

CHAPTER  
**2**

Summary

TELESCOPING THE TIMES

# *The American Colonies Emerge*

**CHAPTER OVERVIEW** *As the Spanish build an empire in the Americas, other European nations plant colonies in North America. The English come to dominate the Atlantic Coast.*

## 1 Spain's Empire in the Americas

**MAIN IDEA** *Throughout the 1500s and 1600s, the Spanish conquered Central and portions of North America.*

Following Columbus's voyage, other Spanish explorers—called conquistadors (conquerors)—came to the New World. They destroyed Native American societies, won fortunes and fame, and made Spain the most powerful nation on earth.

In 1521, Hernando Cortés used Native American allies and better weapons to conquer the Aztecs. The Aztecs had been weakened by disease. The Spaniards burned the Aztec capital and quickly built a new Spanish-style city as capital of the colony they named New Spain.

Many Spaniards married Native American women, creating a large mestizo—or mixed Spanish and Native American—population. Conquistadors received grants called *encomiendas* which gave them the right to force Native Americans into slave labor on farms, ranches, or mines. Priests often protested the *encomienda* system because of its cruelty to Native Americans. After the Spanish crown ended the system in 1542, Spanish landowners used African slaves.

As conquistadors spread from Mexico, the Spanish empire in the New World grew. It included the Caribbean islands, Central America, and most of South America. Gold and silver from the New World made Spain wealthy.

The Spanish also moved into the present-day United States. In 1565, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés established a small settlement at St. Augustine, the oldest European-founded city in the present United States. Other explorers traveled through the Southwest and southern Plains. They found no gold, but they were soon followed by missionaries who hoped to convert the Native Americans to Catholicism. In the winter of 1609-1610, Pedro de Peralta established a settlement he called Santa Fe.

Native Americans, led by Popé, rose to resist the growing Spanish presence. In 1680 they killed priests, burned churches, and drove the Spaniards

back to New Spain. Just over a decade later, though, the Spanish regained control of the area.

## 2 An English Settlement at Jamestown

**MAIN IDEA** *The first permanent English settlement in North America was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.*

English colonies were originally under the control of joint-stock companies, which were controlled by many investors. In 1607, a group of investors called the Virginia Company sent 150 colonists aboard three ships to North America. They built a settlement in Virginia that they called Jamestown in honor of King James I.

At first, many settlers died from disease and starvation. However, new settlers arrived and began to grow tobacco, a Native American crop that proved to be profitable for the colonists. To attract more settlers, the Virginia Company introduced the head-right system, which provided 50 acres of land to anyone who paid for their own or another's passage.

As workers on their farms, the colonists first used indentured servants. In return for passage to America, these workers promised to work on the landowner's farm. After four to seven years, they would be free. Most indentured servants were the English poor, but some were Africans. By the late 1600s, planters had mostly slave labor from Africa.

In 1622, Powhatan raiding parties killed 340 colonists. By 1624, James I had turned Jamestown into a royal colony under direct control of the king.

The colony grew, and by 1644, nearly 10,000 English settlers lived in Virginia. English society was split, however. Wealthy landowners dominated economic and political life. Former indentured servants wanted land but lacked the money to buy it. When they tried to take land from Native Americans, fighting broke out. The former indentured servants asked for help from Virginia's governor—a wealthy landowner—and he refused. Led by Nathaniel Bacon, the poorer settlers rebelled. The governor put down the revolt, but the event revealed dangerous tensions between the wealthy and the poor.

### 3 Puritan New England

**MAIN IDEA** *English Puritans came to North America, beginning in 1620.*

A different group of people settled farther north. Religious dissenters—Puritans—had argued that the Church of England was too close to Roman Catholic beliefs. They hoped to purify the church with further reforms. One such group, the Pilgrims, planted a colony at Plymouth in 1620.

A large body of Puritans decided to move to the New World. They obtained a charter to create a settlement called the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1630, John Winthrop led about 1,000 settlers from England to Boston. They brought the charter with them, effectively giving them the right to govern themselves in their colony. In the next ten years, another 20,000 English settlers moved to the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Puritans wanted to create a moral society—what Winthrop called “a city upon a hill”—that all people would look up to. About 40 percent of the colony’s men—those who were members of the church and owned land—could vote for local officials, an unusually high portion for the time. Church leaders, although unable to hold elective office, were influential in the colony.

These church leaders tolerated no dissent from their views. A minister named Roger Williams preached that the settlers should buy—not take—land from Native Americans. He also said that government officials should not punish those with different religious views. Facing arrest, he fled in 1636 to Narragansett Bay, where he started the colony of Providence. Also moving there was Anne Hutchinson. She, too, had been forced out of Massachusetts Bay by church leaders because she questioned their authority.

As the settlements spread, some Native Americans resisted. However, in 1637 the Pequot tribe was wiped out. An uneasy peace followed, but war erupted again in 1675. Metacom, called King Philip by the settlers, launched attacks throughout New England. The war cost the lives of many on both sides. Metacom was killed in 1676. With his death, the power of Native Americans in southeast New England was lost forever.

### 4 Settlement of the Middle Colonies

**MAIN IDEA** *The Dutch settle New Netherland; English Quakers, led by William Penn settle in Pennsylvania.*

The Dutch settled present-day Albany and New York City. They also took control of a Swedish settlement along the Delaware River. The Dutch enjoyed good relations with Native Americans. They were mainly interested in promoting trade. The Dutch colony of New Netherland was very diverse, with people from many different European nations, including Jews, and from Africa. By the 1660s, about one-fifth of the population was of African descent.

The English wanted to unite their northern and southern colonies interrupted by New Netherland. So, they seized control of the colony. James, Duke of York, renamed the colony New York and separated off the southern part as New Jersey.

The area west of the Delaware River became another new English colony. To repay a debt, King Charles II granted William Penn a vast stretch of land to the west of New Jersey. Penn was a member of a religious group called Quakers who were persecuted for their beliefs. He hoped to create a home for Quakers in this new colony, which he called Pennsylvania (meaning “Penn’s Woods”). He established a new colony that allowed freedom of worship and included an elected government. He drew a plan for a capital city called Philadelphia. Penn believed that settlers had to buy land from the Native Americans and treat them fairly. Delaware was formed out of Pennsylvania’s three southern counties along the Delaware Bay.

In time, the colonies of Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia were also established. By the mid-1700s, there were 13 English-speaking colonies in North America.

### Review

1. Describe Spanish relations with Native Americans.
2. What changes occurred in the early years of the English settlement at Jamestown?
3. What goals did Puritans have in launching the Massachusetts Bay Colony?
4. On what principles did William Penn base his colony?