

## An Historical Geography of NYS Settlement Sequence II: Post Revolution Period 1780-1865

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### Settlement Sequence 1780-1865: Post-Revolution Period

Revolutionary War ends in 1781.

- After the war the Iroquois (who were allies of the British) were evicted from their land.
- This opened large areas to white settlement and leads to the rapid settling of all habitable areas of NYS.

*How was this land distributed?*

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### Settlement Sequence 1780-1865 Post-Revolution Period

**NYS government takes control of all Indian land** (newly created State of New York needs money)

- The state keeps some land (military tracts) to give to members of the militia.
- The state sells most of the land to developers.
- Land developers divide the land and sell parcels to individuals.

**Excellent farmland draws people from other states and from Europe.**

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### Land Purchases

By 1810 **over 60,000** people moved into western NYS.

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### 1780-1865 Post-Revolution Period

- **The basic population distribution pattern is imprinted on the state map.**
- Focal points (towns) are created and they are linked by a crude road network.
- With the influx of farmers to virgin arable land, **New York becomes a major agricultural state** producing grains and other essential foodstuffs:  
*“The nation’s breadbasket”*

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### Sequential Settlement of NYS

**SPREAD OF SETTLEMENT Composite**

Settlement was uneven and selective. Valleys first; highlands last.

Spread to all areas of the state except for areas with the harshest conditions.

Most of settlers of the first wave were from New England; also from NJ and PA.

Mohawk River served as the conduit.

European immigrants did not arrive until the early 1800s. <sup>6</sup>

### Sequential Settlement of NYS

**SPREAD OF SETTLEMENT before 1775**

Settlement was uneven and selective. Valleys first; highlands last.

Spread to all areas of the state except for areas with the harshest conditions.

Most of settlers of the first wave were from New England; also from NJ and PA.

Mohawk River served as the conduit.

European immigrants did not arrive until the early 1800s.

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### Sequential Settlement of NYS

**SPREAD OF SETTLEMENT 1776-1789**

Settlement was uneven and selective. Valleys first; highlands last.

Spread to all areas of the state except for areas with the harshest conditions.

Most of settlers of the first wave were from New England; also from NJ and PA.

Mohawk River served as the conduit.

European immigrants did not arrive until the early 1800s.

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### Sequential Settlement of NYS

**SPREAD OF SETTLEMENT 1790-1799**

Settlement was uneven and selective. Valleys first; highlands last.

Spread to all areas of the state except for areas with the harshest conditions.

Most of settlers of the first wave were from New England; also from NJ and PA.

Mohawk River served as the conduit.

European immigrants did not arrive until the early 1800s.

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### Sequential Settlement of NYS

**SPREAD OF SETTLEMENT 1800-1809**

Settlement was uneven and selective. Valleys first; highlands last.

Spread to all areas of the state except for areas with the harshest conditions.

Most of settlers of the first wave were from New England; also from NJ and PA.

Mohawk River served as the conduit.

European immigrants did not arrive until the early 1800s.

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### Sequential Settlement of NYS

**SPREAD OF SETTLEMENT After 1810**

Settlement was uneven and selective. Valleys first; highlands last.

Spread to all areas of the state except for areas with the harshest conditions.

Most of settlers of the first wave were from New England; also from NJ and PA.

Mohawk River served as the conduit.

European immigrants did not arrive until the early 1800s.

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### Sequential Settlement of NYS

**SPREAD OF SETTLEMENT Composite**

Settlement was uneven and selective. Valleys first; highlands last.

Spread to all areas of the state except for areas with the harshest conditions.

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## What was the lure?

- Overcrowded conditions and a harsh environment in New England were **push** factors.
- NYS **pull** factors were:
  - good soil, good climate and level land
  - known resources of lumber, waterpower and minerals, especially salt.
  - headwaters of the Delaware, Susquehanna and Allegheny rivers provided alternate routes to the interior
  - for the curious, there was Niagara Falls.

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## War of 1812

NYS was the focus of hostilities between British Canada and the United States during the War of 1812.

### Battle sites included:

1. the **Niagara Frontier**,
2. **shore of Lake Ontario**,
3. the **Lake Champlain region**.



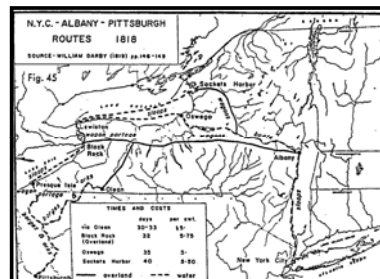
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## Settlement Sequence 1780-1865 Post-Revolution Period

- After the War of 1812, there was a need to get to food to market as quickly and securely as possible. *(There was still a fear of the British.)*
- New farmland provided bountiful harvests.
- Overland travel was slow and expensive.

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## 1818 Land Routes in NYS



Wagons and boats were used to move food, coal, wood and other goods between the western frontier and NYC but there was not an all water route.

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