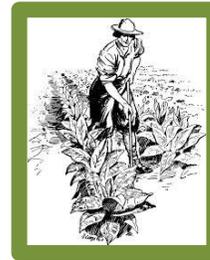




Unit 1

Periods 1 & 2

Exploration, Contact, and Colonization



1491-1607 (Period 1) = 5% of AP exam

1607-1754 (Period 2) = 10% of AP exam

A very Brief Summary

This summary is not meant to replace your reading and study time in your AMSCO guide or textbook, and it by no means covers every significant fact from the era... but it will provide a *simple overview/review* of the era with some of the major terms in bold as a reminder of those items likely to show up on the exam. The summary is excerpt/adaption from "A Brief History" written by John Braithwaite.

In a nutshell:

The Americas were populated by people from Asia long before Europeans "discovered" it. These people separated into diverse groups throughout the two continents and lived completely cut off from people living and developing in the Eastern Hemisphere. Eventually, Europeans arrived and began to settle in the West. Many came and colonized, but the countries of **Spain, England, and France** fought for dominance in *North America* (and the "New World"). The **French and Indian War** was the biggest manifestation of this struggle, and England came out on top.

The accepted, though not only, theory of North American population is that the first arrivals walked across a frozen **land bridge** from Asia more than 10,000 years ago. Their progeny quickly adapted to the surroundings and blossomed into many different tribes. By the time of "discovery," there were no North American empires left. The **Mississippians** and **Anasazi**, for example, had long declined, and native tribes numbered in the hundreds and were largely disjointed. One small exception was the **Iroquois Confederacy**, but even they eventually succumbed to European dominance. **Christopher Columbus'** arrival in 1492 marked a huge turning point in world history. The transition of goods, food, ideas, and diseases is called the **Columbian Exchange** forever altered the world. One key part of this exchange was disease. The natives had little resistance to the European diseases and died by the millions, most notably: **smallpox**.

In 1565, the Spanish built a fortress at **St. Augustine**, Florida to protect the sea-lanes to the Caribbean. In

1680, after the Spanish captured an area known today as New Mexico earlier in 1609, the natives launched a rebellion known as **Popes Rebellion**. The natives burned down churches and killed priests. They rebuilt a kiva, or ceremonial religious chamber, on the ruins of the Spanish plaza/mission at **Santa Fe**. In the 1680s, **Robert de LaSalle** sailed down the Mississippi River for France claiming the whole region for their King Louis and naming the area "**Louisiana**" after his king. A thriving fur trading network was established. The first permanent French colony was Quebec in 1608.

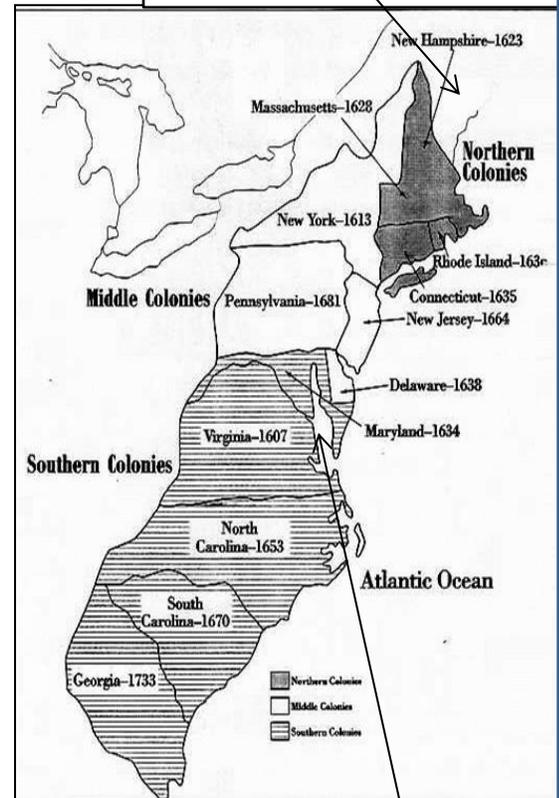
The first permanent English Colony was **Jamestown** in 1607 founded for financial interests. Before this the colony of **Roanoke** had failed. **John Smith** and **John Rolfe** played important roles in this colony's success, and the **Headright System** provided needed people, especially after the **Starving Time**. **Plymouth** in 1620 was next, established by Puritan **Separatists** followed by Non-Separatist **Puritans** in 1630 who would found the **Massachusetts Bay colony**. Natives such as **Pocahontas** and **Squanto** played pivotal roles in the survival of the young colonies, but later wars such as the **Powhatan Wars** and **King Philip's War** led to white dominance in the region.

The English colonists eventually established **13 colonies**. Religion was a major reason for migration, but other reasons included land, wealth, and freedom for debtors. **The Great Migration** fueled much of the migration as did other push factors such as **primogeniture**. **Roger Williams** and **Anne Hutchinson** were excommunicated from Massachusetts for religious dissention, and it is important to remember that although people sought "religious freedom," they weren't necessarily "religiously tolerant." The **Maryland Act of Toleration** supported the killing of Jews and atheists, for example.

Later, a religious movement called the **Great Awakening** caused a renewed interest in religion, although proponents of the **Enlightenment** movement challenged some religious beliefs. These 18th century changes later helped fuel the American Revolution as a spirit of rebellion was slowly taking over a significant percentage of the colonial population. The British let the colonists have a great deal of political independence through **Salutary Neglect**. By the 18th century, all 13 colonies had a self ruling body, beginning with Virginia **House of Burgesses** established in 1619 and first colonial constitution, the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** in 1639. Although England expected the colonies to provide raw materials and become a marketplace for finished goods under a policy known as **Mercantilism**, **Navigation Acts** and other economic limitations were loosely enforced until 1763.

Indentured servants were the first major source of Southern laborers. This changed when **Nathaniel Bacon** led **Bacon's Rebellion**, former servants against the government in 1676. Then elite Planters turned to a more controllable force of labor in **African slaves**, which had first been brought to Virginia in 1619. Slavery soon evolved into a racially defined, permanent status. The forced immigration of African slavery along with voluntary immigration of diverse peoples from various lands helped to create a unique "**American**" culture which quickly differentiated itself from any other place or time on earth.

(Remember, **Maine** was NOT a colony... it was settled in 1622 but was part of "New England" then Massachusetts... it didn't split off until 1820)



Remember the "**Chesapeake**" refers to Virginia and Maryland... two southern colonies on the **Chesapeake Bay**.

Important Dates

It is not necessary to memorize a list of dates and events [Except For Bolded Years], however it is important to understand chronology. Review the events below, highlight important turning points, add notes/definitions for items you do not know.

- **1492**: Columbus lands in Bahamas; thinks he is in Asia
- 1494: Treaty of Tordesillas – Pope divided world between Portugal and Spain
- 1497: John Cabot landed in North America.
- 1513: Ponce de Leon claimed Florida for Spain.
- 1518: Smallpox begins to decimate native populations in central and southern America
(epidemic lasts until 1530)
- 1521: Surrender of Tenochtitlan to Cortes; Aztec empire falls
- 1524: Verrazano explored North American Coast.
- 1533: King Henry VIII breaks with Catholic Church; divorces Katherine of Aragon
- 1539-1542: Hernando de Soto explored the Mississippi River Valley.
- 1540-1542: Coronado explored what will be the Southwestern United States.
- 1558: Henry VIII's daughter, Elizabeth, become Queen Elizabeth I
- 1565: Spanish founded the city of St. Augustine in Florida.
- 1579: Sir Francis Drake explored the coast of California.
- 1584 – 1587: Roanoke – the lost colony; Sir Walter Raleigh
- **1588**: Defeat of the Spanish Armada
- 1603: King James I ascends throne
- 1603-1605: Samuel de Champlain of France explores present day Canada
- **1607**: British establish Jamestown; Virginia Colony
- 1608: Quebec, first permanent French N. American colony
- 1611: the first tobacco crop in Virginia
- 1619: first slaves arrive in Virginia, first colonial legislature formed-House of Burgesses
- 1620: Plymouth Colony founded
- 1622: Powhatan Confederacy attacks Virginia colony; first of three Powhatan Wars
- 1624: Dutch settle Manhattan island
- 1625: King Charles I ascends throne
- 1630: Massachusetts Bay Colony founded
- 1634: Maryland founded
- 1635: Roger Williams expelled from Mass., founds Rhode Island
- 1636: Harvard founded
- 1636: Connecticut founded
- 1637: Pequot War
- 1638: -Anne Hutchinson banished from Mass. Colony
- 1639: Connecticut's Fundamental Orders drafted
- 1642-6: English Civil War sends many to New World
- **1643**: New England Confederation formed

- 1644 Second Anglo-Powhatan War
- 1649 Act of Toleration in Maryland. Charles I beheaded; Cromwell rules England
- 1651: First of man Trade and Navigation Acts passed
- 1660: King Charles II ascends throne (House of Stuart restored)
- 1661: Barbados slave code adopted
- 1662: Halfway Covenant drafted in Mass.
- 1663: Carolina chartered
- 1664: England defeats Dutch and take over New Netherland, renaming New York
- 1675: King Phillip's War
- 1676: Bacon's Rebellion
- 1680: Pueblo Revolt
- 1680: starvation in Maryland leads to new industry: oysters
- 1681: Pennsylvania chartered
- 1685: King James II ascends throne
- 1686: Dominion of New England formed
- 1688: Glorious Revolution brings William and Mary to the throne
- 1689: Dominion of New England overthrown and King William's War begins; Leisler's Rebellion begins in New York (lasts 3 years)
- 1690: John Locke writes Essay Concerning Human Understanding
- 1691: Mass. Bay Colony gets new charter; Plymouth, Nantucket, Maine, Martha's Vineyard, Nova Scotia absorbed
- 1692: Salem Witch Trials in Mass.
- 1693: College of William and Mary founded in Virginia
- 1696: Board of Trade and Plantations formed in England to rule colonies
- 1697: King William's War ends
- 1698: Royal African Company slave trade monopoly ended
- 1699: Wool Act passed
- 1701: Detroit founded as French settlement
- 1702: Queen Anne's War begins
- 1711: Tuscarora War begins in North Carolina
- 1712: New York City slave revolt
- 1713: Queen Anne's War ends; Treaty of Utrecht
- 1715: Yamasee War in South Carolina
- 1721: Smallpox epidemic hits Boston; Cotton Mather-first inoculations
- 1732: Benjamin Franklin, aka Poor Richard, begins publishing his *Poor Richard's Almanac*
- 1732: Georgia chartered
- 1733: Molasses Act passed
- 1738: George Whitefield arrives in America; Great Awakening begins
- 1739: Stono Rebellion in South Carolina and King George's War begins
- 1754: Albany Congress convened; French and Indian War begins