We review U.S. immigration history during the period from 1607 through 1874. During these years, few laws restricted immigration, but there were restrictions on who could become a citizen. We argue that America's colonial ties to Britain and restrictions on naturalization encouraged emigration from Northern and Western European countries and discouraged emigration from other locales. The 1790 U.S. Census supports this assertion. In that year, more than 80 percent of the U.S. population (and 97.8 percent of the free population) were either immigrants from Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, or France or descendants of someone from one of these countries. We contend that the ancestral mix of the Colonial population fostered a cultural transfer from Northern and Western Europe to the American colonies. Further contributing to this transfer is that 88.5 percent of all immigrant arrivals between 1820 and 1874 were also from Northern or Western Europe.
The Americans of the Colonial era strongly protested against these measures and their protests led them down the American Road to Revolution and the American Revolutionary War. The major events and history of the Colonial era are categorised on the following Colonial Era Chart. Colonial Era - Founding the first Colonies The European's fight to take control of North America and the New World was led by the Spanish in America, the French in America and the British Founding of the first 13 Colonies. The British settlement of the first 13 Colonies during the Colonial Era were located on the Atlantic coast of America and the colonies were founded between 1607 and 1733 in Virginia and Georgia respectively. The Colonial Era and the Northern and Western European Wave, 1607–1874. Chapter. Feb 2018. Immigration and the Shaping of US Culture: Becoming America. Roger White. (Beginning paragraph) Our review of the history of U.S. immigration, and of related legislative acts, begins only a few decades after the founding of the Jamestown Colony (1607), the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Throughout the Colonial Era, the large majority of immigrant arrivals to North America were from Europe. During this period, there was also a pronounced exchange between the New World and the Old World. This process, referred to as the Columbian Exchange, included east–west bilateral exchange in animals, plant life, and bacterial life.