- Colder climate and rocky terrain did not allow large plantations
  - Fishing and commerce
- Chesapeake Colonies
  - Maryland and North Carolina
    - Relied on tobacco, plantations developed, long work days and growing seasons
    - Exhausted land led to expansion and conflicts with the natives
    - Up to later 17th century, most labor was made up of indentured servants
    - After Bacon’s Rebellion, there was a switch to African slavery
- Proprietorships
  - Land in this region owned by aristocrats
  - Men could rule as they wished within English law
- Middle Colonies
  - Tended to be the most diverse demographically, religiously, and ethnically
  - Quakers in Pennsylvania
    - Religious toleration and no state church
  - Women in Pennsylvania had more rights
    - Quakers allowed equal position in church
  - Immigrants from Germany
  - Economy was based on exportation of cereal crops
- Southern Colonies and West Indies
  - In South Carolina and Georgia, rice was a major staple crop
    - Very arduous labor, long days and long growing seasons
    - Many white laborers refused to work in rice fields
    - Increase in slave labor
    - In the West Indies, sugar cultivation was a major part of the economy
    - Like South Carolina and Georgia, slave labor was heavily used
      - In many instances, slaves made up a majority of the population
      - Led to the development of slave codes
        - Laws to regulate slave behavior
        - Gave incredible power to slave owners
- Emergence of democratic, self-government in the British colonies
  - Caused by distance from Britain, lax attention
    - Salutary Neglect
      - Hands-off approach to the colonies
- New England colonial government
  - Town meetings
    - Elected legislatures
    - While land-owning church members could vote
- Southern colonial government
  - Planters dominated assemblies
    - Virginia House of Burgesses
      - 1st representative government in British colonies
      - Many members were elite plantation owners
- Navigation Acts
  - Act of 1651