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1.1. NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLES

Native societies in North America were characterized by their diversity at the arrival of the Europeans who affected and changed their way of life. According to scientists Native American ancestors had been living there for about 30,000 years. They came to North America during the last ice age from the Asian continent, from Siberia to Alaska, when the sea levels dropped and a land bridge was uncovered in the Bering Strait. Over time these people spread all over the American continent.

As regards political systems and religious beliefs, Native North American Peoples had different ones. They were not united and they were not as developed as the Aztecs or the Incas to their South. Apart from that, they lived scattered in tribes and as far as language is concerned, there were over three hundred languages.

Native Americans were fine crafts workers, making pottery, baskets, carving, wove cotton and plant-fibre cloth. They gathered wild plants and had perfected techniques of farming, hunting and fishing. They developed structures of political power and religious belief, and engaged in far-reaching networks of trade and communication, although they lacked technologies that Europeans would use to justify their conquest. Many European settlers thought and claimed that the natives were savage. On the one hand, Native Americans taught the Europeans how to cultivate crops such as corn, tomatoes, potatoes and tobacco and on the other hand, Europeans brought their firearms, wheeled vehicles, iron cooking pots and diseases to which the Natives had no immunities.

Most Native Americans were not only hunters, but there were also natives who lived in agricultural communities and other natives harvested ocean fish and seafood. Some of them such as the Iroquois, who lived in the eastern woods of the continent hunted, fished and farmed.

As far as the land is concerned, Native American communities saw land as a common resource and did not have the concept of private

property, of owning or selling lands, which was a European concept. Therefore, their attitude towards property was very different from the one that Europeans had. The reputation of chiefs rested on their willingness to share goods with others. Generosity and gift giving was vital to Native Americans.

Native societies of North America shared certain features. Their religion did not make a distinction between the natural and the supernatural. They had religious ceremonies linked to farming and hunting. They believed that the world was immersed with spiritual power and sacred spirits could be found in all kinds of living and inanimate things.

Religious ceremonies aimed to control supernatural forces to serve their interests. Some ceremonies sought to engage the spiritual power of nature to secure abundant crops or keep away evil spirits. Thus, religious leaders and medicine men held key positions of authority and respect.

As far as gender relations are concerned, they were different from the European ones. While men went hunting, women were responsible for most agricultural work. Most Native American societies were matrilineal. Female elders often took part in tribal meetings and women had openly premarital relations and could divorce. Besides, women owned dwellings and tools and the husband moved to live with the family of his wife.

The life of Native Americans was distorted by the arrival of Europeans. Some Native Americans traded with the Europeans, becoming dependant on European goods. Apart from that, Europeans brought germs and the Native Americans had no natural resistance to European diseases such as smallpox, measles and typhus, causing disturbing epidemics that provoked a terrible loss of population in many Native American tribes.

All things considered, colonization and settlement of the United States was an invasion of territory controlled and settled for centuries by Native Americans. Europeans' arrival was an intrusion in Native lands but the Natives were unsuccessful in the long run in resisting the European invasion.

1.2. EUROPEAN EXPANSION: ENGLAND'S EMPIRE

A few years after Christopher Columbus had discovered America, the most powerful European nations began to claim areas of the American continent and established colonies there.

Adam Smith, English political economist in his great work, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), apart from considering that the discovery of America

brought wealth to the Old World, he also pointed out that it marked a division in the history of mankind.

The Europeans were initially drawn to America to get wealth and to establish new homes. Thus, each European sovereign rushed to claim as much territory as possible so that they had to found settlements on the territory. In the early 1600s, in quick progression, the English began a colony (Jamestown) in Chesapeake Bay in 1607, the French built Quebec in 1608, and the Dutch began their interest in the region that became present-day New York. Within another generation, the Plymouth Company (1620), the Massachusetts Bay Company (1629), the Company of New France (1627), and the Dutch West India Company (1621) began to send thousands of colonists, including families, to North America.

There was a contest among European powers to exploit these new lands. Europeans started the quest of lands and were determined to take the lands that the Native Americans shared without thinking they owned them as private properties.

There were different reasons that intensified the colonizing impulse. We can mention the following ones among them: international rivalry, propagation of religion, there were religious and political dissenters who looked for a refuge, a desire to convert the indigenous inhabitants of America to Christianity and a desire of adventure and searching opportunity for individual men, the wish of owning land but the main reason was to make profit in the New World. Thus, the companies invested in the colonies until 1631, when they invested their money in other enterprises.

England was willing to experience Spain's success so the English turned to America by 1570's in order to obtain the profits of the New World, after supporting the Cabot voyages in 1497 and 1498. England's first attempts at settling in America failed in the 1570s and 1580s. Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Humphrey Gilbert, proprietors of lands were given extensive grants by the King for establishing colonies. Sir Humphrey Gilbert had experimented in colonization with Ireland.

Finally, we have to point out that due to the interactions of diverse peoples, the process of English colonization was a complex one. Africans played an active role in the English colonization. African slaves provided labour and slavery was eventually transferred to North America.

1.3. NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES

We can realise that there is diversity in the English colonies, persisting clear differences. Thus, for instance, there were founded for different purposes such as settlements of New England, New York and the Carolinas. There were also some common features. For instance, in every colony, political jurisdiction and issues fell within one of the three levels of government, the king and Parliament, the Colonial government, or the local government.

1.3.1. Jamestown, Virginia

In the first decade of the seventeenth century, England started a second round of colonizing attempts using joint-stock companies to place settlements. The first English colony in America was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607 and set the pattern for English colonization. Virginia received three charters, one in 1606, the second in 1609 and the third in 1612. The differences among them lie in the territorial jurisdiction of the company. The London Company, that renamed itself the Virginia Company, was granted the authority to govern its colony. When King James I granted the first charter, a council was formed in England that issued instructions to the first settlers that appointed a colonial council but as it proved to be ineffective, a governor, John Delaware was appointed.

There were disagreements within the Virginia Company in the first years of the colony. For instance, the principal founder who was Captain John Smith disagreed with his fellow councillors on the running of the settlement. The colony survived and started to ship tobacco to England in 1614 and tobacco became its main export. As far as population is concerned, it was approximately of 64,560 people circa 1700.

1.3.2. The Puritan Colonies

1.3.2.1. Plymouth

English Puritans established in New England, escaping religious persecution in their homeland and founded a colony with their own religious ideals seeking to purify the Church of England. They wanted to establish a “city set upon a hill”, an ideal community. One group of these Puritans, the so called “the Pilgrims” crossed the Atlantic in the ship called Mayflower and settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. The principal

founder was William Bradford who wrote the experiences of the group in "Of Plymouth Plantation." He was elected governor in May 1621 and re-elected more than thirty times.

The original purpose of this foundation was being a refuge for English Separatists but it was also a joint-stock venture. The Pilgrim Fathers obtained rights to a "particular plantation" from the Virginia Company of London; they could locate where they chose within the territory of that Company, and enjoy local self-government. They planned to locate around the mouth of the Hudson River. However, they anchored in Provincetown Harbour, voiding their exclusive rights.

Since the Pilgrims disembarked outside the authorized jurisdiction of any other English colony, landing on Cape Cod, they feared the rule of those outside their membership. Thus, the Mayflower Compact was signed on November 11th 1620 to found self-government in the colony. It was an agreement that proved of those English emigrants to live under a rule of law, based on the approval of the people. It is the earliest known case in American history of people establishing a government for themselves by mutual agreement. This turned out to be one of the foundations of the subsequent process of independence and way of government of the future.

Church compacts were familiar to English Puritans. Thus it was natural for them to sign an agreement for civil purposes, when locating outside any recognized jurisdiction. Forty-one males of whom twenty survived the first six months signed the Compact. Apart from having their own self-laws, Plymouth people also applied the common law of England. In spite of this, political authority was never secure and it was an independent colony until 1691 when it was absorbed by Massachusetts.

The first year was very hard and the colonists survived the first winter thanks to the help from the local Indians, the Wampanoag and the Pequamid who shared corn with them and showed them where to fish. Later, they showed the English how to plant crops that could grow well in that soil. In 1621, the Pilgrims invited them to a feast to celebrate their survival in the harsh American wilderness and the generosity of Native Americans. That harvest feast was the first Thanksgiving.

The economy of the colony in the first years was a subsistence economy, but later it developed trade, being the major export products of the colony grain and wood.

1.3.2.2. Massachusetts

In 1629, Massachusetts Bay Colony, a joint-stock company resident in England, whose membership included landed gentry and merchants, received its charter and was founded with the purpose of being a refuge for English Puritans who did not accept the Church of England and wanted to practice their own religion. A group of Puritans brought the charter to America and it became the constitution of the colony.

The principal founder was John Winthrop, who became governor, leading the community by strict puritan laws. He wrote his sermon “A Model of Christian Charity” on board the *Arabella*, the Flagship of the Puritan emigration to Massachusetts in 1630. On Board there were some seven hundred men, women and children. John Winthrop expressed that the New England Puritans would be a model for other colonists and other Puritans to emulate but this writing has also meant the hope that America would be “a beacon upon a hill” for other peoples. Thus, he says:

“For wee must Consider that wee shall be as a City upon a hill. The eies of all people are upon Us, soe that if wee shall deale falsely with our god in this worke wee have undertaken, and soe cause him to withdrawe his present help from us, wee shall be made a story and a by-word through the world...

Therefore let us choose life,
that wee and our seede
may live by obeyeing his
voyce and cleaveing to him,
for hee is our life and
our prosperity.”

Another chief founder, although he never migrated to America, was the Reverend John White, who worked to establish an English colony in New England in order to relieve the concern in English social and religious life.

Reports that Massachusetts Bay ignored English rule and enforced political practices and religious conformity unacceptable in England led to governmental investigation. However, the king’s commissioners decided not to take action. New England established an often intolerant moralist, believing that governments should enforce God’s morality. Puritans themselves did not tolerate religious dissent in Massachusetts. They strictly punished drunks, adulterers, violators of the Sabbath and heretics. The right to vote was restricted to church members, and the salaries of ministers were paid out of tax revenues.

It is estimated that population of Massachusetts Bay Colony was of 55,941 circa 1700, including the population of Plymouth.

1.3.2.3. Connecticut

In 1635, the colony of Connecticut was founded; it was really an expansion of Massachusetts. The towns of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield around Connecticut Valley shared common interests and decided to combine into a colony. It received a royal charter in 1663, but self-government preceded official recognition. The principal founder was Thomas Hooker. The major export of the colony was grain. It is estimated that population was of 25,970 circa 1700.

1.3.2.4. Challenges to Puritan Orthodoxy and the Foundation of Rhode Island

Puritans who protested that the state should not interfere with religion such as Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson were forced to leave Massachusetts Bay. In 1636, Roger Williams, a minister who criticised the religious-political establishment, set up Rhode Island colony, which guaranteed religion freedom and the separation of church and state. Thus, Rhode Island became a refuge for dissenters from Massachusetts. In 1638, Anne Hutchinson and her followers were exiled there. She was considered a threat because she had questioned the authority of some influential ministers of the colony.

1.3.3. Founding of the Carolinas

In 1663, eight proprietors received a royal charter from Charles II to found a colony to the North of Florida. Thus, Carolina was founded with a commercial and a political purpose. The principal founder was Anthony Ashley Cooper, known as earl of Shaftsbury, who sent off over three hundred colonists to Carolina.

Ashley required the assistance of the philosopher John Locke to devise the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina in 1669 to establish an aristocracy that governed the colony. He also planned an elected assembly of landowners, the Council of Nobles. The Carolina proprietors were planning to organize Carolina along the lines of a feudal state.

Carolina was a slave society. Before 1680, half of the inhabitants came from the Caribbean island of Barbados. The Barbadians created plantations based on slavery and became very powerful. They had Indian and black slaves. After some false starts a group of Barbadian and English settlers founded Charleston in 1670. The colony quickly developed following the model of plantation colonies. The territory was divided up into separate plantations. The main planters had both a plantation and a second house in Charleston, where government was centralized and where they used to spend the summer months.

New settlers came, mostly Scots and French Huguenots. These people of French origin soon became the elite of the new colony. They quickly adopted the English language and joined the established Church of England but they kept an aristocratic tone that will become distinctive of the colony.

In 1719, the colonists overthrew the last proprietary government, and in 1729, the king created separate royal governments in North and South Carolina. There were differences between them. South Carolina was richer, with more plantations and more densely populated and North Carolina was poorer, with fewer plantations and slaves but slightly more democratic. South Carolina mainly exported naval stores and rice. It is estimated that population was about 5,720 in 1700. North Carolina mainly exported wood, naval stores and tobacco and it is estimated that population was roughly of 10,720 in 1700. By 1729 all proprietors except for one had sold their lands back to the crown.

1.3.4. The Middle Colonies

1.3.4.1. New York

Dutch settlers purchased Manhattan island from Indian chiefs in 1626 and built the town of New Amsterdam in 1664. This settlement was made English colony and renamed New York. The principal founder was Peter Stuyvesant, Duke of York. The purpose of this foundation was commercial and its major export became furs and grain. It is estimated that population was of 19,107 in 1700.

1.3.4.2. New Jersey

New Jersey was founded with the purpose of consolidating new English territory. The duke of York awarded this land to two courtiers, Sir George Cartaret and Lord Berkerley although legally only the King could establish

a colonial government. In 1674, Lord Berkerley sold his proprietary rights to a group of Quakers and the colony was divided into East and West Jersey but they were reunited again in one colony in 1702. The major export of the colony was grain and it is estimated that the population circa 1700 was approximately of fourteen thousand inhabitants and there was a prominent ethnic and religious diversity.

1.3.4.3. Pennsylvania and Delaware

In 1681, Pennsylvania (literally, “Penn’s woods”) was founded with the purpose of being a refuge for English Quakers and the principal founder was William Penn. Charles II awarded him a charter making him the only proprietor of that area. In 1682, he bought the Three Lower Counties that finally became Delaware. Swedes had founded the colony of Delaware with a commercial purpose in 1638.

Penn desired to create a holy society and thought that both rich and poor could participate in political affairs. He promoted his colony so well guaranteeing liberty of conscience and religious freedom from persecution that a great number of peoples of different nationalities and religions poured in Philadelphia and its surroundings. The colony flourished and Philadelphia began the growth, which soon made the largest town in North America. It is estimated that the population of Pennsylvania circa 1700 was of 18,950 inhabitants. The colony became ethnically very diversified and there were immigrants from Germany, Wales and England. The major export of the colony was grain.

The Quakers were pacifists and believed all persons possessed the spirit of God, a powerful “Inner Light” and that all persons were equal in the sight of God and everyone could be saved. They were very humble and wore very austere clothes.

1.3.5. Maryland, a Settlement for English Catholics

In 1634, Maryland was founded and established as a proprietary colony by George Calvert, known as Lord Baltimore, a catholic who thought of this colony as a refuge for English Catholics persecuted elsewhere. However, a decade later, the Catholics had become a minority and the Protestants a majority. Lord Baltimore had to find a way of providing protection for them. Thus, The Maryland Toleration Act was signed in 1649 and this colony was characterized by religious acceptance but the