AP U.S. History:
Virginia and Maryland 17ᵗʰ and 18ᵗʰ Centuries

I. Southern Plantation Colonies -- general characteristics
  A. Dominated to a degree by a plantation economy: **tobacco & rice**
  B. Slavery in all colonies (even Georgia after 1750); mostly indentured servants until late 17th century in Virginia & Maryland; increasingly black slavery thereafter
  C. Large land holdings in the hands of the favored few = aristocratic atmosphere (except North Carolina and parts of Georgia)
  D. Sparsely populated: churches & schools too expensive for very small towns.
  E. All practiced some form of religious toleration
    -- **Church of England (Anglican Church)** most prominent
  F. Expansionary attitudes resulted from need for new land to compensate for the degradation of existing lands from soil-depleting tobacco farming.

II. The **Chesapeake** (Virginia & Maryland)
  A. **Virginia** (founded in 1607 by Virginia Company)
    1. **Jamestown, 1607**: 1st permanent British colony in NewWorld
      a. Founded by **Virginia Company** that received charter from King James I.
        i. Main goals: Promise of gold, conversion of Amerindians to Christianity (just like Spain), and new passage through North America to the East Indies (Northwest Passage).
        ii. Consisted largely of well-to-do adventurers
      b. **Virginia Charter**
        i. Overseas settlers given same rights of Englishmen in England
        ii. Foundation for American liberties; rights extended to other colonies.
    2. Colony wracked by tragedy during early years: famine, disease, war with Indians
      a. By 1625, only 1200 of the nearly 8,000 colonists survived
      b. Only 60 out of 400 settlers survived **"starving time"** of 1610-1611
    3. **Captain John Smith** organized the colony beginning in 1608: "He who will not work shall not eat."
      a. His leadership helped Jamestown survive the "starving time"
      b. Smith was kidnapped in Dec. 1607 by **Powhatans** led by Chief Powhatan who subjected Smith to a what may have

been a mock execution.
- c. Smith was perhaps "saved" by **Pocahantas,** Powhatan's daughter, when she was only 12-years old
4. Pocahantas eventually was a central figure in preserving peace in early Jamestown
    - a. Provided foodstuffs to settlers.
    - b. Became hostage of colonists in 1613 during Military conflicts.
    - c. Later married **John Rolfe** & taught him Amerindian way of curing tobacco.
    - d. She died of small pox at age 22 in England
5. **John Rolfe** and tobacco crop economy: "Colony built on smoke"
    - a. <u>Rolfe introduced new tough strain of tobacco and it became perhaps the most important reason for Virginia's survival</u>
    - b. Tobacco industry became cornerstone of Virginia's economy.
    - c. Plantation system emerged
6. **House of Burgesses** (a legislative assembly) created in 1619.
    - a. <u>First colonial parliament in the British American colonies.</u>
    - b. Representative self-government
        - i. However, most representatives were wealthy land owners
        - ii. Created to attract settlers to Virginia (by offering more liberty)
7. Virginia Charter revoked by James I in 1624
    - a. King believed assembly too seditious but he also loathed tobacco.
    - b. Virginia became a royal colony directly under his control

B. **Maryland**
1. Charles I gave **Sir George Calvert** (the first Lord Baltimore), a portion of Virginia for <u>Catholic haven and profit.</u>
2. Eventually, growth of Protestants meant Catholics became a minority; Catholics feared loss of religious freedom.
3. **Act of Toleration** (1649)
    - a. <u>Guaranteed toleration to all Christians but instituted death penalty for anyone denying the divinity of Jesus (e.g. Jews & atheists)</u>
    - b. **Motive**: Catholics sought to protect their faith by granting

A certain degree of religious freedom.
  c. Maryland became largest haven for Catholics in British American colonies

  C. Life in the Chesapeake was perilous
    1. Disease devastating early on (10 yrs off life expectancy): Malaria, dysentery, typhoid
      a. Half of all those born in early Virginia and Maryland did not live past age 20.
      b. Less than 25% of men lived to see 50 -- women only 40

    2. Most immigrants single men in late teens & early 20's; most died soon after arriving
      a. Surviving males competed for extremely scarce women; women married early (some came over as "tobacco brides")
        -- Women were recruited early on to come to Virginia; Settlers had to pay their travel costs with tobacco
      b. Most men could not find mates.
    3. Region stabilized eventually due to increased immunities to disease and rising influx of women
      a. By 1700, Virginia was most populous colony (about 50,000 colonists)
      b. By 1700, Maryland third most populous colony (about 30,000 inhabitants)

  D. The Tobacco Plantation Economy
    1. <u>First Africans arrived in 1619</u>; largely indentured servants in early 17th century
      -- White English indentured servants more predominant until late 17th century
    2. **"Headright" System**
      a. <u>A person who paid for the passage of a white indentured servant received 50 acres of land.</u>
        -- Some planters used system to acquire huge tracts of land.
      b. **Indentured servants** agreed to years of servitude in exchange for transatlantic passage (term of servitude usually 5-7 years)
      c. Early 17th c., after contract expired the servant was often given some money, maybe some land, and other supplies to start their own farms.
        -- Later, former indentured servants given little; could not succeed
      d. <u>By 1700, planters brought in about 100,000 indentured servants, about 75% of all European immigrants to Virginia and Maryland.</u>

3. Expansion of lands for tobacco farming resulted in conflicts
   with neighboring Amerindians.
E. **Bacon's Rebellion** (1676)
   1. By late 17th c., large numbers of frustrated former
      indentured servants (freedmen) existed
      a. Most lived in western Virginia; resented planter
         aristocrats from the east.
      b. Many too poor to own land; could not find wives (men
         still greatly outnumbered women)
      c. Freedmen did not gain access to large land grants in the
         east; forced to squat for lands in western part of the
         colony.
      d. Amerindians resisted white expansion in western
         Virginia. Freedmen angry that gov't of Virginia didn't
         protect white settlers from Amerindian attacks.
         i. **Governor Berkeley** was generally friendly toward
            Amerindians who traded with the colony.
         ii. House of Burgesses did not usually order attacks on
             Amerindians that cooperated with gov't.
   2. **Nathaniel Bacon**, an aristocrat in western Virginia and
      member of House of Burgesses began mobilizing a militia to
      protect whites from Indians.
      a. In 1676, Bacon's militia massacred Amerindians and set fire
         to Jamestown, forcing Governor Berkeley out of the city.
      b. Bacon's rebels opposed to aristocrats and Indians.
   3. Bacon subsequently died of disease and Berkeley crushed the rebellion
   4. Significance of Bacon's Rebellion: Planters saw white
      indentured servants as too difficult to control and
      significantly increased importation of black slaves while
      reducing the number of white indentured servants.
   5. Planter elite increasingly played the "race card": encouraged
      poor whites to discriminate against blacks. Planters feared
      blacks and poor whites could form an alliance again in the
      future.
      -- Planters effectively controlled poor whites psychologically
         by emphasizing that poor whites, despite poverty, would
         always be "superior" to blacks.

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