



Territorial Expansion of English Colonies and USA

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Territorial Expansion of English colonies and U.S.A., Major Acquisitions For Econ 123

1500-99 Class warfare in England, Spain, Germany, France: Haves vs. Have-nots, with Have-a-littles and Hope-to-haves in between. In this Century, the 16th, the Haves win big. Enclosure movement (privatization of commons, sheep replacing humans) in England especially. Charles V slaughters religious dissidents (Anabaptists) in Germany. Confiscation of church lands in England destroys welfare system. Victory of England over Spanish Armada dumps soldiers and sailors on job market. "Hard times" and Malthusian thinking (200 years before Malthus) build up high pressures for emigration.

1519 Cortez conquers Mexico, begins flow of gold and silver to Spain, thence to all of Europe which exports to Spain. "Mercantilism" makes a virtue of importing gold.

1609 Dutch East India Co. sends Henry Hudson (an Englishman) to find a passage to India. He finds the Hudson River and fur trade, leaves trading post on Manhattan Island

1620-40 "Great Migration" of Puritans to New England

1637 Pequod massacre opens s.e. New England to English settlers, but "hard times" block them. Also, 1640, Great Migration ebbs; revolution in England lets Puritans return home, and non-Puritans not admitted to New England. For Puritans, however, conditions were magnetic: tenured lands were equally shared and taxed, and much land was common.

1649 Puritans under Cromwell take over England, persecute royalists, who seek refuge in Virginia, just as persecuted Puritans has earlier (and later) sought refuge in New England. Virginia discovers tobacco, thrives and grows by exporting it. Although ruled by Cavaliers, it adopts magnetic policies to attract labor.

1640 and ff. Lower valley of Ct Valley, with more fertile soils, attracts settlers from Mass. Bay area, defying Dutch who claimed but did not settle the land

1664 England under Duke of York (future James II) takes New Amsterdam, changes little except its name. English governors are aristocrats, like the Dutch patroons who remain powerful – class warfare and "the international comity of property" trump international warfare, a frequent tendency in history. Royalist aristocrats get along better with Dutch aristocrats than with English puritans of middle and lower classes who had settled both shores of Long Island Sound and resisted royalists.

1676 "King Philip"'s War (his real name was Metacom) levels old settlements in northern New England, but final victory opens land for new expansion. Puritan birthrate was extremely high; English population swells.

1676 "Bacon's Rebellion" dramatizes shift in power from "tidewater" (eastern) Virginia to western (piedmont) Virginia

1679 New Hampshire separates from Mass Bay Colony. The "New Hampshire Land Grants" of a Gov. Benning¹ Wentworth conflict with grants from New York in western NH (now Vermont), result in skirmishes between the "Green Mountain Boys" under Ethan Allen and the New York troops, which Vermonters win. Vermont, although not fertile, is thickly settled.

1680 King Charles II grants vast lands in Delaware and Susquehanna Valleys and westwards to Wm Penn, who opens them to religious dissidents of all kinds, especially Quakers, with extraordinary rights of self-governance. Penn arranges tolerance, both ethnic and religious. Pennsylvania grows faster than either New England (choked by intolerance) or New York (choked by land monopoly of Dutch "patroons"). German and Scotch-Irish settlers pour into Pennsylvania. By 1775 they were 2/3 of its population. Susquehanna River, from northern tip of Chesapeake Bay, and its tributaries, led into central PA.

Scotch-Irish, like Puritans up north, occupied and worked lands claimed by absentees, believing it was God's Will. This was class war from the bottom up.

1685 Louis XIV of France revokes Edict of Nantes (tolerance for religious dissidents, called Huguenots). Forces them to leave France, but keeps them from French colonies, so they moved to England or to English colonies

1688 "Glorious Revolution" in England, William and Mary replace James II, last of the Stuart dynasty. They force Puritans of New England to let non-Puritans immigrate; Puritans react by privatizing commons.

1713 Treaty of Utrecht ends long "War of Spanish Succession" (Marlboro's wars).

1714-20 Mississippi and "South Sea" Bubbles in New World swell. We experience land speculation on a grand scale, with London and Paris being the Wall Streets of that era. Peace Dividend follows. Settlements expand, but speculation expands faster, chokes the expansion.

European settlements in New World had been mostly commercial ventures from the start. Combined land-hunger of the Haves (land speculators) and the Have-nots (workers and indentured servants) and the Have-a-littles (small farmers and merchants and craftsmen and professionals). Cheap land was the magnet, along with access thereto.

1720 Both bubbles pop; England (age of Walpole) and Europe both retrench until France revives under Cardinal Fleury

1763 Treaty of Paris #1 ends 7-Years war, aka in America as the French and Indian War. English take control of Quebec and northern Mississippi Valley and St. Lawrence Valley and Great Lakes. French had claimed too much without enough people to settle and defend it. They had overgoverned their settlers from Paris, and kept out their religious dissidents (Huguenots) who instead moved to England, or to English colonies.

1763 British immediately ally with French and Indians to block westward expansion of English colonies, drawing the Proclamation Line as western boundary and granting special governmental powers to French settlers in Quebec, and supporting Indian resistance, e.g. paying for scalps. This is class warfare superseding international warfare.

¹ Bennington, VT, is named for him.

- 1763-66, Pontiac's Conspiracy slows westward settlement but is suppressed
- 1769- Settlers follow Daniel Boone through Cumberland Gap into rich grasslands of central Kentucky. Defies English "Proclamation Line". Boone says he is "Ordained of God" to do this. "Great Awakening" under primitive frontier preachers stirs and unites settlers from different sections. Cf. attitude of Scotch-Irish settlers in Susquehanna Valley, and Green Mountain Boys in Vermont. Later this came to be called "Populism".
- 1774 Quebec Act concedes autonomy to French settlers, to block westward expansion of English colonists (The Proclamation Line idea again). This was one of the "Intolerable Acts" of Charles Townshend and Lord North that triggered the American Revolution.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris #2 seals British withdrawal from seaboard colonies (but not Quebec or points west). Confederated colonies (not yet the U.S.) get the Midwest west to the line of the Mississippi River (e.g. Illinois but not Iowa). Doubles our area.
- 1787 The Northwest Ordinance lays plan for orderly surveying, settlement and land division of Ohio and points west, and later of entire Federal domain
- 1789 Confederation becomes the U.S.A., adopts Constitution, with free trade among States, and free migration.
- 1792 Kentucky becomes the first new State of the U.S.A. Vermont and Tennessee soon follow. New States admitted as equals, forestalling the kind of discrimination that had kicked off American Revolution in 1776
- 1789-1802, Eastern States gradually cede their individual land claims to new U.S. Government, create public domain
- 1789-1815 French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars preoccupy Europe, leave the U.S. in relative peace to expand and thrive, much as Dutch did during the 30-Years' Wars in Europe
- 1795 General Anthony Wayne subdues Indian uprising at Battle of Fallen Timbers; establishes Ft Dearborn at Chicago
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase again doubles area of the U.S., from Mississippi River to Rocky Mts.
- 1815 Expulsion of British; Treaty of Ghent ends War of 1812
- 1821 U.S. annexes Florida from Spain, more or less peacefully
- 1823 Monroe Doctrine opens U.S. imperialism to the south
- 1830 Indian Removal Act, begins forced relocation of Cherokee and related Indians from southern Piedmont lands to "Indian Territory", now called Oklahoma
- 1846 U.S. annexes Texas and Southwest, Treaty of Guadeloupe-Hidalgo

- U.S. also annexes Oregon and Northwest by treaty with Britain
- 1853 Gadsden Purchase opens route for the S.P.R.R. to California
- 1862 Homestead Act and allied Acts, along with vast r.r. land grant subsidies, and free immigration, foster fast settlement of the west – without slaves or indentured servants.
- 1863 Seward buys Alaska for the U.S.
- 1889 Oklahoma Land Rush, first of several. Land supposedly reserved for Cherokees forced to leave the Carolinas is taken from them again. Contains oil.
- 1890 Supposed "Closing of the Frontier", but Americans kept finding new ones, e.g. irrigation in California
- 1898 U.S. annexes Hawaii
- 1898 Victory over Spain, U.S. takes Puerto Rico, Philippines, Virgin Islands, et al. U.S. capitalists virtually take over Cuba and various central American nations
- 1902 U.S. takes Panama Canal Zone, begins building canal. U.S. under T.R. enters world naval race, becomes a world power. U.S. Marine Corps invades many small nations from time to time, dominates Caribbean, installs U.S. puppets as rulers
- 1940 U.S. warns Japan to stay away from southeast Asia; 1941, Japan attacks U.S. Naval Base in Pearl Harbor. FDR had moved base from L.A. to Pearl Harbor to project U.S. power into east Asia.
- 1945 U.S. emerges from W.W. II as dominant world power. Leaves military governments in Italy, Germany, Japan, and elsewhere. Becomes U.N. Trustee for various key islands around the world, especially in the s.w. Pacific
- 1945-date 800 or so military bases around the world, protecting key resource properties owned or claimed by U.S. –based corporations
- 1945 Truman Proclamation takes possession of seabed from 3 miles to 200 miles off coasts, nearly doubling area of U.S.A. This area is called the Outer Continental Shelf (OCR). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) administers it, and leases it in vast tracts to huge transnational private corporations that contribute to political campaigns
- 1959 Castro overthrows Batista, a U.S. puppet, in Cuba; 1961, U.S. seeks to invade Cuba, is repulsed and humiliated at Bay of Pigs
- 1978 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, mainly) becomes a Territory of the U.S.A. It had been a U.N. Trust. 1990s, scandals involving Jack Abramoff and Tom DeLay emerge there, indentured servitude amounting to virtual slavery. Willie Tan textile mills take the lead.
- 1999 Hugo Chavez elected President of Venezuela. Raises royalty rates on oil taken by U.S.-based corporations.