

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES IN THE MID-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY: AN ANALYSIS OF THEIR DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES

I. Differences

- A. Reasons for Migration
- B. Different modes of establishment
- C. Religion
- D. Family structure
- E. Economy
- F. Role of Slavery
- G. Social Structure

II. Similarities

For most points here, see Jack Greene's "Gifts of Peace."

- A. Religion: Protestant Christianity
- B. Population Growth
 - 1. Growth of White Population
OVERHEAD
 - 2. Growth of Black Population
OVERHEAD
 - 3. Growth from immigration
OVERHEAD OF DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS
 - 4. Growth from natural increase
Numbers
 - 1. In 1700 the 13 colonies contained fewer than 300,000 people, about 20,000 of whom were black.
 - 2. By 1775, 2.5 million people inhabited the thirteen colonies, of whom about half a million were black.
 - 3. White immigrants made up nearly 400,000 of the increased number, and black "forced immigrants" accounted for almost as many again.
 - 4. But most of the spurt stemmed from the remarkable natural fertility of all Americans, white and black.
 - 5. The colonists were doubling their numbers every twenty-five years.
- C. Population diversification
- D. Growth of economy
- E. Lower Houses of Assembly
- F. Rural life west of Alleghenies
 - 1. The bulk of the population lived east of the Alleghenies, although by 1775 some had moved into Tennessee and Kentucky.
 - 2. The most populous colonies in 1775 were Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Maryland--in that order.
 - 3. Only four communities could properly be called cities: Philadelphia, including suburbs, was first with about 34,000, whereas New York, Boston, and Charleston were strung out behind.
 - 4. About 90 percent of the people lived in rural areas.
- G. These Colonies were all apart of the British Empire, which had set up a dual persona: British men and women living on the frontier