

SOL Review (Packet One)

South - Political

- Maintained stronger ties with Britain
- Planters played leading roles in representative colonial legislatures
- VA House of Burgesses: first elected assembly in the new world



South - Social

- Social structure based on family status and ownership of land
- Large landowners in the eastern lowlands dominated colonial government and society and maintained an allegiance to the Church of England and closer social ties to England than in other colonies
- Further inland: society characterized by small subsistence farmers, hunters and traders of Scots-Irish and English descent



South - Economic

- Developed economies in the eastern coastal lowlands based on large plantations that grew “cash crops” such as tobacco, rice and indigo for export to Europe.
- Farther inland, however, in the Appalachian foothills, the economy was based on small-scale subsistence farming, hunting and trading.



New England - Political

- Used town meetings in the operation of government
 - “Athenian” direct democracy model
 - Close relationship between church and state



New England - Social

- Colonial society was based on religious standing
- Formed a “covenant community” based on the principles of the Mayflower Compact and Puritan religious beliefs
- Puritans grew increasingly intolerant of dissenters who challenged the Puritans’ belief in the connection between religion and government
- Rhode Island was founded by dissenters fleeing persecution by Puritans in Massachusetts



Roger Williams



Anne Hutchinson

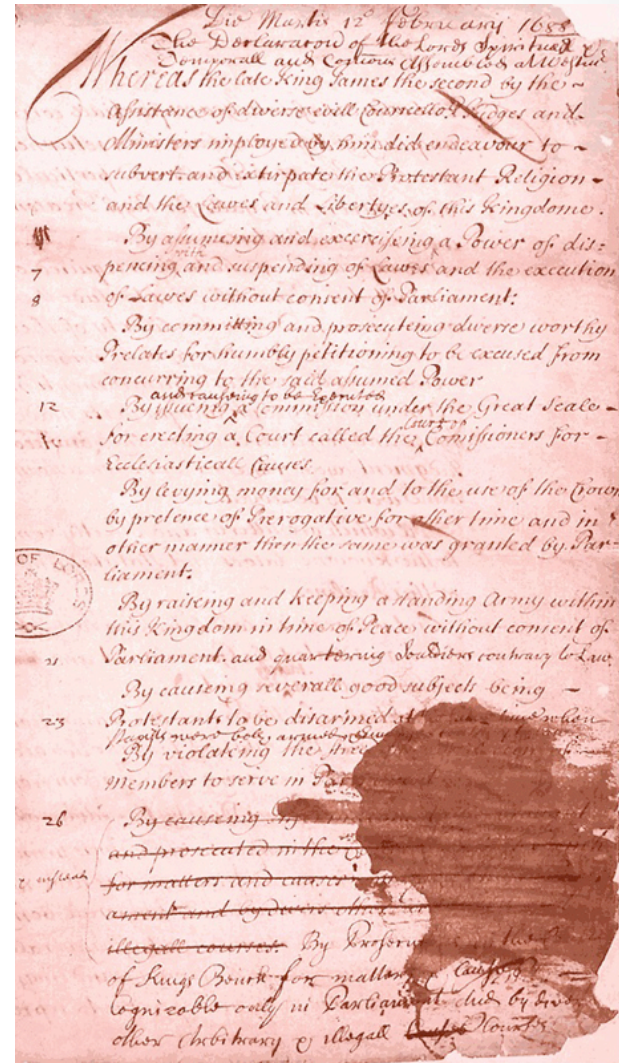
New England - Economic

- Economy based on shipbuilding, fishing, lumbering, small-scale subsistence farming, and eventually, manufacturing.
- The colonies prospered, reflecting the Puritans' strong belief in the values of hard work and thrift.



Middle - Political

- Representative assemblies were typical
- Incorporated a number of democratic principles that reflected the basic rights of Englishmen



The English Bill of Rights

Middle - Social

- Home to multiple religious groups who generally believed in religious tolerance
- Settled chiefly by English, Dutch, and German speaking immigrants
- More flexible social structures – developed middle class of skilled artisans, entrepreneurs (business owners), and small farmers



MIDDLE COLONIES, 1685

Middle - Economic

- New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware developed economies based on ship-building, small-scale farming, and trading
- Cities such as New York and Philadelphia began to grow as seaports and commercial centers



Southern Colonies (including Virginia)

- Settled by people seeking economic opportunities
 - “cavaliers”: English nobility who received large land grants in Eastern Virginia by the King of England
 - Poor English immigrants sought better lives as small farmers of artisans and settled in the Shenandoah Valley or western Virginia, or as indentured servants who agreed to work on tobacco plantations for a period of time to pay for passage to the New World

Interactions Among Europeans and Native Americans

- The explorations and settlements of the English in the American colonies and Spanish in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America often led to violent conflicts with the American Indians
- Indians lost their traditional territories and fell victim to diseases carried from Europe
- By contrast, French exploration of Canada did not lead to large-scale immigration from France, and relations with natives were often more cooperative



Interactions Among Europeans and Africans

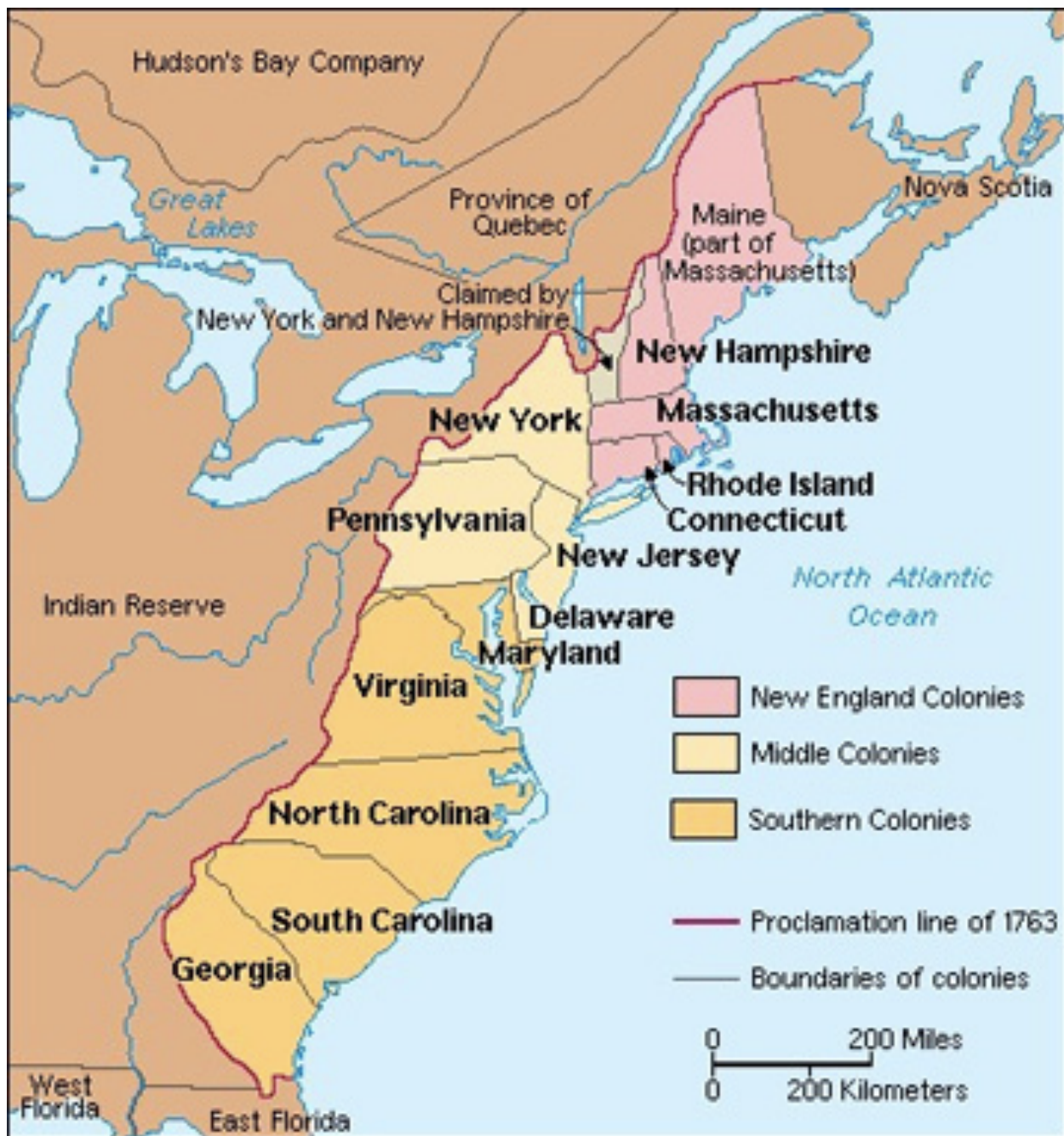
- The growth of an agricultural economy based on large landholdings in the Southern colonies and in the Caribbean led to the introduction of slavery in the New World
- The first Africans were brought against their will to Jamestown in 1619 to work on tobacco plantations



Plantation Labor

- Growth of plantation-based agricultural economy in hot, humid coastal lowlands of Southern colonies required cheap labor on a large scale
- Some labor needs, especially in Virginia, met by indentured servants
 - Poor from England, Scotland, Ireland who worked on plantations for a period of time in return for passage from Europe or relief from debts





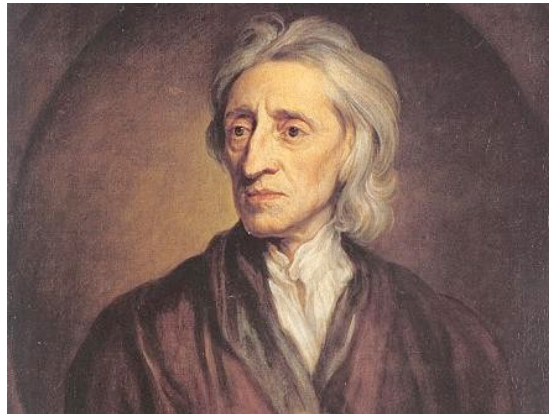
The Ideas of John Locke

- The period known as the “Enlightenment” in Europe
 - seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
 - development of new ideas about the rights of people and their relationship to their rulers.
- John Locke: Enlightenment philosopher whose ideas, more than any others, influenced the American belief in self-government



Locke wrote:

- All people are free, equal, and have “natural rights” of life, liberty, and property that rulers cannot take away
- All original power lies in the hands of the people
 - consent to enter a “social contract” among themselves to form a government to protect their rights
 - In return, people promise to obey the laws and rules established by their government, establishing a system of “ordered liberty”

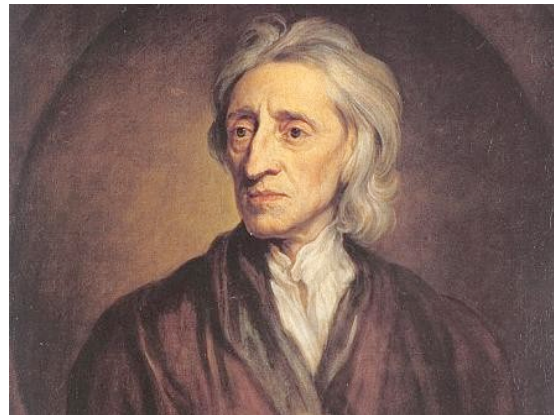


Locke wrote (cont.):

- Government's powers are limited to those the people have consented to give it
- Whenever government becomes a threat to the people's natural rights, it breaks the social contract

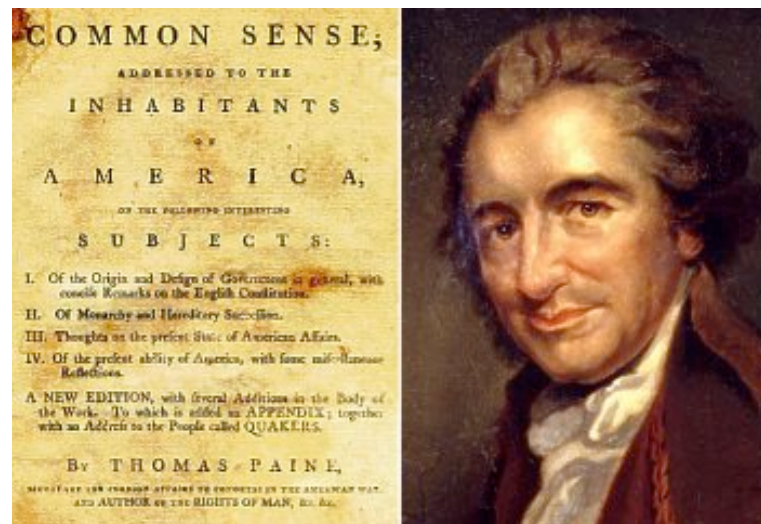
the people have a right to alter or overthrow it

Locke's ideas about sovereignty and rights of the people were radical and challenged the centuries-old practice throughout the world of dictatorial rule by kings, emperors, and tribal chieftains



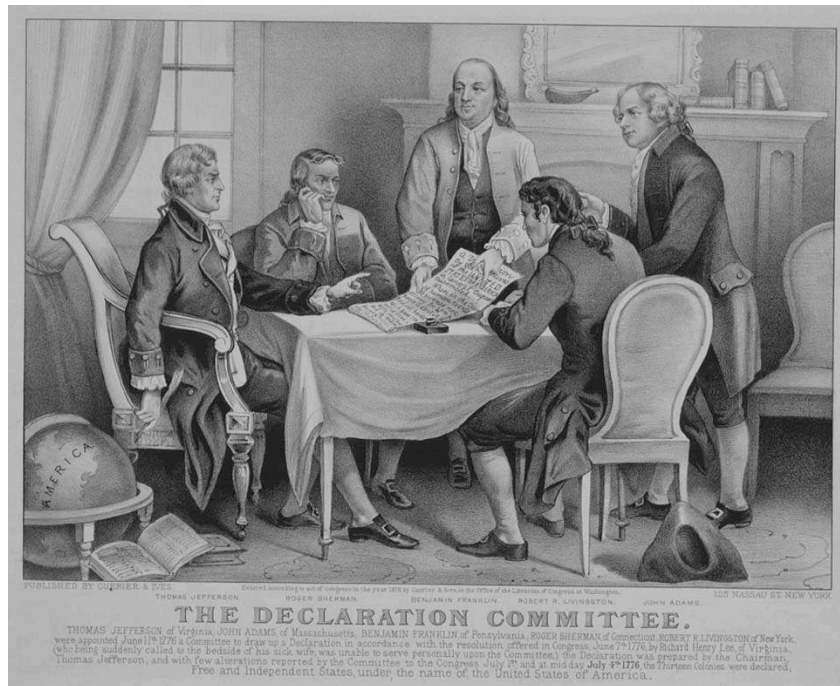
Thomas Paine and *Common Sense*

- Thomas Paine was an English immigrant to America who produced a pamphlet known as *Common Sense*
- It challenged the rule of the American colonies by the King of England (George III)
- It was read and acclaimed by many American colonists during the mid-1700s and contributed to a growing sentiment for independence from Great Britain



The Declaration of Independence

- Primary author was Thomas Jefferson
 - Incorporated ideas of John Locke into writing
 - Justification for colonial independence



Key principles of DoI increased political, social and economic participation in the American experience over a period of time

- **Political participation (equality)**
 - Extending the franchise
 - Upholding due process of law
 - Providing free public education
- **Social participation (liberty)**
 - Abolishing slavery
 - Extending civil rights to women and other groups
- **Economic participation (pursuit of happiness)**
 - Regulating the free enterprise system
 - Promoting economic opportunity
 - Protecting property rights

War Begins and Ends

- War began when “minutemen” in Massachusetts fought a brief skirmish with British troops at Lexington and Concord
- British eventually surrendered at Yorktown



First Continental Congress

- Called in September, 1774 – met in Philadelphia
- All colonies except Georgia sent representatives
- The first time that most of the colonies would act together



Diplomatic Factors:

- Benjamin Franklin negotiated a Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778
 - Recognized American independence and provided money and weapons
- The war did not have popular support in Britain



Military Factors

- George Washington avoided any situation that threatened destruction of the army
 - Leadership kept army together when defeat seemed inevitable
 - Struggles early in the war: New York, Valley Forge
 - Turning points at Trenton and Saratoga



Differences Among the Colonists

Patriots

- Believed in complete independence from Britain
- Inspired by the ideas of Locke and Paine and the words of Virginian Patrick Henry (“Give me liberty, or give me death!”)
- Provided the troops for the American Army, led by Virginian George Washington

Loyalists (Tories)

- Remained loyal to Britain because of cultural and economic ties
- Believed that taxation of the colonies was justified to pay for British troops to protect American settlers from Indian attacks

Neutrals

- The many colonists who tried to stay as uninvolved in the war as possible

Patrick Henry

