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

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

Painting of a Tobacco Plantation in Colonial Virginia
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