

Chapter 1

Indigenous People

The earliest settlers in North and South America were nomadic tribes who wandered across the land bridge from Asia. Geologists approximate that about 12,000 years ago the Bering Straits between North America and Asia had dried up to reveal a narrow strip of land known as Beringia. When the water returned to the straits the bridge disappeared once and for all, cutting off those who had previously crossed. Once on the continent the new settlers enjoyed an abundance of resources and quickly spread out across the hospitable land. Great civilizations evolved: the Maya and Aztec in Mexico, the Inca in Peru, and the limitless number of Indian tribes that reached from California to Maine.

The first civilization was that of the Maya, who settled down to an agricultural lifestyle in the Yucatan region of Mexico, El Salvador, and Belize. The Maya established a highly advanced society with a centralized political structure, large bureaucracy, and social stratification, as well as warfare and complex religious ceremonies. During the height of their civilization (about A.D. 300), they built dozens of huge pyramids, developed a system of writing, and created the most accurate calendar in the world at that time, certainly more accurate than the one used in Europe.

About A.D. 900, the Maya civilization ceased to exist, a mystery that still baffles historians to this day. There are several suspected reasons, but definitive answer. Whatever the reason, the Maya were absorbed by the Toltecs, but shortly thereafter the Toltecs also mysteriously disappeared.

Aztecs

Another highly advanced society developed in the northern regions of Mexico. Around 1325 the Aztecs, also a very warlike group, settled an area known as Tenochtitlán, what is today Mexico City. By the time the Spanish arrived in 1519 the Aztec population was over 5 million people.

Incas

The third and final group that evolved was much further south along the Andes Mountains of South America. By the fifteenth century the Inca civilization boasted an elaborate web of roads and a highly complex and autocratic system of government.

North American Indian Tribes

Except in a few cases the tribes north of Mexico never developed civilizations as advanced as the Maya, Aztecs, or Incas. The North American tribes tended to be smaller and for the most part more mobile, not wanting to establish permanent

settlements. They preferred to remain nomadic and migrate, looking for the wandering herds of buffalo or warmer climate. They owned very little, usually only what they could carry, and enjoyed a lifestyle that was in harmony with their environment.

Some tribes, such as the Iroquois, did establish permanent settlements. Even though these groups did develop agriculture they still depended on hunting and gathering for survival. They had lived according to their needs and according to their environment for thousands of years before contact with the Europeans. Unfortunately, it would be contact with the Europeans that would almost signal an end to these indigenous cultures. They had bows and arrows but no guns, they had dogs but no horses, but they had no immunity to European diseases.

Columbus

While the Portuguese planned to reach Asia by sailing east, the Spanish preferred to reach Asia by sailing west. Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), like most educated people, knew the world was round. But what he did not know was just how large the world was, the size of Asia, or any idea about the Americas. He approached many of the heads of Europe with his idea of reaching the Orient by sailing west, only to be turned down. Finally, after defeating the Moors, Queen Isabella of Spain reconsidered and agreed to sponsor the epic journey.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus sailed from Palos in Spain under the Spanish flag and landed at San Salvador. Upon his arrival, the friendly Arawak Indians, who were in awe of their pale-skinned guests, greeted him. Under pressure from the savage Carib tribe the Arawaks encouraged the Europeans to stay. Columbus left a small group of men on the island and returned to Spain. Quickly the news of his discovery swept across Europe, and Ferdinand and Isabella sponsored a second larger expedition. When Columbus returned to the Caribbean he found that the men he had left had simply turned wild and had abused the natives beyond belief. The natives, in return, had killed some of the Spaniards. When Columbus returned his men set about gaining vengeance on the natives murder, rape, and brutality became the words of the day.

Columbus returned to the Caribbean two more times before his death, but each time the treatment of the natives grew worse and worse. Even on his deathbed Columbus believed he had reached East Asia. He set in motion a series of events that would shape the modern world. Sadly the New World would not be named for the person who discovered it, but for an Italian, Amerigo Vespucci. The German geographer Martin Waldseemuller published a book in 1507 in which the New World was identified. In the book Vespucci was credited with discovering South America one year before Columbus.

English Claims

Throughout the century following Columbus's journey, Europeans continued to explore the American coastline in search of a route to Asia. In 1497, the Venetian sailor John Cabot was hired by King Henry VII of England to try and find a Northwest Passage to Asia. Cabot sighted and named Newfoundland, which paved the way for all English claims to North America. However, because of political problems in Europe, primarily with France and Spain, England was not able to pursue her claim, leaving the New World to Spain and Portugal. (The Portuguese had claimed Brazil.)

Spanish Explorers

Vasco Nuñez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and reached the Pacific Ocean in 1513. Also in 1513, Ponce de León discovered Florida and established Spanish claims to the region.

Hernan Cortés landed at Vera Cruz and conquered the Aztecs in three years with only 600 men and a few small artillery pieces. Initially, the Aztec leader Montezuma, who believed the Europeans to be representatives from the gods, welcomed the conquistadors. Cortés pushed his conquistadors inland, all the while forcing Christianity on the Aztecs who resisted with little more than Stone Age weapons. With help from other tribes, the Spanish were able to suppress any Aztec rebellion. Cortés peacefully entered the capital city of Tenochtitlán and made the Aztec emperor Montezuma leader in name alone. After a while the Aztecs rebelled and stoned Montezuma before turning on the Spaniards. Initially the Spaniards were pushed back, but with the help of their Indian allies they returned to Tenochtitlán and took terrible revenge. It did not take the conquistadors long before they were able to conquer the whole Aztec empire. The success of Cortés can clearly be identified as a success for steel weapons, gunpowder, and horses. But it was the deadly impact of smallpox that wiped out the Aztec empire. By 1550, the Spanish had complete control of northern Mexico.

In 1519 Ferdinand Magellan set sail to Asia with five ships. After rounding the southern tip of South America and sailing through the straits, which now bear his name, Magellan sailed to the Philippines (named after King Philip of Spain.) After becoming involved in a local dispute, Magellan was killed by natives. In 1522 the few surviving crew members arrived back in Spain on the one remaining ship having circumnavigated the world. Magellan's voyage proved once and for all that world could be circumnavigated.

Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incan empire in Peru and opened the Potosí silver mines. The Incas had also been weakened by inter-tribal conflicts and by the effects of smallpox, typhoid, and measles. Although it did take longer to subdue the Incan Empire, the Spaniards could not be stopped.

In 1542 Francisco Coronado searched the southwestern United States looking for the fabled “city of gold.” What he found was not a city of gold, but a few adobe huts. Coronado and his men walked across Arizona and New Mexico and as far north as Kansas. They did discover the Grand Canyon and massive herds of buffaloes wandering across the Great Plains.

Hernando de Soto crossed the United States from Florida to the Mississippi River before dying of fever.

Spanish Control

Spanish explorers created a system of administration in the New World that mirrored Spanish administration in Spain. But the New World was a long way from the Old World, and the conquistadors remained fairly independent in their control of the new territories. Decisions were made often on short notice and always to the detriment of the indigenous people. Natives were used in the gold and silver mines and on plantations, often with ruthless brutality. The Spanish crown, the beneficiary of exploited wealth, had neither the inclination nor the means to inhibit Spanish exploitation. The natives did have some advocates. The Catholic missionaries, particularly the Jesuits and Franciscans, often journeyed across the continent without protection, trying to save souls. The irony is that most of the natives, who had their own religious beliefs, did not want to be saved.

All natives in the New World were declared subjects of Spain and as such were taxed. The *encomienda* system was put in place, which allowed the natives to be used as laborers and required to pay tribute to their lord. In return the lord was expected to protect the natives. According to absolutism the Spanish crown controlled all new land. The Spanish missionaries built missions all across the region and used them as a base for political control. Soldiers who protected the missions lived in forts called presidios, which were usually located next to the mission.

The crown appointed an audiencia, twelve to fifteen judges to administer the land. The audiencia were later replaced by intendants - royal officials responsible to Spain. The crown claimed the quinto, one-fifth of all precious metals.

The Spanish controlled nearly all the land in the Americas from New Spain south. Although Spain was influential in the region for over three hundred years, the northern regions, which included Texas, California, New Mexico, Florida, and Arizona, gave the Spaniards tangible benefits. The search for the Seven Cities of Gold proved fruitless, and overall the southwest region of the United States had little to offer Spain. The main reason for continually occupying the region was to prevent encroachment from the French. The French were actively involved in fur trading all throughout the Louisiana territory. The major difference between the success of the English and French colonies was that they were interested in establishing self-sufficient, economically viable colonies as opposed to the Spanish who concentrated on exploitation.

French Exploration

In 1524 Giovanni da Verrazano, sailing for France, sailed along the North Atlantic coast looking for a northwest passage to Asia. He explored from the Carolinas to Maine, perhaps even venturing into New York harbor. The French did not settle at this time, that would take a decade longer. In 1534 Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence River to Quebec and claimed the area for France. He established a colony at present-day Montreal. Yet because of domestic problems, namely the devastating Wars of Religion, France was unable or unwilling to capitalize on her discovery.

Many years later in 1608, Samuel de Champlain founded the first permanent French settlements at Arcadia, Nova Scotia and later at Quebec. The French were quick to see a lucrative financial situation in the exportation of furs. The French trappers worked closely with the Indians, especially the Algonquian tribes. But the French also sent large numbers of Jesuits to convert the heathens to Christianity. These missionaries differed from Spanish missionaries in that they did not try to drastically alter the native way of life. Ultimately French missionaries were far more successful than were Spanish missionaries.

In 1673, Louis Jolliet and Père Jacques Marquette explored the Mississippi River, sailing most of the way south until fear of meeting the Spanish forced them to turn back. In 1682, another Frenchman, Robert Cavalier, sieur de La Salle, sailed all the way down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. Several years later at the mouth of the river would be the location of the French settlement of New Orleans. Even though the French controlled most of Canada and a large tract of the Mississippi River valley they never, unlike the English, focused on establishing permanent settlements. As they moved south and east they came into contact first with the Spanish and then with the English. These three great Old World powers were now competing for the New World.

French Settlements

In 1718 the French established a permanent settlement at New Orleans to control their access up and down the Mississippi River. Between the Gulf Coast and Canada, French trappers and settlers worked with the local Indian tribes in order to develop trade. Unlike the English and the Dutch, the French often adopted Indian ways and were easily accepted by the Indians with many marrying Indian women. The number of French settlers was never as great as the number of English settlers. Few French settlers were willing to live in the rugged and barren heartland and the French government refused to allow Protestants (Huguenots) to leave France. In contrast to New England, New France was staunchly Catholic. The French encouraged the Indians to hate the English and accept Catholicism.

New Holland

The Dutch East India Company hired English sea captain Henry Hudson to explore the North Atlantic and find a sea route to Asia. Hudson sailed along the northeast coast, discovering Delaware Bay and naming the Hudson River. The Dutch developed a lasting relationship with the Iroquois in which the Indians supplied the Dutch with furs. In 1614 the Dutch established a trading post on Manhattan Island and shortly after another at Fort Orange (later to be called Albany).

In 1626 Governor Peter Minuit purchased Manhattan Island from the Indians and built New Amsterdam (later to be called New York) as the capital of New Amsterdam.

Competition in the New World

European countries did not just wait for Spain to take advantage of the situation. France controlled the middle of the country in an area they named Louisiana after King Louis. The British had little interest in the New World after Cabot's journey, but they did not forget their claim. The English were far more interested in stopping Spanish expansion in Europe. The other major European power, the Dutch, had once been under the control of the Spanish king, but in 1567 they rebelled against the Spanish. Dutch privateers immediately began attacking Spanish ships and were joined by their Protestant allies, the English. Englishmen like Sir Francis Drake and John Hawkins led the English "sea dogs" in plundering richly laden Spanish ships as they returned to Spain with treasure from the Americas.

While King Philip II of Spain complained to Queen Elizabeth of England, the English monarch did little to stop her adventurous captains. In 1577 Drake set out to plunder the South American coast, rounded Cape Horn, and raided towns along the Pacific Coast. Three years later Drake returned to England, having been the second person to circumnavigate the globe.

In 1587, in an attempt to conquer England, Philip planned his great Armada. The defeat of the Armada in 1588 allowed English ships almost free access to the Americas.

Chapter 2 **Settlement**

English Interests

The first English attempt at colonization was in 1584, when Sir Walter Raleigh sent an expedition to North America. They discovered a place that seemed favorable, Roanoke Island. In 1587 over one hundred men, women, and children arrived at Roanoke to create a permanent settlement. Governor John White led them. After a month, White left the colony and returned to England for supplies. He left his daughter, Eleanor, and his granddaughter Virginia Dare, the first English born child in America.

Because of the war with Spain, White was delayed and was not able to return until 1590. Upon his return he found the village had been abandoned, and there was no trace of any of the settlers. There was no trace of the “lost colonists,” and the only clue was the word “Croatoan” which had been carved into a tree.

The Chesapeake Colonies

On May 6, 1607, three small ships with about 100 men landed at Chesapeake Bay. They followed a river inland to find a location safe from the Spanish and sheltered from the coastal storms. The river was named the James River after King James I of England, their reigning monarch. King James had actually created the Virginia Company, as joint stock company, to fund the exploration believing that he could find a route to Asia or at the very least gold and treasures. Stockholders invested in the company expecting great rewards from gold and other natural resources. Interestingly, the wealth of the region would not become apparent for some time. Tobacco would eventually become the crop of choice and offer the planters perhaps a greater long-term return on their investment than either gold or treasure.

The original settlers called the region Virginia after Queen Elizabeth I, the “virgin Queen.” They built a fort and then set out to explore their new home, preferring to look for gold rather than plant crops. These explorers were, for the most part, not the usual breed of tough and rugged settlers. They were gentlemen who had been persuaded that an investment in the Virginia Company would reap huge rewards. Such a decision would have severe ramifications on the settlers later when they would run out of supplies. Unable and/or unwilling to resort to manual labor, the settlers almost paid a heavy price for their laziness. It was only through the hard work and perseverance of a small group who learned from the Indians how to grow maize that the rest of the settlers survived.

A chief whom the English called Powhatan led the Indians of the regions. They lived along the coast and the James River in small towns where they grew corn and other crops. They were not overly aggressive and although they occasionally fought

with the settlers, both sides survived. It was not until it was too late for the Indians to stop the settlers that Powhatan realized the full extent of the colonization.

The very able John Smith led the colonists. Smith was the stuff of legends. He had been a mercenary and crossed most of Europe. When he applied to the Virginia Company he was appointed to manage the Virginia colony. When Smith arrived at the colony many of the settlers had already died and many more were close to starvation. Smith, used to handling men, imposed a strict discipline on the remaining settlers saying those that did not work would not eat. He was also able to make a few deals with the Indians to supplement their meager diet. However, despite saving the colony, few thought highly of Smith and many simply resented his authoritarian approach. In 1609 Smith was forced to sail to England to get treatment for a powder burn. With Smith out of the way the colony returned to its old ways. Although the settlers were relieved in 1610 only about 60 remained. The period between 1609-10 was known as the “starving time” for obvious reasons.

In 1612 another settler, John Rolfe, cultivated a smoother tasting form of Virginia tobacco. Within a few years the new crop was being heavily exported and the Virginia colony found a reason to stay in existence. Rolfe also married Powhatan’s daughter, Pocahontas, a move that helped ease the tension between the Indians and the settlers.

Headright System

Desperate to keep people in Virginia and keep them relatively content, the Virginia Company employed the Headright system. Colonists were promised 50 acres of land and an additional 50 acres for every servant. One year later, in 1619, the company allowed all settlers to establish their own representative assembly. In July of 1619 the General Assembly of Virginia, known as the House of Burgesses, met at Jamestown. This was the first representative body to meet in the colonies. That very same year two ships arrived carrying very different cargoes. The first ship contained almost a hundred young ladies who were looking for husbands. The second ship was a Dutch man-of-war with a far more consequential cargo – twenty black slaves.

In 1622 the Indians, led by Opechancanough (Powhatan’s successor), tried to stop the English killing over 300 settlers including John Rolfe. The English, led by John Smith, determined to remove the Indian threat by killing the Indians. In 1623 Captain William Tucker and his men met with the Indians to discuss a peace treaty. The English offered the Indians a unique drink, which contained poison. As a result over two hundred Indians died. The relationship between the Indians and the settlers was never going to be the same again.

In the early days the population of the colony never showed a marked increase. Constant problems with disease, lack of food, and Indians continued to erode away the population base. When a committee was sent by the king to investigate the

running of the colony the recommendation was to abolish the Virginia Company. Virginia became a royal colony in 1624. The last significant Indian attack took place in 1644; it was suppressed with such ruthlessness that the Indians never again launched a concerted attack in Virginia.

Maryland

In 1634 the colony of Maryland was created as a proprietary colony under the control of Sir George Calvert, Lord Baltimore. He wanted the colony to be a refuge for Catholics who wanted religious freedom. The original Lord Baltimore died in 1632 before the colony was established, and it was his son, Cecilius Calvert, who founded the colony. The charter allowed Calvert the right to pass laws with the consent of the landholders. Like Virginia, Maryland found financial security with tobacco. Initially most of the workers were indentured servants who had their voyage paid for in return for a set number of years of servitude. It was not until the end of the seventeenth century that slaves began being imported into the colony. Lord Baltimore was a wise man and he wanted to make sure the colony did not suffer from the same religious problems that had plagued England, so he decreed complete religious freedom. Most of the early settlers were Catholics, but almost immediately the area witnessed a flood of Protestants. To protect themselves, the Catholics passed the Act of Toleration in 1649, which guaranteed religious freedom for all who did not deny Christ.

Plymouth

Far to the north of Virginia another colony was taking shape, the colony of Plymouth. The success of this colony owed a great deal to the reasons for settlement. Those who moved to the American northeast were intent on establishing a safe haven for people who had been persecuted in Europe. They were Separatists, a strict sect of Puritans and the most extreme and uncompromising sect of the Church of England. They had been forced out of England by King James I and moved to Holland for religious freedom in 1607. After ten years, unhappy with life in Holland, they elected to find a new life in a new country. King James promised the Separatists that he would leave them alone if they settled America.

They gained a land patent from the Virginia Company and in 1620, led by William Bradford, they set sail on the *Mayflower*. Because of storms they were forced to land at Cape Cod, far north of Virginia. Since they were in a region outside the sphere of British legislation they determined to create their own rules. On November 21, 1620, they completed work on the Mayflower Compact.

Many of the Pilgrims died during the harsh winter. Only the help given by the Wampanoag Indians saved the settlers from a greater disaster. In the spring of 1621, a friendly Indian, Squanto, showed the surviving colonists how to plant maize. That fall the harvest was plentiful and removed the danger of starvation. The colonists were so grateful for the bountiful harvest that they celebrated in a festival

that would later become Thanksgiving. Eventually, in 1691, the Plymouth Colony became part of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Bay Colony

Established shortly after the Plymouth Colony, also to be a holy commonwealth, the new colony easily overshadowed its southern neighbor. In 1629 King Charles I of England had given the Puritans a land grant. Initially the colony was to be established as a business venture, but the businessmen were persuaded by John Winthrop to make the colony a religious refuge. The majority of the Puritans were Congregationalist who wanted self-governing churches. Winthrop planned to make his colony “a city upon a hill” in which the citizens would live exemplary lifestyles. By 1630 enough settlers had arrived to make certain of the colonies’ future. These early settlers would be the start of the Great Migration.

Rhode Island

In 1635 a young religious radical, Roger Williams was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Williams had argued with Governor Bradford over many issues including treatment of the Indians and religious philosophy. With the help of some Narragansett Indians, Williams purchased some land south of Massachusetts Bay where he built the town of Providence. The area that Williams purchased was to be Rhode Island, the first colony to legislate religious freedom.

Another problem for the Puritan leaders came in the form of Anne Hutchinson. Hutchinson was an educated, well-respected, and skilled woman who held weekly prayer meeting in her house. The Puritan clergy saw Hutchinson as threat because she was a woman. But the greatest trouble came when Hutchinson told the congregation that if God had already predetermined the saved, then there was no reason for a person to follow the rules of God or man. After arguing before Winthrop and the General Court of Massachusetts in 1637, Hutchinson was banished. In 1638 she left Massachusetts and followed Roger Williams south. Her family built a log cabin near Providence where she lived until her husband’s death in 1643.

Connecticut

Connecticut was founded by Puritans who had moved west looking for better land. Led by Thomas Hooker they established the colony of Connecticut in 1637. In 1639 they adopted the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, rules similar to those in Massachusetts but with the exception that every man voted regardless of church membership.

Maine and New Hampshire

In 1622 the Council for New England gave the land north of Massachusetts to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Captain John Mason and their associates. In 1629 the land was divided with Mason taking the southern region, which he named New Hampshire, Gorges took the northern part which he named Maine

New York and New Jersey

The Dutch colony was under the control of a governor who had been appointed by the Dutch West India Company. The governors were from wealthy families, usually inept, in often unwilling to compromise especially in matters pertaining to the Indians. When the governor of New Amsterdam, Peter Stuyvesant called out the militia to fight the English in 1664, few seemed concerned, even less bothered to act. Stuyvesant, with his wooden leg, threatened the English but then surrendered without firing a shot. The Dutch colonies as well as New Sweden came under the proprietorship of the Duke of York.

The charter did not require the duke to summon an elected assembly and since the duke was not given to exerting himself over the Americas, the areas functioned through governors. When the colonists stalled in the payment of their taxes in 1683, the duke called an assembly but it was disbanded four years later upon the duke's death. The new king was James II who gave the region to Sir George Carteret and John, Lord Berkeley. Unfortunately no one mentioned these detail details to the governor, who proceeded to give out a large parcel of land to a group of New England Puritans. The situation was further complicated when, in the mid-1670s, Berkeley sold an area, which later became West New Jersey, to a group of Quakers, while Carteret became the sole proprietor of East New Jersey. In 1680, Carteret died and his heirs sold off the land in a way that later led to serious questions of political rights and land ownership. In 1702, East and West New Jersey united.

Pennsylvania

When Admiral William Penn died he was owed a considerable amount of money by the English treasury. His son William, a Quaker, promised to forget about the debt if he was given a piece of land west of Delaware and New York. Penn wanted to establish a refuge for Quakers and for others who had been persecuted for their religious beliefs. Many people had disdain for the Quakers who were seen as troublemakers. The Quakers believed that God's spirit was in all people regardless of rank, class, or wealth and this made all people equal. They refused to kneel or bow to any authority figure, they refused to take oaths, fight in wars, or participate in acts of violence. They did not believe in priests, rather that individuals could discover God through an "Inner Light." Even Penn had been arrested several times for publicly professing his faith.

In 1681, King Charles II granted Penn his colony because the land was the frontier and the Quakers could England by acting as a buffer between the colonies and the Indians, and the king would also be rid of the Quakers. The land Penn received

became Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania was a huge piece of land with few clearly defined borders. It was not until the 1760s when Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveyed the land that the border with Maryland was established and the Mason-Dixon line created.

Once Penn became the proprietor he was allowed great latitude in the way he governed. His powers were limited only by an elected assembly. He also had to allow British customs agents into the colony and send copies of all news laws to Parliament within five years of them being passed. In return he was allowed to proceed with his “holy experiment.” Unlike Massachusetts, Pennsylvania became a colony that tolerated people of all religions and dissenting views. Soon immigrants were arriving from other European countries, primarily Germany and Sweden.

The head of every family was given fifty acres while servants were given fifty acres upon gaining their independence. Penn also purchased more land to the south to ensure Pennsylvania had access to the sea. This land later became Delaware. Until the Revolutionary War, Delaware had been part of Pennsylvania. After the war, a separate assembly was created sharing the same governor.

In 1682, Penn created his Frame of Government, which established a council and an elected assembly. The proprietor would work with the council to propose laws and these proposals would then be passed or rejected by the assembly. The proprietor was also able to appoint judges and manage the treasury. Eventually forty laws were added to the Frame of Government. The first law, confirmed by the assembly in 1682, established freedom of religion for all who believed in God.

Carolinas

The Carolinas was given to eight Lord Proprietors who showed little interest in the north regions and focused their attention on the southern part of the grant. The northern part was called Albemarle, never becoming anything more than a few scattered settlements. The proprietors invited sugar planters from Barbados to the area in the hope that they would be able to develop sugar plantations. In 1699 three ships left London for Barbados and then Bermuda. They arrived in the colonies near the Ashley River and established the Charles Town (later Charleston). One of the proprietors, Sir Anthony Ashley-Cooper, drew up the “Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina” based on the philosophies of John Locke. The document was not very practicable; it encouraged large land grants and offered religious toleration for settlers. The main crop was not cotton but rice.

In 1719 the colonies split with South Carolina becoming a royal colony. North Carolina remained under the control of the proprietors for another decade.

Georgia

Georgia was the last English colony established in America. In 1732 George II gave a large tract of land to a group of trustees. The purpose of the colony was twofold: it was to be a buffer against the Spanish in Florida and a refuge for the poor and persecuted. In 1733 General George Oglethorpe founded Savannah. Initially land was limited to 500 acres and the importation of slaves was prohibited; however, soon both of these restrictions were lifted. Economically the colony floundered, but the Spanish were prevented from moving north.

The Indians

Northern

The relations between the settlers and the Indians varied from region to region and from ethnic background. However, in most cases the Indians were on the losing end. The Dutch and the French, both with little interest other than trade, were not interested in forcing the Indians off their land. The English were determined to establish permanent settlements and needed to remove the Indians and consequently rarely treated the Indians with equality. Initially the Indians often helped the settlers. They taught the Europeans how to grow crops, to hunt, and fish. If the Indian tribes of New England had been able to unite they would have easily been able to prevent European encroachment.

Diseases such as smallpox decimated the Indians. Once their numbers had dwindled they were no longer in a position to force the settlers out. Those Indians who did not fall victim to disease often became the victims of violence. In 1636 settlers from Massachusetts seeking revenge for a suspected murder, opened fire on a Pequot village. As the Indians tried to escape the village the settlers shot them. Sassacus, the Pequot chief, organized the survivors and waged war on the settlers. During the Pequot War (1637) hundreds of Indians were killed indiscriminately. Many of those not killed were sold into slavery and the Treaty of Hartford (1638) dissolved the Pequot tribe.

Iroquois League

The most successful attempt at stopping the settlers came from the Iroquois League, a group of five tribes located in the New York area. The Iroquois were so numerous that they forced the Dutch and then the English to treat them with respect. Once the Iroquois obtained guns from the Dutch they were able to force other Indian tribes off their land. In the 1690s the Iroquois became allies of the French.

Southern

In the south, many of the Indian tribes developed beneficial trading arrangements with the settlers. But much like elsewhere, contact with the Europeans proved costly to the Indians. European diseases wiped out thousands of natives and forced others to change their lifestyle. In 1715 some of the tribes united in the Yamasee

War and subsequently killing several settlers. The English won the war by forcing the Indian tribes to fight each other. The war ended in 1717, but the tribes never trusted each other again and any further attempt to unite against the Europeans would be too late.