

Ch 3 Section 3 The Commercial North

Commerce Grows in the North

A Diversified Economy

- Cold winters, rocky soil restrict New Englanders to small farms
- Middle colonies raise livestock, crops; export surplus
- Diverse commercial economy develops in New England, middle colonies
- By mid-1700s, merchants are powerful group in North

Urban Life

- Growth in trade leads to large port cities like New York, Boston
- Philadelphia second largest city in British empire; has urban plan
- Philadelphia was considered the largest city in America in the mid-1700s

Northern Society Is Diverse

Influx of Immigrants

- 1700s, large influx of immigrants: Germans, Scots-Irish, Dutch, Jews
- Immigrants encounter prejudice, clash with frontier Native Americans

Slavery in the North

- Less slavery in North than in South, Southern economy depended on a larger number of field laborers; prejudice still exists
- Slaves have some legal rights, but highly restricted

Women in Northern Society

- Women have extensive work responsibilities but few legal rights
- Only single women, widows can own businesses
- Wives must submit to husbands

Witchcraft Trials in Salem

- In 1692, false accusations of witchcraft lead to trials, hysteria
- Many accusers poor, brought charges against rich
- Several victims were women considered too independent

New Ideas Influence the Colonists

The Enlightenment

- For centuries philosophers used reason, science to explain world
- **Enlightenment**—movement in 1700s emphasizing reason, observation
- Enlightenment ideas spread quickly through books, pamphlets
- **Benjamin Franklin** embraces Enlightenment ideas
- Other colonial leaders also adopt Enlightenment views

The Great Awakening

- Puritans lose grip on Massachusetts society, membership declines
- **Jonathan Edwards** preaches people are sinful, must seek God's mercy, wants to return to the original Puritan vision
- **Great Awakening**—religious revival of the 1730s and 1740s
- Native Americans, African Americans, colonists join new churches
- Some colonists abandon their Puritan and Anglican congregations
- Interest in learning increases; Protestants found colleges
- Both movements question authority, stress individual's importance