Chapter 3 – Colonizing a Continent in the Seventeenth Century

The Chesapeake Tobacco Coast

- Jamestown, Sot Weed, and Indentured Servants
  - The Jamestown colony was a joint-stock venture of the King of England and the Virginia Company of England.
  - Tobacco (sot weed) was found to grow remarkably well in the Chesapeake soil.
  - Tobacco required an exhaustive supply of labor. English and Irish laborers were recruited by the company to become indentured servants, trading several years of labor in return for passage to America.

- Expansion and Indian War
  - Population growth put the Jamestown colony on a collision course with the Chesapeake tribe of Indians.
  - After a costly Indian assault, the Crown annulled the charter of the bankrupt Virginia Company and established a royal colony.

- Proprietary Maryland
  - Maryland, another colony on the Chesapeake, was established as a safe haven for Catholics.
  - Designed and promoted by George Calvert, an English noble
  - Colony was overwhelmed by protestants eager to jump at the chance for free land.

- Bacon’s Rebellion Engulfs Virginia
  - Land hunger and dissatisfaction with declining tobacco prices caused planter Nathaniel Bacon and an assortment of slaves and indentured servants to rebel against established colonial policy granting local tribes exclusive rights over land outside white settlements.

- The Southern Transition to Slave Labor
  - English administrators first regarded Native Americans as the obvious source of labor.
  - Disease and the determination of the tribes made them difficult to subjugate.
  - Africans began to take over the bulk of Southern labor in the later half of the seventeenth century.

- The System of Bondage
  - Early African slaves were brought over as bond servants who worked a term of labor and then were set free.
  - Chesapeake planters gradually began to tighten descriptions of slavery, eventually curtailing all rights of Africans and establishing “Black Codes” of behavior.
  - Eventually, slavery became a hereditary state.

Massachusetts and Its Offspring

- Puritanism in England
  - Adherents to the Puritan movement were religious reformers as well as harsh critics of their contemporary Englishmen.
  - They stressed hard work as a primary method of serving God.
A succession of English monarchs clashed with the Puritans, and many felt ready to expatriate to the New World.

King Phillip’s War in New England
- Young Native Americans of the Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes continued to feel disenfranchised with the increase of European settlers.
- Their leader Metacomet (called King Phillip by the British) unleashed a series of hit-and-run offensives against the settlers in 1675. Thousands were killed on each side.

Slavery in New England
- New England’s involvement with the slave trade was primarily in the area of distilling rum.
- The region as a whole did not rely on slavery as a labor solution to the extent that the South would.

From the St. Lawrence to the Hudson

France’s America
- In 1604 and 1608, France established outposts in present-day Nova Scotia and Quebec.
- Bitter skirmishes with the Iroquois set the tone for future colonial wars with an ongoing alliance of the English and Iroquois against the French.

England Challenges the Dutch
- The Dutch settled significant regions of the mid-Atlantic coast of North America with a main settlement at New Netherland.
- By 1650, England was prepared to challenge Dutch supremacy on the sea.
- A series of wars saw the Dutch permanently dislodged from the American mainland.

Proprietary Carolina: A Restoration Reward

The Indian Debacle
- Carolina was the most elaborately planned colony of the English, but the least successful in achieving harmony of the races.
- Capturing Indians for the slave trade became the colony’s main revenue source, causing a series of racial wars.

Early Carolina Society
- In Carolina, an ethnically diverse and religiously discordant people clashed continuously.
- Reliance on African slave labor to manage the backbreaking cultivation of rice became a mainstay for the colony.
- In 1701, North and South Carolina split into respective colonies.

The Quakers’ Peaceable Kingdom

The Limits of Perfectionism
- Despite commercial success and harmony with native tribes, the early colony of Pennsylvania stumbled due to poor leadership.
- Pennsylvania was created by William Penn as a social experiment in utopianism for the Quaker community.
New Spain’s Northern Frontier

- Decline of Florida’s Missions
  - The Franciscan missions established along the Florida coast were pummeled by disease, the English, and a lack of interest by potential Spanish settlers.
  - When England and Spain went to war, the Carolinas attacked Florida.