

EUROPEAN COLONIES IN THE AMERICAS (PART II)

AP World History Notes

Chapter 14

[1450-1750]

SLAVES IN THE SUGAR COLONIES



- Worked under horrendous conditions
- These conditions + diseases = very high death rate
 - About 5-10% of slave population died per year
 - Required the continuous importation of fresh slaves from Africa

RACIAL MIXING

- Considerable amount of racial mixing also took place in the Caribbean and Brazil
- Ex: By 1790 = 93% of the population of Haiti was either partially or wholly of African descent
- Ex: *Mulattoes* = became a major group in Brazil
 - Product of Portuguese-African unions



PLANTATION COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA



Painting of a Tobacco Plantation
in Colonial Virginia

- Existed in the southern colonies of North America
- Controlled by the British
- Major crops grown = tobacco, rice, cotton, and indigo

RACIAL MIXING IN NORTH AMERICA

- Very uncommon
- Major reason = many European women had migrated to North America along with men, unlike in Central and South America
- Result = evolution of sharply defined racial system
- Offspring of mixed-race unions = viewed as illegitimate
- Any African ancestry made a person “black,” not some other mixed-race category



SLAVERY IN NORTH AMERICA



- Somewhat less harsh than in the sugar colonies
- Result = slave population was able to sustain itself and reproduce
 - No need to constantly import fresh slaves, like in the sugar colonies
 - By the time of the Civil War = almost all North American slaves had been born in the Americas

SETTLER COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA

- Colonies = in New England, New York, and Pennsylvania
- Controlled mainly by the British
- British settlers sought to escape aspects of the old European society, not to recreate it like the Portuguese and Spanish
 - Wanted religious freedom
 - Wanted opportunities for wealth



Colonial Pilgrims on Thanksgiving

SETTLER COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA



- Agricultural economies run by small-scale independent farmers working their own land
- No slaves needed; though sometimes present occasionally in the households of the wealthy
- Pure settler colonies; no racial mixing

SETTLER COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA

- Established traditions of local self-government
- In Britain = King and parliament involved in a long power struggle
 - So they paid little attention to the internal affairs of the colonies
 - Colonies set up their own assemblies

