Thank You Fromm Staff!

- Derek
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Thank You Fromm Students!

Economic and Social History

- It’s not sufficient to merely discuss our economic history
- The consequences of our economic history are often best revealed in our social history
Rough Course Schedule:
1. The Colonial World: 1607-1790
2. The “Market Revolution,” 1790-1830
3. The Civil War Era: 1830-65
4. “Reconstruction” to “Reform,” 1865 to 1920
5. The Paradoxical 1920s
6. Modern Foundations, 1930-45
7. Postwar Contradictions, 1945-70

Today’s Topics:
The Colonial World: 1607-1790
I. Introduction
II. The Colonial Economy
III. Ironies of Independence
IV. The Revolutionary Economy
V. Constitutional Paradoxes

Peter Kolchin
American Slavery, 1619-1877
Questions?

The Colonial World

European Settlements in the Americas 1650

“Factors of Production”
Land and Labor: Two Essential Components of Modern Economic Development
Indigenous Life

Exploration and Conquest

Columbian Exchange
Distribution of Global Population, 1500:
Europeans 11%
Indigenous Americans: 7%

Distribution of Global Population, 1800:
Europeans 20%
Indigenous Americans: 1%

Triangular Trade & the Slave Trade

Slavery in Virginia, 1619-
Slavery became essential to economic development, even in the colonial era.
Slavery became essential to the construction of the capitalist world in which we all live.
Atlantic Slave Trade, 1731-1775

Urban Slavery & Northern Slavery
SLAVE MARKET, FOOT O' WALL STREET.

The enslaved were sold into every colony

Enslaved people lived in all of the colonies
**Table 4.1 Slave Population and Percentage of Total Population of Original Thirteen Colonies, 1770**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colony</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>1,616</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>1,271</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.1 Origins and Status of Migrants to British North American Colonies, 1700–1775**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
<th>Indentured Servants</th>
<th>Convicts</th>
<th>Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>228,000</td>
<td>228,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>198,000</td>
<td>198,000</td>
<td>92,200</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England/Wales</td>
<td>73,000</td>
<td>73,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>15,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>315,000</td>
<td>315,000</td>
<td>105,500</td>
<td>52,200</td>
<td>132,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Colonial-Era Slave Commodities: Tobacco, Rice, Sugar, Indigo...**

**Only 26% “free”**

- Africa
- Ireland
- Germany
- England/Wales
- Scotland
- Other
- Total: 315,000
But also urban: shipbuilding, hauling, loading, services, etc.

Figure 11: The changing nature of wealth: US 1770-2010 (incl. slaves)

Figure 12: National wealth in 1770-1810: Old vs. New world

Mercantilism & Triangular Trade
Mercantilism and the outbreak of war
Colonists acknowledged much of their prosperity derived from enslaved labor.

**Paradoxes of Liberty & Independence**

**Mercantilism:**
- **Townsend Acts, 1767**
- **Tea Act, 1773**
- **Intolerable Acts, 1774**
The Revolutionary struggle was economically sustained by slavery

Agrarian slavery predominated

Planting, tilling, tending, harvesting - freeing up white men for other endeavors (including fighting the British!)

We should not overlook urban slavery
During the colonial period, slavery had been legal in all of the colonies. Challenges to its moral legitimacy were rare.

The same powerful intellectual forces that inspired the Revolution also questioned holding enslaved people.

To many, the Revolution seemed to affirm the notion that “all men are created equal,” that all possess “unalienable rights”.
Contradictions of the Age of Enlightenment: Acknowledged by contemporaries, both religious and secular.

The Revolution popularized Enlightenment ideas. It fused these ideas with elements of Christianity.

Edwards
Writings from the Great Awakening
Jonathan Edwards: Christianity & Slavery

Rev. Samuel Davies of Princeton: Conversions of Enslaved People
The Enlightenment Provoked a Sustained Debate over Slavery

Patrick Henry characterized slavery as “as repugnant to humanity as it is inconsistent with the Bible & destructive to liberty”

Some Enlightenment figures condemned slavery as incompatible with human progress

Revolutionaries claimed British sought to have them “Enslaved”
Paradox of owners of enslaved people calling for “Liberty”

Invoking the “Rights of Men” while holding enslaved people in bondage

Samuel Johnson on the American Revolutionaries: “How is it that we hear the loudest yelps for liberty among the drivers of enslaved people?”

Some saw slavery as incompatible with modern ethics & moral principles
American Enlightenment figures struggled to reconcile “natural rights” with their support for slavery.
Thomas Paine: The “Forgotten Founder.” His views on slavery were outside the acceptable consensus

“African Slavery in America” March 8, 1775

How Revolutionary Should the Revolution Be?

What would be the implications for Enslaved people?
Rhetoric of the Revolution should have provoked a debate over slavery.

To Paine, slavery was incompatible with citizenship in a republic.

To Paine, slavery was a violation of the Natural Rights philosophy justifying independence.
A consensus emerged, at least among political elites, to fight the British. However, there was no consensus on how to pay for the war (or whether to pay for it at all).
“Financier of the American Revolution”

Mercury, Roman god of commerce, giving a bag of gold to Robert Morris

The Apotheosis of Washington
Bank of North America: The Congress merely wanted to print lots and lots of paper currency to pay for the war.

No financial stability without the power to levy taxes & tariffs.
Exasperated, Morris turned to foreign loans

French & Dutch financing (would the Americans honor the loans?)

Questions?