

The Age of Mercantilism - Historical Background

I. Before 1760...

A. During the late 1600s, and the early 1700s, the colonies were left to govern themselves. They were able to elect their own assemblies, and create their own taxes and laws. The British called this policy Salutary Neglect. The British were most concerned with making money from the colonies. As long as the British could control the trade of the goods that the colonies produced, they were not concerned with what the colonists did within the colonies.

B. British leaders believed that an economic system called mercantilism was the best way to make money for the country.

1. Mercantilists believed that countries had to export more goods than they imported. To maximize trade, they supported building ships for trade, funding a strong navy, and fighting other countries to maintain control of the seas.

2. Mercantilists also believed that they should collect raw materials from colonies. Those raw materials were then manufactured to support the export trade.

3. These raw materials were traded between the colonies and Europe along trade routes across the Atlantic Ocean. The trade pattern was called the Triangular Trade.



C. The English decided that they wanted regulate the trade more so that England could make more profit. They first created the Navigation Acts. The Navigation Acts said that:

1. The colonists were required to sell sugar, tobacco and cotton to the British.
2. Also, goods bought by colonists from other countries had to go through Britain so Parliament could place a tax on them.
3. In 1699, the British passed the Restraining Acts. They prevented the colonists from selling any finished or manufactured products. Those products had to be purchased from England.

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Exit Ticket 1 - The Age of Mercantilism

DIRECTIONS: Answer each of the following questions with a full sentence.

1. What was the policy of “salutary neglect?”

2. Which areas on the triangular trade benefited from the economic policy of mercantilism? Why?

3. Which areas on the triangular trade didn't benefit from mercantilism? Why?

4. Why were the Navigation Acts and the Restraining Acts created? What impact did they have on the colonies?

___ **Complete** - Work provided above demonstrates student's thoughtful assessment of the information.

___ **Incomplete** - Student provided some evidence of thinking, but the information provided was not complete, or answers were incorrect.

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Exit Ticket 2 - The Age of Mercantilism

DIRECTIONS: Answer each of the following questions with a full sentence.

1. Who was the “winner” of mercantilism? (Who collected the most gold?) _____

2. Why were they the winner? How did the rules help them to win?

3. How did this game reflect the real laws created by England during this time period? (Look back at the historical background from this lesson.)

4. Africa was not included in this game. How did trade with Africa fit into this time period?

___ **Complete** - Work provided above demonstrates student’s thoughtful assessment of the information.

___ **Incomplete** - Student provided some evidence of thinking, but the information provided was not complete, or answers were incorrect.