

For what reasons did Europeans wish to settle in the Americas during the colonial period?

There are many reasons that Europeans wanted to settle the Americas during the colonial period. One was religious persecution. People who had beliefs that were wildly different or dangerous to the current church doctrine found themselves thrown in jail or harassed in other ways. They came to the Americas to escape this, and often ended up persecuting anyone who had a different religious views from them. Others came for land, seeking to raise their children and grow farms in the countryside. Still others came for money, to exploit the newfound and plentiful resources of the Americas.

How did the English colonies along the Eastern coast of North America differ from each other? What factors caused these differences?

Georgia started off by trying to be a model colony, with no alcohol or slavery allowed. It hoped to attract debtors from other countries who would get a piece of land to pay off their debts with. The model didn't work, and it soon became like the other Southern colonies, allowing slavery and alcohol back. The Southern colonies had large stretches of land and not enough workers to plant and pick, so slaves became prevalent here. In fact, slaves began to outnumber the settlers, and they began to grow uneasy of a rebellion. Some rebellions did happen, but were put down brutally. Further North, slaves had a better, if not particularly nice life, and were required to do less physical labor (some were bought by store owners). All in all, every colony was guilty of slavery at some time or another.

What do you think is the most important idea that both we and the colonial settlers shared?

I think education is the most important thing on the list of connections between the Colonial period and today. If people are educated properly in all areas, then a lot of the things after it follow. Religious toleration should come with the ability to look at the big picture and what you learn about other countries. You should be educated in how the state functions and the rights we, as citizens, should have. Unfortunately, this evidently isn't happening, as you can tell from all the angry people spouting things they read in the newspapers.