



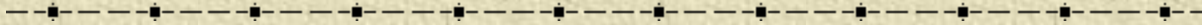
# Chapter Five

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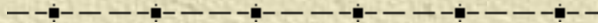
## **The Cultures of Colonial North America, 1700–1780**

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# Part One



## Introduction



# Chapter Focus Questions

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- ✦ Who similarities and differences existed among eighteenth-century Spanish, English, and French colonies?
- ✦ How did increasing European immigration affect British colonial culture?
- ✦ How did contact with European customs and lifestyles change the cultures of Indian America?
- ✦ What were the patterns of work and class in eighteenth-century America?
- ✦ What tensions existed between Enlightenment thought and the Great Awakening's call for renewed religious devotion?



## Part Two

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### **From Deerfield to Kahnawake: Crossing Cultural Boundaries**

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# Crossing Cultural Boundaries

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- ✦ In 1704, Indians attacked the town of Deerfield, Massachusetts.
- ✦ Dozens of captives were delivered to the French allies of the Indians, including Eunice Williams, the daughter of John and Eunice Williams.
- ✦ Eunice refused to return to her family and stayed at Kahnawake, a Catholic Indian community near Montreal, becoming part of that community.
- ✦ Only 36 years later did Eunice, under her Iroquois name A'ongonte, return to visit Deerfield with her Iroquois family.



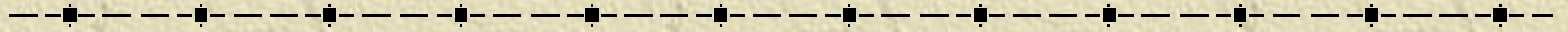
# Part Three

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## North American Regions

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# North American Region



✦ Map: Regions in Eighteenth-Century North America

# Indian America

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- ✦ Indians showed capacity to adapt and change by participating in the commercial economy, using metal tools, and building homes of logs as frontier settlers did.
- ✦ But, Indians also became dependent on European trade goods.
- ✦ Diplomatically, Indians played colonial powers off against each other.
- ✦ The major concern of Indians was the phenomenal growth of the colonial population in the British coastal communities.
- ✦ Simultaneously, Indian populations continued to decline.



# The Introduction of the Horse

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- ✦ Map: Growing Use of the Horse by Plains Indians
- ✦ The introduction of the horse stimulated the rise of nomadic Plains culture.

# The Spanish Borderlands

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- ✦ The viceroyalty of New Spain was the largest and most prosperous European colony in North America.
- ✦ The northern borderlands of New Spain were considered a buffer zone of protection from other European colonies.
- ✦ In Florida, the colonial presence was weak causing the Spanish to form alliances with Indians and runaway slaves to create a multiracial society.
- ✦ In New Mexico, the population expanded by developing ranches and farms along the Rio Grande River.

# The Mission System

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- ✦ In California, the mission system guided development in the 1770s.
- ✦ As shown by the mission system, the Catholic Church played a dominant role in community life.
- ✦ Indians were needed to raise the necessary subsistence.
  - ◆ Indians were not forced to join but once they joined they were not allowed to leave.
  - ◆ They were attracted by the food, clothing, and tools that promised a higher standard of living.

# The French Crescent

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## ✧ Map: The French Crescent

- ✧ The French empire was founded on a series of alliances and trade relations with Indian nations linking a large crescent of colonies and settlements from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico.
- ✧ The Catholic Church played a strong role in the French colonies.
- ✧ For defensive reasons, the French allied with Indian trading partners to set up a line of military posts and settlements.
- ✧ Throughout Quebec, the French established farming communities that shipped wheat to Louisiana plantations.
- ✧ French communities combined French and Indian elements in architecture, dress, and family patterns.

# New England

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- ✦ Puritan congregations governed local communities.
  - ◆ Mix of freedom and repression
- ✦ Attempts to introduce religious toleration failed as other denominations practiced their faith openly by 1700.
- ✦ New England towns grew rapidly and the expanding population pressed against available land.
- ✦ By the mid-eighteenth century New England was reaching the limit of its land supply.

# The Middle Colonies

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- ✦ New York had one of the most ethnically diverse populations in North America.
- ✦ New York City grew tremendously but immigration to rural areas was lower than surrounding areas.
- ✦ Pennsylvania Quakers accepted a more diverse population.
- ✦ Government institutions were pillars of community organization.
- ✦ Middle Colony communities were more individualistic than the tightly controlled New England communities.

# The Backcountry

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- ✦ Map: Spread of Settlement: Movement into the Backcountry, 1720–1760
- ✦ Backcountry was a distinctive region where rank was often of little concern.
  - ◆ Most pioneers owned little or no land.
  - ◆ “Big men” held large tracts and dominated local communities.
  - ◆ Men were warriors; women domestic workers
- ✦ Conflicts between settlers and Indians made the backcountry a violent region.

# The South

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- ✦ The South was a tri-racial society of Europeans, Africans, and Indians.
- ✦ Large plantation homes dominated the Upper and Lower South.
- ✦ Small tobacco farms were widely found in the Upper South.
- ✦ White males dominated southern society.
- ✦ The Anglican Church was present in the South but had little power.
- ✦ In the Upper South, well-developed neighborhoods created a sense of community and white solidarity.



# Traditional Culture in the New World

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- ✦ Table: Monthly Frequency of Successful Conceptions
- ✦ In the colonies, everyday life revolved around the family and kinship, the church, and the local community.
- ✦ Americans were attached to their regional cultures which were based on oral transmission.
- ✦ Community needs outweighed those of the individual.
- ✦ The majority of rural Americans were self-sufficient farmers who practiced diverse agriculture and engaged in crafts on the side.
- ✦ In cities, artisans were organized according to the European craft system.
- ✦ Women had few career opportunities.

# The Frontier Heritage

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- ✦ Land in America was abundant and cheap but did not lead to a democratic society.
- ✦ Forced labor was common and few indentured servants won freedom and prosperity.
- ✦ The demand for land caused wars with Indians.
  - ◆ Puritans argued that Indians were failing to use the land to the utmost capacity.
  - ◆ Violence and brutality were considered an essential part to colonial life.



# Part Four

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## **Diverging Social and Political Patterns**

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# Population Growth and Immigration

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- ✦ Table: Estimated Total Population of New Spain, New France, and the British North American Colonies, 1700–1780
- ✦ In 1700, 290,000 colonists lived north of Mexico.
- ✦ In 1750, the colonial population had grown to almost 1.3 million.
- ✦ High fertility and low mortality played important roles.
  - ✦ An abundance of food contributed to good health.

# The Ancestry of the British Colonial Population

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- ✦ Map: Ethnic Groups in Eighteenth-Century British North America
- ✦ Table: The Ancestry of the British Colonial Population
- ✦ Only the British colonies encouraged immigration.
  - ◆ The British also encouraged immigration from foreign nations.
  - ◆ Less than fifty percent of the population was English in 1790
- ✦ The Spanish feared depleting their population at home.
- ✦ The French blocked Protestant Huguenot immigration.

# Social Class

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- ✧ Colonial America was more egalitarian than Europe.
- ✧ In New Spain status was based on racial purity.
- ✧ In New France and New Spain hereditary ranks and styles from the Old World prevailed.
- ✧ In the British colonies, the elite was open and based on wealth.
  - ◆ Social mobility was present and common.
  - ◆ The large middle class was a new social phenomena.
  - ◆ There was also a large lower class.

# Economic Growth and Increasing Inequality

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- ✦ Table: Wealth held by richest 10 percent
- ✦ French and Spanish colonies were economically stagnant compared to the booming British colonies.
- ✦ Over time in the British colonies, the gap between rich and poor increased, especially in cities and commercial farming regions.
- ✦ In older regions, land shortage created a population of "strolling poor."

# Contrasts in Colonial Politics

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- ✦ Unlike the French and Spanish, the British used a decentralized form of government.
- ✦ Royal governors and locally elected assemblies governed.
- ✦ Most adult white males could vote.
- ✦ Colonial politics were characterized by deference rather than democracy.
- ✦ Leadership was entrusted to men of high rank and wealth.
- ✦ Most colonial assemblies had considerable power over local affairs because they controlled finances.





# Part Five

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## **The Cultural Transformation of British North America**

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# The Enlightenment Challenge

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- ✦ The British colonies were more open to intellectual and religious challenges than the French and Spanish.
- ✦ Enlightenment ideas emphasized rationality, harmony, and order.
  - ◆ The state existed to provide for happiness and security of individuals who were endowed with rights of life, liberty, and property.
- ✦ Widespread literacy helped spread Enlightenment ideas.
  - ◆ Traditional views also had strong popular appeal.
  - ◆ Colleges held to a mixture of traditional and enlightened views.

# A Decline in Religious Devotion

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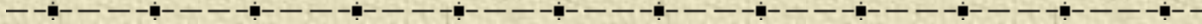
- ✦ The spread of new ideas occurred during a period of religious decline.
- ✦ The Puritan Church experienced falling membership and attendance at services.
- ✦ The change from a congregational to an established church contributed to the Puritan decline.
- ✦ The belief in predestination was weakening as Arminianism became more popular.

# The Great Awakening

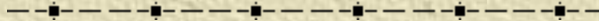
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- ✦ In the 1630s, the Great Awakening began with Jonathan Edwards calling for a return to Puritan traditions that appealed to dissatisfied young people.
- ✦ The movement spread as thousands of people experienced emotional conversions.
- ✦ In 1738, George Whitefield toured America, further fueling the movement.
- ✦ Conflicts developed between Old and New Lights.
- ✦ In the South, the Great Awakening introduced Christianity to slaves.
- ✦ The Great Awakening greatly increased church membership, led to the growth of the Methodist and Baptist churches, and paved the way for future political change.

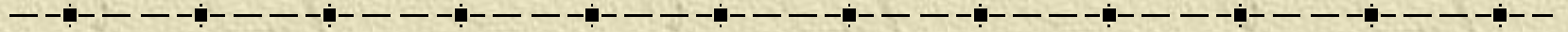
# Part Six



# Conclusion



# The Culture of Colonial North America, 1700–1780



## ✦ Media: Chronology