Chapter 2: THE EVOLUTION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

[Map showing trade routes: Slaves to the Americas, Sugar, tobacco, and cotton to Europe, Textiles, rum and manufactured goods to Africa]
OBJECTIVES:

• We will study about the reorganization of the British colonies.

• We will see how the Glorious Revolution in Great Britain impacted the colonies.
Ecc_4:13 Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.
The Drive for Reorganization:

• Mercantilism was the foundation of the English economy.
• Colonies would provide a market for England’s manufactured goods and a source of a raw materials it could not produce at home, thus increasing the total wealth of the nation.
The Drive for Reorganization:

• England sought to exclude foreigners from colonial trade.
• According to mercantilist theory any wealth flowing to another nation could come only at the expense of England itself.
• Hence the British government sought to monopolize trade relations with its colonies.
The Drive for Reorganization:

- In theory, the mercantile system offered benefits to the colonies as well by providing them with a ready market for the raw materials they produced and a source for the manufactured goods they did not produce.
- But some colonial goods, were not suitable for export to England which produce wheat flour, and fish and had no interest in obtaining them from America.
- Colonists also found it more profitable at times to trade with Spanish, French, or Dutch even in goods that England did import.
- Thus considerable trade developed between English colonies and non-English markets.
The Drive for Reorganization:

• At first the English government had no serious efforts to restrict this challenge to the principles of mercantilism.
• But gradually London passed laws that restricted trade.
• These developed into Navigational Acts designed to regulate colonial commerce even more strictly.
• To prevent the colonies from trade from non-British nations.
The Drive for Reorganization:

• The system created by the Navigation Acts had advantage for both England and the colonies.

• By restricting all trade to British ships the laws encouraged the colonists (who were themselves legally British subjects) to create an important shipbuilding industry of their own.
The Drive for Reorganization:

• And because the English wanted to **import** as many goods as possible from their own colonies

• As opposed to importing them from rival nations) they encouraged and **even subsidized** the development of American production of goods they needed.
Dominion of New England:

- To enforce the navigational acts, Charles II revoked the Massachusetts corporate charter and made it a royal colony.
- James II created a single dominion of New England which combined the government of Massachusetts with the governments of the rest of the New England colonies and in 1688, with those of New York and New Jersey as well.
Dominion of New England:

• James II eliminated existing assemblies and appointed a single governor, Sir Edmund Andros.

• He was crude and dismissed colonists rights as English men and attempted to push and strengthen Anglican Church in Puritan stronghold Massachusetts.
THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION:

• James II was also attempting to have total control over Parliament and appointed his fellow Catholics to high office initiating fears that he would try to reestablish Catholicism as England’s official religion.
THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION:

• In 1688, when James had a son whom he would raise Catholic to groom to the throne,
• Parliament invited James’s Protestant daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange, ruler of the Netherlands, and Protestant champion of Europe to assume the throne together.
THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION:

• William and Mary arrived with a small army, but James II offered no resistance and fled to France.

• Bostonians heard of the overthrow and moved quickly and unseated Governor Andros.

• The colonists managed to restore their separate colonial governments.
THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION:

• The British government did not however give in to all the colonists desires.
• They combined Massachusetts and Plymouth into a royal colony.
• The new charter restored the General Court, (Massachusetts legislature) but it gave the crown the right to appoint the governor.
• It also replaced church membership with property ownership as the basis for voting and office holding.
• And required the Puritan leaders of the colony to tolerate Anglican worship.
THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION:

• In New York, Jacob Lesile a German immigrant and wealthy merchant who was shunned from the Elite had a militia drive the autocratic Lt. Governor from New York.

• In 1691, William and Mary appointed a new governor, Lesile briefly resisted.

• This gave ammo to his political enemies who charged him for treason and executed Lesile.
• In Maryland many people mistakenly assumed that Lord Baltimore supported James II.
• In 1689, an old opponent to the current government, John Coode, started a new revolt, which drove out Lord Baltimore’s officials in the name of Protestantism.
• William and Mary stripped the proprietor of his authority.
• The colonial assembly established the church of England as the colony’s official religion
• and forbade Catholics to hold public office, to vote, or even to practice their religion in public.
• Maryland became again a proprietary colony in 1715, but only after the fifth Lord Baltimore joined the Anglican Church.
As a result of the Glorious Revolution, the colonies revived their representative assemblies and successfully thwarted the plan for colonial unification.

They legitimized the idea that the colonists had some rights within the Empire,

that the English government needed to consider their views in making policies that affected them.

But this relationship also led to the crown to be more proactive in colonial affairs.
Chapter 2 Summary

- English colonization of North America was part of a larger effort by several European nations to expand the reach of their increasingly commercial societies.
- In British colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, new agricultural and commercial societies gradually emerged.
- In the South the cultivation of tobacco and cotton and reliance on slave labor.
• Substantial trading centers emerged in such cities as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston.

• By the early eighteenth century, English settlement had spread from northern New England (in what is now Maine) south into Georgia.

• By the middle of the eighteenth century, there was a significant European presence across a broad swath of North America, from Florida, to Maine, and from Texas to Mexico to California.
Response Question:

• Examine Jamestown, New England, New York/New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Carolinas, and Georgia colonies and list what you see are features of the United States and its government today.