**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.