

AP-United States History Unit 2

****Key Vocabulary & Concepts:****

- ****Mercantilism:**** Think of it as an economic system where a mother country (like Great Britain) controls its colonies to maximize its own wealth. Colonies provide raw materials, and the mother country manufactures and sells finished goods back to the colonies, creating a favorable balance of trade. <example>Great Britain's mercantilist policies towards the American colonies restricted colonial manufacturing and trade to benefit the British economy.</example>
- ****Salutary Neglect:**** Salutary neglect was a British policy of loosely enforcing laws in the American colonies, allowing them to govern themselves. This is like a parent giving their child some freedom, even if it's not strictly "by the rules." Great Britain largely ignored the American colonies for a period, allowing them to develop their own systems of government and trade, which inadvertently fostered a sense of independence.
- ****Enlightenment:**** This was a major intellectual and philosophical movement emphasizing reason, individualism, and skepticism. Think of it as a giant intellectual awakening that challenged traditional authority and shaped revolutionary thought. Key figures include John Locke (natural rights), Montesquieu (separation of powers), and Rousseau (social contract).
- ****Great Awakening:**** This was a religious revival that swept through the American colonies. It emphasized emotional religious experience and personal conversion, leading to the rise of new denominations and a questioning of established religious authority.
- ****Republicanism:**** This is a political ideology centered on civic virtue, public service, and the common good. It emphasizes citizen participation in government and a rejection of monarchy or aristocracy. <example>The American Revolution was fueled by republican ideals, with colonists seeking to establish a government based on the consent of the governed.</example>

- **Transcendentalism:** A philosophical movement emphasizing intuition, individualism, and the inherent goodness of humanity. Think of it as a reaction against the rigid structure of society, emphasizing the importance of individual experience and connection with nature. Key figures include Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

- **Federalism:** This is a system of government where power is divided between a national government and state governments. Think of it as a balance of power, preventing either level from becoming too dominant. The US Constitution establishes a federal system.

- **Separation of Powers:** This is the division of governmental power among different branches (legislative, executive, judicial) to prevent tyranny. Think of it as a system of checks and balances, ensuring that no single branch becomes too powerful.

Key Events:

- **French and Indian War (Seven Years' War):** This war between Great Britain and France had a profound impact on the American colonies, leading to increased British control and taxation, which ultimately contributed to the American Revolution.

- **American Revolution:** This war for independence from Great Britain resulted in the creation of the United States of America.

Key Religious Movements:

- **Puritanism:** A strict form of Protestantism that emphasized religious discipline and community.
- **Anglicanism:** The Church of England, the established church in the colonies.
- **Great Awakening:** As mentioned above, this religious revival led to the rise of new denominations and a more emotional approach to faith.