The Ultimate 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; colonial societies take shape.
Drivers: profit, land, religious freedom, national rivalry among Spain, France, the Netherlands & England.

Who Colonized & How (2.2)

Power	Main goal	Relations w/ natives
Spain	Gold, converts	Coercion, missions
France	Fur trade	Alliances, marriage
Netherlands	Trade profit	Trade partners
England	Land, settlers	Push off land, war

Spain: **encomienda** → forced native labor; **missions** in New Mexico, Florida & later California; **casta** system ranks people by ancestry & birthplace (peninsulares at the top).
France: few settlers, mostly men in fur trade; intermarriage & alliances w/ Huron, Algonquian peoples.
Dutch: New Netherland (Hudson River) for fur & trade; taken by England in 1664 → renamed New York.
England: many settlers & families → farmed land, wanted ever more of it → steady conflict w/ nearby native nations.

Why England Differed

Joint-stock companies: investors fund colonies (Virginia Co.) → profit motive drives settlement.
Population: English colonies grew far larger (families, high birth rate, steady migration from England & Europe).
Self-rule: distance + weak royal control → colonists run local govt (assemblies, town meetings, courts).
Religion: Puritans, Quakers, Catholics (Maryland) seek places to worship their own way, free of the Crown church.

⚠ Don't lump Europeans together: each power had different goals, so each treated natives differently.

✓ Comparison Qs: name 1 similarity + 1 difference and explain WHY they differ (goals, numbers, economy).

2.3 Chesapeake & Southern Colonies

Chesapeake (VA, MD)

Jamestown (1607): 1st lasting English colony; starving time, near collapse until **tobacco** (John Rolfe, ~1612).
Labor: **indentured servants** (4–7 yrs work for paid passage) → later enslaved Africans for life by the 1700s.
Headright system: 50 acres per person whose passage you paid → wealthy planters amass huge land.
House of Burgesses (1619): 1st elected assembly in English America. Same yr: 1st enslaved Africans in VA.
Maryland (1634): Catholic refuge (Calvert). **Toleration Act** (1649) → rights for all Christians, not others.
Society: scattered plantations, mostly young men, short lives, few towns or schools; fragile, unstable families.

Bacon's Rebellion (1676)

Cause: poor freed servants want frontier land; Gov. Berkeley won't fight natives for it (Berkeley's fur trade profits).
Event: Bacon's forces attack natives, burn Jamestown.
Result: planters shift to enslaved labor.

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 the early 1700s.
Georgia: Oglethorpe's debtor haven & buffer vs. Spanish Florida; banned slavery until 1751 (then rice boom).
West Indies: sugar → deadliest labor system; richest English colonies of the era (e.g., Barbados, Jamaica, Antigua).

⚠ 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 (tobacco → servants → slaves).

2.3 New England & Middle Colonies

New England

Plymouth (1620): Pilgrims (Separatists); **Mayflower Compact** → early self-govt by consent of settlers.
Massachusetts Bay (1630): Puritans; Winthrop's "city upon a hill" → model godly society for the world.
Economy: small family farms, fishing, lumber, shipbuilding, trade. Towns + schools + very high literacy (Bible reading).
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 for her views.
Halfway Covenant (1662): partial church membership for children of members as religious zeal fades.
Salem witch trials (1692): social, economic & religious tension → 19 people hanged as witches in Salem Village.

Middle Colonies

New York: ex-New Netherland (1664) → diverse, commercial port city; Dutch influence lasts for decades.
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	Indent. → slaves	Scattered
New England	Mixed, trade	Family	Towns, church
Middle	Grain, ports	Family, wage	Diverse
Lower South	Rice, indigo	Enslaved	Elite planters

⚠ Puritans sought freedom for THEIR faith, not religious tolerance for all; dissenters were banished.

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

2.4 Transatlantic Trade

Mercantilism

Mercantilism: colonies exist to enrich the mother country → export raw goods, buy finished goods.
Goal: favorable balance of trade → more gold & silver flow in than out; colonies supply raw goods, buy English goods.
Navigation Acts (1651, 1660s): colonial trade on English ships; key goods (tobacco, sugar) only to England.
Enumerated goods: listed items (tobacco, sugar, indigo) colonists could sell only within the empire.

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.
Middle Passage: Africa → Americas voyage; brutal, crowded conditions, high death rates (~15% died).
Port cities: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston grow rich on Atlantic trade & shipbuilding; merchant elite rises.

Pushback & Self-Rule

Smuggling: colonists dodge trade laws, esp. w/ French & Dutch West Indies (cheap French molasses for rum).
Dominion of New England (1686–89): James II merges colonies under Gov. Andros, ends assemblies.
Glorious Revolution (1688): James II ousted → colonists jail Andros; Dominion ends, charters return.
Salutary neglect: Britain loosely enforces trade laws (~1720s–1763) → colonies grow used to self-rule.

⚠ 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 (1763 on).

2.5 American Indians & Europeans

Conflict in English Colonies

Powhatan Confederacy: trades w/ Jamestown, then wars (1622, 1644) as settlers take tobacco land.
Pequot War (1636–38): New England colonists & native allies nearly destroy the Pequot (Mystic massacre).
Metacom's (King Philip's) War (1675–76): Wampanoag-led revolt vs. land loss & colonial law; deadliest war per capita in all of colonial New England (Metacom killed, 1676).
Result: native power in southern New England broken; survivors killed, enslaved, or displaced.

Spain & the Pueblo

Pueblo Revolt (1680): Popé leads Pueblo vs. Spanish forced labor & bans on native religion; ~400 Spanish killed.
Result: Spain driven out ~12 yrs (till 1692); returns w/ more tolerance of native customs & less forced labor.

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 & trade (balance-of-power diplomacy).
Beaver Wars: Iroquois fight Huron & other rivals for control of the fur trade (1600s), armed w/ Dutch & English guns.
Exchange: horses & guns spread → Plains peoples (e.g., Comanche, Lakota) reshape hunting, trade & warfare.
Disease: smallpox & other epidemics keep cutting native populations throughout the whole colonial period.

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

✓ Causation: land-hungry settlers + farming economy → war; trade-based colonies → alliance.

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.
Scale: most enslaved Africans went to the Caribbean & Brazil; only ~3–4% to British N. America.
Everywhere: slavery legal in all 13 colonies; most common in the South & Caribbean, smaller in North.

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 (African descent).
Status follows mother (1662): children of enslaved women are enslaved, whatever the father's status.
Conversion to Christianity no longer frees enslaved people (VA, 1667) → slavery tied to race, not faith.

Resistance

Daily: work slowdowns, breaking tools, running away, keeping African culture, names & family ties.
Culture: **Gullah** language & traditions in Carolina & Georgia Lowcountry; African foods, music, faith.
Revolts: New York City (1712); **Stono Rebellion** (SC, 1739) → harsher slave codes (South Carolina's Negro Act, 1740).
Stono: ~60–100 enslaved people march toward Spanish Florida, promised freedom there; most killed.
Middle Passage: ~15% of captives died crossing; survivors sold at port auctions or in chaotic, violent "scrambles."

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

✓ Show how slavery became racial over time: laws turned a labor system into a racial caste (1660s–1705).

2.7 Colonial Society & Culture

Ideas: Enlightenment

Enlightenment: reason, science, natural rights. **John Locke**: life, liberty, property; govt by consent.
Ben Franklin: printer, scientist, self-made model; spreads ideas via newspapers & almanacs across colonies.

Religion: First Great Awakening

Great Awakening (1730s–40s): emotional revivals; personal faith & conversion over ministers & church authority.
Leaders: **Jonathan Edwards** ("Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"); **George Whitefield** (traveling preacher).
Effects: new denominations, splits (Old vs. New Lights), new colleges, shared colonial experience.

Movement	Stresses	Long-term effect
Enlightenment	Reason, rights	Revolutionary ideas
Great Awakening	Emotion, faith	Questions authority

Politics & Society

Assemblies: elected colonial legislatures hold the **power of the purse** (pay royal governors' salaries).
Zenger trial (1735): jury acquits printer of libel b/c his criticism was true → step toward press freedom.
Anglicization: colonists copy British fashion, books & politics → see themselves as proud British subjects.
Diversity: Germans, Scots-Irish, Dutch, Africans → mix of faiths & cultures, esp. Middle colonies.
Women: few legal rights (coverture); key roles in farm, household & family economy; some run shops.
Print & schools: New England leads in literacy; Harvard (1636), Yale, Princeton (1746) train ministers.
Almanacs: Franklin's *Poor Richard's* spreads practical advice, wit & a shared colonial culture & identity (1732–58).

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

✓ Connect Great Awakening & Enlightenment → questioning authority → Revolution (Period 3, 1760s–70s).

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 → free family labor on farms.
Settlement: English → families & farms; French & Dutch → traders; Spanish → missions & soldiers.
Religion: New England Puritan unity vs. Middle colony diversity vs. Southern Anglican establishment.

Period Themes

Identity: colonists see themselves as loyal British subjects but grow used to local self-rule & assemblies.
Work & exchange: Atlantic trade + slavery tie colonies to Europe, Africa & the wider Caribbean sugar economy.
Setup for Period 3: salutary neglect, self-govt & Great Awakening → resistance after 1763 (taxes).
Economy: South exports cash crops; North builds ships & trades → different ties to Britain & slavery.
HIPP: source DBQ docs by Historical situation, Intended audience, Purpose, or Point of view (pick 1+).

⚠ Period 2 is 6–8% of the exam, but its causes show up in Period 3 questions & in long essays (LEQ) too.

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