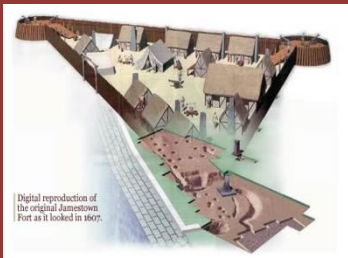


# The Southern Colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century



**Jamestown  
Founded**



**First Africans Arrive  
in Jamestown**



**Carolina Founded**

1607

1612

1619

1634

1670

1676

**John Rolfe Plants  
Tobacco in Virginia**



**Maryland Founded**



**Bacon's Rebellion**



# Theme 1

Beginning in 1607, England established five permanent colonies along the southeastern seacoast of North America. Despite displaying some differences, all of these colonies were characterized by plantation agriculture, the use of indentured and slave labor, a strong social hierarchy, and a sparse population with little access to education, churches, and government institutions.

# Overview of Plantation Colonies: Characteristics

- Tobacco & rice
- Slavery in all southern colonies
- Indentured servitude-- largest percentage of the population
- Africans arrived in 1619 (Virginia) -- About 14% of population by 1700
- Aristocratic gentry
- Sparse population
- Religious toleration (Anglican Church was the most prominent)
- Expansionary attitude due to exhaustion of the soil from tobacco growing

# The Southern Colonial Economy



## Theme 2

Society in the seventeenth-century Chesapeake—consisting of Virginia and Maryland—experienced low life-expectancies (largely due to disease), dependence on indentured servitude, weak family life, and a hierarchical structure that was dominated by planters at the top over the masses of poor white and black slaves at the bottom.



# Jamestown

1<sup>st</sup> Permanent English Settlement - 1607

# Motivations...

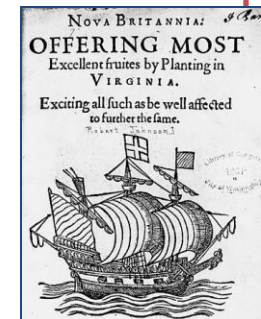
- **Promise of gold, conversion of Amerindians, new passage through N. America to the East Indies**

**Funded by a joint-stock company** a company whose stock is owned by a group of shareholders

1. shareholders divide the profits in proportion to their investment
2. forerunner of the modern corporation & tied to the development of capitalism
3. personal financing risky – ex: Raleigh lost \$100,000

# The Charter of the Virginia Company

1. **From King James I:** Guaranteed to colonists the same rights as Englishmen as if they had stayed in England.
2. This provision was incorporated into future colonists' documents.
3. **Colonists felt that, even in the Americas, they had the rights of Englishmen!**
4. **(foundation for American liberties: rights extended to other colonies)**





# London company formed – divided into Plymouth & Virginia Companies

1. Whichever settled its claim first got 100 miles into the other's territory
2. **December 1606** - Godspeed, Susan Constant, and Discovery leave England
3. **May 14, 1607** -104 settlers
4. Indian attack (Powhatan) on May 26
5. only 38 left alive after the first six months - death rates of 1/2 to 1/3 were not uncommon in colonizing - settled in a low swampy area



# Chesapeake Bay



Geographic/environmental problems??

# Jamestown Fort & Settlement Map



# Jamestown Housing



# Jamestown Settlement



# Jamestown Chapel, 1611



# Captain John Smith: The Right Man for the Job??



*There was no talk...but dig **gold**, wash **gold**,  
refine **gold**, load **gold**...*

# John Smith

1. **Provides the early leadership and discipline necessary to make the colony successful**
2. basic problem was the expectation of easy gold
3. no work no eat policy

1. **skillful Indian relations**
2. periodically resupplied but continued to have problems
  - no private property
  - harsh military discipline - employees of the company marched to and from the fields twice a day to the beat of a drum
  - lack of a cash crop



# Starving time 1609-1610

1. Smith had left the colony
2. “Gentlemen” colonists would not work themselves
3. Settlers wasted time looking for gold instead of hunting or farming
4. reduced to eating dogs, cats, rats, mice, snakes, toadstools, horsehide, and the corpses of dead men and salted, or “powdered,” women

# Starving time 1609-1610

5. 1610 - relief expedition under new Governor Thomas Gates finds the men so pitiful they load up to go back to England
6. Military Leader Baron De La Warre (Robert West) intercepts them and forces them back to work - has ample supplies and 300 men
7. continued hard times, but optimistic leadership

## High Mortality Rates: Some Stats.

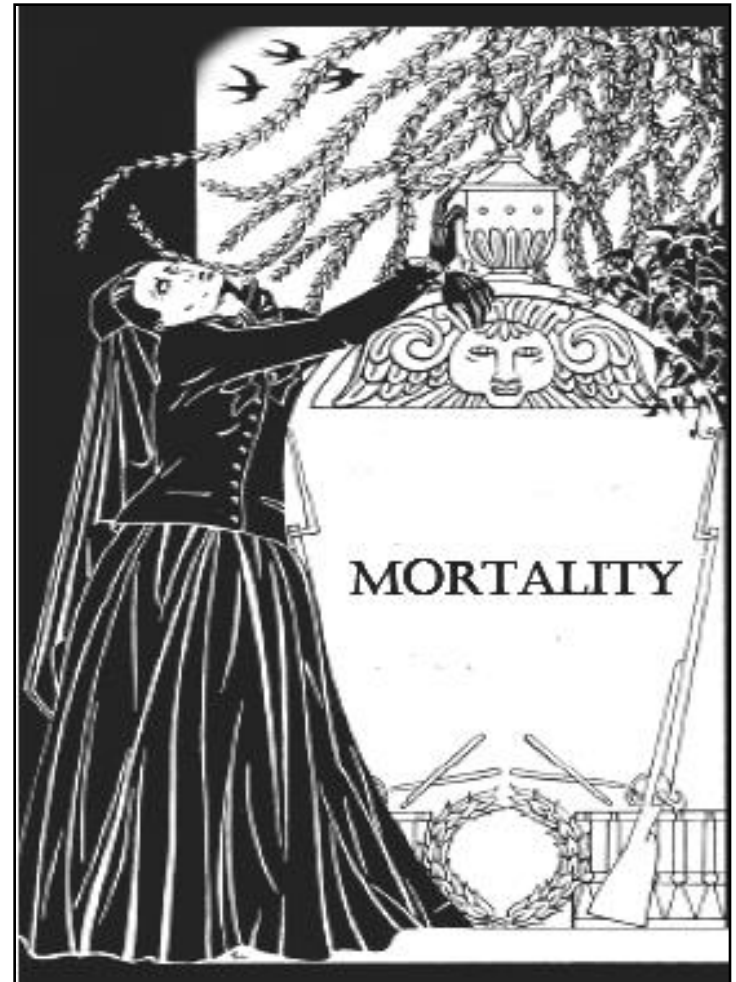
### The “Starving Time”:

- **1607:** 104 colonists
- **By spring, 1608:** 38 survived
- **1609:** 300 more immigrants
- **By spring, 1610:** 60 survived
- **1610 – 1624:** 10,000 immigrants
- **1624 population:** 1,200
- **Adult life expectancy:** 40 years
- **Death of children before age 5:** 80%



# “Widowarchy”

**High mortality among husbands and fathers left many women in the Chesapeake colonies with unusual autonomy and wealth!**

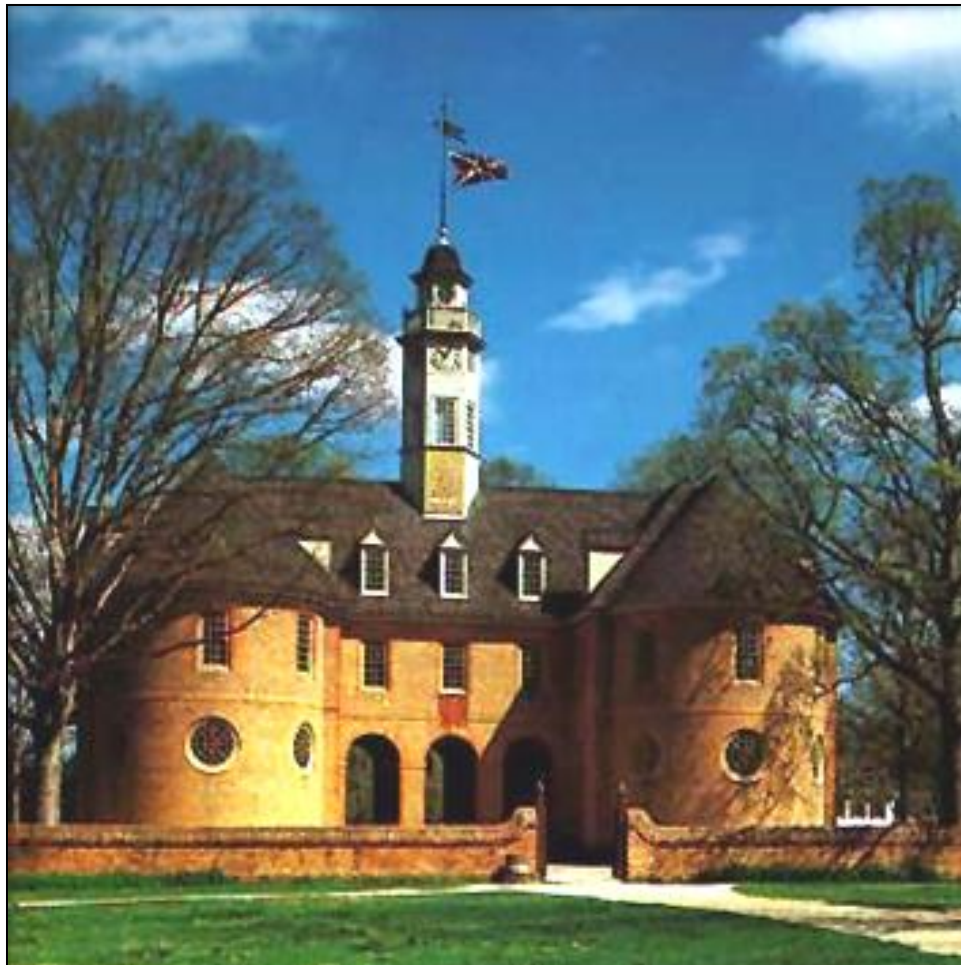


**Why was 1619 a  
pivotal year for  
the Chesapeake  
settlement?**

# Virginia

## House of Burgesses, 1619

Colonial Williamsburg



# House of Burgesses

- 1. The House of Burgesses assumed the role of the House of Commons in England**
  - a. Control over finances, militia, etc.
2. By the end of the 17<sup>c</sup>, H of B was able to initiate legislation
- 3. A Council appointed by royal governor**
  - a. mainly leading planters
  - b. functions like House of Lords
  - c. high death rates ensured rapid turnover of members

# Virginia Becomes a Royal Colony

1. James I grew hostile to Virginia
  - a. he hated tobacco
  - b. he distrusted the House of Burgesses which he called a *seminary of sedition*
2. 1624 → he revoked the charter of the bankrupt VA Company
  - a. **Thus, VA became a royal colony, under the king's direct control!**

"loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs" – James I





# Maryland (1634)

- Sir George Calvert (**Lord Baltimore**) Sought a haven for Catholics in the New World
- Act of Toleration (1649)



## **Maryland Act of Toleration, 1649**

That whatsoever person or persons within this Province and the Islands thereunto helonging shall from henceforth blaspheme God, that is Curse him, or deny our Saviour Jesus Christ to bee the sonne of God, or shall deny the holy Trinity the father sonne and holy Ghost, or the Godhead of any of the said Three persons of the Trinity or the Unity of the Godhead, or shall use or utter any reproachfull Speeches, words or language concerning the said Holy Trinity, or any of the said three persons thereof, shalbe punished with death and confiscation or forfeiture of all his or her lands and goods to the Lord Proprietary and his heires.

... Be it Therefore also by the Lord Proprietary with the advise and consent of this Assembly Ordeyned and enacted ...that no person or persons whatsoever within this Province...thereunto belonging professing to believe in Jesus Christ, shall from henceforth be any ways troubled, Molested or discountenanced for or in respect of his or her religion nor in the free exercise thereof within this Province or the Islands thereunto belonging nor any way compelled to the belief or exercise of any other Religion against his or her consent...

Significance????

Guaranteed toleration to all Christians but instituted death penalty for anyone denying the divinity of Jesus (Jews and Atheists)

# Culture Clashes in the Chesapeake

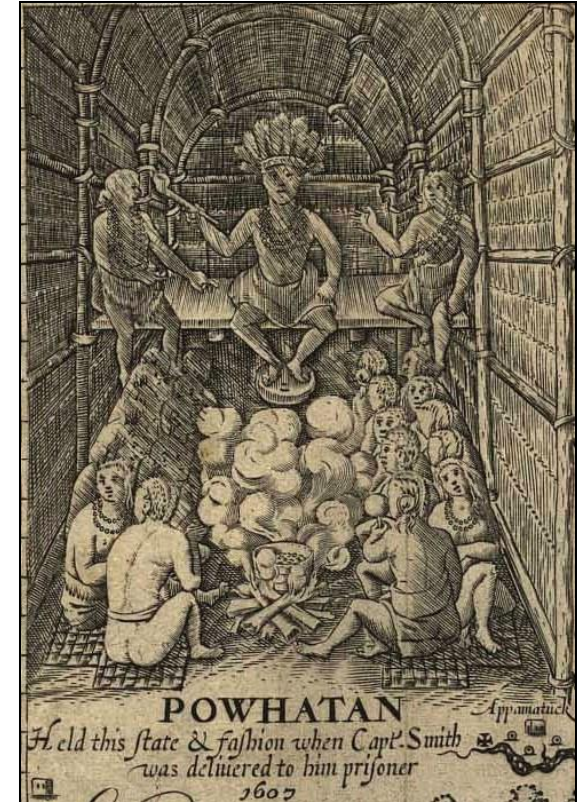
Relations between Indians and settlers grew worse

- **General mistrust because of different cultures and languages**
- English raided Indian food supplies during the starving times
- **Lord De La Warr had orders to make war on the Indians**
  - Raided villages, burned houses, took

# Chief Powhatan

## Powhatan Confederacy

1. Powhatan dominated a few dozen small tribes in the James River area when the English arrived.
2. The English called all Indians in the area Powhatans.
3. Powhatan probably saw the English as allies in his struggles to control other Indian tribes in the region.



# Powhatan Confederacy



# Culture Clash in the Chesapeake

3. 1614-1622 → peace between Powhatans and the English
  - 1614 peace sealed by the marriage of Pocahontas to Englishman John Rolfe
4. 1622-1644 → periodic attacks between Indians and settlers
  - 1622 → Indians attacked the English, killing 347 [including John Rolfe]
  - Virginia Co. called for a “perpetual war” against the Native Americans
    - Raids reduced native population and drove them further westward

# Powhatan Uprising of 1622





## Culture Clash in the Chesapeake

### 5. 1644-1646 → Second Anglo-Powhatan War

1. Last effort of natives to defeat English
2. Indians defeated again

### 6. **Peace Treaty of 1646**

1. Removed the Powhatans from their original land
2. Formally separated Indian and English settlement areas

# Tobacco makes a Permanent



*gold*

-- John Rolfe, 1612

# Virginia: “Child of Tobacco”

## What was Tobacco’s effect on VA’s economy?

- a. vital role in putting VA on a firm economic footing
- b. ruinous to soil when continuously planted
- c. chained VA’s economy to a single crop

tobacco promoted the use of the plantation system

- a. need for cheap, abundant labor

# Tobacco Makes A Permanent settlement

- **John Rolfe:** introduces new strain of tobacco and becomes major reason for Virginia's survival..."Colony built on smoke."



- First Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619 as indentured servants
- White indentured servants were more predominant until late-17<sup>th</sup> century
- Plantation system emerges

# Indentured Servitude

## 1. Headright System:

- Each Virginian got 50 acres for each person whose passage they paid

## 2. Indenture Contract:

- 5-7 years
- promised “freedom dues” [land]
- forbidden to marry
- 1610-1614: only 1 in 10 outlived their indentured contracts!

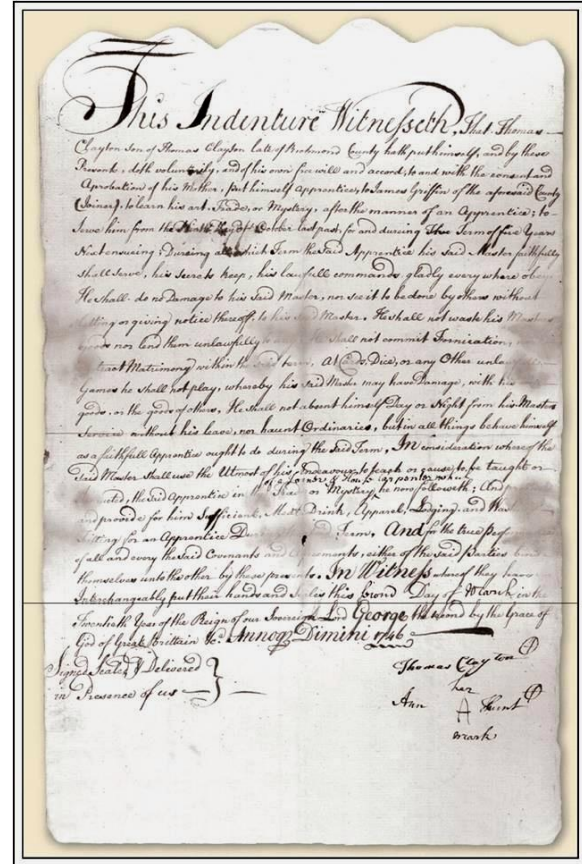
# Outcome of “Headright” system

- Landowners gained 50 acres of land per payment for each laborer’s passage
- By 1700,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of European Immigrants to VA & MD came as indentured servants
- Some landowners turned their investments in labor into vast estates.
- Most indentured servants never escaped poverty
- Expansion of plantations up river valleys provoked Indian attacks
- Led To Bacon’s Rebellion (1676)

## Indentured Servitude



Headright System



Indentured Contract, 1746

# Frustrated Freemen

1. Late 1600s → large numbers of young, poor, discontented men in the Chesapeake area
  - a. Little access to land or women for marriage
2. 1670 → The Virginia Assembly disenfranchised most landless men!



# Nathaniel Bacon's Rebellion: 1676



Nathaniel  
Bacon



Governor  
William  
Berkeley

1. Led 1,000 Virginians in a rebellion against Governor Berkeley
2. Rebels resented Berkeley's close relations with Indians
  - a. Berkeley monopolized the fur trade with the Indians
  - b. Berkeley refused to retaliate for Indian attacks on frontier settlements

# Bacon's Rebellion: 1676



# Bacon's Rebellion

3. rebels attacked Indians, whether they were friendly or not to whites
4. Governor Berkeley driven from Jamestown
5. they burned the capital
6. Rebels went on a rampage of plundering
7. Bacon suddenly died of fever
8. Berkeley brutally crushed the rebellion and hanged 20 rebels

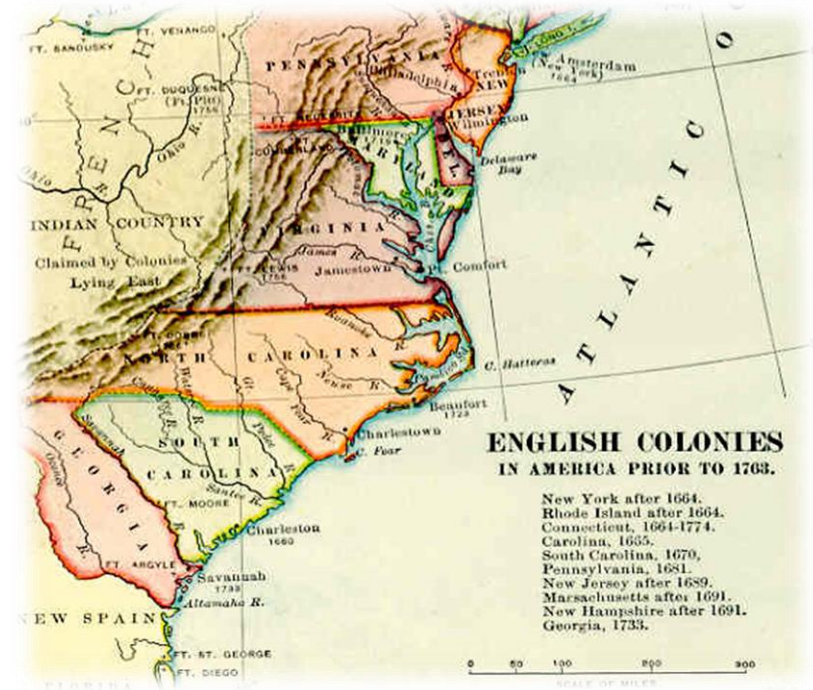
# RESULTS

- The rebellion failed and several rebels were killed.
- **Significance:** Plantation owners sought large numbers of black slaves instead of indentured servants
- White indentured servants were now seen as too troublesome.
- Socio-economic class differences/clashes between rural and urban communities would continue throughout American history.
- Planters used racism to manipulate poor whites

# The Southern Colonies...

## The Carolinas

- Impact of **British West Indies**
  1. Came to rely on British North America for food stuffs
  2. Some Barbados farmers came to Carolina and brought slaves with them to grow rice



# The Southern Colonies...Carolina

- founded in 1670 after the English Civil War (part of the Restoration Colonies)
- **Goals:** grow foodstuffs for sugar plantations in Barbados & export non-English items
- Exported Indian slaves to West Indies & New England
- **Rice** production was labor intensive; slavery grew dramatically
- By 1719, blacks outnumbered whites
- Charles Town (Charleston)-- Aristocratic haven
- Turmoil with Spain and Amerindians in the South

# Southern Colonies

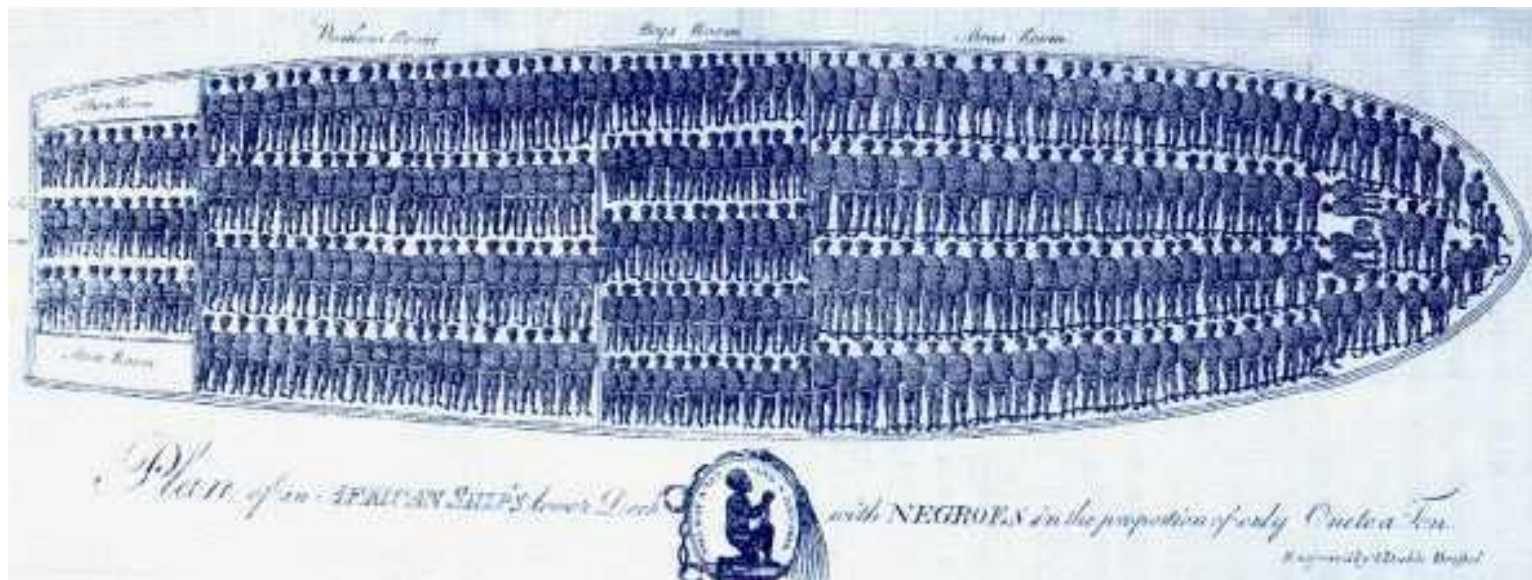
## North Carolina (1712)

- Refuge for poor whites and religious dissenters from Carolina & Virginia
- Among the most democratic and least aristocratic of all the original 13 colonies
- Harsh treatment of Amerindians

## Georgia (1733)

- last of the 13 colonies
- Founded by **James Oglethorpe**
- Founded as a haven for debtors and buffer between Spanish Florida & South Carolina
- Savannah: diverse community
- Least populous of 13 colonies

# Colonial Slavery...

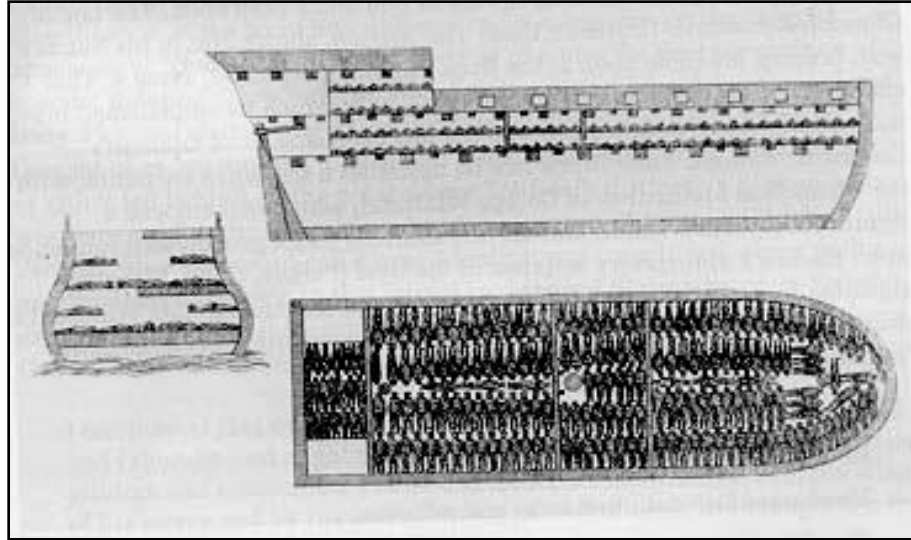




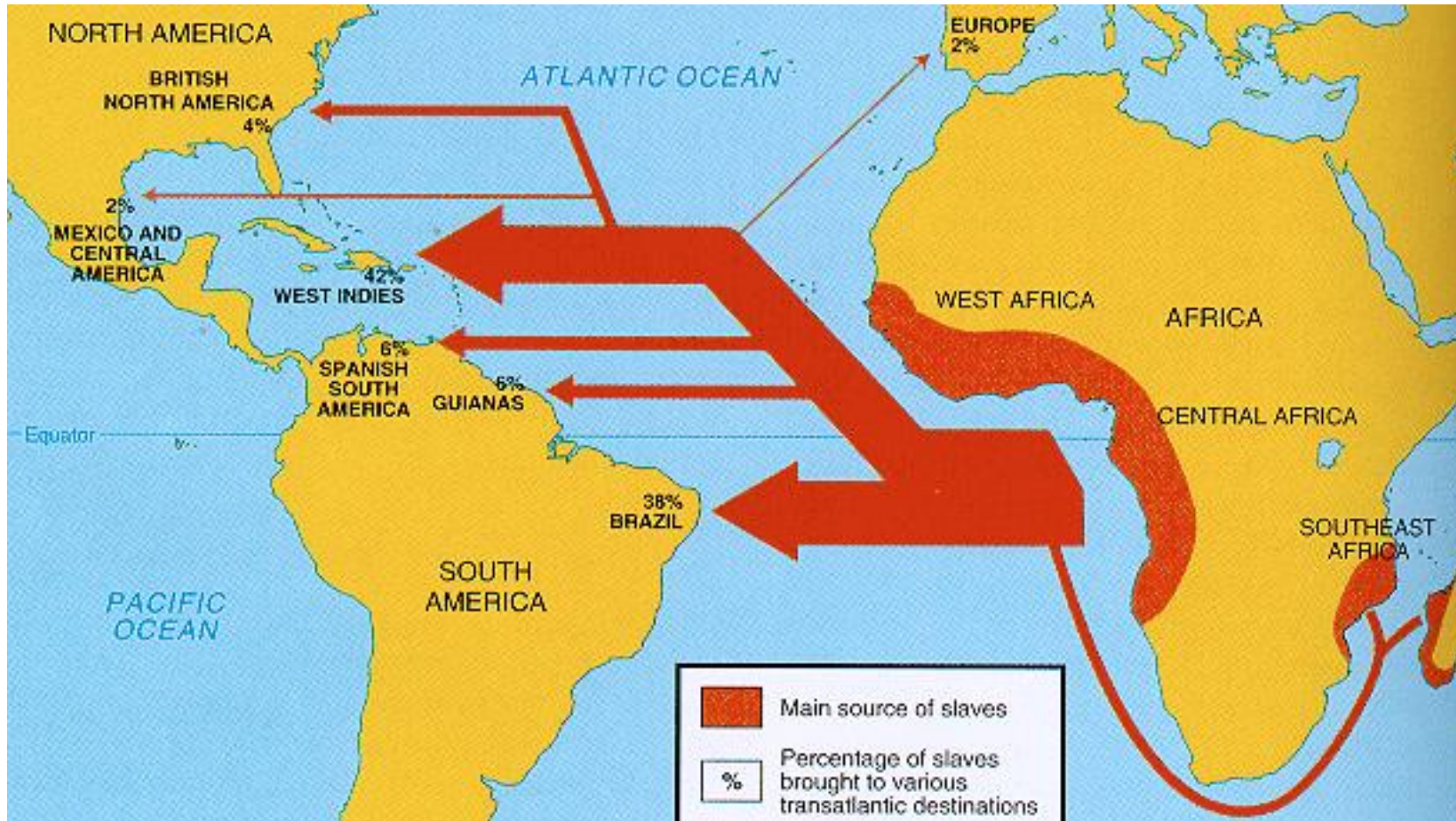
# Colonial Slavery

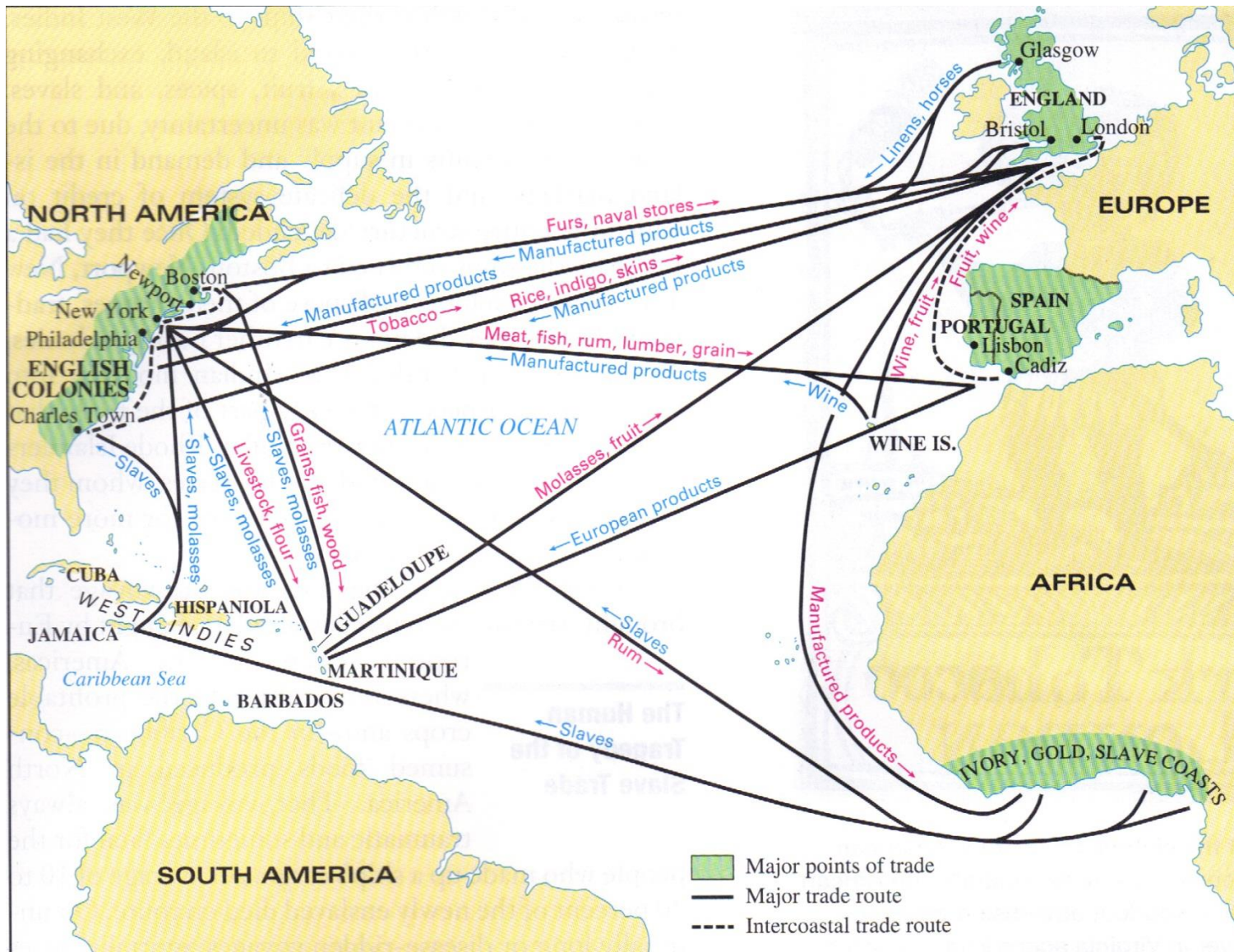
- West African slave trade
- **Middle Passage--**  
10-15 million Africans sent into slavery in the New World, most brought in the holds of ships.
- Most came after 1700 (1st in Jamestown--1619)
- Rising wages in England reduced white immigration to the colonies
- 1698, Royal African Co. lost its monopoly on slave trade and the slave trade boomed as a result

# The “Middle Passage”

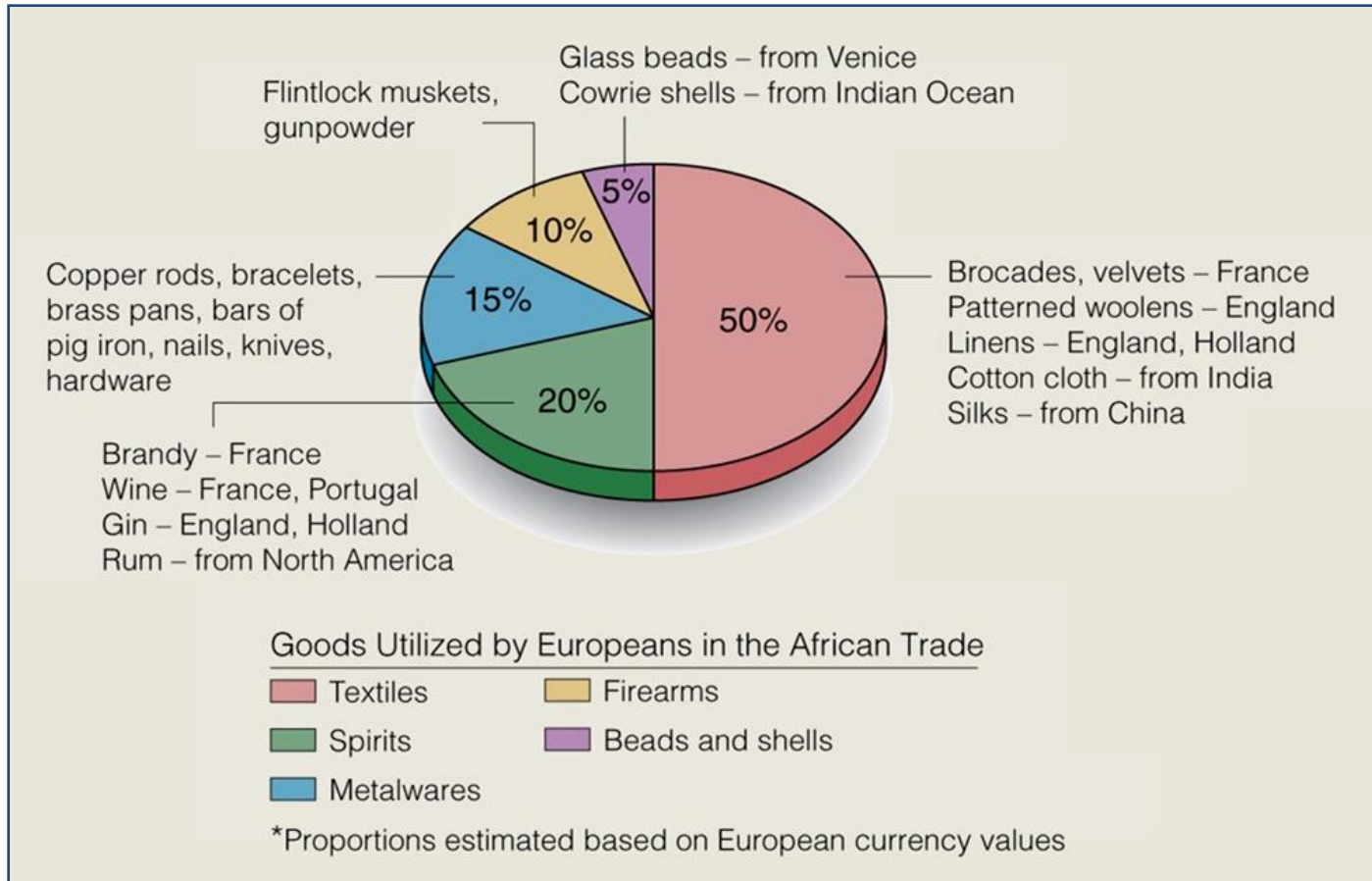


# Map: Colonial Slave Trade





# Goods Traded with Africa



# slave codes

- Blacks and their children property for life of masters
- Crime in some colonies to teach literacy to slaves
- Conversion to Christianity not grounds for freedom
- Slavery = roots of racism in America
- Racism used to keep poor whites from rebelling alongside blacks

# Slave Codes...

- Slavery harshest in deepest South (especially SC); less deadly in the Chesapeake
- Slave culture became a mixture of American and African folkways

# Stono Rebellion (1739)

- Most important slave revolt of the 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Slavery became even more tightly regulated and oppressive as a result



- In 1738, Spanish Florida declared that freedom and land would be given to runaways.
- year after the Stono Rebellion, South Carolina passed the Negro Act in 1740, which made it illegal for slaves to gather in groups, earn money, learn to read or raise food, and gave slave owners the right to kill rebellious slaves.



# Slave Codes

- **Virginia, 1639**

Act X. All persons except Negroes are to be provided with arms and ammunitions or be fined at the pleasure of the governor and council.

- **Maryland, 1664**

That whatsoever free-born [English] woman shall intermarry with any slave. . . shall serve the master of such slave during the life of her husband; and that all the issue of such free-born women, so married shall be slaves as their fathers were.

# Slave Codes...

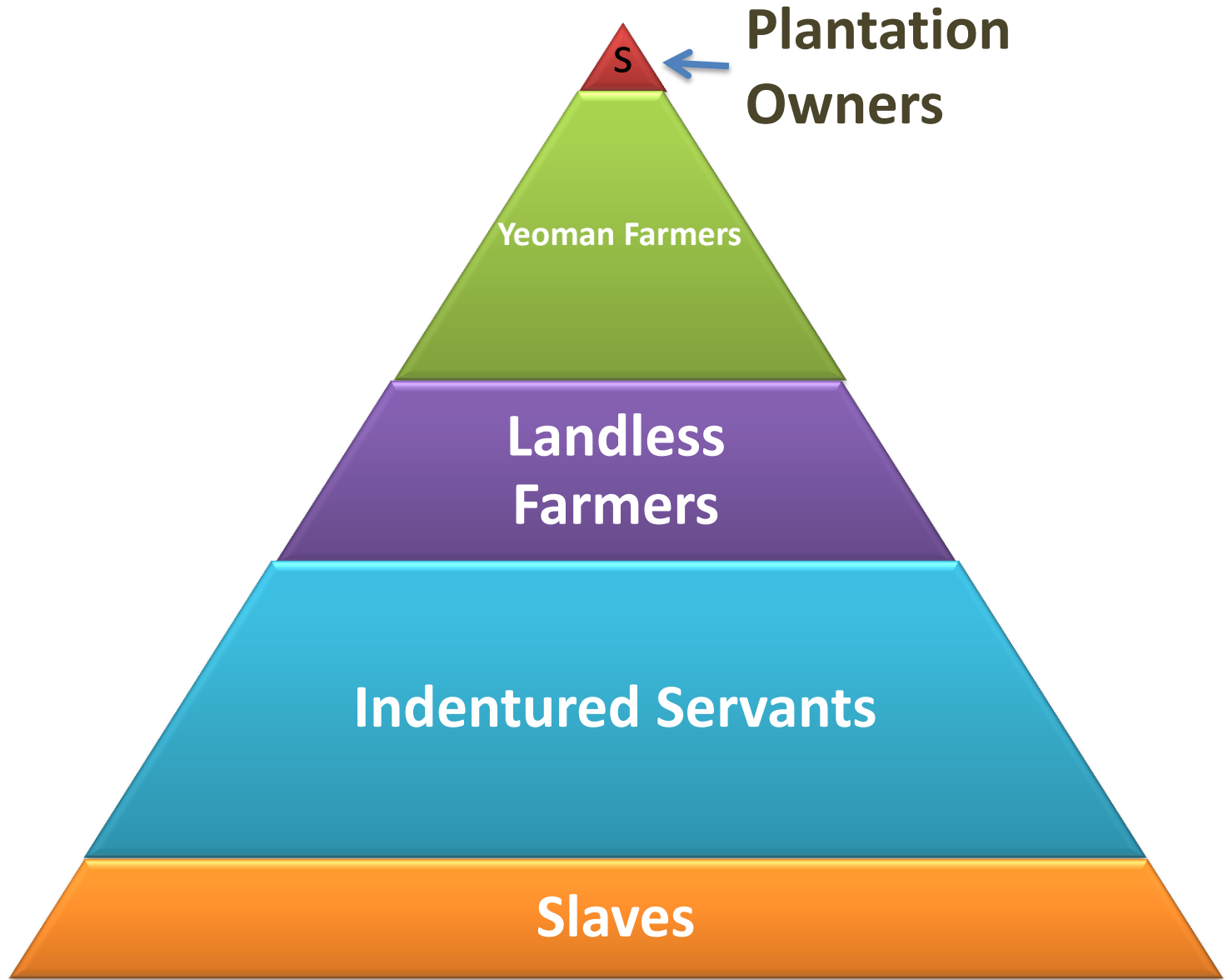
- **Virginia, 1667**

Act III. Whereas some doubts have arisen whether children that are slaves by birth. . . should by virtue of their baptism be made free, it is enacted that baptism does not alter the condition to the person as to his bondage or freedom; masters freed from this doubt may more carefully propagate Christianity by permitting slaves to be admitted to that sacrament.

- **Virginia, 1682**

Act I. It is enacted that all servants. . . which [sic] shall be imported into this country either by sea or by land, whether Negroes, Moors [Muslim North Africans], mulattoes or Indians who and whose parentage and native countries are not Christian at the time of their first purchase by some Christian. . . and all Indians, which shall be sold by our neighborign Indians, or any other trafficking with us for slaves, are hereby adjudged, deemed and taken to be slaves to all intents and purposes any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

# 17<sup>th</sup> Century Southern Society



Categories are approximations

# 18<sup>th</sup> Century Southern Society



Categories are approximations