

## Instructions:

**On your paper, write the correct colony with the number it matches.....**

**List them in their regions.**

**15. New England**

**16. Middle**

**17. Southern**

**18. Chesapeake**



# PURITAN THEOLOGY



## Puritans were Calvinists

- † God was all powerful and all-good.
- † Humans were **totally depraved**.
- † **Predestination**: God was all-knowing and knew beforehand who was going to heaven or hell.
- † **"elect"** were chosen by God to have eternal salvation

- † **"Good works"** did not determine salvation (like Catholic Church)
- † One could not act immoral since no one knew their status before God.
- † A conversion experience (personal experience with God) was seen to be a sign from God that one had been chosen. -- **"visible saints"**

# PURITAN THEOLOGY



✚ After conversion, people expected "visible saints" to lead "sanctified" lives as a model for the community.

✚ Puritans insisted they, as God's elect, had the duty to direct national affairs according to God's will as revealed in the Bible. Purpose of government was to enforce God's laws. This was called a Theocracy.

✚ This union of church and state to form a holy commonwealth gave Puritanism direct and exclusive control over most colonial activity. Commercial and political changes forced them to relinquish it at the end of the 17th century.

# PURITAN THEOLOGY



## **John Winthrop: Governor of Mass. Bay Colony**

1. **Covenant Theology**: Winthrop believed Puritans had a covenant with God to lead new religious experiment in New World: **"We shall build a city upon a hill"**
2. His leadership helped the colony to succeed.

## **Religion and politics: "Massachusetts Bible Commonwealth"**

3. Governing open to all free adult males (2/5 of population) belonging to Puritan congregations; Percentage of eligible officeholders was more than in England.
4. Eventually, Puritan churches grew collectively into the **Congregational Church**

# PURITAN THEOLOGY



1. Non-religious men and all women could not vote
2. Townhall meetings emerged as a staple of democracy
3. Town governments allowed all male property holders and at times other residents to vote and publicly discuss issues. Majority-rule show of hands.

3. Provincial gov't under Governor Winthrop was not a democracy
4. Only Puritans -- the "visible saints" -- could be freemen; only freemen could vote
5. Hated democracy and distrusted non-Puritan common people.
6. Congregational church was "**established**": Non-church members as well as believers required to pay taxes for the gov't-supported church.

# PURITAN THEOLOGY



## Contributions to American character

- ✚ Democracy (within church) via town meetings and voting rights to church members (starting in 1631)
- ✚ Town hall meetings, democracy in its purest form.

✚ Villagers met to elect their officials and attend civic issues

## Perfectionism

✚ Puritans sought to create a utopia based on God's laws

✚ Argued against slavery on moral grounds

✚ Ideas lay foundation for later reform movements: abolition of slavery, women's rights, education, prohibition, prison reform, etc.

✚ Protestant work ethic: those who were faithful and worked hard and succeeded were seen favorably by God.

✚ Education and community.



## The decline of Puritanism

- ✚ First generation Puritans began losing their religious zeal as time went on.
- ✚ Puritan population moved out of town away from control of church.
- ✚ Too much religious intolerance

- ✚ Children of non-converted members could not be baptized.
- ✚ The **jeremiad**, was used by preachers to scold parishioners into being more committed to their faith.
- ✚ "**Half-Way Covenant**", 1662: sought to attract more members by giving partial membership
- ✚ Puritan churches baptized anyone and distinction between the "elect" and other members of society subsided.
- ✚ **Salem Witch Trials**, 1692 -- The decline of Puritan clergy



# The First Great Awakening (1730s-1760)

- The First Great Awakening is often described as the response of devout people to the **Enlightenment**
- The Enlightenment was a European intellectual movement that:
  - Emphasized rationalism over emotionalism or spirituality
  - Analyzed nature in order to determine laws governing the universe

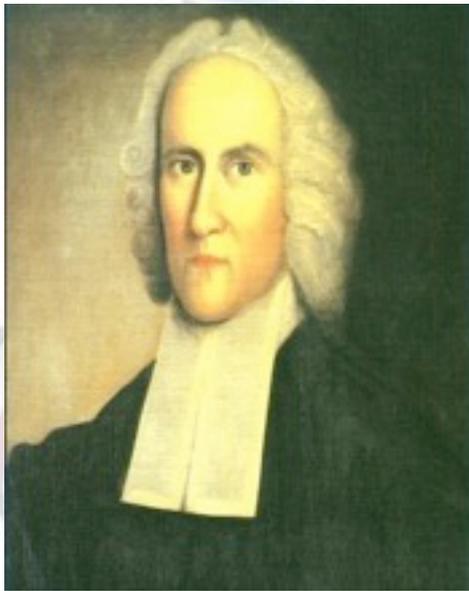




**+** The Great Awakening was a spiritual renewal that swept the American Colonies, particularly New England, during the first half of the 18th Century. It began in England before catching fire across the Atlantic.

**+** Unlike the somber, largely Puritan spirituality of the early 1700s, the revivalism ushered in by the Awakening brought people back to "spiritual life" as they felt a greater intimacy with God.

# The Great Awakening



Jonathan Edwards

- Began in Mass. with Jonathan Edwards (regarded as greatest American theologian)
  - Rejected salvation by works, affirmed need for complete dependence on grace of God (“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”)
- Orator George Whitefield followed, touring colonies, led revivals, countless conversions, inspired imitators



George Whitefield



# THE GREAT AWAKENING

## Background

- Puritan ministers lost authority (Visible Saints)
- Decay of family (Halfway Covenant) 
- Deism, God existed/created the world, but afterwards left it to run by natural laws. Denied God communicated to man or in any way influenced his life...get to heaven if you are good. (Old Lights)

## Great Awakening

- 1740s, Puritanism declined by the 1730s and people were upset about the decline in religious piety. (devotion to God)

## New Denominations

- "New Lights": Heaven by salvation by grace through Jesus Christ. Formed: Baptist, Methodists

## Political & social implications

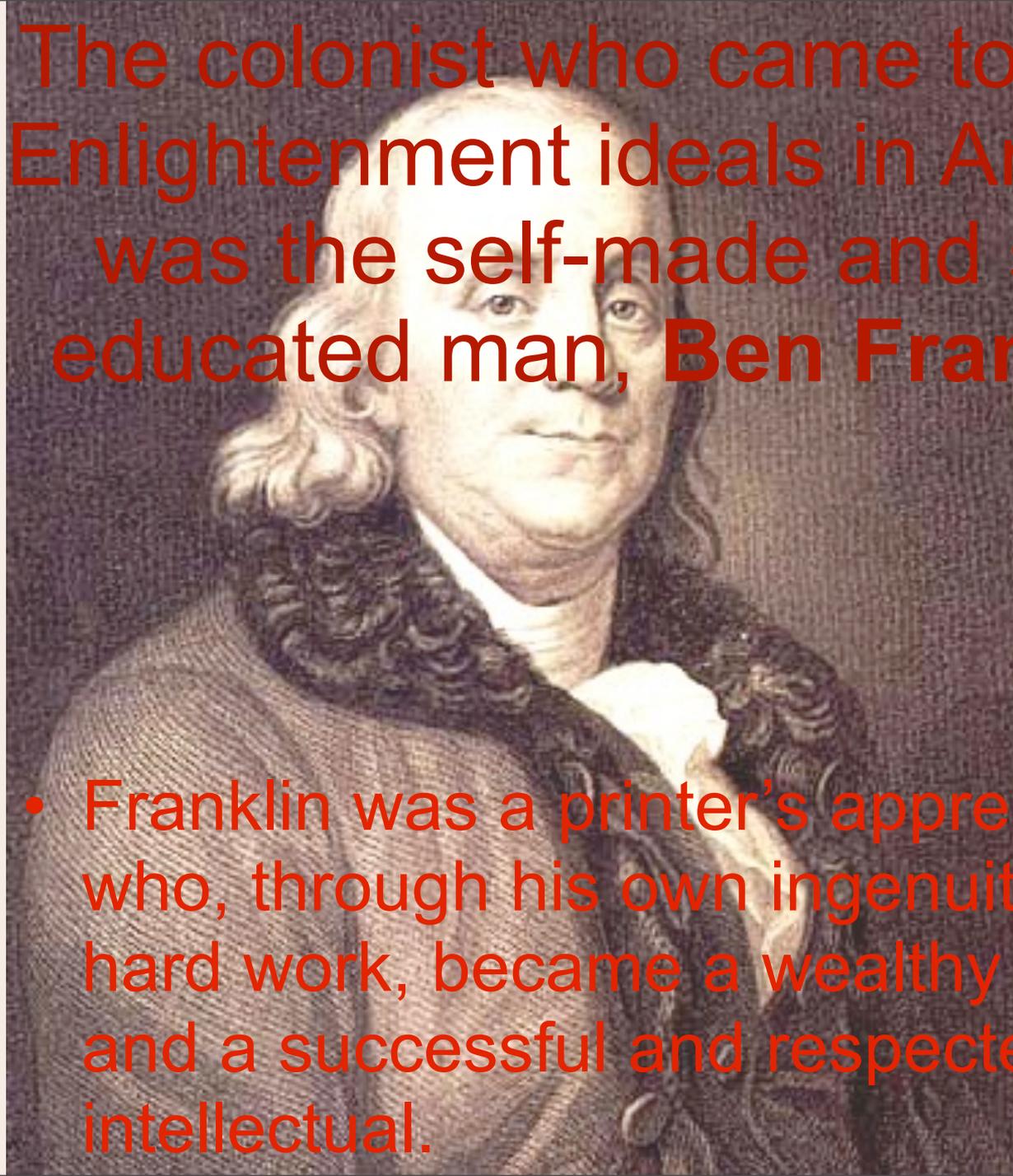
- Led to founding of colleges 
- Crossed class barriers; emphasized equality of all
- Unified Americans as a single people
- Missionaries for Blacks and Indians





The colonist who came to typify Enlightenment ideals in America was the self-made and self-educated man, **Ben Franklin.**

- Franklin was a printer's apprentice who, through his own ingenuity and hard work, became a wealthy printer and a successful and respected intellectual.



His *Poor Richard's Almanack* was extremely popular and remains influential to this day.



Poor Richard's  
ALMANACK

WITH the old Almanack and the old Year,  
Leave thy old Vices, tho' ever so dear.

Many a long dispute among Divines may be  
thus abridged, It is so: It is not so; It is so: It is  
not so.

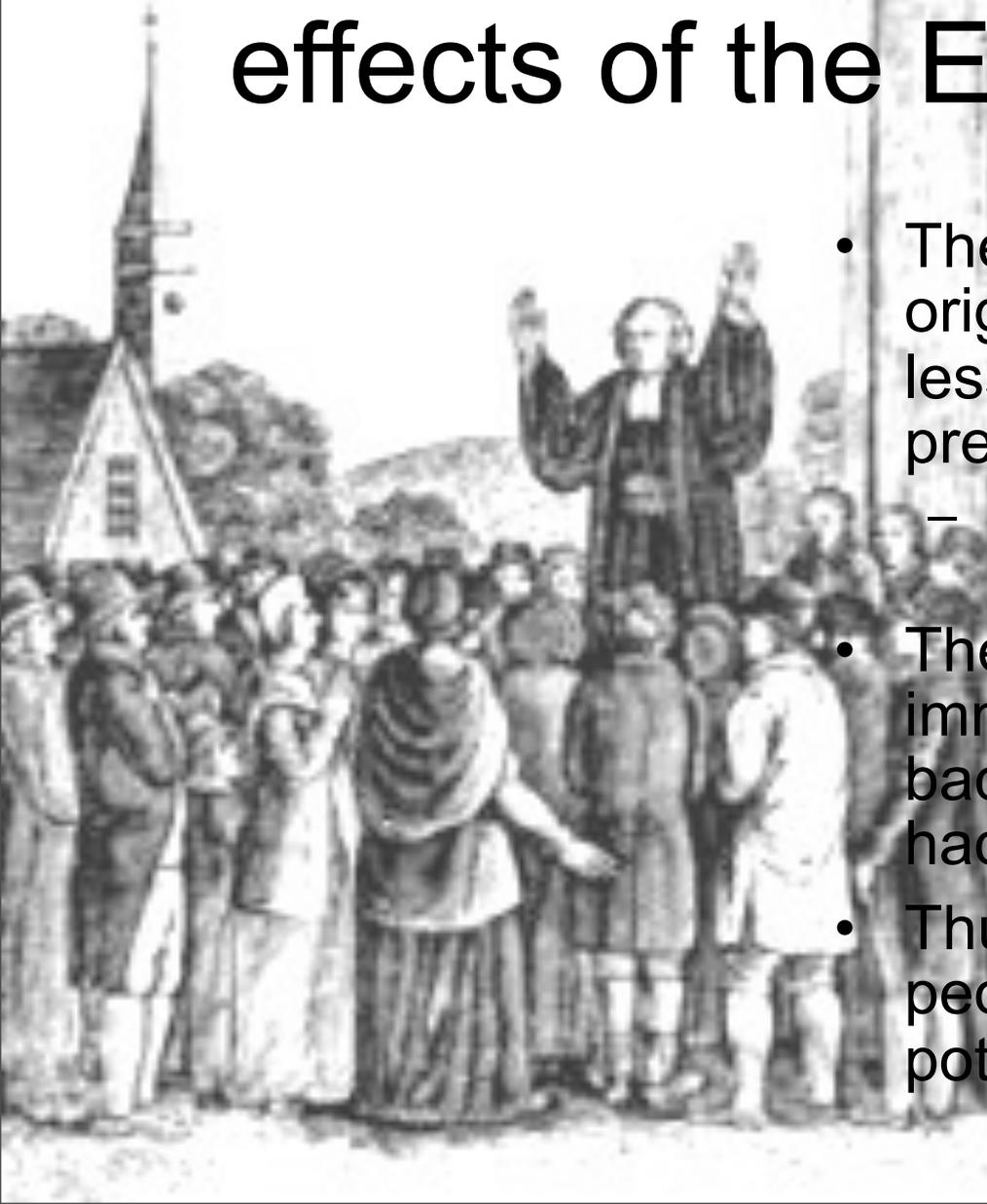
Ill Customs & bad Advice are seldom for-  
gotten.

Men meet, Mountains never.

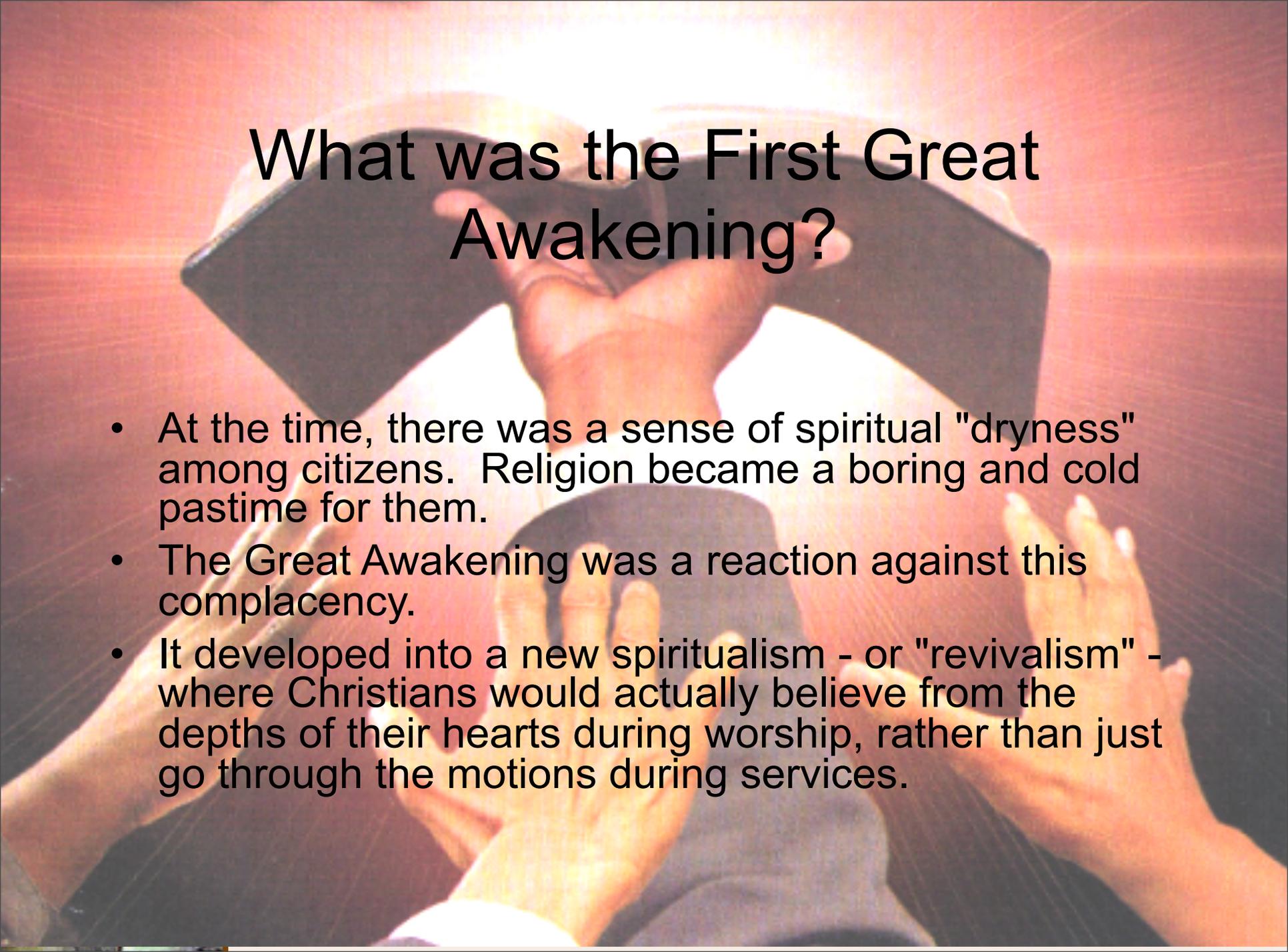
One good Husband is worth two good Wives;  
for the scarcer things are, the more they're  
valued.

- He invented bifocals, the lightning rod, and the Franklin stove, and he founded the colonies' first fire department and first public library.
- He espoused Enlightenment ideals about education, government, and religion.
- Toward the end of his life, he served as an ambassador in Europe, where he negotiated a crucial alliance with the French, and later, the peace treaty that ended the Revolutionary War.

# Religious groups tried to combat the effects of the Enlightenment

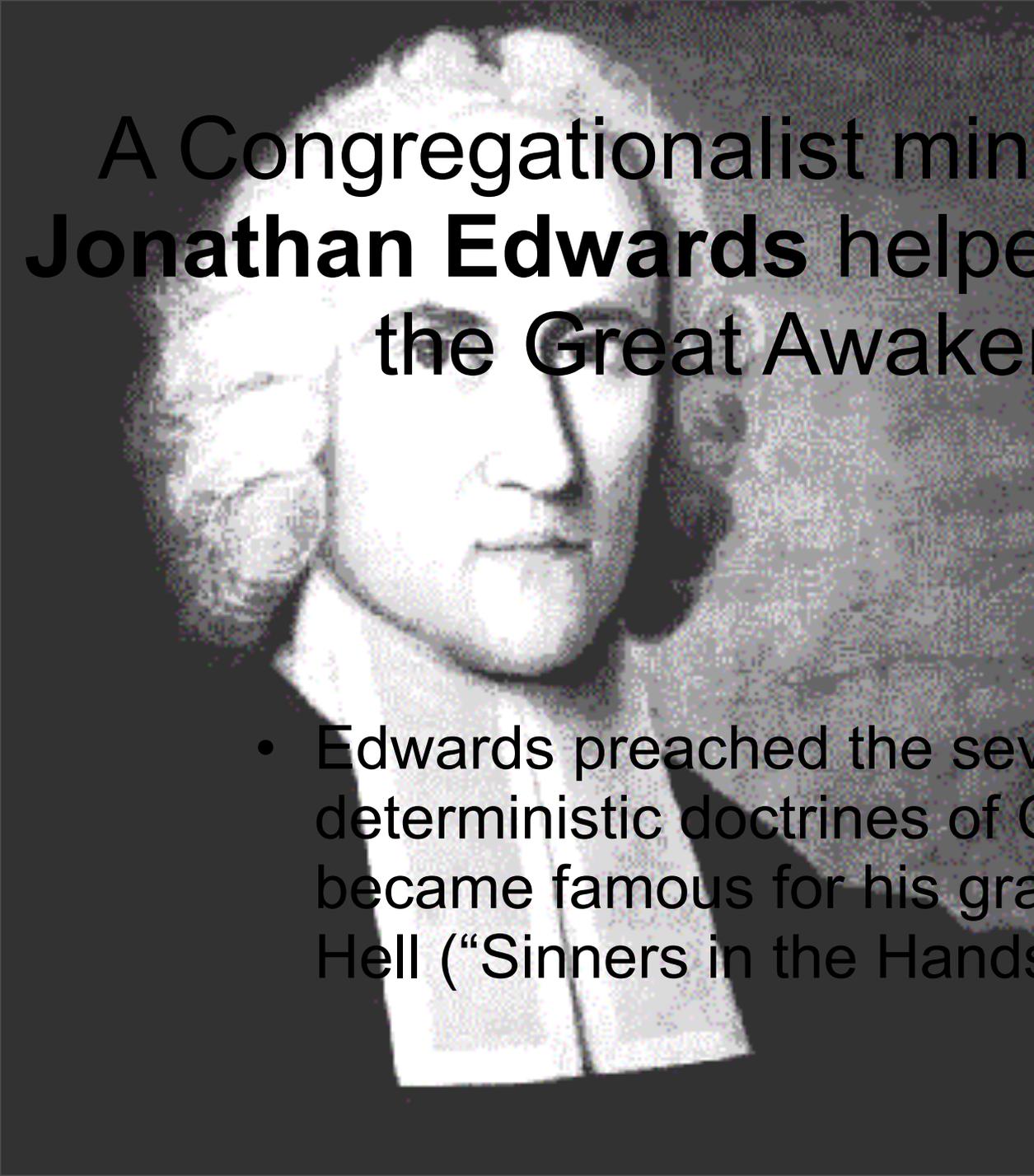


- The generations that followed the original settlers were generally less religious than those that preceded them
  - By 1700, women constituted the majority of active church members.
- There were many recent immigrants and residents of the backcountry in the colonies who had no prior religious affiliation
- Thus, religious groups saw the people in the colonies as prime potential converts.



# What was the First Great Awakening?

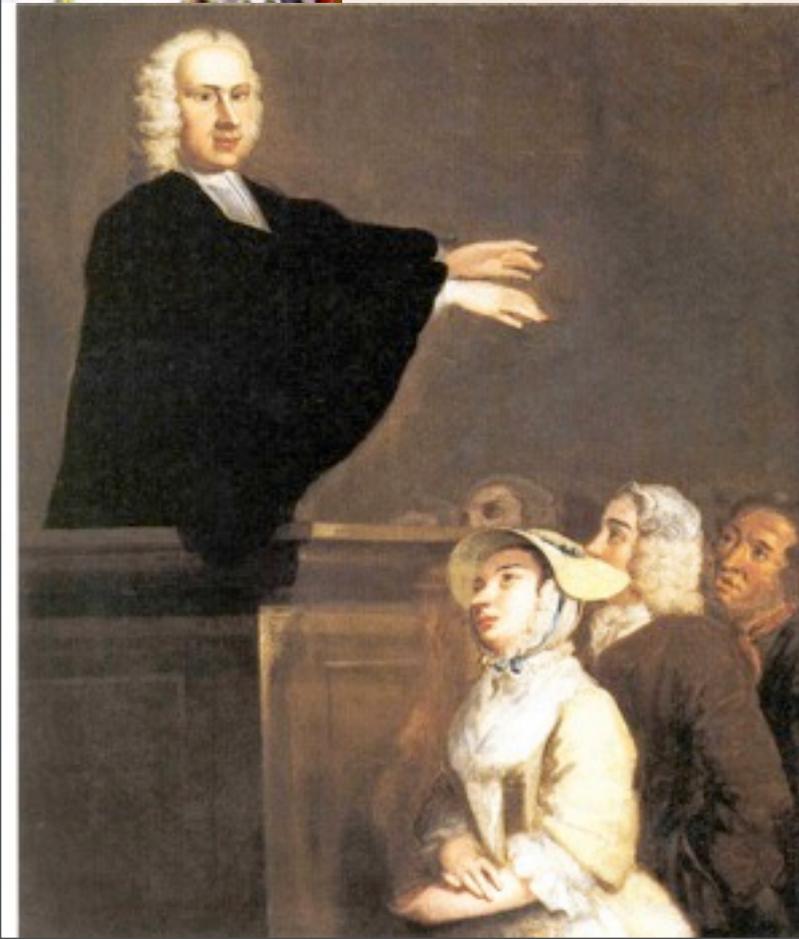
- At the time, there was a sense of spiritual "dryness" among citizens. Religion became a boring and cold pastime for them.
- The Great Awakening was a reaction against this complacency.
- It developed into a new spiritualism - or "revivalism" - where Christians would actually believe from the depths of their hearts during worship, rather than just go through the motions during services.

A black and white portrait of Jonathan Edwards, a Congregationalist minister. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right of the viewer. The background is dark and textured.

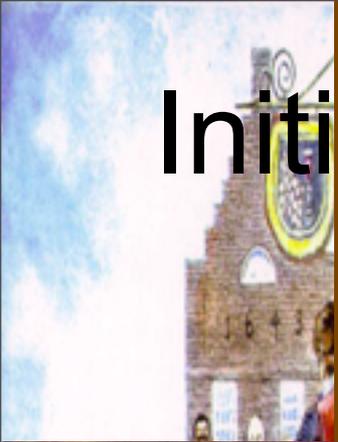
A Congregationalist minister named **Jonathan Edwards** helped bring about the **Great Awakening**.

- Edwards preached the severe, pre-deterministic doctrines of Calvinism and became famous for his graphic depictions of Hell (“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”)

Another preacher, a Methodist named **George Whitefield**, entered the colonies.



- Whitefield was a native of England, where the Enlightenment was in full swing;
- Whitefield preached a Christianity based on emotionalism & spirituality, which today is most clearly manifested in Southern **evangelism**.



# Initially, other clergymen began to imitate Whitefield.

- Soon, however, they began to criticize the emotional style of the revivalists:
- It ran counter to their own approach to doctrine & matters of faith
- Found it troublesome that dozens of females took to the streets, proclaiming their right (even duty) to expound God's word



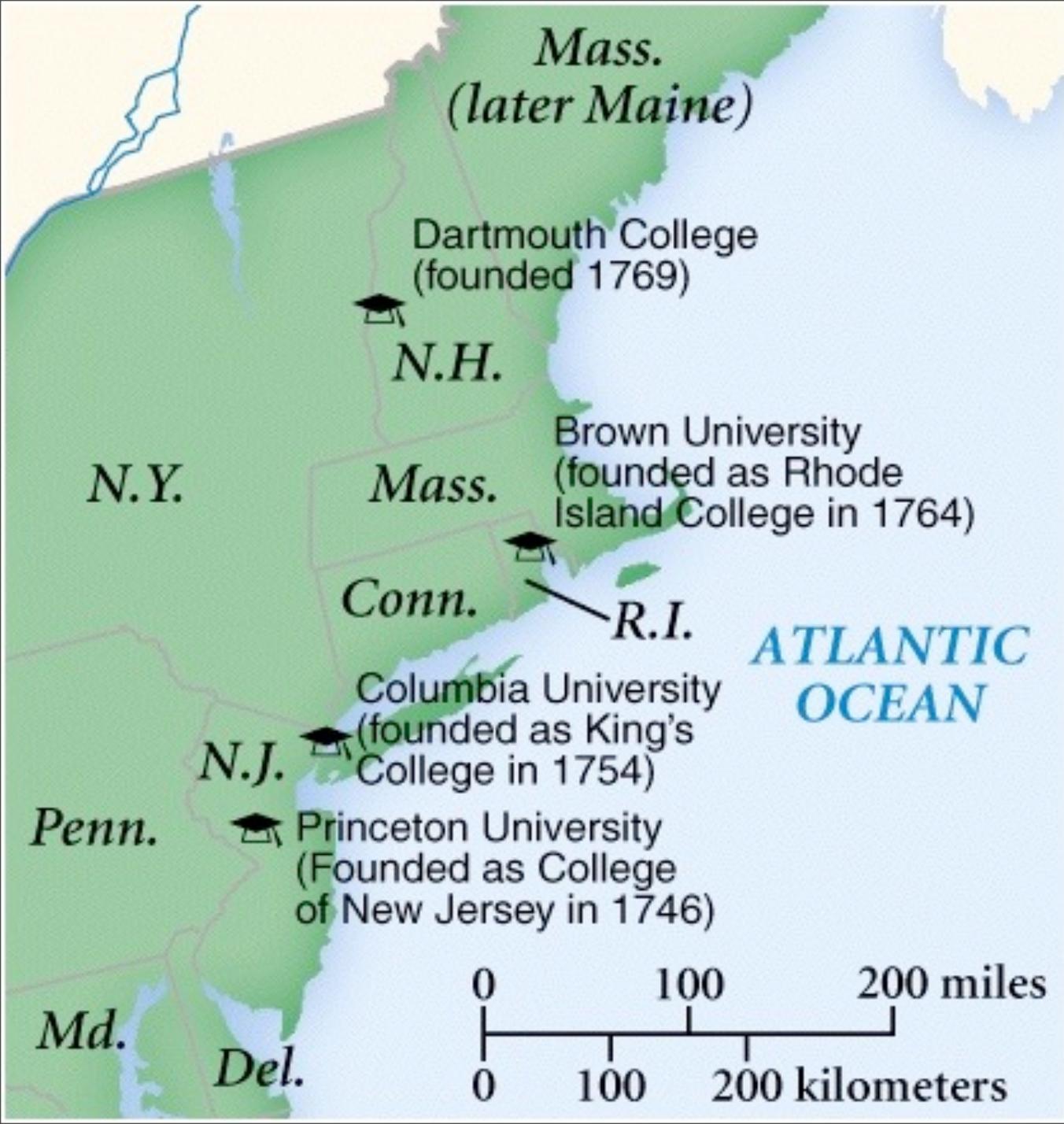
# Impact of the Awakening

- It challenged traditional modes of thought
- Opposition to the Awakening heightened rapidly, causing congregations to splinter.
  - There was a rapid rise in the number of distinct denominations
- Surprisingly, this led to an American willingness to tolerate religious diversity
  - This is because no single sect could make an unequivocal claim to orthodoxy, so they had to coexist if they were to exist at all

# Higher Education

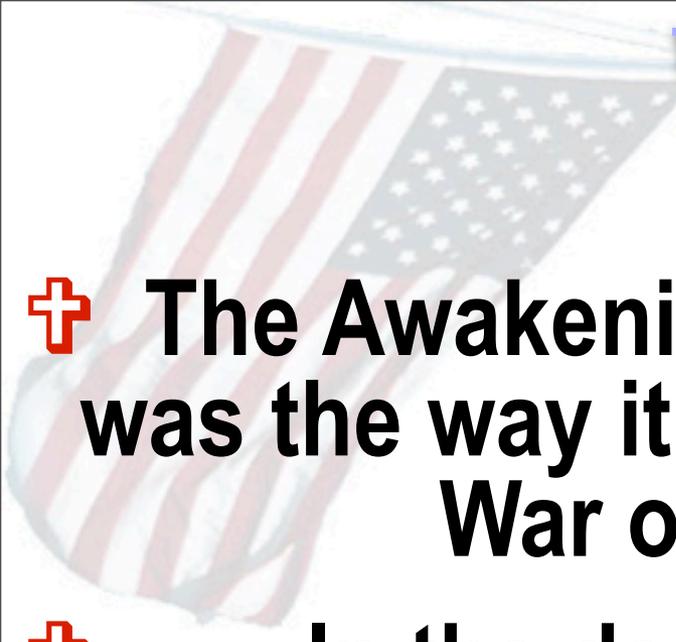
- ❑ Harvard, 1636—First colonial college; trained candidates for ministry (Puritan)
- ❑ College of William and Mary, 1694 (Anglican)
- ❑ Yale, 1701 (Congregational)
- ❑ Great Awakening influences creation of 5 new colleges in mid-1700s
  - College of New Jersey (Princeton), 1746 (Presbyterian)
  - King's College (Columbia), 1754 (Anglican)
  - Rhode Island College (Brown), 1764 (Baptist)
  - Queens College (Rutgers), 1766 (Dutch Reformed)
  - Dartmouth College, 1769, (Congregational)





**New colleges  
founded after  
the Great  
Awakening.**



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- +** The Awakening's biggest significance was the way it prepared America for its War of Independence.
  - +** In the decades before the war, revivalism taught people that they could be bold when confronting religious authority, and that when churches weren't living up to the believers' expectations, the people could break off and form new ones.

- ✚ Through the Awakening, the Colonists realized that religious power resided in their own hands, rather than in the hands of the Church of England, or any other religious authority.
- ✚ After a generation or two passed with this kind of mindset, the Colonists came to realize that *political* power did not reside in the hands of the English monarch, but in their own will for self-governance





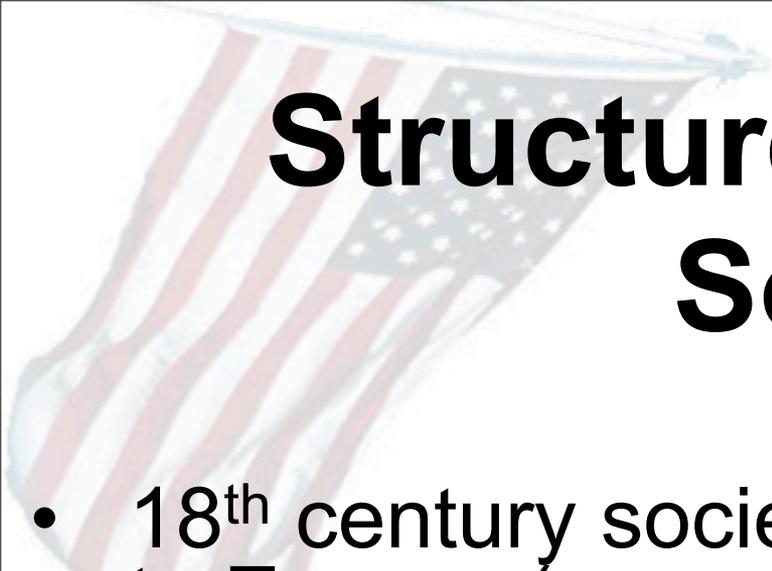
# **Colonial Society on the Eve of Revolution 1700-1775**





America, a  
“melting  
pot”





# Structure of Colonial Society

- 18<sup>th</sup> century society very equal compared to Europe (except for slavery)
- Most Americans were small (“yeoman”) farmers
- Most striking feature: opportunity for **“rags to riches”**



# Structure of Colonial Society

- Yet compared to 17<sup>th</sup> century, some barriers to mobility
- New social pyramid:
  - Top: Wealthy merchants, lawyers, clergy, officials joined large planters, aristocrats at top
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lesser professional men
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>: Yeoman (own land) farmers, though farm sizes decreasing due to
  - 4<sup>th</sup>: Lesser tradesmen, manual workers, hired hands
  - 5<sup>th</sup>: Indentured servants and “jaylor birds,” convicts exiled to America by punitive English justice system
  - 6<sup>th</sup>: Black slaves – some attempts to halt imports for fear of rebellion





# Workaday America

- 90% of population involved in agriculture ~ led to highest living standard in world history
- Fishing pursued in all colonies, major industry in New England ~ Stimulated shipbuilding
- Commerce successful, especially in New England ~ Triangular trade was very profitable



# The Triangular Trade

- New England merchants gain access to slave trade in the early 1700s
  - 1. Rum brought to Africa, exchanges for slaves**
  - 2. Ships cross the Middle Passage, slaves trades in the West Indies.**
    - Disease, torture, malnourishment, death for slaves
  - 3. Sugar brought to New England**
- Other items trades across the Atlantic, with substantial profits from slavery making merchants rich





# Workaday America

- Manufacturing was secondary: Lumbering most important, also rum, beaver hats, iron, spinning/weaving
- England reliant on American products (tar, pitch, rosin, turpentine) to build ships and maintain mastery of seas
- 1730s: growing American population demanded more English products

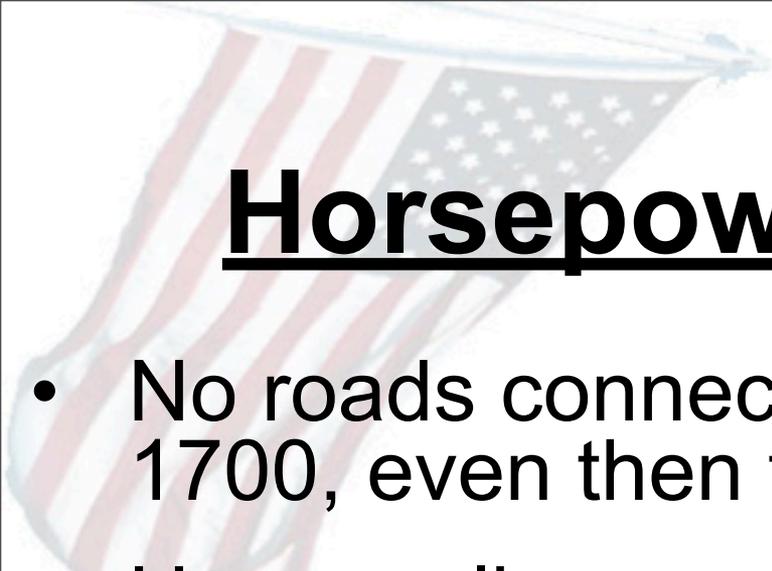




# Workaday America

- However, English population did not need more imports from America: trade imbalance – Americans needed to find non-English markets for their goods
- Sending timber & food to French West Indies met need
- 1733: Parliament passes Molasses Act to end trade with French West Indies
- Americans responded by bribing and smuggling, foreshadow of revolt against government who threatened livelihood





# Horsepower & Sailpower

- No roads connecting major cities until 1700, even then they were terrible
- Heavy reliance on waterways, where population clusters formed
- Taverns along travel routes: mingling of social classes
- Taverns also served as cradles of democracy, clearinghouse of information, hotbeds of agitation





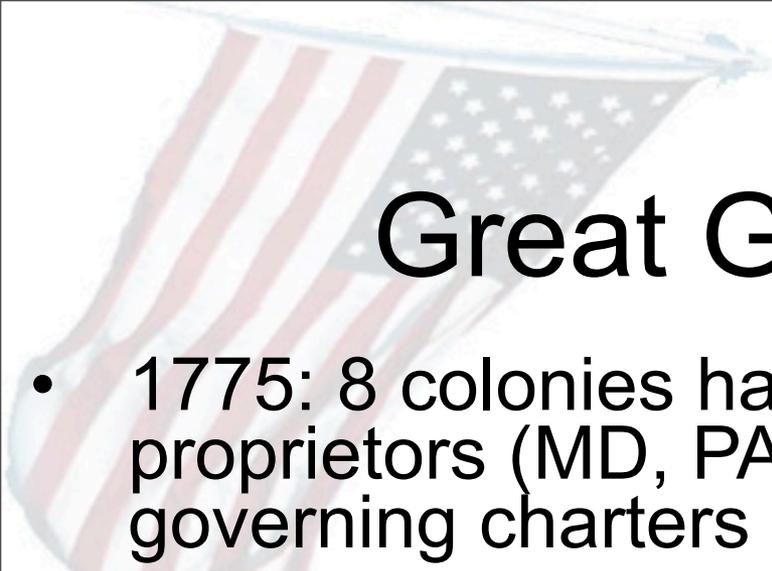
# Dominant Denominations

- Two denominations “established” (tax-supported): Anglican (GA, NC, SC, VA, MD, NY) & Congregational (New England except RI)
- Anglican church served as prop of royal authority
- Anglican church more worldly, secure, less zealous, clergy had poor reputation (College of William & Mary)
- Congregational church grew out of Puritan church, agitated for rebellion



# Religious diversity by 1775

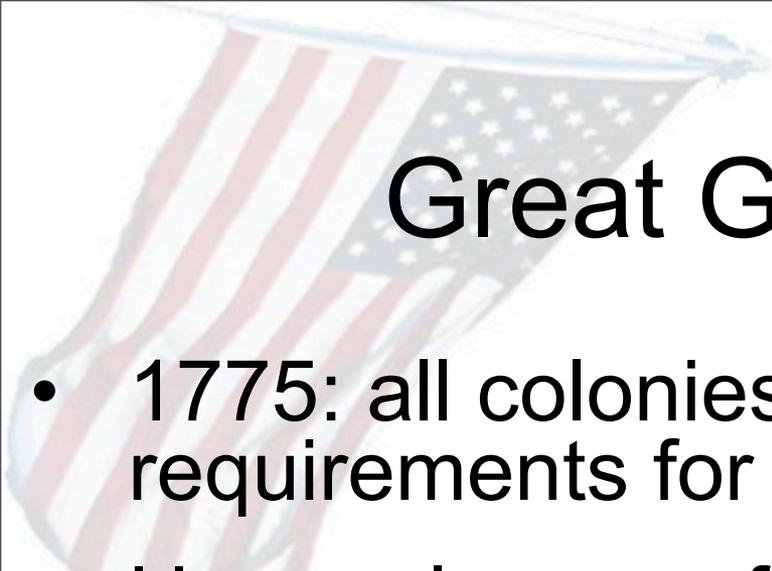




# Great Game of Politics

- 1775: 8 colonies had royal governors, 3 under proprietors (MD, PA, DE), and 2 under self-governing charters (CT, RI)
- Used bicameral legislatures – upper house (council) chosen by king, lower house by elections
- Self-taxation through elected legislatures was highly valued
- Conflicts between Governors & colonial assemblies: withheld governor's salary to get what they wanted, had power of purse

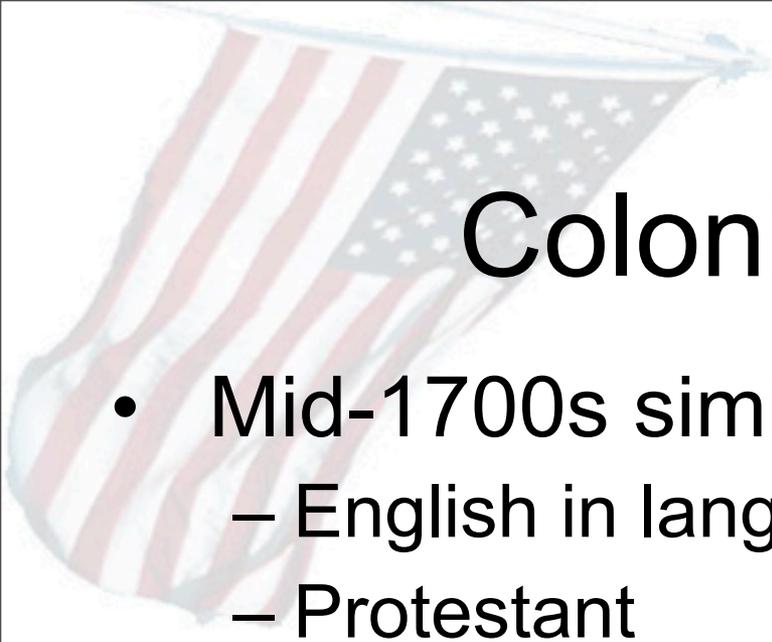




# Great Game of Politics

- 1775: all colonies had property requirements for voting, office holding
- Upper classes afraid to give vote to “every biped of the forest,” 1/2 adult white males had vote
- Not true democracy, but more so than England





# Colonial Folkways

- Mid-1700s similarities of colonies:
  - English in language/customs
  - Protestant
  - Some ethnic/religious tolerance
  - Unusual social mobility
  - Some self-government
  - 3,000-mile moat separated them from England

