

# Chapter 16

The Transatlantic Economy,  
Trade Wars, & Colonial  
Rebellion

# Empire, War, and Colonial Rebellion

## Periods of European Overseas Empires

- Four Stages of European contacts with world
  - discovery, exploration, initial conquest, and settlement of the new world
  - colonial trade and rivalry b/w Spain, France, and Great Britain
  - 19<sup>th</sup> century = empires in Africa and Asia
  - mid 20<sup>th</sup> century = decolonization
- treated others as social, intellectual, and economic inferiors
- greed, god, glory
- technological supremacy (naval and gunpowder)



# Eighteenth- Century Empires

- existed to enrich trad
- protection required a strong navy
- depended upon slave labor
- Mercantile Empires
  - Spain = controlled all of the mainland of S. America (except for Brazil) : N. America = Florida, Mexico, California, and the Southwest: Cuba, Puerto Rico, and half of Hispaniola
  - Great Britain = North Atlantic seaboard, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Jamaica, and Barbados : A few Colonies in India
  - France = Saint Lawrence River valley, Ohio and Mississippi River valleys : Saint Domingue, Guadeloupe, and Martinique
  - Dutch = Surinam, and trading stations in Ceylon and Bengal

# Mercantilist Goals

- heavily regulated trade and commerce by gov't
- favorable balance of trade of gold and silver bullion
  - bullion = measure of country's wealth
  - want more bullion than your rivals
- colonies were to provide markets
- national monopoly= guiding principle
- worked better on paper
- “golden age of smuggling”

# French-British Rivalry

- colonists quarreled with each other
- India – each traded through privilege with chartered companies
  - By 18<sup>th</sup> century; Indian government decayed
  - Joseph Dupleix and Robert Clive competed for control of government power

# Spanish Colonial System

- Colonial government
  - Crown of Castile = link
  - Council of the Indies
  - Viceroys = chief executives in the New World
  - Audiencias = judicial councils
  - Corregidores = local officers
  - Power flowed from the top-down
- Trade and regulation
  - Casa de Contratacion (House of Trade) in Seville regulated all trade in the New World
    - Most influential institution of Spanish Empire
    - Flota (commercial vessels)

# Spanish Colonial System Reform

- Philip V
  - Tried to suppress smuggling
  - Viceroyalty of New Granada – wanted more direct royal control
- Ferdinand VI
  - saw need for further reforms in the colonies
- Charles III
  - Emphasized royal ministers instead of councils
  - Abolished monopoly of Seville and Cadiz
  - Permitted other Spanish cities to trade with America
  - Wanted to increase efficiency of tax collection and end bureaucratic corruption
  - Independent- royal, loyal bureaucrats

# Black African Slavery

- West Indies
  - Jewels of empire
  - Tobacco, indigo, coffee, and sugar
  - Slavery was basic the economies
- Prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century – no religious or moral stigma with owning a slave
- After conquest of Constantinople, Ottomans forbade exportation of white slaves
- So, Portuguese imported West Africans



# The Plantation system

- Plantation system
  - Disease killed Native Americans, so laborers were needed
  - 90% of population of Jamaica were slaves
  - Triangular Trade Route
- First slaves entered Jamestown in 1619

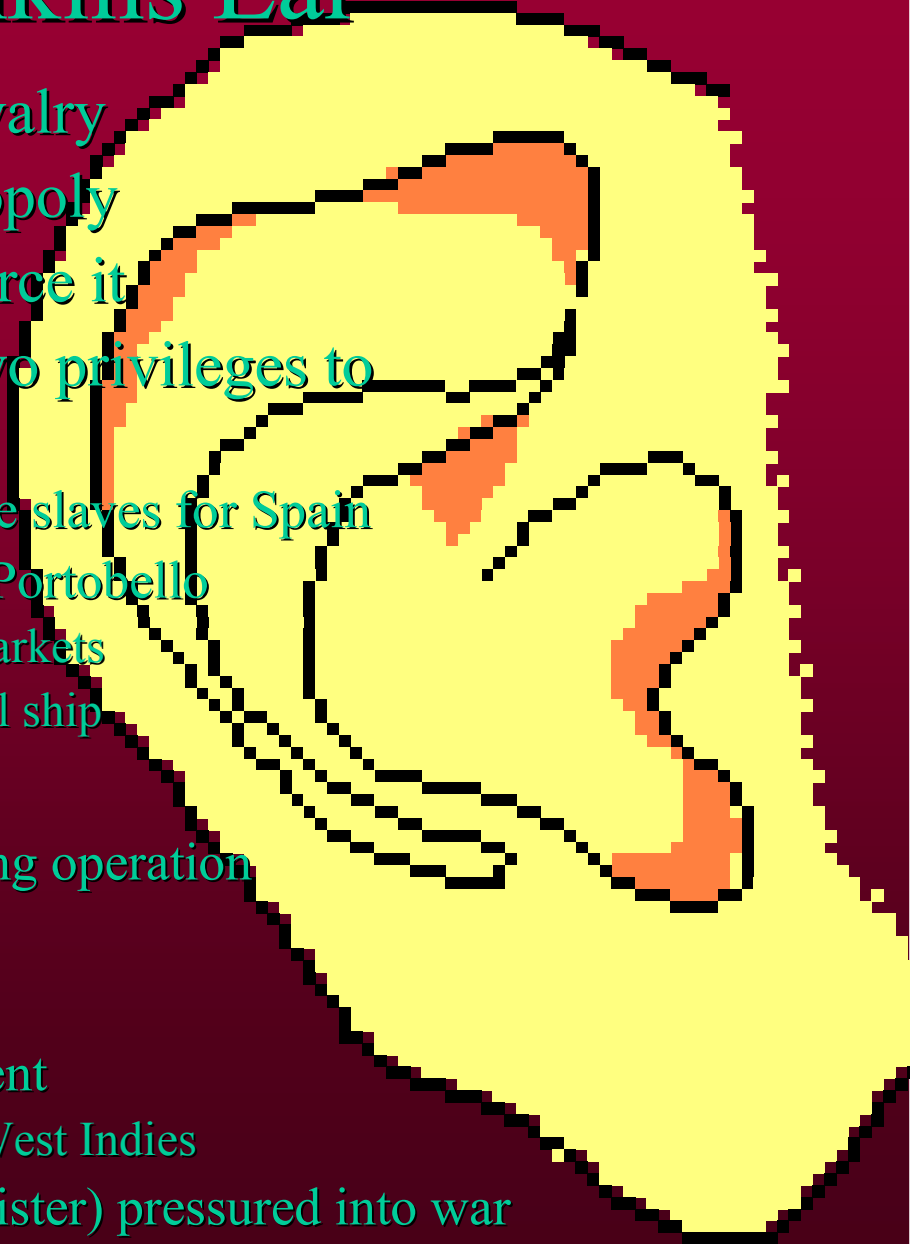
# Atlantic economy

- Slave Experience
  - Passage
    - Cramped
    - Bad food
    - Disease
    - Most died in crossing
  - Living Conditions
    - Hard labor
      - Poor diet
      - Inadequate housing
      - Marriages not recognized
      - Property  
Sold away from families

# Mid-Eighteenth Century Wars

# War of Jenkins Ear

- West Indies = hotbed of trade rivalry
- Spain wanted to tighten its monopoly
- English smugglers wanted to pierce it
- Treaty of Utrecht (1713) gave two privileges to Great Britain
  - 30 year asiento (contract) to provide slaves for Spain
  - right to send one ship each year to Portobello
    - allowed smugglers into Spanish markets
    - British ships would reload the legal ship
- 1731 – Robert Jenkins
  - ear cut off during a Spanish boarding operation
  - saved ear in jar of brandy
  - no real consequence until 1738
  - 1738 – Jenkins testified in Parliament
    - proof of Spanish atrocities in the West Indies
  - 1739 – Robert Walpole (prime minister) pressured into war
    - 1<sup>st</sup> war of many European wars fought until 1815



# War of Austrian Succession

- December 1740, Frederick II seized Austrian province of Silesia
- Upset Pragmatic Sanction and balance of power established by Utrecht
- Maria Theresa
  - Major accomplishment = preserved the Habsburg empire
  - 23 yrs old when gained power
  - granted new privileges to nobility
  - Hungary = most important of her crowns (promised Magyars local autonomy)
- France draws Great Britain into war
- Fleury was pushed to support Prussia against Austria
  - aid consolidated Prussia
  - brought G.B. into war to support Austria
- 1744 France supports Spain against G.B. in New World
  - divided French resources and weakened the country
- 1748 – Stalemate
  - Aix-la-Chapelle
    - Prussia kept Silesia
    - Spain renewed asiento

# Diplomatic Revolution of 1756

- 1756- Convention of Westminster signed by Prussia and Great Britain
  - defensive alliance
- 1756- France and Austria sign a defensive alliance

# Seven Years' War

- Colonial clashes b/w France and Great Britain
- August 1756
  - Frederick II invaded Saxony
    - Preemptive strike?
- 1757 – Austria and France signed a new alliance
  - Destroy Prussia
  - Russia and Sweden join later
- 2 Factors saved Prussia
  - G.B. provide financial aid
  - 1762 – Empress Elizabeth of Russia died
    - Peter III took over throne made peace with Prussia
- 1763 Treaty of Hubertusburg



# William Pitt and North America

- William Pitt the Elder – architect of British victories during Seven Years' War
  - 1757 – gave \$ to Prussia
    - German conflict diverted France's attention from N. America
    - Wanted all land east of the Mississippi
    - Sent more than 40,000 troops
    - Cooperated with colonists
  - British General James Wolfe defeated France in Sept 1759
  - Won the West Indies with the British Navy
  - Robert Clive won India in 1757
    - British East India Company



# Treaty of Paris 1763

- Britain gets Canada, Ohio River Valley, and eastern half of Mississippi River Valley
- France is no longer a colonial power
- G.B. = world power until WWII

# The American Revolution and Europe

- problems of revenue collection
- Great Britain needed money to pay for wars and colonial protection

# Resistance to the Imperial Search for Revenue

- 2 problem for G.B. after the Treaty of Paris
  - sheer cost of the empire
  - vast expanse of new territory in N. America
- 1764 – Sugar Act passed
- 1765 – Stamp Act passed
- 1765 – Stamp Act Congress
  - protest to the crown
  - Sons of Liberty
  - 1766 – repeal of the Stamp Act
  - 1766 – Declaratory Act
    - power to legislate for the colonies



# Crisis and Independence

- 1767 – Townshend Acts
  - sent agents to administer these new acts
- 1768 – Troops sent to Boston to protect the agents
- March 1770 – Boston Massacre
  - 5 people were killed
  - angry protestors threw rocks, snow, and ice at soldiers
    - Parliament repealed the Townshend Duties except for the tax on tea
- 1773 – British East India Tea Company
  - exclusive importation to colonies
    - Boston Tea Party
    - Dressed as Native Americans and dumped tea into harbor
- 1774 – Intolerable Acts
- 1774 – Quebec Act
- September 1774 – 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress in Philly
- April 1775 – Lexington and Concord
- May 1775 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress
- August 1775 – George III states the colonies are in rebellion
- July 4, 1776 – Declaration of Independence
- 1781 – Washington defeats Cornwallis
- 1783 – Treaty of Paris



# American Political Ideas



- English Revolution of 1688
  - Produced ideas of liberty and the role of government
  - According to the colonists, George III violated these liberties; therefore the colonies had right to rebel
- John Locke – Whig political ideas
- Commonwealthmen
  - Republican ideas stemming from the Puritan Revolution
  - John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon
  - Cato's Letters
    - Criticized gov't patronage
    - Corrupt gov't undermined liberty
    - Taxation = \$ for political corruption
    - Standing armies = instruments of tyranny

# Events in Great Britain



- George III wanted ministers of his own choice
  - Sought aid from politicians that the Whigs hated
  - Whigs thought that George was imposing tyranny
- John Wilkes
  - The North Briton
    - 1763 – criticized government
      - expelled from Parliament and outlawed
    - 1774 – finally seated in Parliament again
      - incident with keeping him from his elected office showed the corruption of the government

# Movement for Parliamentary Reform

- challenged power of monarch and parliamentary authority
- questioned taxation without representation
- power should come from the people

# The Yorkshire Association Movement

- British resented handling of American War, high taxes, and Lord North's ministry
- Christopher Wyvil organized the movement
  - Changes for corrupt system of Parliamentary Elections
  - Movement collapsed because of failure to appeal for popular support
- 1780 House of Commons lessened the power of the crown
- 1782 – Parliament calls for economic reform
- 1784 – William Pitt the Younger managed House of Commons
  - made it favorable to the monarch
  - George reasserted monarchical influence in politics
- America proved that government without kings and nobles was possible