US History Chapter 3 Lesson 4 B – The Southern Colonies

The Carolinas and Georgia:

1663: King Charles II (2nd) creates a proprietary colony south of Virginia called Carolina – Latin for “Charles Land”. He gave the colony to 8 nobles. The proprietors set up estates and sold or rented land to settlers brought from England.

A constitution was written by John Locke outlining the jobs and powers of government and covering land divisions and social rank. It stated: “Every man has a property in his own person…The labour of his body, and the work of his hands…are properly his.”

Two Carolinas

Carolina split into a North and South Carolina. Farmers from inland Virginia settled N. Carolina, they grew tobacco and sold timber and tar. They used the Virginia sea ports.

Settlers in S. Carolina took advantage of fertile lands and a natural harbor in Charles Town (later Charleston). Settlements spread and they traded in deerskin, lumber and beef.

Main crops of the Carolinas, rice in the 1680’s which was labor intensive, leading a demand for slave labor. In the 1740’s, Eliza Lucas, developed a crop called indigo. Indigo is a blue flowering plant and was used for dying cloth.

1719 – settlers took control from the proprietors in S. Carolina.

1729 – Carolina became two royal colonies – North and South Carolina

Georgia

1733 the last British colony, Georgia, was founded. James Oglethorpe received a charter from King George II (2nd) for a colony where debtors and poor people could make a new start. In England, debtors, those who had debts, could be imprisoned if they were unable to pay what they owed.

The British hoped Georgia would block any Spanish attack from Florida, Oglethorpe built the forts and town of Savannah to discourage such attacks.

Georgia did not develop as planned, few debtors settled there and hundreds of poor people came from Britain. Religious refugees came from Central Europe and a small group of Jews also arrived. Settlers complained of Oglethorpe’s strict rules, such as limits on landholding and bans on slavery. Disappointed with slow growth Oglethorpe agreed to their demands and finally gave up turning the colony over to the king in 1751.

By that time, the British had been in eastern North America for almost a 150 years, lining the Atlantic coast with colonies.