**Life as a Colonist: Colonial Politics, Economics and Society**

**I. Economics**

New England Colonies

- Based on shipbuilding, fishing, lumber, ***subsistence*** farming and

manufacturing. Subsistence = farming which produced only

enough crops for yourself.

- succeeded due to Puritan values of hard work and ***thrift***.

Thrift = saving money, spending as little as possible.

Middle Atlantic Colonies

- Shipbuilding, small farming and trading.

- New York and Philadelphia become commercial centers.

Southern Colonies

- Large plantations growing “cash crops” exported to Europe.

- rice, indigo and tobacco

- Hunting, farming and trading in the mountains.

**II. Society**

New England Colonies

- Based on religious standing

- Intolerant of ***dissenters*** of the church’s heavy involvement in

government***.*** Dissenter = someone who strongly disagrees.

- Dissenters in Massachusetts will found the colony of Rhode

Island.

Middle Colonies

- Home of many different religious groups, all tolerant of others.

- Quakers in Philadelphia, Huguenots and Jews in New York,

Presbyterians in New Jersey

- Flexible social structure (a person could move up and down)

with a middle class of small farmers and ***artisans***.

Southern Colonies

- Social structure based on family status and land holdings.

- Held closer ties to England

- “Great Awakening” – movement across Europe with new ideas

about religion and society.

- Baptist and Methodist movements in the South.

**Politics**

New England Colonies

- Town meetings where direct democracy was practiced

Middle Colonies

- Democratic principles of basic rights.

Southern Colonies

- Like England, those with social status (wealth and family name)

took positions in government.