

Chapter 4: Growth, Diversity, and Crisis: Colonial Society, 1720-1765

Learning Objectives

- 1. How did economic development and population growth amid a declining availability of land in colonial America cause both social and cultural change?
- 2. How did the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening affect social and political development in the American colonies? Given the evidence from eighteenth-century America, what type of influence can major cultural movements have on social and political development?
- 3. How did increased immigration and cultural diversity create social and cultural tensions in colonial America?
- 4. In what ways were the availability or control of land and the prospects for economic opportunity involved, directly or indirectly, in the political tensions between the major European powers, as played out in North America during the eighteenth century?

Freehold Society in New England

In New England, population increase gradually outstripped the availability of land. New Englanders responded in a variety of traditional and creative ways.

Farm Families: Women's Place

- Society remained patriarchal. Women remained subordinate, had few rights in custom or law.
- Deferred to men, received less inheritance, had fewer opportunities, and had no role in public life. Traditional role as mother and helpmate to their man remained intact.
- Declining size of family farms, compelled families to respond by reducing family size & increasing household production.

Farm Property: Inheritance

- Land remained available but over time it became more difficult to acquire land, especially for indentured servants, still much better in America than in Europe.
- Land became the universal currency of social and family obligations.

Freehold Society in New England, contd.

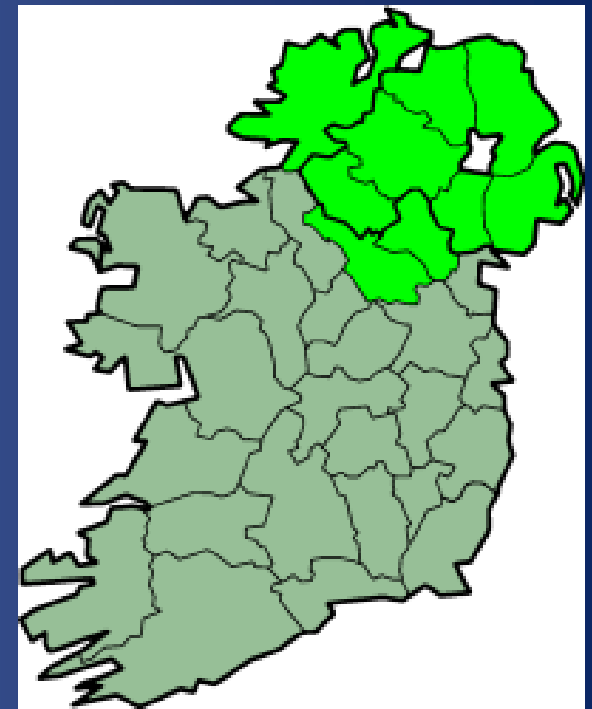
- Initially, parents had enough land to give each of their children a sufficient plot, maintaining some control over their lives.
- As the amount of land parents were able to give their children declined, so did their control over their children's lives.
- Marriage, which had been a legal contractual obligation involving the exchange of lands—the dower right—increasingly became a relationship based on love.
- As the land became more crowded and family plots grew smaller, parents responded by leaving their lands only to the oldest child

The Crisis of Freehold Society

- 1740s: population pressure divided lands so much that families were unable to provide for their children. Consequently, they lost control over their children.
- Left without land, many children rejected arranged marriages and migrated west to begin again. **Reserve Country of OH**

The Mid-Atlantic: Toward a New Society, 1720–1765

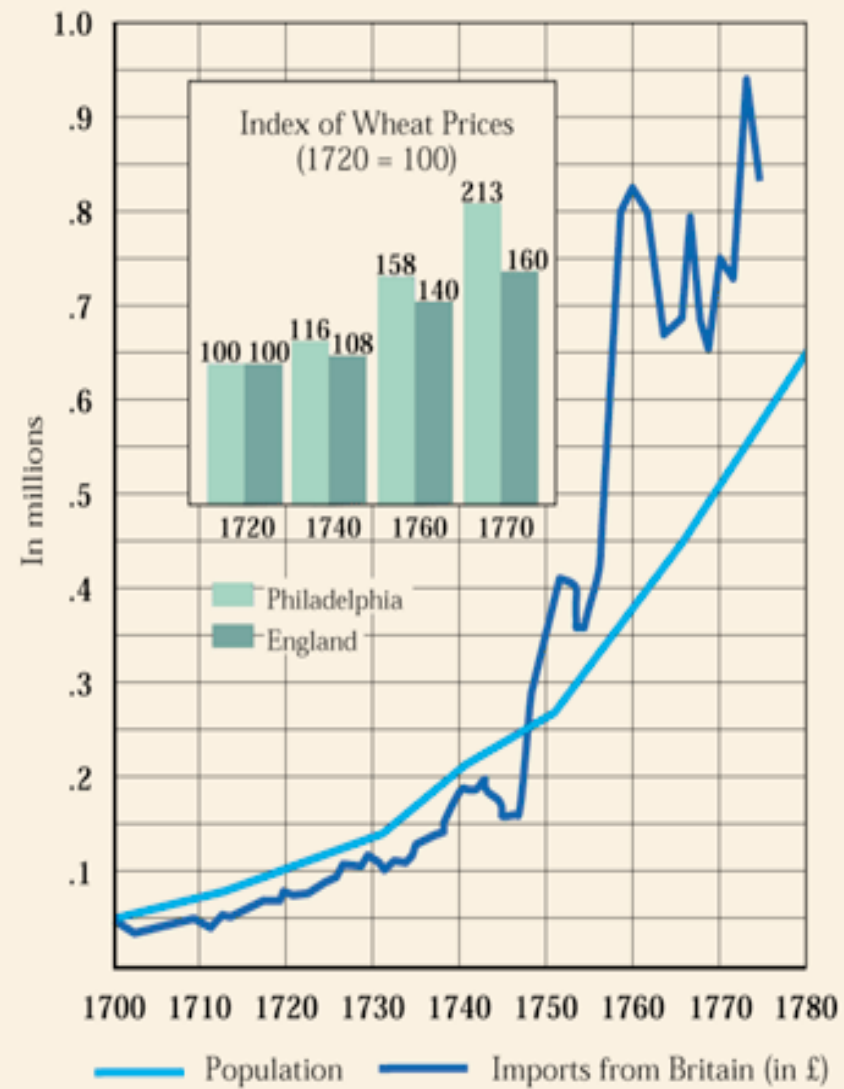
- What was the 'outwork' manufacturing system? How did it affect the economies of the Mid-Atlantic states?
- How did the Quaker presence affect life in Pennsylvania?
- What ethnic groups were attracted to Pennsylvania? Why?
- What church did most Scots-Irish belong to?
- What caused tensions between the Scots-Irish, Germans, and Quakers in Pennsylvania after the 1750s?



The middle colonies lacked the cultural uniformity of New England. The Mid-Atlantic established a social & political order incorporating freedom and diversity and created a model for the future.

Opportunity and Equality

- Middle Atlantic colonies, prosperity and immigration failed to assure social equality.
- Traditional estates in New York left little freehold land available to settlers, forcing into tenancy.
- The wheat trade & rising land prices differentiated wealth & land ownership even further in the next generation, enabling a class of agricultural capitalists to rise above yeomen farmers & a growing landless class.

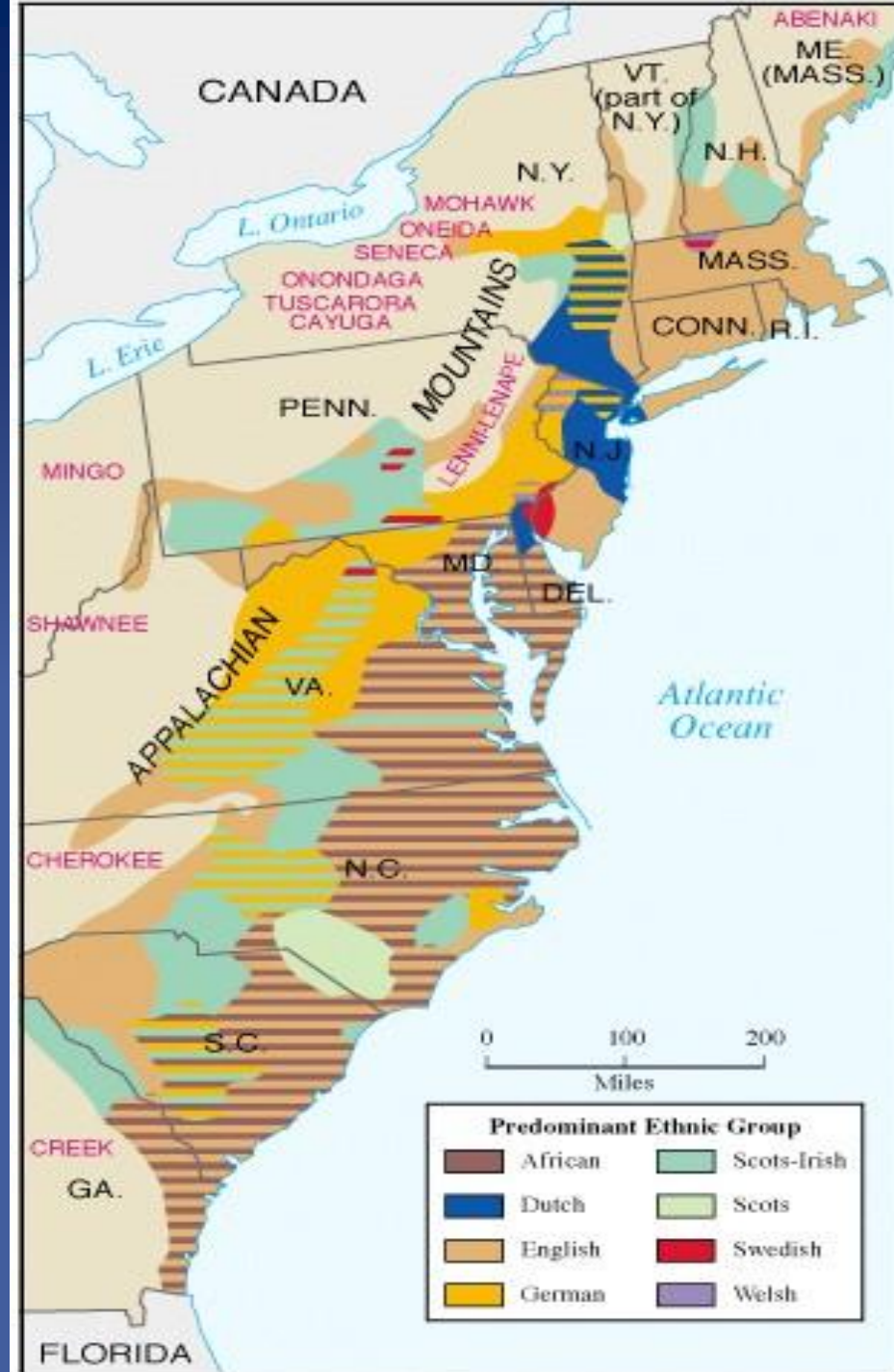


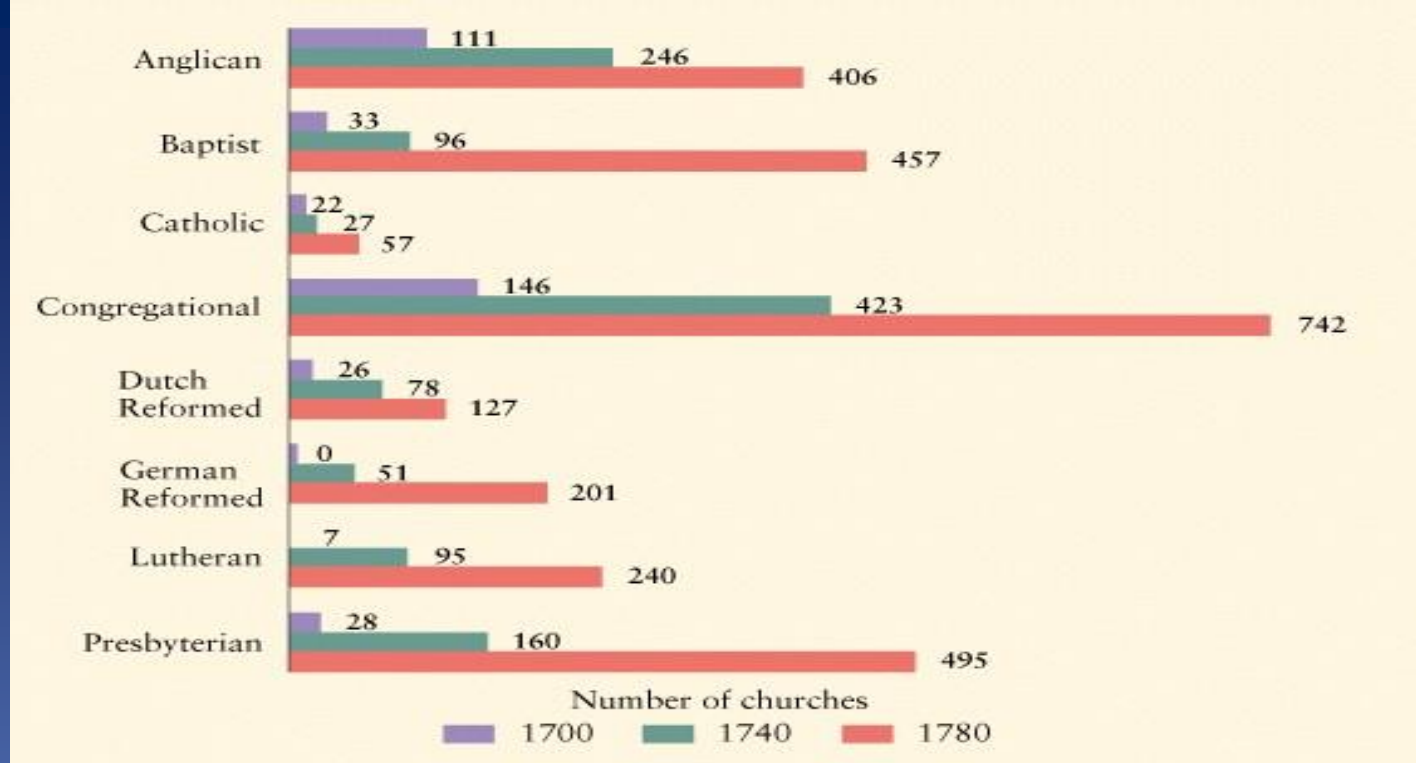
Middle Colonies: New York, New Jersey, & Pennsylvania

- This landless class was a labor supply that merchants & manufacturers would later tap to create the putting-out system.

Cultural Diversity

- Tensions were intensified by a patchwork of social & religious diversity across the middle colonies, heterogeneity Germans, Scots, Scots-Irish, Quakers each had their own moral ethics, values, & customs.
- Rather than creating a new melting-pot society, each group maintained its own ethno-cultural identities & contributed to a pluralistic society while living in a British-defined political system.

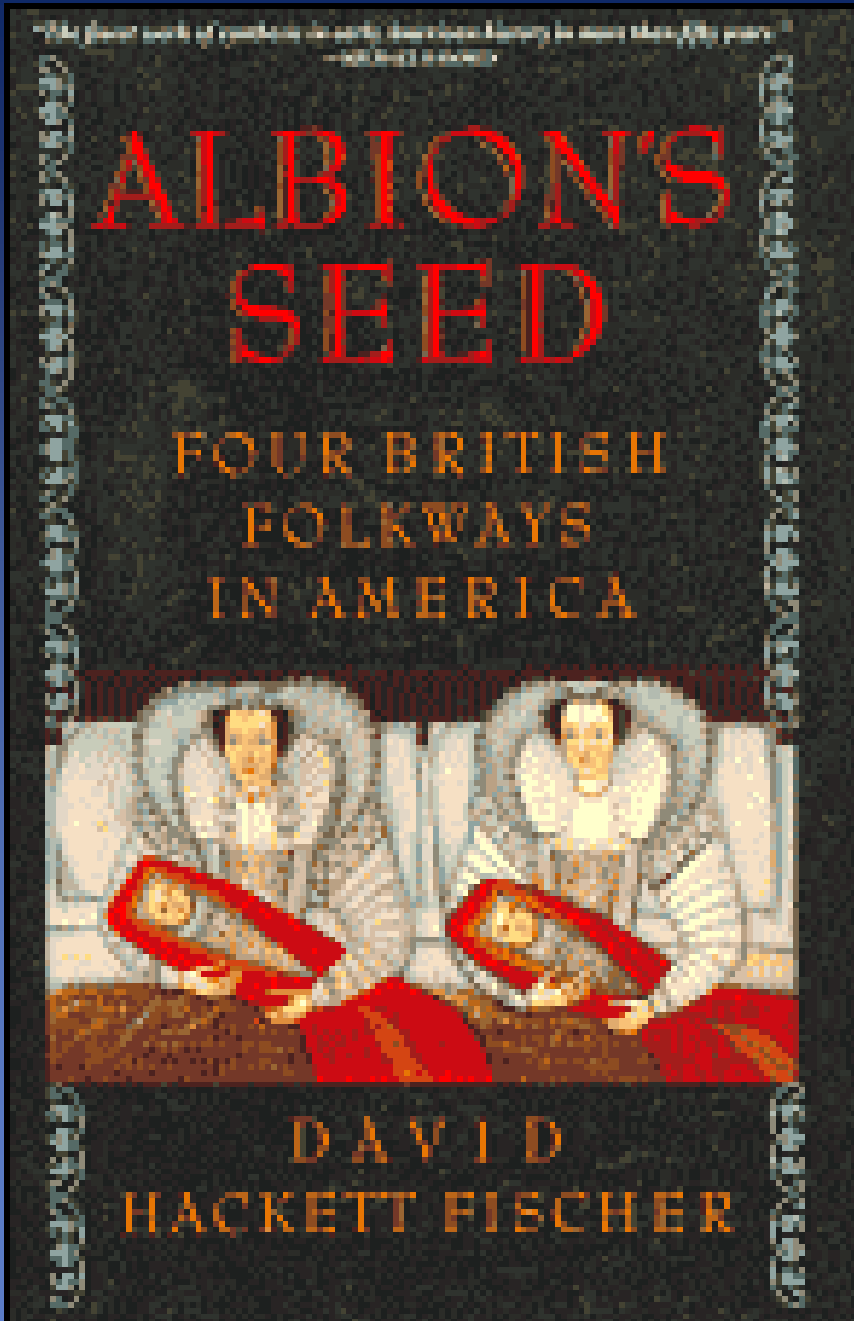




Religious Identity & Political Conflict

- Eventually the separation between church discipline & political power compelled some sects to exert social control.
- When the Quakers translated their self-disciplining strategies into politics, other groups began to oppose them, increasing political & social friction between Scots & Scots-Irish vs. Quakers.
- Nevertheless the Middle Atlantic colonies were able to develop an open political order that generally navigated various social & political tensions inherent in a pluralistic society.

Extra Credit Option!



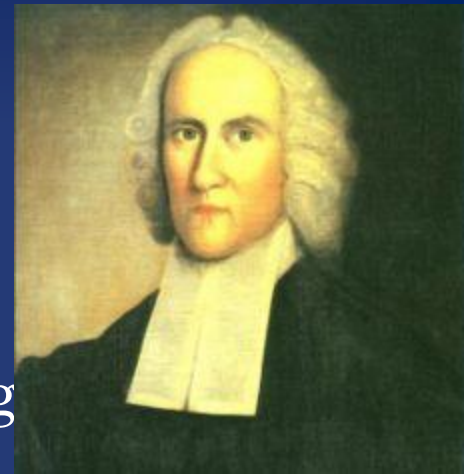
- Many of the themes covered in this chapter are from David Hackett Fischer's influential book *Albion's Seed Four British Folkways in America*. For extra credit read pages 605-782 in Fischer's book and write a 4-6 page analysis of the key themes. Lowest test grade will be dropped. Due one week before end of trimester.

The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening, 1740–1765



**George
Whitefield**

- What factors caused the Great Awakening? Why was it so pervasive?
- Who were some of the persuasive preachers of the Great Awakening? What made them so effective?
- What were the differences in the ‘Old Light’ & ‘New Light’ churches?
- How was the Great Awakening important to slaves in the South? How did it affect poor whites?



**Jonathan
Edwards**

“There is nothing that keeps wicked men, at any one moment, out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God.” “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” by Jonathan Edwards-1741

The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening, 1740–1765

The Enlightenment in America

- Urban merchants, middling people, & some farmers & planters embraced the rationalist ideas of the Enlightenment: scientific method could analyze, understand, & change the natural & human world. Established newspapers, founded institutions of learning, hospitals, & orphanages, & enhanced urban services in order to spread scientific & humanistic knowledge, & improve the quality of civic society.
- Created a secular environment that welcomed rational critiques of society & politics & sought ways to reform both.

Pietism in America

- Rural society was more receptive to the Great Awakening, a religious revival that swept the colonies after 1730.
- Traveling ministers encouraged individuals to become receptive to God's grace by humbling themselves before him, accepting his power, and emotionally committing themselves to lives of faith, piety, prayer, & good works in order to achieve salvation.

The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening, 1740–1765

- They preached deeply emotional sermons & led enthusiastic prayer meetings that prompted individual and group conversion experiences.

The Awakening in the North

- With emotional sermons on the equality of souls, & the power of the individual to effect his or her spiritual fate, "New Light" Presbyterians, Baptists, and Congregationalists, threatened the "Old Light" or Anglican religious establishments across the North. New Light "separatist" churches broke off from Old Light churches.

The Awakening in the South

- New Light Presbyterians & Baptists challenged the authority of the Anglican Church & the hierarchical social order it supported.
- Artisans & farmers were empowered by Presbyterianism, while the Baptist Church appealed to poor whites and black slaves, who transformed a religious revival into a challenge to the slave system itself. Both threatened the cultural and political power of the elite & gave African Americans a new Protestant spiritual identity.

Colonial Colleges: A result of both the Enlightenment & Great Awakening

TABLE 4.2

Colonial Colleges

	<i>Date of Founding</i>	<i>Colony</i>	<i>Religious Affiliation</i>
Harvard	1636	Massachusetts	Puritan
William and Mary	1693	Virginia	Church of England
Yale	1701	Connecticut	Puritan
College of New Jersey (Princeton)	1746	New Jersey	Presbyterian
King's (Columbia)	1754	New York	Church of England
College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania)	1755	Pennsylvania	None
College of Rhode Island (Brown)	1764	Rhode Island	Baptist
Queen's (Rutgers)	1766	New Jersey	Dutch Reformed
Dartmouth	1769	New Hampshire	Congregationalist

The Midcentury Challenge: War, Trade, and Social Conflict, 1750–1765

- The westward push of American settlers increased colonial conflicts between westerners & led to new disputes with the Indians and the French over rights to western lands.
- The British decision to wage war to defend the empire ended up redefining it. the British changed colonial policy & transformed the relationship with the American colonies.

The Seven Years War or the French & Indian War

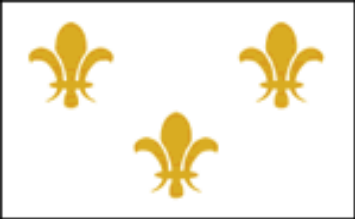
- The rapid population increase of the American colonies shifted the balance of power among the British, French, and Spanish It also changed the colonies' relationship with the Indians.
- When the British sought to draw the Iroquois into an alliance, a group of American investors organized the Ohio Company to establish land claims along the Ohio River
- The French responded by reinforcing their claims militarily.
- 1754: William Pitt responded to French seizure of an expedition led by George Washington with a full-scale war against the French.

- 1: Officer, New York Provincial Regiment, 1756
- 2: Officer, 2nd Connecticut Provincial Regiment, c.1750
- 3: Private, Massachusetts Provincial Regiment, 1757-60

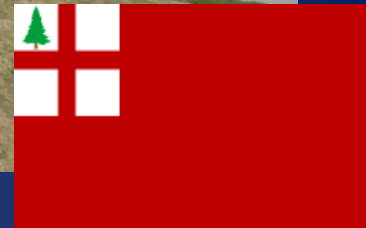


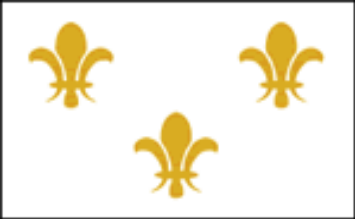
The Midcentury Challenge: War, Trade, and Social Conflict, 1750–1765

- How was Great Britain, with a depleted treasury, able to defeat the French in 1756-1763 after having failed to achieve success against them in previous colonial wars?
- What were some of the causes of the increasing number of land disputes in the western areas of the colonies from 1756-1763?



Fort Niagara





Fort Niagara



Fort Niagara



Fort Niagara

LA SALLE

1643 — 1687

CLERIC · SOLDIER · EXPLORER

HERE AT THE MOUTH OF THE NIAGARA
RENÉ - ROBERT CAVELIER,
SIEUR DE LA SALLE

RAISED THE FIRST RUDE PALISADES
OF A FORT AND FROM THIS BASE BEGAN
HIS FAR VOYAGING IN EXPLORATION
OF MID-AMERICA ***

THE OHIO, THE GREAT LAKES AND THE
MISSISSIPPI TO THE GULF OF MEXICO

AUTHOR OF GREAT BEGINNINGS
DREAMER OF DREAMS

THROUGH HIS COURAGE,
SUFFERING AND ENDURANCE
CAME CHRISTIANITY AND CIVILIZATION

• ERECTED BY •
THE STATE OF NEW YORK
1954

Fort Niagara

