

2020-10-02 - Lecture 17

13.3 American Colonies :: Domination and Liberty on the Grid

- 1) Spanish cities in the western hemisphere
 - Concept of **Encomienda** or **Encomendero**
 - Aztec city of **Tenochtitlan**. Founded 1325 - conquered by Cortez about 1521
 - Great Temple called **Coatepeti** (co-ah-te-pe-tee). Platform on top had two shrines, one for **Tlaloc** (Rain) and one for **Huitzilopochtli** (Sun). **Chacmol** figure waited in front of Tlaloc for sacrificial victims to be slaughtered on his belly. Hearts deposited inside the shrine of Huitzilopochtli.
 - Spanish city built on top of Tenochtitlan, eventually becoming **Mexico City**
 - Mexico City first metropolis of New World. By 1700 wider, better streets paved streets, sewers, aqueducts more so than any city in Spain
 - Tenochtitlan ruins underneath the **traza** the central square of Mexico City's grid
 - Floating islands of agriculture called Chinampas
 - **Mexico City Cathedral** by **Claudio de Arcinienga (1573)**
 - **Law of the Indies (1573)** issued by Philip II of Spain based on Vitruvius and Alberti - mandated straight wide streets laid out by cord and ruler with a central plaza of proportion 3:2 surrounded by an arcade. Same Philip II who was building El Escorial, the Spanish royal palace north of Madrid.

- 2) **African Diaspora**, approximately 1500-1850
 - Approximately 12 million people brought to the western hemisphere as slaves. In the 18th century about 50,000 per year.
 - Portugal 4 million, England 3 million, France 1.5 million, Netherlands .5 million, principal traders, buying from Gold Coast African traders or from Arabs.
 - Most trade to West Indies, but eventually led to American south
 - Read: **Autobiography of Olaudah Equiano** for a very detailed account of a young man captured in Benin, sold as a slave, bought his own freedom, and eventually testified to British Parliament on the evils of slavery many decades later. Also read autobiographies of Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, Solomon Northup. Northup was a builder who helped to spread building knowledge through his carpentry and innovation.

- 3) **The Plantations of the south versus the Towns of the north**
 - Agricultural southern colonies and (later U.S.) grew predominantly as plantation communities, which were completely self-sufficient communities in terms of labor (slave labor plus overseers), manufacturing (often slaves were skilled mechanics and carpenters), food production, fishing, preserving, husbandry, etc. A plantation might be small with no slaves or only a few, but might be large with scores or maybe hundreds of slaves.
 - As plantations were self-sufficient communities or compounds, they obviated the need for towns. Hence towns and cities did not develop the same way in the south as they did on the north.
 - Plantation architecture consisted of a main house, smaller houses for employees and slaves, and many various types of out-buildings for the maintenance of the plantation and for the principal means of agricultural production.
 - **Mount Vernon**, beginning about (1734-1750-1770) Somewhat Palladian in plan, and Georgian in elevation.
 - **Stratford Hall, (1730)** Georgian.
 - **Westover, (1750)** Georgian.

- 4) **Georgian Architecture**, about 1710-1770
 - Beginning during the reign of George I (about 1715)

- 5) **Town planning and city planning in America**
 - **Williamsburg (c 1700)**
 - > **Governor's Palace**

- > **Old Virginia Capitol**
 - > **William & Mary College** (second oldest college in America 1693)
 - **Savannah (c 1734) by James Oglethorpe**
 - > Plan embodied major themes of the Enlightenment by delving into a Utopian vision of social equity, equitable land distribution, yeoman governance, sustainability, prohibition of slavery and alcohol - only lasted 20 years
 - > The **Ward** urban unit - a self sufficient unit that had a park-like garden area, four residential blocks and four commercial blocks
 - > Easily expandable city by adding Wards
 - > **A unique example in the history of city planning with the repetition of the pattern of open squares**
 - **Cambridge (1635)**
 - > Not completely grid-like, not rigorously ordered
 - > **Harvard** (oldest college in the America 1636)
 - **New Haven (1637)**
 - > Rigorous nine-square grid with a very large central park-like grid square called the *Green*
 - > Three churches have been in the New Haven Green for 350 years
 - > **Yale** (third oldest college in America 1701)
 - **Philadelphia (1681)**
 - > Designed by **William Penn**. City plan drawn by Holme. Philadelphia would be a tolerant political utopia. *A Green Country Town*. Philadelphia literally means, *City of Brotherly Love*: Love (phileo) and Brother (adelphos)
 - > Arranged with five squares: Center Square (City Hall), Franklin Square, Rittenhouse Square, Logan Square (now a circle), Washington Square
 - > Quaker religion dominated - staunchly anti-slavery
 - > First municipal waterworks in America by Latrobe
- 6) Architecture in the cities
- **The Charleston Single**
 - **Georgian**
 - The Market: **Faneuil Hall** in Boston
 - The Library: **Redwood Library** in **Newport**, accurate classicism from **1748**