

The Restoration:

The Restoration took place in the mid-1600s with Charles II's ascension to the British throne. He was restored as king after years of military rule under the Protectorate. Oliver Cromwell died, Charles II was restored as long as he agreed to forgive his enemies and promote religious toleration. After Charles II regained the throne, more colonies were created and the government tried to tighten control over them. Due to the fact that Oliver Cromwell was a Puritan and had Charles I beheaded, Charles II disliked the Puritans- including those living in the colonies. This eventually led to their downfall and their prominence in New England. Furthermore, Charles founded or took over colonies- the Restoration Colonies- including the following: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Stuart Kings also attempted to reassert power over the colonies, as evident in the later-created Dominion of New England. The restoration is important because it marked the reassertion of Stuart power, evident through the Restoration Colonies, and the decline of the Puritans and their "City Upon a Hill". A new wave of colonization began and filled out the colonies more, later leading to problems and conflicts.

The Enlightenment:

The Enlightenment was a cultural movement that started in England and France but came to America, especially seaboard cities, in the mid-1700s after the onset of the Scientific Revolution. Stressing reason, science, and logic, John Locke was a key figure in this movement. Known for works such as *Essays Concerning Human Understanding* and *Two Treatises of Government*, Locke believed that people had the natural rights to life, liberty, and property; a social contract with the king allowed unfair treatment and the infringement of these rights to be met with rebellion. Locke, Franklin, and others were deists- that is, they believed in a God that created the world but did not intervene in daily life. Intellectuals in the colonies drew inspiration from Enlightenment thinkers and ideals. They believed that they could have confidence in anything backed by human reason, but should be skeptical of beliefs with little or no science and logic to support them. This is important because people began to question things and used Enlightenment ideas to justify their actions; Locke's works influenced the Founding Fathers and eventually could be used as justification for the revolutionary War.

The Great Awakening:

The Great Awakening was a revivalism of Christianity that spread throughout all of British North America in the mid-1700s. Ministers of this time stressed the emptiness of material comfort, the corruption of human nature, the fury of divine wrath, and the need for repentance. Leaders at this time were Jonathan Edwards, Gilbert Tennant, and George Whitefield, and they worked to get a strong emotional response from their congregations instead of just engaging their intellects. Whitefield was a very overpowering and moving Calvinist speaker who hoped to use emotions in his own voice to get strong emotional responses. Whitefield inspired many to seek salvation, even some of his critics. He helped convince thousands of people to join churches due to his speeches, including women and slaves. The Great Awakening made a split in Protestantism between the New Lights (revivalists) and Old Lights (rationalists), and the two groups did not get along. Further, groups such as the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists made their influence in America, helped by the rise in colleges. The Great Awakening is important because it saw the decline in Puritanism and the increase in other protestant sects. Overall, people began to question their faith- and later, authority.