

Study Guide



Chapter 3, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 98–102

THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

mercantilism a set of ideas about the world economy and how it works (page 98)

Charles II King of England who wanted to generate wealth for England by regulating trade in the colonies (page 99)

James II King of England who continued to assert royal authority over American colonies (page 100)

Dominion of New England a royal province created from the merger of Connecticut and Rhode Island with Massachusetts and Plymouth (page 100)

Glorious Revolution the bloodless change of power that occurred in England when William and Mary became the monarchs (page 101)

natural rights rights that all people are born with (page 102)

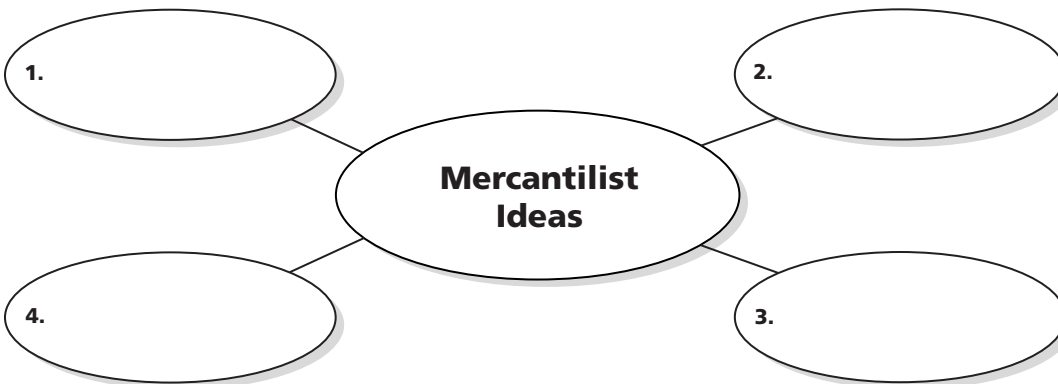
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What rights do you think all people have? What rights do you have as a student in your school? As a member of your community?

The last section described the economy of New England and the Middle Colonies. This section discusses the measures that England adopted to make the American colonies more profitable.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Mercantilism was a popular idea in the 1600s and 1700s. List some of the major ideas of mercantilism.



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READ TO LEARN

- **Mercantilism** (page 98)

Mercantilism, a set of ideas about the world economy and how it works, was very popular in the 1600s and 1700s. Mercantilists believed that a country could become wealthy by accumulating gold and silver. It could do this by selling more goods to other countries than it bought from them. By doing so, more gold and silver would flow into the country than would flow out. Mercantilists also believed that a country should establish colonies in order to buy raw materials from the colonies and, in turn, sell them manufactured goods. Mercantilism benefited colonies by giving them a ready market for their raw materials. The drawback, however, was that it prevented colonies from selling their goods to other nations. Also, if a colony did not make goods that the home country needed, then that colony could not accumulate the gold and silver it needed to buy manufactured goods. The New England Colonies had that problem, which made them turn to triangular trade.

At first England did not pay much attention to its American colonies. When **King Charles II** came to the throne, he decided to regulate trade with the colonies in order to bring wealth to England. In 1660 he asked Parliament to pass a navigation act. The act said that all goods coming in and out of the colonies had to be carried on English ships. The act also listed specific raw materials that could be sold only to England or to other English colonies. The list included the major goods that earned money for the colonies. The colonists disliked the act. They believed that it forced them to deal with English merchants who charged them high prices and caused them to reduce their profits. Another navigation act said that all merchants bringing European goods to the colonies had to stop in England, pay taxes, and then ship the goods on English ships.

Colonial merchants were angry, and many broke the new laws. Parliament set up inspectors in the colonies to report back to England. However, England had a problem enforcing the laws. As a result, King Charles appointed a committee to oversee colonial trade. The members found out that Massachusetts was ignoring the Navigation Acts. Ships from other countries were docked in Boston harbor and the colonists were smuggling goods to Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa. The Massachusetts governor said that Massachusetts was not required to obey laws unless they benefited the colony. King Charles responded by taking away the colony's charter and making it a royal colony.

James II, who succeeded Charles as king, went even further in punishing the colonies. Under his authority, England merged Massachusetts, Plymouth, and Rhode Island together to create a new royal province called the **Dominion of New England**. Later, England added Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York to the province.

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The Dominion was to be run by a governor-general and councilors appointed by the king. They had the power to make laws and impose taxes. The colonial assemblies were abolished. The king appointed Sir Edmond Andros the first governor-general. His harsh rule made nearly everyone in New England angry.

5. Why did England pass the Navigation Acts?

- **The Glorious Revolution of 1688** (page 100)

The English people were growing suspicious of King James II. He rejected the advice of Parliament and offended many of them by openly practicing Catholicism. Some people worried that England would experience another civil war.

Most people expected that James would be succeeded by his Protestant daughter Mary and her Dutch husband, William. However, their hopes were shattered when James's second wife gave birth to a son, who would now be the heir to the throne and would be raised Catholic. News of the birth caused protests. Not willing to risk a Catholic dynasty, Parliament asked William and Mary to take the throne. When William arrived, James fled the country. This bloodless change of power became known as the **Glorious Revolution**.

In 1689 Parliament enacted the English Bill of Rights. It outlined the powers the king did not have and the rights that people did have, such as the right to petition the king and the right to a fair jury in legal cases. Parliament also passed the Toleration Act, which granted freedom of religion to all Protestants but not to Catholics and Jews.

As soon as the Massachusetts colonists learned about James II, an uprising occurred in Boston. The colonists seized Andros and sent him back to England. The new monarchs permitted Rhode Island and Connecticut to resume their previous form of government, but they issued a new charter for Massachusetts. This charter combined Massachusetts Bay Colony, Plymouth Colony, and Maine into the royal colony of Massachusetts. The new charter allowed the people in the colony to elect an assembly, but the governor was to be appointed by the king. Only people who owned property could vote, but they did not have to be members of a Puritan congregation.

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During the Glorious Revolution, a political philosopher named John Locke wrote a book entitled *Two Treatises of Government*. In the book, Locke argued that a monarch's right to rule had to come from the people. He said that all people were born with certain **natural rights**. These included the right to life, liberty, and property. He said that people came together to create a government to protect their rights. In return, the people agreed to obey the government's laws. He also said that if a government violated the people's rights, the people were justified in changing their system of government. Locke's ideas influenced American colonists, who would use these ideas to start a revolution against Great Britain.

6. According to John Locke, why did people create a government?
