The Simple AP® US History Unit 2 Cheat Sheet

2.1–2.2 Context & European Colonization

Big Picture (2.1)

Period 2 theme: Europeans & American Indians fight for control of N. America while distinct colonial societies take shape in each region.

Drivers: profit, land, religious freedom, rivalry among Spain, France, Netherlands & England.

Who Colonized & How (2.2)

Power	Main goal	With natives
Spain	Gold, faith	Force, missions
France	Fur trade	Allies, marriage
Netherlands	Trade	Trade partners
England	Land	Take land, war

Spain: **encomienda** → forced native labor; **missions** in New Mexico, Florida & later California; **casta** system ranks people by ancestry.

France: few settlers, mostly men in the fur trade; intermarriage & alliances w/ Huron, Algonquian peoples; Jesuit Catholic missions.

England: many settlers & families → farmed land, wanted it all → steady conflict w/ natives.

Why England Differed

Joint-stock companies: investors fund colonies (Virginia Co.) → profit motive drives settlement.

⚠ Don't lump Europeans together: each power had different goals, so each treated natives differently (trade vs. land vs. gold & souls).

✓ Comparison Qs: name 1 similarity + 1 difference and explain WHY they differ.

2.3 Chesapeake & Southern Colonies

Chesapeake (VA, MD)

Jamestown (1607): 1st lasting English colony; near collapse until **tobacco** (John Rolfe, ~1612).

Labor: **indentured servants** (4–7 yrs work for passage) → later enslaved Africans.

Headright system: 50 acres per person whose passage you paid → planters amass land.

House of Burgesses (1619): 1st elected assembly in English America. Same yr: the 1st ~20 enslaved Africans arrive in Virginia (Point Comfort).

Bacon's Rebellion (1676)

Cause: poor freed servants want frontier land; Gov. Berkeley won't fight natives for it.

Event: Bacon's forces attack natives, burn Jamestown. **Result**: planters shift from servants to enslaved African labor held for life.

Carolinas, Georgia & West Indies

Colony	Founded	Economy
Carolina	1663	Rice, indigo
Georgia	1732	Buffer vs. Spain
Barbados	1627	Sugar

Carolina: settled by Barbados planters → copied its slave code; enslaved majority by 1700s.

Georgia: Oglethorpe's debtor haven & buffer vs. Spanish Florida; banned slavery til 1751.

⚠ Bacon's Rebellion was NOT a fight for equality: rebels wanted native land, & it sped up slavery.

✓ Link cash crop → labor system → social structure in every Southern answer.

2.3 New England & Middle Colonies

New England

Plymouth (1620): Pilgrims (Separatists); **Mayflower Compact** → early self-govt by consent.

Massachusetts Bay (1630): Puritans; Winthrop's "city upon a hill" → model godly society.

Economy: small family farms, fishing, lumber, shipbuilding, trade. Towns + schools + literacy.

Govt: **town meetings**; church members vote early on. Families migrate → balanced sex ratio.

Dissent: Roger Williams → **Rhode Island** (1636), church-state split; Anne Hutchinson banished.

Middle Colonies

New York: ex-New Netherland (1664) → diverse, commercial port; Dutch influence lasts.

Pennsylvania (1681): William Penn's Quaker colony → religious freedom, fair land deals at first.

Economy: "breadbasket" grain farms, mills; ports (Philadelphia, NYC). Germans, Scots-Irish settle.

Regions Compared

Region	Economy	Labor	Society
Chesapeake	Tobacco	Servants	Scattered
N. England	Trade	Family	Towns
Middle	Grain	Family	Diverse
Lower South	Rice	Enslaved	Planters

⚠ Puritans sought freedom for THEIR faith, not religious tolerance for all (banished dissenters).

✓ Use specific evidence: a colony, a date, and a person beat "the colonies were different."

2.4 Transatlantic Trade

Mercantilism

Mercantilism: colonies exist to enrich the mother country → export raw goods, buy finished goods.

Navigation Acts (1651, 1660s): colonial trade on English ships; key goods (tobacco, sugar) sold only to England → widespread colonial smuggling.

Atlantic Trade Routes

Leg	Goods
Europe → Africa	Guns, cloth, rum
Africa → Americas	Enslaved Africans
Americas → Europe	Sugar, tobacco, rice

Triangular trade: simplified name for many crisscrossing routes; New England ships carried rum, fish & lumber to the Caribbean & Africa.

Middle Passage: Africa → Americas voyage; brutal conditions, high death rates (~15%).

Pushback & Self-Rule

Dominion of New England (1686–89): James II merges colonies under Gov. Andros, ends assemblies & New England town meetings.

Glorious Revolution (1688): James II ousted → colonists jail Andros; Dominion ends.

Salutary neglect: Britain loosely enforces trade laws (~1720s–1763) → colonies grow used to self-rule & smuggling, a habit they later defend.

⚠ Salutary neglect ENDS after 1763: new taxes & enforcement then feel like a broken deal.

✓ Continuity & change: tie salutary neglect → colonial self-rule → later resistance in Period 3.

2.5 American Indians & Europeans

Conflict in English Colonies

Powhatan Confederacy: trades w/ Jamestown, then wars (1622, 1644) as settlers take land for tobacco fields; Pocahontas weds Rolfe (1614).

Pequot War (1636–38): New England colonists & native allies nearly destroy the Pequot.

Metacom's (King Philip's) War (1675–76): Wampanoag-led revolt vs. land loss; deadliest war per capita in colonial New England.

Spain & the Pueblo

Pueblo Revolt (1680): Popé leads Pueblo vs. Spanish forced labor & bans on native religion.

Result: Spain driven out ~12 yrs (till 1692); returns w/ more tolerance of native customs.

Alliances & Exchange

Group	Partner	Why
Huron	France	Fur trade, war
Iroquois	Eng. (Covenant)	Trade, power
Pueblo	Spain (forced)	Labor, missions

Iroquois Confederacy: plays France vs. England to keep its own power, land & trade (play-off).

Exchange: horses & guns spread → Plains peoples reshape hunting, travel & warfare.

⚠ American Indians were not passive victims: they negotiated, allied, traded & resisted.

✓ Causation: land-hungry settlers + farming economy → war; trade-based colonies (France, the Dutch) → alliance & trade ties.

2.6 Slavery in the British Colonies

Growth of Slavery

Why it grew: fewer indentured servants (better wages in England), Bacon's Rebellion, cash crops.

Everywhere: slavery legal in all 13 colonies; most common in the South & Caribbean.

Laws Build a Racial System

Law	Year	Effect
Barbados Code	1661	Model for others
VA status law	1662	Follows mother
VA Slave Codes	1705	Race-based, for life

Chattel slavery: people treated as property; status hereditary & for life, based on race.

Status follows mother (1662): children of enslaved women are enslaved, whatever the father's status.

Resistance

Daily: work slowdowns, breaking tools, running away, keeping African culture & family ties.

Law: conversion to Christianity no longer frees enslaved people (Virginia, 1667).

Culture: **Gullah** language & traditions in Carolina & Georgia Lowcountry; African foods, music.

Revolts: New York City (1712); **Stono Rebellion** (SC, 1739) → harsher slave codes.

Middle Passage: ~15% of captives died crossing; survivors sold at port auctions.

⚠ Slavery wasn't only Southern: it was legal in the North too, though on a smaller scale.

✓ Show how slavery became racial over time: laws turned a labor system into a racial caste.

2.7 Colonial Society & Culture

Ideas: Enlightenment

Enlightenment: reason, science, natural rights.

John Locke: life, liberty, property; govt by consent of the governed, right to revolt.

Ben Franklin: printer, scientist, self-made model; spreads ideas via newspapers & almanacs.

Religion: First Great Awakening

Great Awakening (1730s–40s): emotional revivals; personal faith over church authority.

Leaders: **Jonathan Edwards** ("Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"); **George Whitefield**.

Effects: new denominations, splits (Old vs. New Lights), new colleges, shared colonial experience.

Movement	Stresses	Effect
Enlightenment	Reason	Revolution
Great Awak.	Emotion	Defy authority

Politics & Society

Assemblies: elected colonial legislatures hold the **power of the purse** (pay royal governors).

Zenger trial (1735): jury acquits printer of libel b/c it was true → step toward press freedom.

Diversity: Germans, Scots-Irish, Dutch, Africans → mix of faiths & cultures, esp. Middle colonies.

Women: few legal rights (coverture); key roles in the farm & household economy.

⚠ Both movements challenged authority: one via reason, one via personal faith.

✓ Connect Great Awakening & Enlightenment → questioning authority → Revolution (Period 3).

2.8 Comparison & Exam Toolkit

Key Timeline

Year	Event
1607	Jamestown founded
1619	Burgesses; Africans in VA
1620 / 1630	Plymouth / Mass. Bay
1675–76	Metacom's & Bacon's
1680	Pueblo Revolt
1686–89	Dominion of New England
1730s–40s	Great Awakening
1739	Stono Rebellion

Big Comparisons

Labor: Chesapeake & South → indentured then enslaved labor; New England → family labor.

Settlement: English → families & farms; French & Dutch → traders; Spanish → missions & soldiers.

Period Themes

Identity: colonists see themselves as loyal British subjects but grow used to local self-rule.

Setup for Period 3: salutary neglect, self-govt & Great Awakening → resistance after 1763.

HIPP: source DBQ docs by Historical situation, Intended audience, Purpose, or Point of view.

⚠ Period 2 is 6–8% of the exam, but its causes show up in Period 3 questions too.

✓ DBQ/LEQ: open w/ context (1 strong paragraph), then a defensible claim that answers the prompt directly & sets up reasoning.