

THE EVOLUTION OF INSTITUTIONAL RACISM IN UNITED STATES HISTORY: THE BIG DOCUMENTS

1609-----1896

WHO WERE THE ENGLISHMEN AND WOMEN THAT SETTLED NORTH AMERICA?



WHAT DO THE DOCUMENTS TEACH US?

EX. COLONIAL VIRGINIA

- 1619 Diary of John Rolfe in Jamestown, Va “20 and Odd Negroes arrived...”
- 1662 Va statutory law officially recognizes “slavery” as a permanent condition of servitude. Children born take status of mother (mullato children). Child born of slave is a slave for life.
- 1667 Baptism does not bring freedom. (Initially, not proper for a Christian to enslave a fellow Christian)
- 1670 Black or Indians can not own white indentured servants. (race)
- 1680 Act passed prohibiting large congregation, must have written authorization to leave the plantation, can not remain at another plantation longer than 4 hours
- 1691 First act prohibiting intermarriage (miscegenation laws)

VA COLONIAL LAW

- 1692 Negroes must give up ownership of horses, cattle, hogs. Separate courts for slaves charged with capital crime (no trial by jury)
- 1700 Census Records (slaves composed half of Virginia's unfree population)
- 1705 Virginia Slave laws Codefied (property rights, land rights, voting rights, prohibits owning arms, separate courts, miscegenation laws, legalized buying and selling of slaves)

1705 VIRGINIA SLAVE CODES

- “Be it enacted and declared by this Grand Assembly, if any slave resist his master (and others by his master’s order correcting him) and by the extremity of the correction should chance to die, that his death shall not be considered a felony, but the master (or that other person appointed by the master to punish him) be acquit from molestation, since it cannot be presumed that malice existed (which alone makes murder a felony) [or that anything] should induce any man to destroy his own estate.

THE COMING OF THE ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA

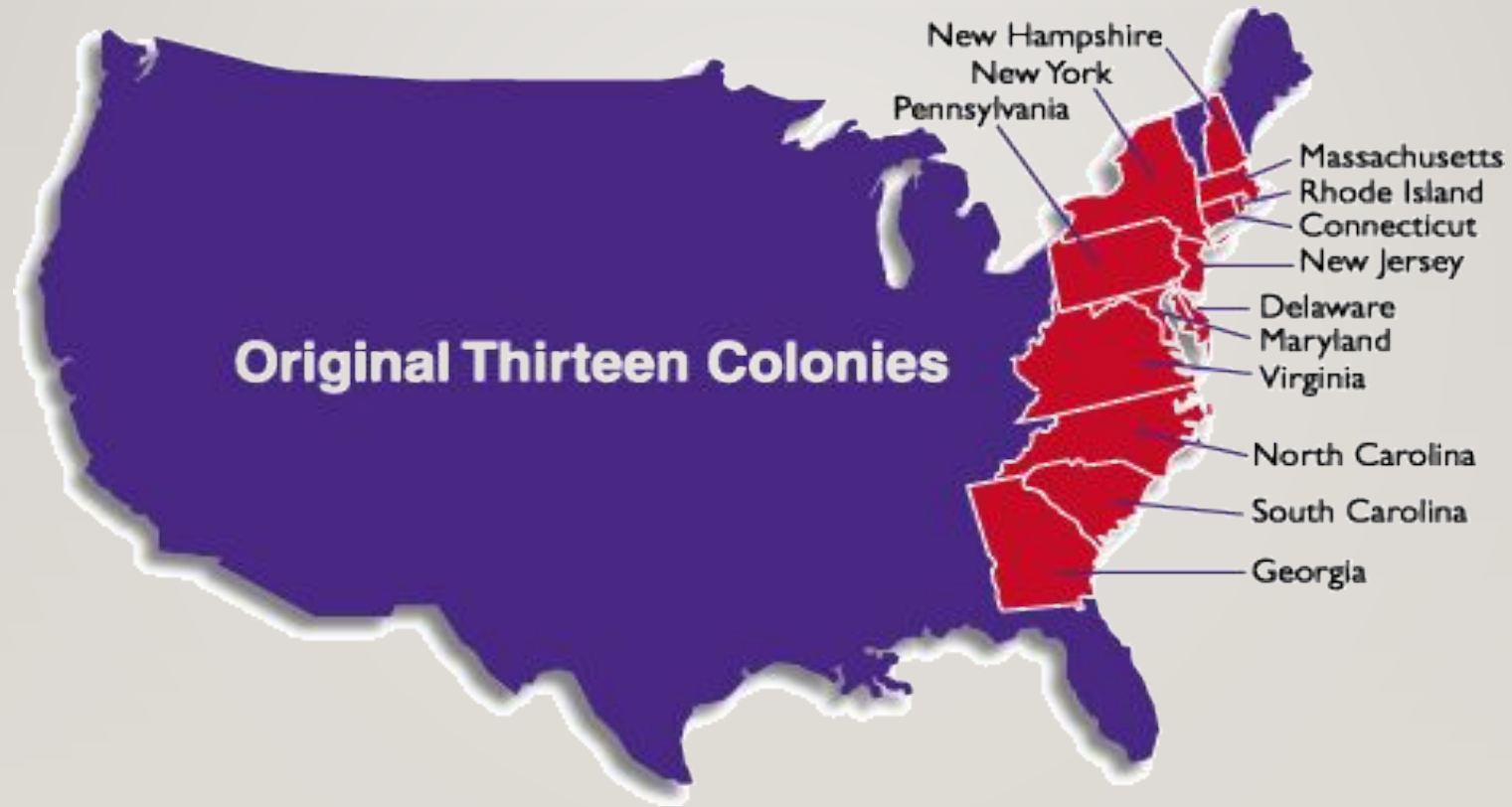
- 1607-1700
- *Half a million English left England and settled in Ireland (180,000) and another 180k settled in the British West Indies (Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, Guyana)
- *120k went to Virginia and Maryland before 1660. 21k went to New England before 1640.
- *The “middle colonies” of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania attracted 23k settlers.
- WHO WERE THEY IN ENGLAND BEFORE THEY CAME TO THE AMERICAS?

INDENTURED SERVANTS (5-7 YEARS ON CONTRACT)

- Some settlers could pay for their own passage to the “New World”
- Ex. Government officials, clergymen, merchants, artisans, landowning farmers and lesser nobility: were “free people in the New World”

- HOWEVER:
- 2/3 came as “Indentured Servants” (worked 5-7 years on contract to pay off their debts either as criminals in England and/or for the voyage to the New World (pickpocket thieves, prostitutes, vagabonds, murderers, rapist, and other “undesirables” in English society.

ALL 13 COLONIES HAD SLAVERY: NORTHERN, MIDDLE AND SOUTHERN



INDENTURED SERVANTS

- * Poor whites who were indentured servants:
 - 1. could be bought or sold
 - 2. could not marry without permission
 - 3. were subject to physical punishment (tied up and whipped for infractions)
 - 4. labor contract enforced by the local courts
 - 5. women if pregnant got extended sentences
 - 6. at the end of the indenture they received “freedom dues” and could acquire land as freedmen. Many however did not.

THE CONCEPT OF LAND

- In colonial America....Land was the basis of liberty, freedom and the right to vote.
- Being granted land also insured loyalty to the King of England
- Therefore, land was the main source of wealth and power
- Englishmen took land from the Indians (unlike the Portuguese and Spanish) and did not want to intermarry, organize them for labor or make them subjects to the Crown.

SETTLING THE CHESAPEAKE

- “They would rather starve than work.” John Smith, 1609
- London based investors: The Virginia Company settled at Jamestown, Virginia (p. 58)
- (1618) Created headright system----50 acres of land to anyone who could pay for voyage to the colony. Also created the House of Burgess (1619, first “legislative body in British North America)
- *****ONLY FREEMEN COULD VOTE***** THE APPOINTED GOVERNOR AND LONDON INVESTORS COULD CREATE AND/OR NULLIFY ANY LAW

VIRGINIA AS A TOBACCO COLONY

- As “smoking” became popular in Europe, demand for TOBACCO increased dramatically.
- Instead of gold and silver (as in the Caribbean/Central and South America) TOBACCO BECAME THE FIRST CASH CROP IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA
- BY 1624, 200,000 POUNDS WERE BEING GROWN.
- BY 1664 15 MILLION POUNDS
- BY 1680 30 MILLION POUNDS

THE EXPANSION OF TOBACCO CULTIVATION FROM 1624-1700?

- DEMAND FOR LABOR IN THE TOBACCO FIELDS OF VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND COLLECTIVELY CALLED (THE CHESAPEAKE REGION)
- 1. 120 THOUSAND ENGLISH IMMIGRANTS (2/3) WERE POOR WHITE INDENTURED SERVANTS. (LOWER STRATA OF ENGLISH SOCIETY)
- Ex.
- 2. Native Americans (war, high death rate from disease, knowledge of the land could escape).
- 3. August of 1619 first 20 Africans arrived on a Dutch ship became “indentured servants”

VIRGINIA'S HOUSE OF BURGESS AND MARYLAND'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Laws governing “slaves” started at the state level in Virginia and Maryland.
- In the 1660s both legislative bodies changed the laws that initially said Christians could not be slaves and all persons in the colony take the status of their mother.
- Therefore, all Africans arriving in the colony were “property” of a landowner and became “chattle slaves” for life (versus the indenture of 5-7 years on contract of the 1619-1660s Africans that arrived in Jamestown. After 1660s-----SLAVE FOR LIFE. BLACK SKIN MEANS YOU ARE ASSUMED TO BE PROPERTY.
- A. can't escape (Africans don't know the land like Native Americans)
- B. can't blend in or hide....You're BLACK. (not an English citizen or subject) no rights.

THE BIG DOCUMENTS IN UNITED STATES HISTORY: REFLECTION OF THE FOUNDER'S RACISM



THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE 1776 (SLAVERY CLAUSE REMOVED)

- He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where Men should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce. And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people on whom he has obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the Liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.

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END OF COLONIAL ERA 1776-1787....AMERICAN REVOLUTION: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND US CONSTITUTION ESTABLISH THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND FOR THE NEW NATION.

- ***US Constitution (1787) THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND TO GOVERN ALL 13 COLONIES***
- ***Article I section 2 “3/5 of all other persons...”***
- ***3/5 Compromise (60% of slave population used for representation in Congress for each of the 13 colonies). All African people in the colonies are 3/5 of a man. (Not citizens and not equal) property to be bought and sold.***

US CONSTITUTION 1787 CONT'D

- US Constitution
- Article I section 9.
- “The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation not exceeding ten dollars for each person.”
- Question: How much money did the federal government make off the slave trade based on the math? 1787-1865 (78 years? Slave ships with 300-600 Africans)

US CONSTITUTION OF 1787 CONT'D

- Fugitive Slave Clause...Article IV sec. 2
- “...no person held to service or labor in one state...escaping into another...shall be discharged.....“SHALL BE DELIVERED UP” to whom such service shall be due!
- (law that legalized the capture of “runaways” to be brought back to the plantation. Even “free blacks” could be “delivered up” and sold into slavery. (see SOLOMON NORTHRUP: 12 YEARS A SLAVE)

CIVIL WAR 1861-1865 AND CIVIL WAR AMENDMENTS

- Results of the Civil War:
 - 13th Amendment
 - abolishes slavery EXCEPT AS PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME OF THE DULY CONVICTED shall exist in the United States....

13TH AMENDMENT 1865

- WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT. NO SLAVERY EXCEPT THE “Convicted Felon”.....
- has anyone read Michele Alexander’s ***The New Jim Crow*** or David Oshinsky’s ***Worse Than Slavery***

RECONSTRUCTION ERA 1865-1877

POST RECONSTRUCTION 1877-1900

- David Oshinsky, “***Worse than Slavery***” about the convict-lease system on Parchman Farm (Mississippi State Penitentiary)
- Convicted felons are used as cheap labor and “hired out” on cotton plantations across the south 1865-1950s.
- Look up Post Industrial Prison Complex.
- See. The Black Codes [STATE LAWS] that governed southern states after the Civil War to control the black population (despite 13th---15th Amendments to the US Constitution)
- See, Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) Supreme Court’s establishment of “Separate but Equal”
- Read, Khalil Muhammed’s ***The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime and the Making of Modern Urban America***

14TH AMENDMENT (1868)

- 14th Amendment (1868) establishes CITIZENSHIP based on jus soli and jus sanguinis? (born on US soil or by blood relation)
- Equal protection under the law (guaranteed as a citizen)
- This repudiated ***Dred Scott v. Sanford*** (1857) that Black could not be citizens (slave or free)

15TH AMENDMENT (1870)

- 15th Amendment (1870)
- The right to vote for MEN only.
- “Cult of Domesticity”...woman’s place was in the home as wife and mother. NOT POLITICS.
- Thus, we see an “evolving democracy” from 1776/1787-----1920 when women get the right to vote.
- 1964 Civil Rights Bill?
- 1965 Voting Rights Bill?

BLACK CODES AND JIM CROW LAWS

- 1865-----1900 Black Codes [state and local law]
- 1900-----1965 [Jim Crow Laws after *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)]
- State by state study reveals a consistent institutional racism.