(Chapters 2-4,5)

**Europeans and American Indians maneuvered and fought for dominance, control, and security in North America, and distinctive colonial and native societies emerged.**

**Key Concept 2.1: Differences in imperial goals, cultures, and the North American environments that different empires confronted led Europeans to develop diverse patterns of colonization [varied models of colonization]**.

**I. Seventeenth-century Spanish, French, Dutch, and British colonizers embraced different social and economic goals, cultural assumptions, and folkways, resulting in varied models of colonization**.

C.  **Unlike their European competitors, the English eventually sought to establish colonies based on agriculture**, sending relatively large numbers of men and women to acquire land and populate their settlements, while having relatively hostile relationships with American Indians.

**II. The British–American system of slavery developed out of the economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of the British-controlled regions of the New World**. (Labor systems such as slavery, indentured servitude, free labor, and sharecropping from the colonial period through the end of the 18th century)

A.  Unlike Spanish, French, and Dutch colonies, which accepted intermarriage and cross-racial sexual unions with native peoples (and, in Spain’s case, with enslaved Africans), **English colonies attracted bothmales and females** who rarely intermarried with either native peoples or Africans, leading to the development of **a rigid racial hierarchy**.

B.  The abundance of land, a shortage of **indentured servants**, the lack of an effective means to enslave native peoples, and the growing European demand for colonial goods led to the emergence of **the Atlantic slave trade**.

C.  Reinforced by **a strong belief in British racial and cultural superiority**, the British system enslaved black people in perpetuity, altered African **gender** and kinship relationships in the colonies, and was one factor that led the British colonists into violent confrontations with native peoples.

D.  Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist the dehumanizing aspects of **slavery**.

**III. Along with other factors, environmental and geographical variations, including climate and natural resources, contributed to regional differences in what would become the British colonies**.

A.  **The New England colonies**, founded primarily by Puritans seeking to establish a community of like-minded religious believers, developed a close-knit, homogeneous society and — aided by favorable environmental conditions — a thriving mixed economy of agriculture and commerce.

B.  The demographically, religiously, and ethnically diverse **middle colonies** supported a flourishing export economy based on cereal crops, while the **Chesapeake colonies** and North Carolina relied on the cultivation of **tobacco**, a labor-intensive product based on white indentured servants and African chattel.

C.  The colonies along the southernmost Atlantic coast and the **British islands in the West Indies** took advantage of long growing seasons by **using slave labor to develop economies based on staple crops**; in some cases, enslaved Africans constituted the majority of the population.

**Key Concept 2.2: European colonization efforts in North America stimulated intercultural contact and intensified conflict between the various groups of colonizers and native peoples**.

B.  Spanish colonizing efforts in North America, particularly after **the Pueblo Revolt**, saw an accommodation with some aspects of American Indian culture; by contrast, conflict with American Indians tended to reinforce **English colonists’ worldviews on land and gender roles**.

**Key Concept 2.3: The increasing political, economic, and cultural exchanges within the “Atlantic World” had a profound impact on the development of colonial societies in North America**.

C.  The presence of **slavery** and the impact of colonial wars stimulated the **growth of ideas on race** in this Atlantic system, leading to the emergence of **racial stereotyping** and the development of **strict racial categories** among British colonists, which contrasted with Spanish and French acceptance of racial gradations.

II. Britain’s desire to maintain a viable North American empire in the face of growing internal challenges and external competition inspired efforts to strengthen its **imperial control**, stimulating increasing **resistance** from colonists who had grown **accustomed to a large measure of autonomy**.

A.  As **regional distinctiveness** among the British colonies diminished over time, they developed largely similar patterns of culture, laws, institutions, and governance within the context of the Britishimperial system.

**Chapter 2 summary from *American Pageant***

The defeat of the Spanish Armada and the exuberant spirit of Elizabethan nationalism finally drew England into the colonial race. After some early failures, the first permanent English colony was established at Jamestown, Virginia. Initially it faced harsh conditions and Indian hostility, but tobacco cultivation finally brought prosperity and population growth.

         The early encounters of English settlers with the Powhatan in Virginia established many of the patterns that characterized later Indian-white relations in North America. Indian societies underwent their own substantial changes as a result of warfare, disease, trade, and the mingling and migration of Indians from the Atlantic coast to inland areas.

            Other colonies were established in Maryland and the Carolinas. South Carolina flourished by establishing close ties with the British sugar colonies in the West Indies. It also borrowed the West Indian pattern of harsh slave codes and large plantation agriculture. North Carolina developed somewhat differently, with fewer slaves and more white colonists who owned small farms. Late comer Georgia served initially as a buffer against the Spanish and a haven for debtors.

**Despite some differences, all the southern colonies depended on staple plantation agriculture for their survival and on the institutions of indentured servitude and African slavery for their labor. With widely scattered rural settlements, they had relatively weak religious and social institutions and tended to develop hierarchical economic and social orders.**

**Chapter 3 Summary from *American Pageant***

           The New England colonies were founded by English Puritans. While most Puritans sought to “purify” the Church of England from within, and not to break away from it, a small group of Separatists—the Pilgrims—founded the first small, pious Plymouth Colony in New England. More important was the larger group of non-separating Puritans, led by John Winthrop, who founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony as part of the “great migration” of Puritans fleeing persecution in England in the 1630s.

         A strong sense of common purpose among the first settlers shaped the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Because of the close alignment of religion and politics in the colony, those who challenged religious orthodoxy, among them Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams, were considered guilty of sedition and driven out of Massachusetts. The banished Williams founded Rhode Island, by far the most religiously and politically tolerant of the colonies. Other New England settlements, all originating in Massachusetts Bay, were established in Connecticut, Maine (an extension of Massachusetts -- not an independent colony),and New Hampshire. Although they shared a common way of life, the New England colonies developed with a substantial degree of independence.

          The middle colonies took shape quite differently. New York, founded as New Netherland by the Dutch and later conquered by England, was economically and ethnically diverse, socially hierarchical, and politically quarrelsome. Pennsylvania, founded as a Quaker haven by William Penn, also attracted an economically ambitious and politically troublesome population of diverse ethnic groups.

         With their economic variety, ethnic diversity, and political factionalism, the middle colonies were the most typically “American” of England’s thirteen Atlantic seaboard colonies.

**Chapter 4 Summary from *American Pageant***

            Life was hard in the seventeenth-century southern colonies. Disease drastically shortened life spans in the Chesapeake region, even for the young single men who made up the majority of settlers. Families were few and fragile, with men greatly outnumbering women, who were much in demand and seldom remained single for long.

          The tobacco economy first thrived on the labor of white indentured servants, who hoped to work their way up to become landowners and perhaps even become wealthy. But by the late seventeenth century, this hope was increasingly frustrated, and the discontents of the poor whites exploded in Bacon’s Rebellion.

          With white labor increasingly troublesome, slaves (earlier a small fraction of the workforce) began to be imported from West Africa by the tens of thousands in the 1680s, and soon became essential to the colonial economy. Slaves in the Deep South died rapidly of disease and overwork, but those in the Chesapeake tobacco region survived longer. Their numbers eventually increased by natural reproduction and they developed a distinctive African-American way of life that combined African elements with features developed in the New World.

          By contrast with the South, New England’s clean water and cool air contributed to a healthy way of life, which *added* ten years to the average English life span. The New England way of life centered on strong families and tightly knit towns and churches, which were relatively democratic and equal by seventeenth-century standards. By the late seventeenth century, however, social and religious tensions developed in these narrow communities, as the Salem witch hysteria dramatically illustrates.

          Rocky soil forced many New Englanders to turn to fishing and merchant shipping for their livelihoods. Their difficult lives and stern religion made New Englanders tough, idealistic, purposeful, and resourceful. In later years they spread these same values across much of American society.

          Seventeenth-century American society was still almost entirely simple and agrarian. Would-be aristocrats who tried to recreate the social hierarchies of Europe were generally frustrated.

**Ch.5  summary from *American Pageant***

By 1775 the thirteen American colonies east of the Appalachians were inhabited by a burgeoning population of two million whites and half a million blacks. The white population was increasingly a melting pot of diverse ethnic groups including Germans and the Scots-Irish.

       Compared with Europe, America was a land of equality and opportunity (for whites), but relative to the seventeenth-century colonies, there was a rising economic hierarchy and increasing social complexity. Ninety percent of Americans remained agriculturalists. But a growing class of wealthy planters and merchants appeared at the top of the social pyramid, in contrast with slaves and “jayle birds” from England, who formed a visible lower class.

       By the early eighteenth century, the established New England Congregational Church was losing religious fervor. The Great Awakening, sparked by fiery preachers like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, spread a new style of emotional worship that revived religious zeal. Colonial education and culture were generally undistinguished, although science and journalism displayed some vigor. Politics was everywhere an important activity, as representative colonial assemblies battled on equal terms with politically appointed governors from England.

            Eighteenth-century America is a melting pot of races, cultures, religions, and ethnicities.

            One half of the people by the late 18th century are English or of English descent.

            In the 18th century, the triangle trade is essential to trade and commerce in the colonies.

             Challenges to the institutions and ideologies that dominated Europe and early colonial America emerge.

                  The First Great Awakening leads to the development of American centers of higher learning.  That and political and judicial developments and the advent of the American press play a pivotal role in establishing a uniquely American character.

      The American colonies were a magnet for social, political, ethnic, and religious groups.  For example, the Scots-Irish were instrumental in developing more democratic society than they had experienced under the political disenfranchisement and economic exploitation of the British.

    Despite claims that the American colonies were more democratic and less socially stratified than Europe, a social class structure had indeed taken hold in America.  Slavery had a significant impact on the level of colonial democracy, as did the increasing numbers of indentured servants and lower class immigrants to America.

Source: Ms. Krall