



PERIOD 2 (1607-1754) → Europeans and American Indians maneuvered and fought for dominance, control, and security in North America, and distinctive colonial and native societies emerged.

The College Board has identified the following **KEY CONCEPTS** for Period 2 (1607-1754). The total items (multiple-choice, short answer, and longer essay) related to Period 2 on the APUSH National Exam comprise approximately 10 percent of the test. Use the concepts to strategically frame and guide your personal review plan. Are you able to “make sense” of each statement? Could you generate a written response (short-answer or long) to each statement? Can you add meaningful supportive data to each statement? Can you recall a certain episode in history that would serve well as an example of the situation described by each statement? The bold-faced concepts are generally more encompassing; the others seem to lean toward specificity. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated. You cannot possibly know every square inch of the material.

Differences in imperial goals, cultures, and the North American environments which different empires confronted led Europeans to develop diverse patterns of colonization.

Spanish, French, Dutch, and British colonizers of the seventeenth century embraced different social and economic goals, cultural assumptions, and folkways, resulting in varied models of colonization.

The British-American system of slavery developed out of the economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of the British-controlled regions of the New World.

Along with other factors, environmental and geographical variations, including climate and natural resources, contributed to regional differences in what would become the British colonies.

European colonization efforts in North America stimulated intercultural contact and intensified conflict between the various groups of colonizers and native peoples.

The Competition over resources between European rivals led to conflict within and between North American colonial possessions and American Indians.

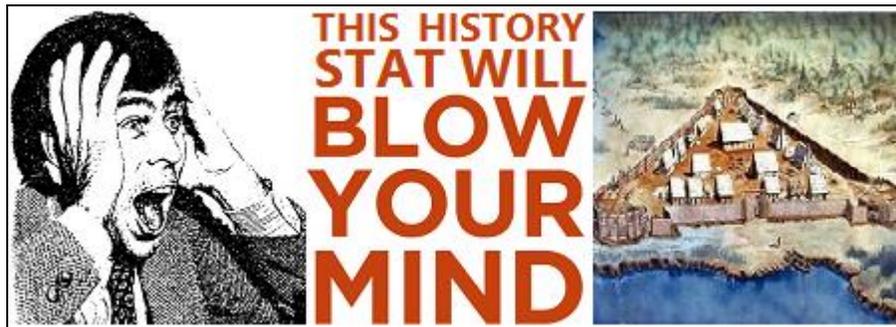
Clashes between European and American Indian social and economic values caused changes in both cultures.

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The increasing political, economic, and cultural exchanges with the “Atlantic World” had a profound impact on the development of colonial societies in North America.

“Atlantic World” commercial, religious, philosophical, and political interactions among Europeans, Africans, and American native peoples stimulated economic growth, expanded social networks, and reshaped labor systems.

Great Britain’s desire to maintain a viable North American empire in the face of growing internal challenges and external competition spurred efforts to strengthen its imperial control, stimulating increasing resistance from American colonists who had grown accustomed to large measures of autonomy.



The three European nations dominant in colonizing North America were Spain, France, and Great Britain. The first successful English settlement in the New World was Jamestown (aka Fort James), founded by the London Company in present-day Virginia, nearly a century after Spain had established its foothold across the Atlantic. Jamestown’s survival would not become solidified until almost two decades later. The challenge resulted largely due to the poor location choice for settlement. The area was low and swampy, subject to outbreaks of malaria; surrounded by dense woods, making it difficult to cultivate; and bordered powerful Indian tribes, initially friendly but nevertheless a potential threat due to culture vastly foreign to that of white Europeans. Another contributing factor was the assemblage of settlers. Most were somewhat well-to-do, unaccustomed and unwilling to perform the manual labor necessary to establish a prosperous colony. [During Jamestown’s first 17 years of existence, an influx of some 10,000 settlers arrived, continuously bolstering the colony. In 1624, the Jamestown population was only 1,275.](#) Of the 144 men who departed England to found Jamestown, only 104 survived the voyage. Within the first year, just 38 remained. In the spring of 1609, another 600 Englishmen arrived. What was ahead for them was nothing short of horrific. Neighboring Indians, originally friendly but now aggravated by actions of the earlier settlers, initiated what is known as the “starving time.” After killing livestock and destroying crops, the Indians essentially held the settlers captive within their own palisades. Only 60 emaciated men emerged from the harrowing winter ordeal (one desperate settler killed his wife and survived on her remains). After 1612, the cultivation of tobacco (encouraged by John Rolfe) and establishment of the supportive “headright system” a few years later would put Jamestown on the path to eventual survival.