

apush period 2 study guide

apush period 2 study guide offers an essential overview for students preparing for the Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) exam, focusing on the years 1607 to 1754. This period, known as Colonial America, is critical for understanding the foundation of the United States, including the establishment of English colonies, interactions with Native Americans, and the development of colonial society and economy. This comprehensive guide will cover major themes such as colonization patterns, regional differences, social structures, economic activities, and political developments that shaped early American history. Additionally, key events and cultural dynamics during this time will be explored to provide a robust context for exam preparation. An effective apush period 2 study guide integrates both factual knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to analyze historical continuity and change. The following sections will break down the complex material into manageable parts, making it easier to retain and apply.

- Colonial Foundations and Settlement Patterns
- Economic and Social Structures in the Colonies
- Interactions with Native Americans and European Powers
- Political Development and Colonial Governance
- Cultural and Religious Movements

Colonial Foundations and Settlement Patterns

Understanding the origins of the English colonies is fundamental to the apush period 2 study guide. The period begins with the establishment of Jamestown in 1607, the first permanent English settlement in North America. This era saw diverse settlement patterns emerge across the Atlantic coast, shaped by geography, climate, and interactions with indigenous populations. Colonies were generally categorized into three regions: New England, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies, each developing distinct characteristics.

Jamestown and the Virginia Colony

Jamestown was founded by the Virginia Company as a profit-seeking venture. The early years were marked by struggle, including famine, disease, and conflicts with Native Americans. Tobacco cultivation eventually became the economic backbone, encouraging expansion and the introduction of indentured servitude and, later, African slavery. Understanding Jamestown's development is crucial for grasping the economic motivations of early colonists.

New England Colonies

The New England colonies, including Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, were primarily settled by Puritans seeking religious freedom. These colonies featured tight-knit, religiously motivated communities with economies based on small-scale farming, fishing, and trade. The harsh climate and rocky soil limited large plantations, influencing social and economic structures differently than in the South.

Middle and Southern Colonies

The Middle Colonies, such as New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, were characterized by ethnic and religious diversity and fertile land suitable for grain production, earning the region the nickname “the breadbasket colonies.” In contrast, the Southern Colonies, including Maryland, the Carolinas, and Georgia, developed plantation economies reliant on cash crops like tobacco, rice, and indigo, supported by enslaved labor. These regional differences are critical for understanding the economic and social diversity of colonial America.

Economic and Social Structures in the Colonies

The economic and social frameworks of the colonies during period 2 reveal much about the emerging American identity. The apush period 2 study guide emphasizes how labor systems, class hierarchies, and economic activities evolved to shape colonial society. Diverse economies ranging from subsistence farming to plantation agriculture influenced social stratification and labor dynamics.

Labor Systems: Indentured Servitude and Slavery

Indentured servitude was initially the primary labor system, especially in the Chesapeake region, where poor Europeans worked for a fixed term in exchange for passage to America. However, over time, the reliance shifted toward African slavery, particularly in the Southern colonies, due to the demand for a stable, lifelong labor force on plantations. This transition had profound social and economic consequences for colonial society.

Social Hierarchies and Class

Colonial society was stratified by wealth, race, and gender. Wealthy planters and merchants occupied the upper echelons, while small farmers, artisans, and laborers made up the middle and lower classes. Enslaved Africans and Native Americans were largely marginalized and oppressed. Understanding these social distinctions is essential for analyzing colonial culture and conflicts.

Economic Activities and Trade

Colonial economies were integrated into the Atlantic World through mercantilism. Colonists exported raw materials such as tobacco, fur, and timber while importing manufactured goods from Europe. The Navigation Acts regulated trade, reflecting British efforts to control colonial economies. This economic relationship laid the groundwork for future colonial discontent.

Interactions with Native Americans and European Powers

The period between 1607 and 1754 was marked by complex relationships between European settlers, Native American tribes, and competing European empires. The apush period 2 study guide highlights these interactions as central to understanding colonial development and conflict.

Native American Relations

Initial encounters varied from trade and cooperation to violent conflict. Colonists often relied on Native American knowledge for survival but also encroached on indigenous lands, leading to wars and displacement. Notable conflicts include the Powhatan Wars in Virginia and King Philip's War in New England. Native alliances were pivotal in shaping colonial survival and expansion.

European Rivalries in North America

Besides the English, French, Spanish, and Dutch powers competed for control of North American territories. The French established fur trading networks and alliances with Native tribes in Canada and the interior. Spanish influence waned in the Southeast, while Dutch holdings were absorbed by the English. These rivalries influenced colonial policies and military engagements during this period.

Political Development and Colonial Governance

Political structures in the colonies evolved from proprietary and corporate charters to more formalized governments. The apush period 2 study guide emphasizes the development of colonial assemblies, legal codes, and early democratic practices that foreshadowed American political ideals.

Colonial Governments and Charters

Colonies operated under various types of charters: royal, proprietary, and corporate. These arrangements determined the degree of self-government and royal control. For example,

the Virginia House of Burgesses, established in 1619, was the first representative assembly in America, setting a precedent for colonial legislative bodies.

Legal and Political Institutions

Colonial governments established legal codes influenced by English common law. Town meetings in New England fostered participatory democracy, while southern colonies had more hierarchical political systems. Understanding these institutions is critical for analyzing colonial political culture and the roots of revolutionary sentiment.

Cultural and Religious Movements

Religion and culture deeply influenced colonial life and identity during period 2. The apush period 2 study guide explores how religious movements, cultural diversity, and education shaped colonial communities and laid the foundation for American values.

Puritanism and Religious Dissent

Puritanism dominated New England, emphasizing moral discipline and community cohesion. However, dissenters like Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson challenged orthodox beliefs, resulting in the founding of Rhode Island and increased religious pluralism. Religious freedom and intolerance were recurring themes in colonial development.

The Great Awakening

Although primarily occurring in the early 18th century, the Great Awakening began influencing colonial religious life during this period. It emphasized emotional, personal faith over traditional rituals, leading to increased evangelicalism and questioning of established authorities. This movement contributed to a shared colonial identity and challenged existing power structures.

Education and Print Culture

Colonial education varied by region but generally aimed to promote literacy for religious purposes. The printing press facilitated the spread of ideas, including political pamphlets and religious tracts. These developments enhanced communication and intellectual exchange among colonists, preparing the ground for later revolutionary thought.

- Jamestown's establishment and tobacco economy
- Regional differences: New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies
- Labor systems: indentured servitude and African slavery

- Native American alliances and conflicts
- Colonial government structures and representative assemblies
- Religious diversity and the impact of the Great Awakening
- Economic ties to Europe and mercantilist policies

Frequently Asked Questions

What years does APUSH Period 2 cover?

APUSH Period 2 covers the years 1607 to 1754, focusing on the early English colonies and their development.

What were the main economic activities in the English colonies during Period 2?

The main economic activities included tobacco farming in the Chesapeake, rice and indigo cultivation in the South, and trade and shipbuilding in New England.

How did the relationship between Native Americans and colonists evolve during Period 2?

Initially, there was some cooperation and trade, but conflicts over land and resources led to violent clashes such as King Philip's War.

What role did religion play in the English colonies in Period 2?

Religion was central, with Puritanism shaping New England society, the Maryland colony serving as a haven for Catholics, and the Great Awakening beginning to influence religious life.

What was the impact of indentured servitude and slavery in Period 2?

Indentured servitude was initially the main labor source, but over time, African slavery became more prominent, especially in the Southern colonies, shaping social and economic systems.

How did colonial governments develop in Period 2?

Colonial governments evolved with assemblies like the Virginia House of Burgesses

forming, establishing early traditions of self-government and representative democracy.

What were the key differences between the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies in Period 2?

New England focused on small farms and trade with a strong Puritan influence; the Middle colonies were more diverse and had mixed economies; the Southern colonies relied heavily on plantation agriculture and slave labor.

Additional Resources

1. Colonial America: Foundations and Conflicts

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the early colonial period, focusing on the social, economic, and political developments from the founding of Jamestown to the eve of the American Revolution. It explores the interactions between European settlers, Native Americans, and African slaves, highlighting the cultural exchanges and conflicts. Readers will find detailed discussions on colonial governments, economies, and religious movements that shaped the era.

2. The Atlantic World: Connections and Transformations, 1607-1754

Focusing on the Atlantic World, this text examines the complex relationships between Europe, Africa, and the Americas during Period 2 of APUSH. It emphasizes the transatlantic slave trade, mercantilism, and the cultural diffusion that occurred as a result of colonization. The book provides insight into how these interactions influenced social hierarchies and economic systems in the New World.

3. Early American Colonies: Society and Economy

This study guide delves into the societal structures and economic foundations of the British colonies in North America. It covers topics such as the development of plantation economies, indentured servitude, and the rise of colonial legislatures. The text also addresses demographic changes and the role of religion in shaping colonial life.

4. American Colonial Life: Politics and Culture in the 17th and 18th Centuries

Exploring the political institutions and cultural developments of early America, this book provides a detailed look at colonial assemblies, town meetings, and the emergence of American political thought. It also discusses cultural aspects such as education, religion, and the arts, illustrating how these elements contributed to a distinct colonial identity.

5. Slavery and Resistance in Colonial America

This title focuses on the institution of slavery during the colonial period, examining its origins, economic importance, and the resistance efforts of enslaved people. It offers an in-depth analysis of slave codes, the impact of slavery on colonial societies, and notable rebellions. The book highlights the complexities of race and power in early American history.

6. Colonial America: Conflict and Cooperation with Native Peoples

This book provides a nuanced view of the relationships between European settlers and Native American tribes. It explores both violent conflicts and cooperative alliances, trade networks, and cultural exchanges. The narrative emphasizes the diversity of Native

American responses to colonization and the lasting effects on indigenous populations.

7. The British Atlantic Empire: Colonial Governance and Economy

Covering the administrative and economic frameworks of British colonies, this text investigates mercantilist policies, colonial charters, and the role of the Crown. It also explores the economic activities such as tobacco farming, trade regulations, and the rise of colonial merchants. The book is essential for understanding the imperial context of Period 2.

8. Religion and Society in Early America

This book examines the profound influence of religion on colonial American society, including the Great Awakening and the establishment of various denominations. It discusses how religious beliefs shaped social norms, education, and political movements. The text provides insight into the diversity of religious experiences and their impact on colonial identity.

9. Foundations of American Democracy: Colonial Political Thought

Focusing on the development of political ideas in the colonies, this book traces the evolution of concepts like self-governance, representation, and rights. It highlights key documents, debates, and figures that contributed to the growing desire for independence. Readers will gain an understanding of how early political thought laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.

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