**A Fractious People: *The Demographics of Division***

**Why demography?**

* Political demographics represents a significant tool for looking at how large-scale events or phenomena develop in terms of the characteristics of populations
* A demographic study of the British colonies in North America prior to the Revolution reveals some very surprising data

**Population growth in the American colonies:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total= \_\_%male, \_\_%white,** | **Note:** |
| **1625** |  |  |
| **1650** |  |  |
| **1700** |  |  |
| **1725** |  |  |
| **1750** |  |  |
| **1775** |  |  |

**Ethnicity of the British American colonies:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 out of |  |  |
| 1 out of |  |  |
| 1 out of |  |  |
| 1 out of |  |  |
| 1 out of |  |  |
| 1 out of |  |  |
| 1 out of |  |  |

**Social class of European immigrants**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The Atlantic Filter** | | | |
| **England** | | **America** | |
| **Elite** | **%** | **Elite** | **%** |
| **Upper** | **%** | **Upper** | **%** |
| **Middling** | **%** | **Middling** | **%** |
| **Poor** | **%** | **Poor** | **%** |

**Age and Gender demographics:**

* Median age in Europe is about 22 years
* Median age in America is about 17 years
* In Europe the median is an “above and below”
* In America the median is closer to “average”
* Sex ratio in Europe is 5:4 female to male
* Sex ratio in American is
* 5:3 male to female
* Social consequences

**What does it all mean?:**

* Half of the 1775 population had either been born or immigrated within last generation
* Population of the “English” colonies is less English than ever before or will be again in the next century
* Added to low population density, religious diversity, sex ratios, and low age medians….
* How could something explosive NOT happen?