

1619—SEEDS OF DEMOCRACY AND CAPITALISM

The Virginia Company wanted more laborers for tobacco production in order to increase profits. So to entice more settlers from England, it extended Virginia's

- 1) **political freedom—DEMOCRACY—** through a representative legislature (assembly): the **HOUSE OF BURGESSES** 2) **economic freedom—CAPITALISM—** through private ownership of land: the **HEADRIGHT SYSTEM.**

The HOUSE OF BURGESSES met for the first time in July 1619 at Jamestown, Virginia.

In 1776, five generations later, leaders from the Virginia assembly—grown accustomed to political freedom—would lead the colonies to independence from England.



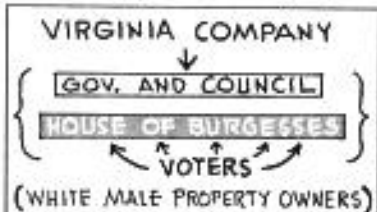
The HEADRIGHT SYSTEM allowed private ownership of land (as opposed to company ownership). Each pre-1616 settler received 100 acres of free land. Each thereafter received 50 acres, plus 50 acres for every person he brought from England.



HOUSE OF BURGESSES: THE BEGINNING OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Virginia House Of Burgesses became the colonies' first representative legislative assembly—and in 1790 a model for the U.S. House of Representatives. "Burgess" (or "burger") is an old English term meaning free citizen.

Each Virginia district elected two men to serve in the assembly which, along with the Virginia Company-appointed governor and council, made laws for the colony.



By 1698 the House of Burgesses won the exclusive right to make tax laws, assuring Virginians of a bulwark of freedom: **NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.**

1619—AT THE SAME TIME THE VIRGINIA COMPANY EXTENDED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FREEDOM TO THE COLONY, TWO GROUPS NOT INCLUDED IN THESE FREEDOMS WERE BROUGHT TO VIRGINIA:

Ninety adventurous women arrived in 1619, sent by the Virginia Company as wives for the Jamestown settlers. Each groom paid 120 pounds of tobacco for his bride's passage.



Twenty kidnapped Africans were sold to the Jamestown settlers by the captain of a Dutch ship. As indentured servants, they probably were freed after several years.



But by the late 1600s, black servitude turned into black slavery.

★ VIRGINIA: SEEDLING OF LIBERTY

INDENTURED SERVANTS AND SLAVES

The headright system encouraged Virginians to acquire land (50 acres per person) by importing people from England who would sign a contract for three to seven years of *servitude* (unpaid labor), in exchange for their passage to America. After their servitude, they were free.

Many of these contract-servants were illiterate and could not read their contract. To protect them against fraud, duplicate contracts were notched, or *indented*. If there were any contract disputes, the notches, or *indentures*, had to match.

About 75 percent of Virginia's settlers in the 1600s came as indentured servants. Those surviving a high death toll (from hunger, disease, and abuse) sometimes settled on the frontier where land was more plentiful. Other colonies (mostly southern) also used indentured servants.

Africans in Virginia—at first treated as indentured servants with longer terms—were enslaved between 1650 and 1700. White indentured servants outnumbered black slaves in Virginia until 1700.

indentured servant—a person who exchanged 3 to 7 years of servitude for passage to America.

slave—a person who was bought and sold as property and forced to work.



In 1622 tragedy struck Virginia!

ON GOOD FRIDAY POWHATAN INDIANS, LED BY OPECHANCAHOUGH, MASSACRED 347 VIRGINIANS (1/4 THE COLONY) IN A NOONTIME, SURPRISE ATTACK.

THE COLONISTS' RETALIATION, ALONG WITH DISEASE, TOOK ITS TOLL: BY 1700 ONLY ABOUT 1,000 OF 9,000 POWHATAN INDIANS SURVIVED.

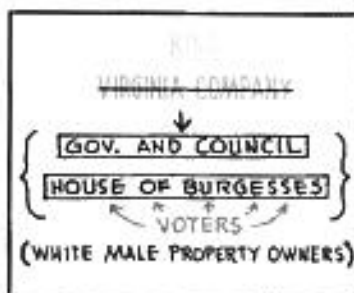


1624—King James I, who disliked representative government, used the massacre and the Virginia Company's financial problems as an excuse to revoke the Company's charter and make Virginia a royal colony. He dismissed the House of Burgesses, but the members met anyway. In 1639 his son King Charles I reinstated the House of Burgesses.

Virginians prospered under royal rule, but they guarded their right to legislative self government.

THE COMPANY'S MADE A MESS OF THINGS! FROM NOW ON I'LL APPOINT THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL.

YES, SIRE!



Sir William Berkeley served as one of the first royally appointed governors of Virginia. Although an able ruler, he had no use for liberty.

I THANK GOD THERE ARE NO FREE SCHOOLS, NOR PRINTING... FOR LEARNING HAS BROUGHT DISOBEDIENCE, AND HERESY, AND SECTS INTO THE WORLD, AND PRINTING HAS DIVULGED THEM, AND LIBELS AGAINST THE BEST GOVERNMENT. GOD KEEP US FROM BOTH.



In the 1670s frontier settlers in western Virginia rebelled against the autocratic rule of Governor Berkeley. He levied high taxes, while denying frontiersmen a voice in the government and protection against invading Indians.

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?



1676 - BACON'S REBELLION

Nathaniel Bacon, a frontier planter, led the frontiersmen in a rebellion against Governor Berkeley, driving him from Jamestown and burning the town. When Bacon died of a sudden illness, so did the rebellion. However, King Charles II replaced Berkeley, restoring harmony to the colony.

