

Dishonesty

Bacon's Rebellion

As told by Nikole Hannah-Jones in her first chapter "Democracy"

And the Real Story, including the origin of the name.
Because NHJ doesn't even name Nathaniel Bacon,
let alone give us details.

Again, Bacon's Rebellion - From The 1619 Project (New York Times) on Bacon's Rebellion – Chapter 1 “Democracy” written by Nicole Hannah Jones

The yellow highlighted section is the one and only place in the entire book bringing up “Bacon's Rebellion.”

Following **Bacon's Rebellion in 1676, where an alliance of white and Black indentured servants and enslaved Africans rose up against Virginia's white elite**, the colony passed slave codes to permanently enshrine legal and social distinctions between Black and white residents that ensured that all white people, no matter their status, permanently existed in a status above all Black people. These laws divided exploited white workers from exploited Black workers by designating people of African descent as “hereditary slaves” who would serve in bondage for life. “We normally say that slavery and freedom are opposite things—that they are diametrically opposed,” the **historian Ira Berlin said. “But what we see here in Virginia in the late seventeenth century, around Bacon's Rebellion, is that freedom and slavery are created at the same moment.”**

1619 Project of the New York Times – Chapter 1 “Democracy” written by Nikole Hannah-Jones

From the sounds of that you would think that Bacon's rebellion was an uprising of slaves. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Ira Berlin quote is a tiny cherry pick from a 2003 PBS transcript. It is placed here by NHJ to make the claim that Bacon's Rebellion is the cause for the formalization of slavery in Virginia.

In the context of the 2003 PBS article Berlin is simply saying that roughly around this period of time slavery gets formalized. That actual time period starts in a formal way around 1641 and keeps shifting, a little at a time (getting more restrictive) for the next 20-40 years.

Dishonest about:

- We are not told why this is named Bacon's rebellion – Hint: Nathaniel Bacon
- Or that Nathaniel Bacon was a rich privileged and troubled 20-something from London
- He was a troublemaker and was involved in an inheritance fraud in London, so...
- 1774 His rich papa sent him to Virginia (with his wife, Elizabeth, and kids) with:
 - 1,800-pounds sterling (worth about \$3,444,000 in today's US currency)
 - To grow up some
 - To purchase land
 - He purchased not one, but TWO plantations
 - He became a planter right off the bat
 - He is also able to gather followers (charismatic, also impulsive)
- He is a cousin to the wife (Frances Culpepper Stevens Berkeley) of Virginia's governor
- He wrangled his way into becoming a member of the Assembly
 - Here he aligns himself with various factions.
 - Some of the factions oppose the governor.
- He and other planters in Virginia decide they wanted more land, Indian land
 - (yup, just like a western movie)
- They run into Indians and have clashes
- They want to get up forces to run out the Indians
- Governor Berkeley (pronounced BARK-lee) has peace treaties with the local Indians and opposes the upstarts who want to fight the Indians
- 1776 Things escalate: Bacon is arrogant, Berkeley is stubborn
- Before long planters aligned with Bacon decide to force out Berkeley.
- It winds up in physical conflict between the parties.
- They get some 500 people to rise up
- But Berkeley has called for reinforcements from England
- The rebellion more or less stalls out by August/September, and English troops are on the way
- September 1776 - Nathaniel can't think of anything to do so he burns Jamestown which loses him supporters and he offers to relieve service obligations
 - more lost support for that
 - shows that the rebellion was not "an alliance of white and Black indentured servants and enslaved Africans"
- October 1776 – Nathaniel dies of "bloody flux" and dysentery.
- After – the rebellion breaks down without Bacon to lead them.

NOTE: The ramp up of England's slave trade at this point is from London, not Virginia, in the form of a slavery company.



Nathaniel Bacon (above)

Gov. William Berkeley [BARK-lee] (left below)
Frances Culpepper, Nathaniel's cousin & William's wife (right below)



