

# Competing for the Colonies 2

What factors in Europe influenced the colonization of the New World?

# How are colonies paid for?

## Sir Walter Raleigh, for example.

- 1585: Roanoke, “The Lost Colony.”
- Raleigh was a very wealthy man (owned 52,000 acres in Ireland, alone).
- But he paid for his colonization efforts largely out of his own pocket.
- After seeing Raleigh’s attempts to colonize fail, few people were willing to risk their own fortunes.

## Joint-stock companies FTW.

- A way to spread the risk among several investors instead of just one.
- People buy stock or shares to become part owners of the company.
- Each investor shares in the costs to run the company. Also shares in its profits and losses.

# Jamestown: The First Permanent Settlement

## Foundation

- 1607: Virginia Company of London (a joint-stock) sends 100 colonists to Chesapeake Bay.
- They travelled up James River until they found a spot that was safe from Spanish attack.
- Named settlement Jamestown in honor of King James I.



## Struggle to Survive

- January 1608: 38 Colonists remain.
- Colonists fell ill from diseases carried by water or insects.
- Virginia Company had promised colonists the land would be rich with gold, as the Spanish colonies were, so they spent their time searching for treasure instead of building and planting.

# Jamestown: The First Permanent Settlement

## Control & Discipline

- John Smith brought order to the colony.
- But when he returned to England, the colony fell back into chaos, to the point of eating rodents and snakes.
- Relief ships arrived in 1610.
- Lord De La Warr, the new governor, imposed discipline and shifted focus back to farming.

## Tension with Powhatans

- Despite trade relations (corn), situation was often tense and violent between Powhatan and colonists.
- Situation improved in 1614 when Chief Powhatan's daughter, Pocahontas, married a colonist named John Rolfe.
- Virginia Company took couple to England to advertise the colony, but Pocahontas died there, around the age of 21.

# Jamestown: The First Permanent Settlement

## Tobacco Transformation

- It soon became clear the colonists were not going to find gold in Virginia.
- Raleigh brought tobacco back to England during Roanoke expeditions, so by 1600s, tobacco was in high demand.
- John Rolfe created a mild formula he sent to England in 1614. This was such a success that most colonists in Jamestown began to grow it.

**Did you know? The first Africans arrived in Jamestown in 1619. But did they arrive as indentured servants or enslaved workers? Slavery was not widespread until the late 1600s...**

## Everyone wants a piece of the pie!

- Tobacco farms quickly spread, and to attract settlers, the Virginia Company began to offer land in exchange to those who could pay their way to the colony.
- Indentured servants: those who agreed to work without pay for a landlord in exchange for that landlord paying their passage to America.
  - Indentured servants would serve a contract, usually between 4-6 years, and the landlord restored their freedom.

# Jamestown: The First Permanent Settlement

## House of Burgesses

- Lack of gov't leads to frustration.
- Virginia Company decided that Burgesses (elected representatives) would meet once per year.
- 1619: The House of Burgesses was the first representative assembly in the colonies.
- In each of the **11** settlements of Virginia, colonists chose **2** men to represent them.
- Had the authority to pass local laws and raise taxes.

## More Tension with the Powhatans

- 1622: Powhatan became alarmed by the expanding tobacco plantations and increasing English population.
- Launched an attack on the settlements along the James River— a quarter of English population was killed.
- Jamestown survived, but Virginia Company did not.
  - King James I took back their charter, and Virginia was turned into a royal colony— ruled by the King's appointed officials.
  - He also got rid of the assembly. (Don't worry, it comes back later).