

Empire

- During the 17th century, the American colonies increasingly becoming a part of the international world
- Trade – goods and people
- Increased economical stability & increased wealth
- With this wealth, English leaders attempted to heighten their control on the colonies
- Mercantilism – view of economic world as collection of national states who competed for shares of finite wealth (when 1 country gained, another lost)
 - Each nation sought to be economically self-sufficient
 - Colonies played important role
 - Impact on slave trade
 - Impact on lack of diversification in southern colonies (England wanted raw materials and only certain goods)
 - Impact on colonists eventual resentment of English control

Unifying Trends

The colonies did boast some unifying trends:

- A common language with less variation in spoken English among the colonies than between any individual colony and England itself.
- Common enemies that bound colonies together
- A shared sense of how to protect their interests--mainly involving volunteer militias and terror tactics
- Relatively simple legal systems that did not depend on lawyers
- Rejection of primogeniture as the dominant means of inheritance
- Relatively rich opportunities for upward mobility

“Benign or Salutary Neglect”

- The beginnings of empire stemmed from England's growing realization that the colonies served vital needs both economically and politically--and that they had failed to capitalize on this earlier.
- Historians have come to refer to this era as one of “benign neglect”.
- Some believe this led to the creation of an “independent spirit” in colonial society that would have important effects later.

The Critical 1640s

The critical 1640s were a time of upheaval in America, characterized by Indian warfare, instability, and a general lack of direction from England.

- English Civil War made 1640s extremely chaotic.
- England realized the colonies overseas brought few benefits to homeland and were not easy to defend.
- England lacked a coherent overarching colonial policy

Weakened by Civil War, England lost control of colonial trade as Dutch and French traders took advantage.

- Interruption of trade and supplies made colonies more vulnerable to Native attack.
- Founding of New England Confederation (1643) made clear that colonies could look after their own interests with little support from England.

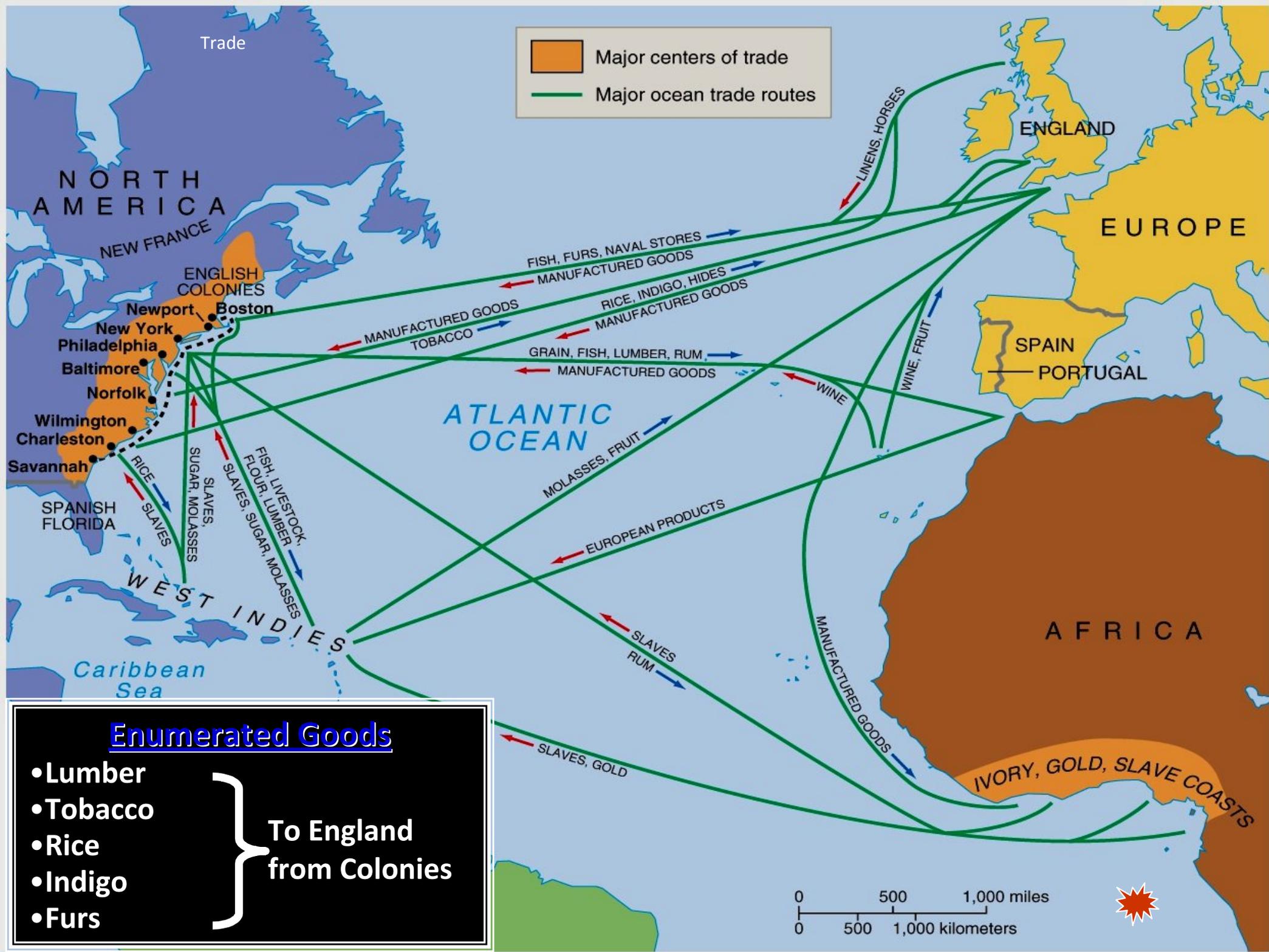
Mercantilism

The most important imperial innovation proved to be the advent of the mercantilist system, designed to keep trade (and influence) within the Empire.

- Following the Thirty Years' War, Parliament passed the First Navigation Act banning foreign ships in the colonies.
- The Restoration Navigation Acts were a crucial series of measures that sought to oversee virtually all aspects of colonial trade, “enumerating” commodities, as well as regulating goods going to and from England's outposts.
- The goal was to raise revenue by taxing trade within the British Empire (at a fairly low rate) while denying trade to England’s rival European powers--especially France.
- In keeping with Parliament’s overall unspoken policy of benign neglect to its North American colonies, few of the early Navigation Acts had any substantial effects.
- In terms of the British Empire as a whole, the less than lucrative North American colonies were simply not that important...but the Mercantile System encompassed far more than the American colonies.

Central Beliefs of Mercantilism

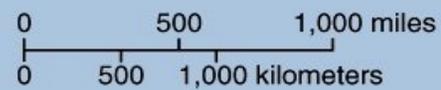
- Greed could be used to help stabilize trade and interaction within the Empire because of its overwhelming predictability.
- There was a fixed amount of wealth in the world.
- Because there was a fixed amount of wealth available in the world as a whole, countries increased their own share of this wealth only at the expense of their rivals.
- Trade competition among nations was less destructive than religious or national wars.
- Keeping trade completely within the Empire, becoming economically self-sufficient, was an effective means of protecting oneself from (and potentially dominating) one's enemies.



Enumerated Goods

- Lumber
- Tobacco
- Rice
- Indigo
- Furs

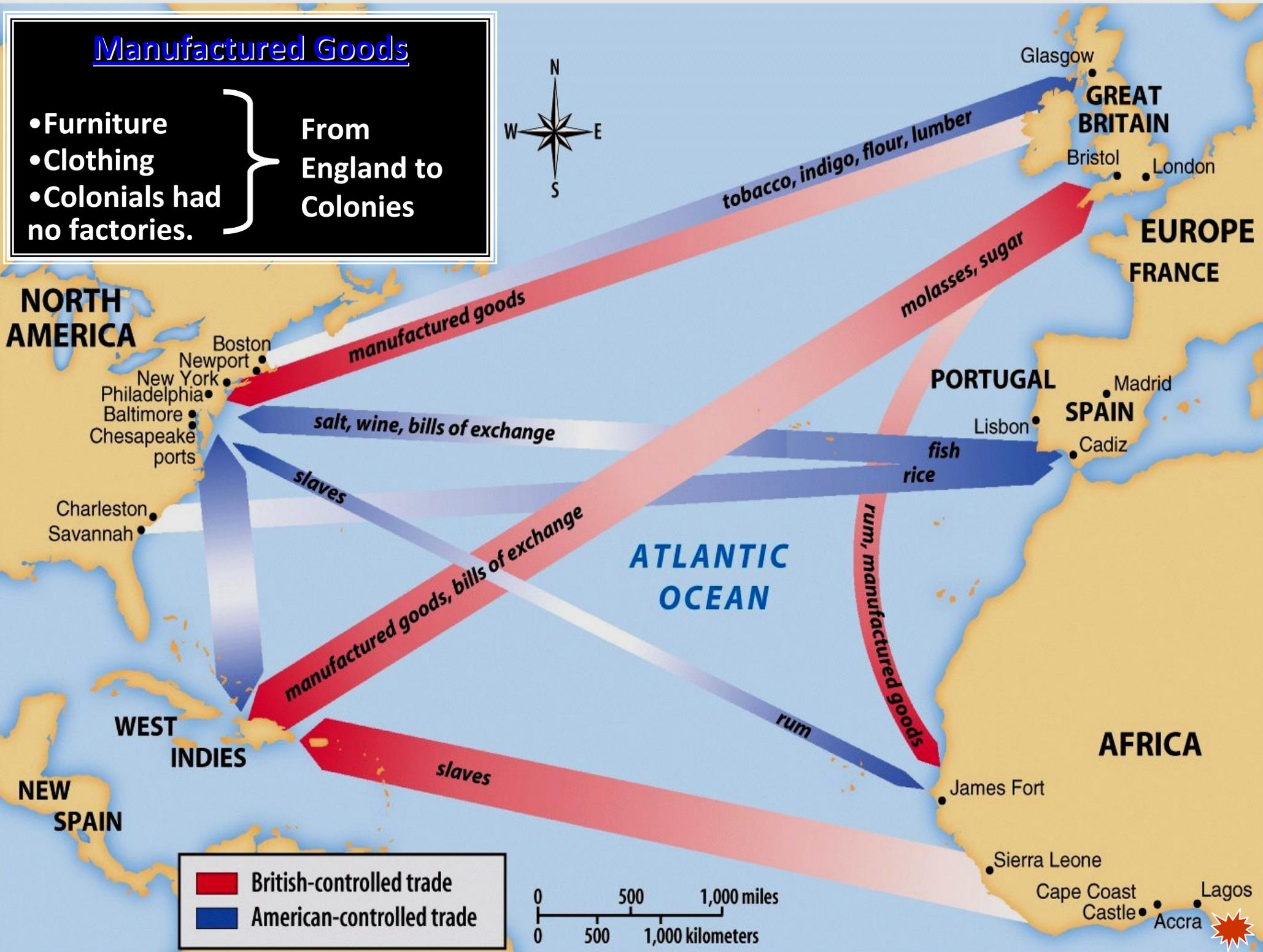
To England
from Colonies



Manufactured Goods

- Furniture
- Clothing
- Colonials had no factories.

From
England to
Colonies



The First Navigation Acts, 1650s

Motivation: London merchants convince Parliament to protect them from Dutch competition

Demand: Limited foreign trade

- Non-European imports to England or colonies had to use English ships with majority English crews

Response: Colonists wanted option to use cheaper non-English shipping

- Mostly ignored or, at best, only partially obeyed

Restoration-Era Navigation Acts

Navigation Act of 1660

- Expanded mercantilistic intent of previous acts
- Allowed trade in particular items only with England (ex. Wool)

Staple Act (1663)

- Demanded most imports to colonies come exclusively from England

Plantation Duty Act (1673)

- Sent English government customs officials for the first time directly to the colonial ports rather than rely on local representatives

*Do these seem like unreasonable controls to you? Why / Why not?
How do you think that British colonists felt about such trade restrictions?*

Mercantilism and the Colonies

- The Navigation Acts
 - a series of mercantilist laws passed throughout the 17th Century for the American colonies
 - 3 rules for colonial trade
 - 1) goods shipped to or from the colonies could only be carried on English vessels or colonial-built ships
 - 2) goods shipped to the colonies had to pass through English ports
 - 3) certain goods (enumerated goods) could only be exported from the colonies to Britain

Effects of Mercantilism on the Colonies?

- Positive Effects of the Navigation Acts?
 - 1) the shipbuilding industry of New England greatly prospered
 - 2) the colonies and their economic activities were protected by British military
 - 3) the tobacco industry of the Chesapeake enjoyed a monopoly in England

Effects of Mercantilism on the Colonies?

- Negative effects of the Navigation Acts?
 - 1) greatly retarded industrial growth in the colonies
 - 2) agricultural goods were forced to abide by price restrictions in England (i.e. tobacco farmers were forced to sell their goods at low prices to the English market)
 - 3) in turn, colonists were forced to pay inflated prices for goods manufactured in England

1670s – Time of crisis

- Turmoil in the 1670s in the American colonies
- Conflicts between and among:
 - English settlers and
 - Indian tribes
 - French
 - Dutch
 - Spanish
 - Between and Among
 - Indian tribes
 - Dutch, French, Spanish

1670s - Conflicts

- French and English conflicts with Indians
- What part did race play? Economics?
- Importance of trade and control of trade
- King Philip's War – New England
- Iroquois controlled trade with western Indian tribes
 - French unhappy about this arrangement and wanted direct trade
 - After neutrality treaty in 1701, Iroquois maintained their power through trade and skillful diplomacy
- Pueblo Revolt
 - 1680 revolt by Pueblo Indians was longest-lasting and most successful Indian resistance movement
 - Spanish changed policies – no longer made them slaves and no longer tried to violate their cultural integrity and force them to stop their traditions

Bacon's Rebellion

(1676 - 1677)



Nathaniel Bacon
represents former
indentured
servants.

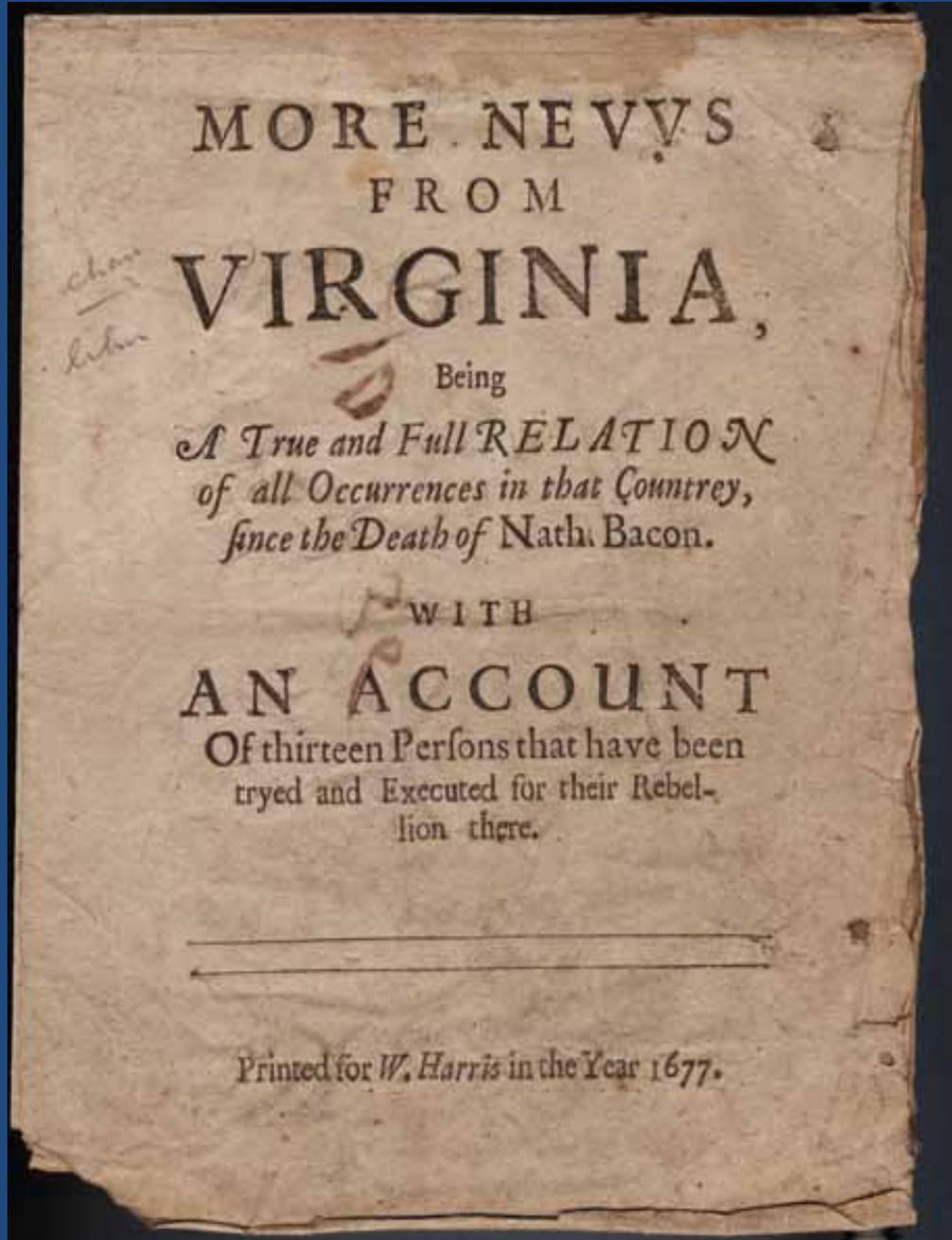


Governor
William Berkeley
of Jamestown

Bacon's Rebellion, 1676

- Led by the recent immigrant Nathaniel Bacon, Bacon's Rebellion of 1675-1676 resulted in the devastation of much of Virginia and the temporary collapse of royal government.
- Bacon's Rebellion helped to trigger a crisis in England and the redefinition of empire in hopes of improving imperial oversight and control.

BACON'S REBELLION



- Involved former indentured servants
- Not accepted in Jamestown (east vs. west)
- Disenfranchised and unable to receive their land
- Gov. Berkeley would not defend settlements from Indian attacks
- Nathaniel Bacon attacked friendly and non-friendly Indians, making no distinctions between them

BACON'S REBELLION

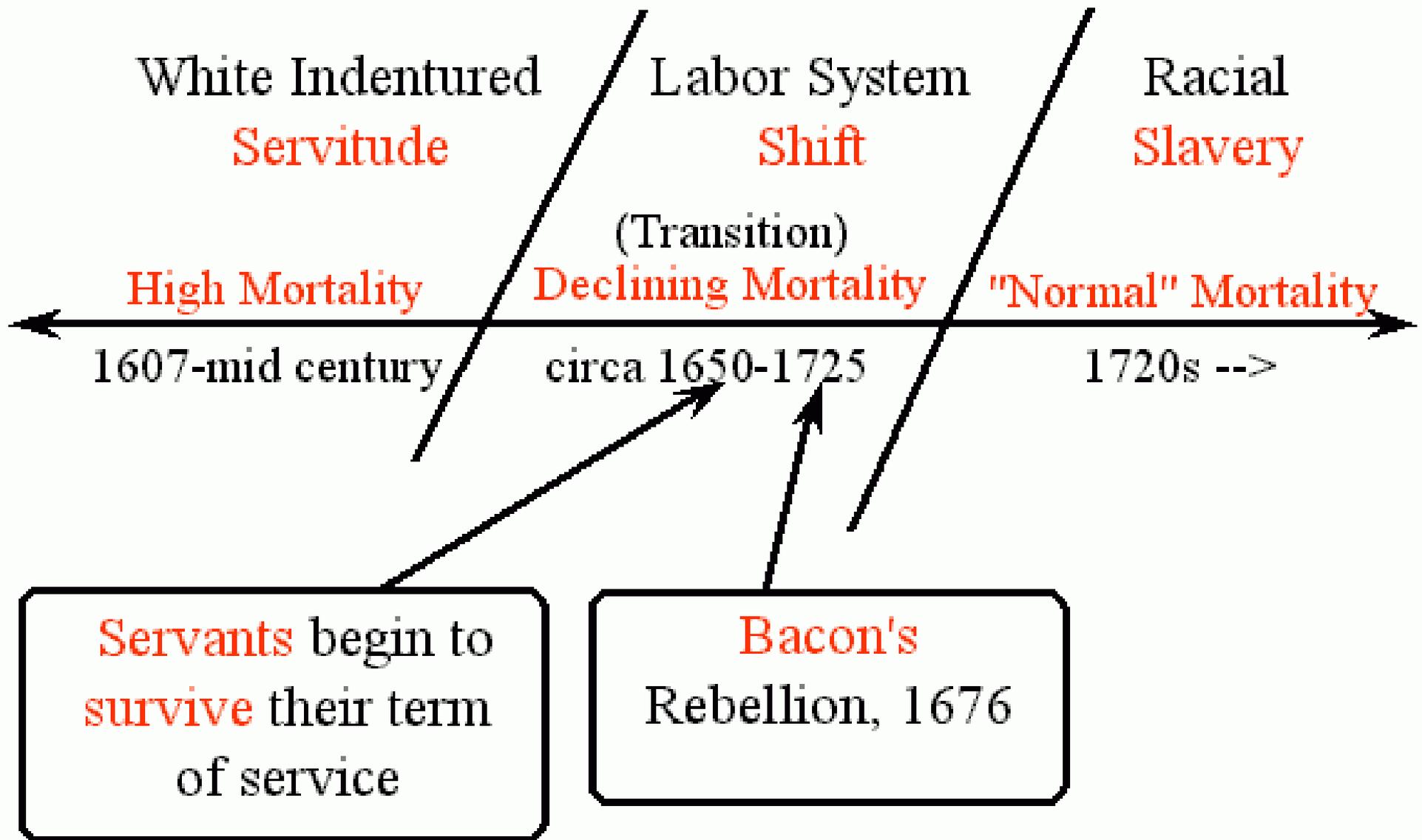


- Nathaniel Bacon acts as the representative for rebels
- Gov. Berkeley refused to meet their conditions and erupts into a civil war.
- Bacon dies, Gov. Berkeley puts down rebellion and several rebels are hanged

Consequence of Bacon's Rebellion

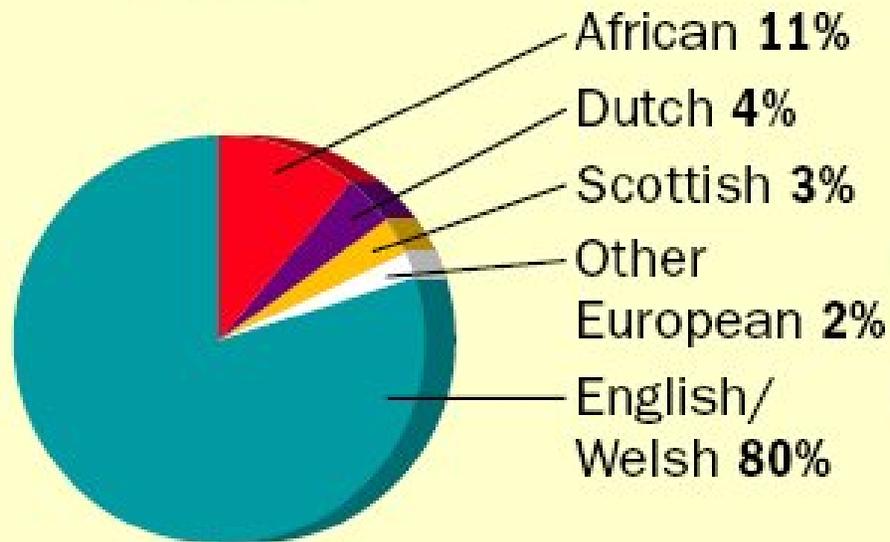
Plantation owners gradually replaced indentured servants with African slaves because it was seen as a better investment in the long term than indentured servitude.

BACON'S REBELLION

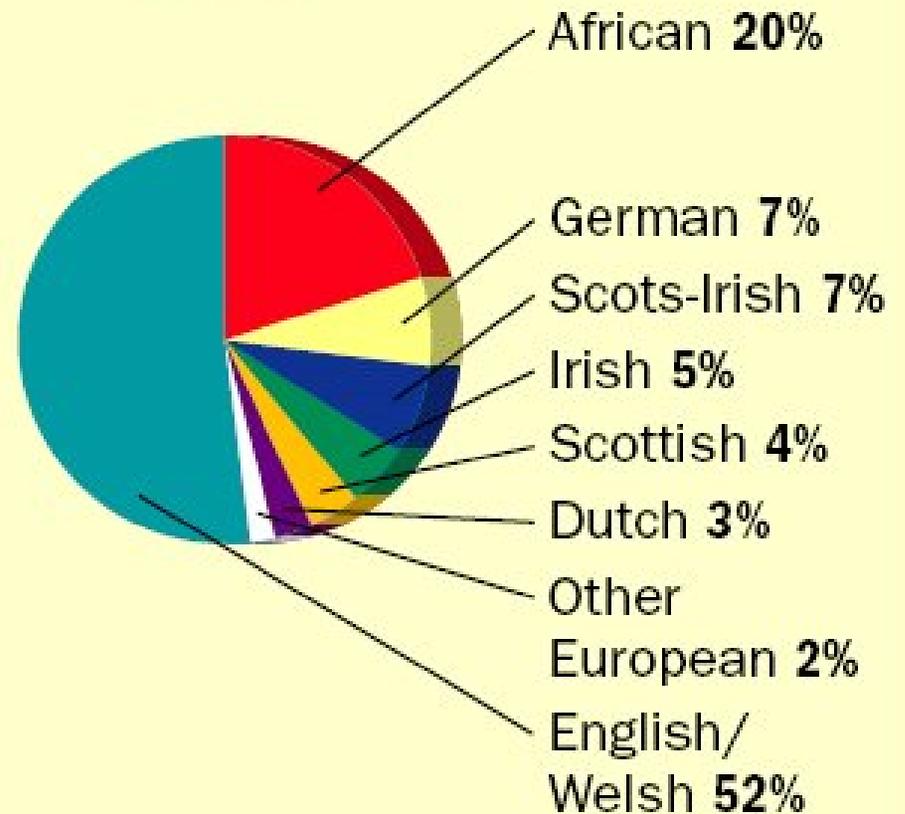


Colonial Diversity

1700



1755



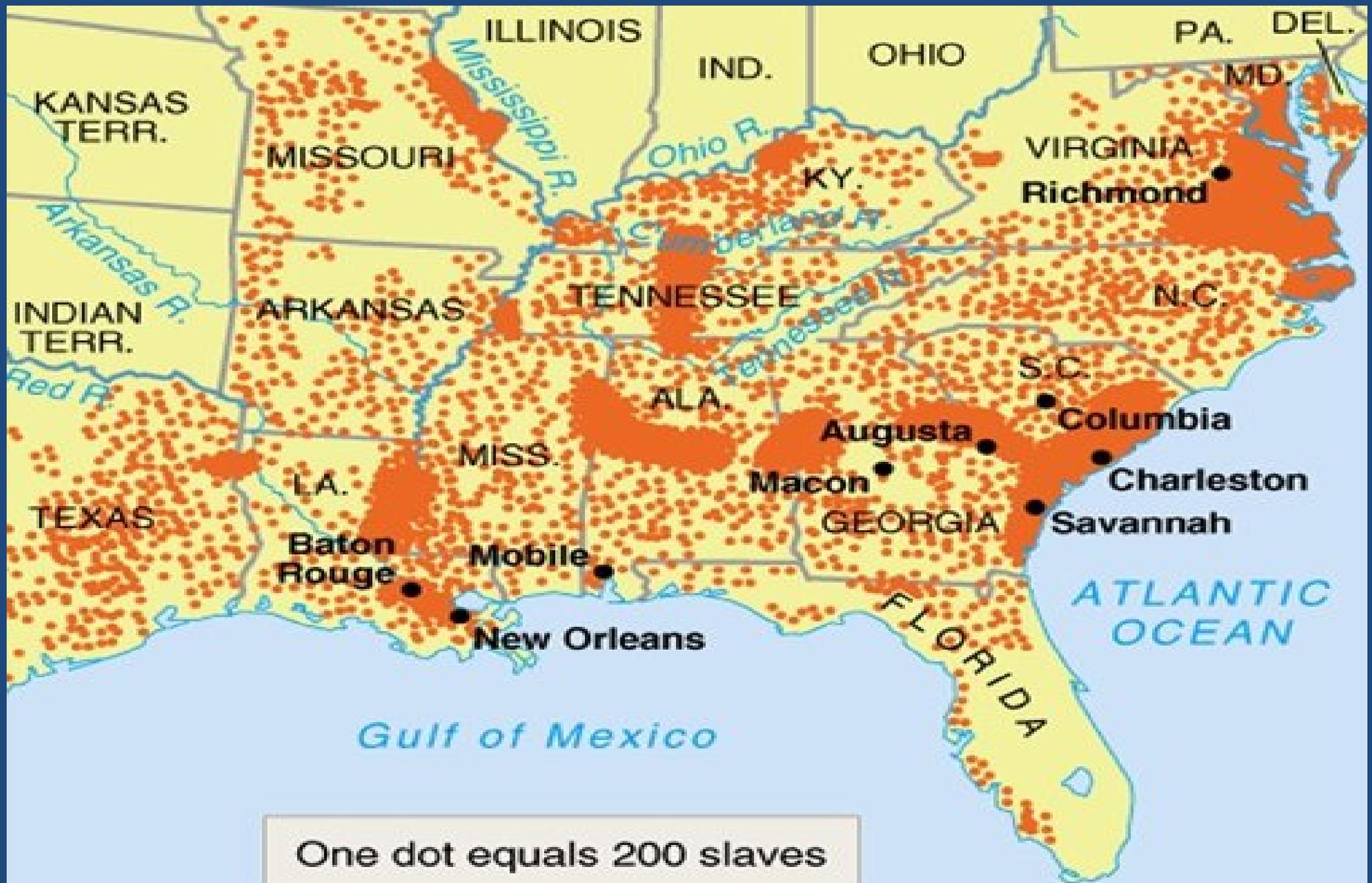
Source: *The Enduring Vision*

GROWTH OF SLAVERY



Slave population, 1820

GROWTH OF SLAVERY



Slave population, 1860

New Absolutism in the Colonies

- Upon coming to power James II sought to enforce the Navigation laws
 - the charter of Massachusetts Bay was revoked for its smuggling activities
 - the New England colonies were combined with New York and New Jersey into one entity, the Dominion of New England

The Dominion of New England

- Sir Edmund Andros was put in charge of the Dominion
 - The representative assemblies of each of the colonies were dissolved
 - Andros also created new taxes and increased existing ones
 - ‘No taxation without representation...’
- The Dominion was a disaster and was a contributing factor in James II losing power in 1688 → The Glorious Revolution
 - The Dominion died with him and the colonies were returned to their original states

Key Effects of the Glorious Revolution in British America

- Rebellion against Governor Andros and the dissolution of the Dominion of New England
- Old colonial charters restored
- Jacob Leisler in New York -- seized control of New York's government in the aftermath of the Glorious Revolution in England in 1688. He was arrested and executed in 1690.
- Maryland's Catholic government overthrown and replaced

The English Response

The English response to the Glorious Revolution in America proved remarkably lenient and sympathetic for the most part, as William and Mary sought reconciliation, not conflict.

- Installation of a royally-sanctioned government in Maryland
- Leisler executed
- Increase Mather and reorganization of Puritan colonies
 - Increased royal power within the relatively independent colonies
 - Demanded religious toleration of all Protestants
 - Imposed property, not church, qualifications for voting
 - Consolidated Puritan New England into only four Puritan colonies after 1691: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut

Expanding on the Laws...

- Subsequent rewrites of the original Navigation Act would expand what were considered enumerated goods
 - The original was tobacco, but by the time of the Revolution the list would include most goods exported from the colonies
- Various rewrites and amendments to the original act would also expand on duties and trade restrictions
 - The 1733 Molasses Act required that a heavy duty be placed on sugar imported from the French West Indies → this forced the colonists to have to buy the much more expensive sugar from the British West Indies