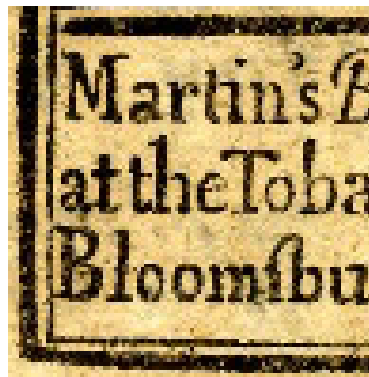
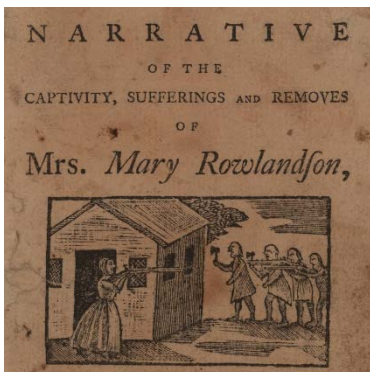
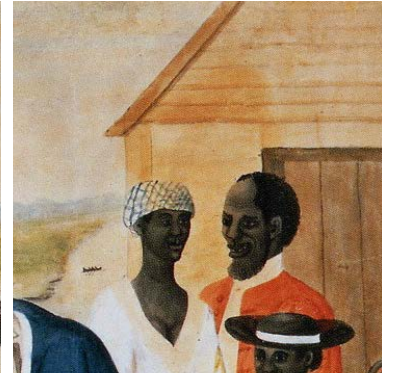
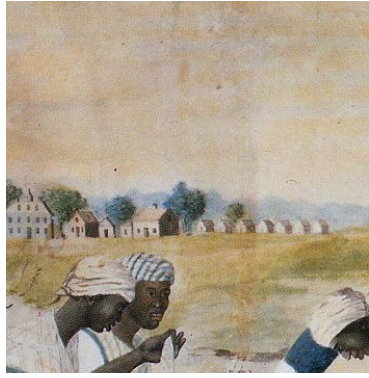




Why were the British colonies so
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people
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Q u e s t i o n T w o

Why were the British colonies so
d i f f e r e n t
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p e o p l e
f r o m t h e
same country?

EXPLORING AMERICA'S HISTORY THROUGH COMPELLING QUESTIONS

S U P P O R T I N G Q U E S T I O N S

- 1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?
- 2 WAS SLAVERY AN INEVITABLE PART OF AMERICAN HISTORY?
- 3 WAS THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY A CITY UPON A HILL?
- 4 WAS WINTHROP'S DREAM OF A RELIGIOUSLY PURE SOCIETY EVER POSSIBLE?
- 5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600S STILL MATTER TODAY?

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Q u e s t i o n T w o



Why were the British colonies so
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same country?

The United States was created by English speaking people who lived in 13 distinct colonies strung out along the Atlantic coast. By the time they declared independence in 1776, they had been living there for over 150 years. They were all from the same mother country, but the 13 colonies were all different. In fact, most historians agree that only by the particular alignment of factors, brilliant leadership, and a willingness to compromise, did they ever agree to fight for independence at all.

Why were they so different, and how so? Why do we have to speak of them as 13 colonies rather than England in America? Certainly you and your friends are not so different. Even you and your neighbors are no so different that you would need to create separate colonies if you moved to a new land. Why was it then that the English settlers ended up so divided? Why were the British colonies so different?

1

F I R S T Q U E S T I O N W A S J A M E S T O W N A G O O D I N V E S T M E N T ?



INTRODUCTION

Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in what eventually became the United States. Established on the swampy edge of a river that flows into the Chesapeake Bay, Jamestown nearly didn't survive. In the end, though, the Jamestown settlers who survived winters of famine found that they could grow and sell tobacco to Europeans back home. It turns out that selling drugs is not a new phenomenon.

Jamestown was a business venture. Wealthy investors in England pooled their money and financed the creation of the colony. Ships and supplies were expensive and there was no guarantee of success. When they set out, no one knew exactly what they would find, and no one predicted that tobacco would eventually become the cash crop of Virginia.

What do you think? Was Jamestown a good investment?

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



A NOTE ABOUT NAMES

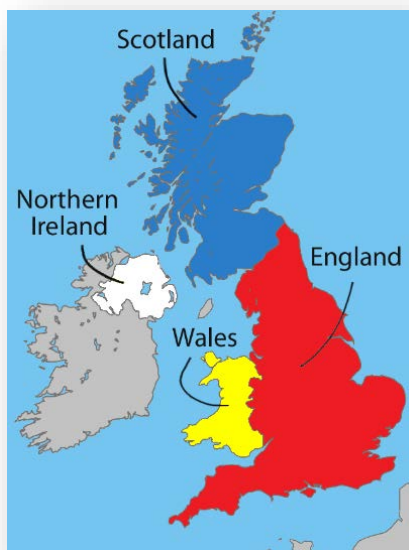
Before we start talking about the English-speaking colonists who came to America, and laid down the foundation of what eventually became the United States, we need to take a moment to talk about the many names that get used to describe the people and the place they came from, because it is complicated.

Let us begin with geography. Two islands make up the British Isles off the coast of Europe. The larger island in the east is Great Britain and the small one to the west is Ireland. Great Britain is divided into three nations: England, Scotland and Wales. England is the largest, most populous, most developed, most wealthy, and has dominated its neighbors for much of their shared history. The city of **London** is in England.

However, England is not a country today. In modern times, all three parts of Great Britain are in the **United Kingdom**, along with a corner of the island of Ireland, called Northern Ireland. The rest of the island of Ireland is the independent country of Ireland. All these areas and the people who live there have a long and complicated history, which is quite interesting, but not the subject of our course.

Sometimes we call this country England or Great Britain although the proper name is the United Kingdom. You will see it written as UK for short. However, because it has carried different names at different times, we sometimes call the entire place England, or Great Britain, and we call the people there English, or British. In these readings we may use the names interchangeably.

Suffice today, most of the people of the British Isles speak English and many of the White settlers in America came from these two islands. I am sorry if this is confusing. Like many things in history, there is just not one easy way to describe the whole of human experience.



London: Capital city of England and the United Kingdom



United Kingdom: The nation made up of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Secondary Source: Map

A map of the British Isles. The nation of Ireland is in grey. Note that the northeast corner of the island of Ireland is one of the four regions of the United Kingdom.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



THE ENGLISH ARRIVE LATE

By the time British arrived in the New World and established their first permanent settlement at Jamestown in 1607, much of the continent had already been claimed by other European nations.

All of the modern Southwest, including Texas and California, had been peopled by Spanish settlers for about a century. The entire expanse of land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Rocky Mountains had at one point been claimed by France.

Many factors contributed to Britain's tardiness. England was not the most powerful European nation in the 16th century. Spain was most influential. Along with Portugal, Spain dominated New World exploration in the decades that followed Columbus. France, the Netherlands, and Sweden all showed greater interest in the Western Hemisphere than England did.

A voyage by John Cabot on behalf of English investors in 1497 failed to spark any great interest in the New World. England was divided in the 1500s by great religious turmoil. When Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church in 1533, decades of religious strife ensued. Finally, under Henry's daughter Elizabeth, the English were prepared to stake their claims.

Although England was an island and therefore a seafaring nation, Spain was the undisputed superpower of the seas in the 16th century. Many of England's adventurous sea captains found that plundering Spanish ships was a far simpler means of acquiring wealth than establishing colonies.

PRIVATEERS AND THE SPANISH ARMADA

Sea Dogs, or **Privateers** were English mariners of the Elizabethan era employed by the queen to harass the Spanish fleets and establish a foothold in the New World. Essentially, the privateers were pirates operating with the permission of a king or queen. What they did was considered legal so long as they only attacked the enemy.

Among the most prominent sea dogs were **Francis Drake**, John Hawkins, Humphrey Gilbertand, and **Walter Raleigh**. These sea captains possessed exceptional maritime and military skills as well as a burning desire for capturing Spanish treasure. They and their crews were highly motivated since, as privateers and not members of the Royal Navy, they were allowed to keep whatever treasure they could steal from the Spanish. They helped provoke the eventual showdown between Elizabeth I's England and Philip II's Spain.

One of these privateers, Sir Francis Drake became the first to sail around the world since Ferdinand Magellan when he completed perhaps the longest escape route in the history of the world to avoid capture by the Spanish.



Privateers: Pirates that operate with a "Letter of Marque" from a monarch that gives them official protection, so long as they only attack ships from enemy nations.



Francis Drake: Prominent English privateer. He was the second person to circumnavigate the world.



Walter Raleigh: English privateer who founded the Roanoke colony.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



Philip was certain that his great fleet of ships would put an end to England's piracy. In 1588, one of the greatest turning points in world history occurred when Spain's "invincible" Armada of 130 ships sailed into the English Channel. Despite their numerical inferiority, the English ships were faster and easier to maneuver than the Spanish fleet. With the aid of a great storm, Elizabeth's ships humiliated Philip's navy, which returned to Spain with fewer than half their original number.

The defeat of the **Spanish Armada** marked the beginning of the end of Spain's domination of Europe and the Western Hemisphere. More importantly for England, it marked the dawn of the era of permanent English settlement of the New World.

With tensions high between England and Spain, it soon became sensible for England to establish permanent settlements in the New World to rival the Spanish. If nothing more, they could serve as bases from which to raid Spanish ships.



Spanish Armada: The Spanish navy that sailed to attack England in 1588. It was damaged by a great storm and humiliated by Queen Elizabeth's navy, thus ending the threat of Spanish conquest of England.

Primary Source: Painting

The assembly of the mighty Spanish Armada as it departed on its way to attack England. The Armada was defeated, tipping the balance of power in Europe away from the Spanish.

ROANOKE

Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition to **Roanoke** did not fare well. In 1585, Raleigh's men settled on the small island off the coast of modern-day North Carolina. Relations with the Native American inhabitants were peaceful at first, but as the colonists' supplies dwindled, amity dwindled too. The colonists left in 1586 after beheading the local Indian chief, Wingina.

Raleigh arranged for governor John White and a group of families to return to live in peace with the natives in 1587. Violence, however, is not easily forgotten. Within one month, hostilities resumed, and White was forced to return to England to ask Raleigh for reinforcements.

Time was not on White's side. When the war with Spain erupted, White could not return to the colony for three years. When he set foot on Roanoke



Roanoke: Walter Raleigh's failed English colony in Virginia.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



Island in August 1590, he searched frantically for the settlers, including his daughter and granddaughter, the first English New World baby, named Virginia Dare.

All that could be found was the remains of a village and a mysterious word, “croatoan,” engraved on a tree. White concluded there must be a connection between the word and a nearby Indian tribe, but before he could investigate, a violent storm forced him out to sea and back to England.

This lost colony remains one of American history’s most intriguing mysteries, despite the fact that was not particularly important in the long run.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES

Compared with other European nations in 1600, England was relatively poor.

As new agricultural techniques made fewer farmers necessary, the poor multiplied in the streets of cities such as London and Bristol. Much to the dismay of the wealthier classes, the impoverished were an increasingly burdensome presence and problem.

Richard Hakluyt, a 16th-century geographer interested in explorers and travel narratives, suggested to Queen Elizabeth that New World colonies could serve two purposes. First, they could challenge Spanish domination of the New World. Second, the ever-growing poorer classes could be transported there, easing England’s population pressures.

But Elizabeth was not persuaded to invest public money in a venture that wasn’t guaranteed to be successful. She was not opposed to private investors taking such a chance, however. Raleigh had tried and failed. When it became clear that the wealth of an individual was not enough, the joint-stock company arose.

The **joint-stock company** was the forerunner of the modern corporation. In a joint-stock venture, stock was sold to wealthy investors who provided capital, or money. These companies had proven profitable in the past with trading ventures. The risk was small because each investor only put up a small amount of money so if the venture failed, only a small amount would be lost. However, the returns were quick when the enterprise did well. It was a way for the wealthy to use their money to make money without doing the work themselves.

Investing in a colony was an altogether different venture. The risk was larger as the colony might fail. The startup costs were enormous and the returns might take years. Investors in such endeavors needed more than a small sense of adventure.

THE INVESTORS AND LEADERS

Who led these English colonial expeditions? Often, these leaders were second sons from noble families. English law supported the idea of



Joint-Stock Company: A business in which wealthy individuals invest in order to raise funds for a venture.

The Virginia Company of London is a famous example.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



primogenitor, which meant that only the first-born male could inherit property in a family. As such, Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Sir Humphrey Gilbert were all second sons with a thirst to find their own riches.

Merchants who disagreed with the teachings of the official Church of England were also willing investors in New World colonies. There were plenty of English who disagreed with the way the official church was run. Some of these Puritans had the necessary capital to support colonies where they could practice their own version of Christianity.

With an excess landless population to serve as workers, and motivated, adventurous, or devout investors, the joint-stock company became the vehicle by which the English finally settled in the Western Hemisphere.

This starkly contrasted with Spanish and French settlements. New Spain and New France were developed by their kings. The English colonies were developed by their people. Many historians argue that the primary reason the relatively small and late English colonization effort ultimately outlasted its predecessors was because individuals had a true stake in its success.

JAMESTOWN

The first joint-stock company to launch a lasting venture to the New World was the **Virginia Company of London**. The investors had one goal in mind: gold. They hoped to repeat the success of Spaniards who found gold in South America.

In 1607, 144 English men and boys established the **Jamestown** colony on the banks of the James River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in what would eventually become the United States. Located in the modern state of Virginia, the colonists named it after King James I.

The colonists were told that if they did not generate any wealth, financial support for their efforts would end. Many of the men spent their days vainly searching for gold. Consequently, the colonists spent little time farming. Food supplies dwindled. Malaria and the harsh winter besieged the colonists, as well. After the first year, only 38 of the original 144 had survived.

The colony may well have perished had it not been for the leadership of **John Smith**. He imposed strict discipline on the colonists. "Work or starve" was his motto, and each colonist was required to spend four hours per day farming.

An accidental gunpowder burn forced Smith to return to England in 1609. After his departure, the colony endured even more hardships. A new boatload of colonists and supplies sank off the coast of Bermuda on its way to help the hungry settlement. The winter of 1609-10, known as the **Starving Time**, may have been the worst of all.



Primogenitor: An English tradition that a family's property would pass down to the eldest son. Many of America's first settlers were second and third sons who did not inherit money or land in England.



Virginia Company of London: Joint-stock company that funded the Jamestown colony.



Jamestown: First successful English colony in America. Settled in 1607, John Smith helped save the settlers from starvation. Eventually the colony became financially successful when John Rolfe learned to grow quality tobacco in Virginia's soil.



John Smith: Leader of the Jamestown colony. He is famous for ordering that the settlers would not eat if they did not work, and dealing with Powhatan. He also wrote a famous memoir his experience in the colony.



Starving Time: The winter of 1609-10 in Jamestown when many settlers starved to death. Later the colonists learned to grow their own food.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



Disease and hunger ravaged Jamestown. Two desperate colonists were tied to posts and left to starve as punishment for raiding the colonies' stores. One colonist even took to cannibalism, eating his own wife. The fate of the venture was precarious. Yet still more colonists arrived, and their numbers included women.



Secondary Source: Photograph

This photograph shows the reconstructed Jamestown Fort. The original site of the fort has mostly been overtaken by the shifting James River. Today you can visit a rebuilt version a few hundred yards from the original site.

TOBACCO

Virginia's economic future did not lie with gold. There was too little gold to be found there. Looking for new ways to make its investments pay dividends, the Virginia Company of London began encouraging multiple ventures by 1618.

Jamestown settlers experimented with glassblowing, vineyard cultivation, and even silkworm farming. Despite efforts to diversify Virginia's economy, by the end of the 1620s only one Virginia crop was drawing a fair market price in England: tobacco.

Tobacco is one of the plants that can be found on a list of flora that crossed between the Old World and New because of the Columbian Exchange. The Spanish, who had learned to smoke it from Native Americans, introduced it to Europe. Despite some early criticism of "drinking smoke," tobacco became popular among the middle classes in England. Much of the tobacco smoked in England was grown in the West Indies.

John Rolfe thought that Virginia might be an outstanding site for tobacco growth. Early attempts to sell Virginian tobacco had fallen short of expectations. Smokers felt that the tobacco of the Caribbean was much less harsh than Virginian tobacco.

Rolfe reacted to consumer demand by importing seed from the West Indies and cultivating the plant in Jamestown. Those tobacco seeds became the seeds of a huge economic empire.



Tobacco: Crop that saved the Virginia colony.



John Rolfe: Jamestown colonist who learned how to successfully grow quality tobacco in Virginia. He married Pocahontas.

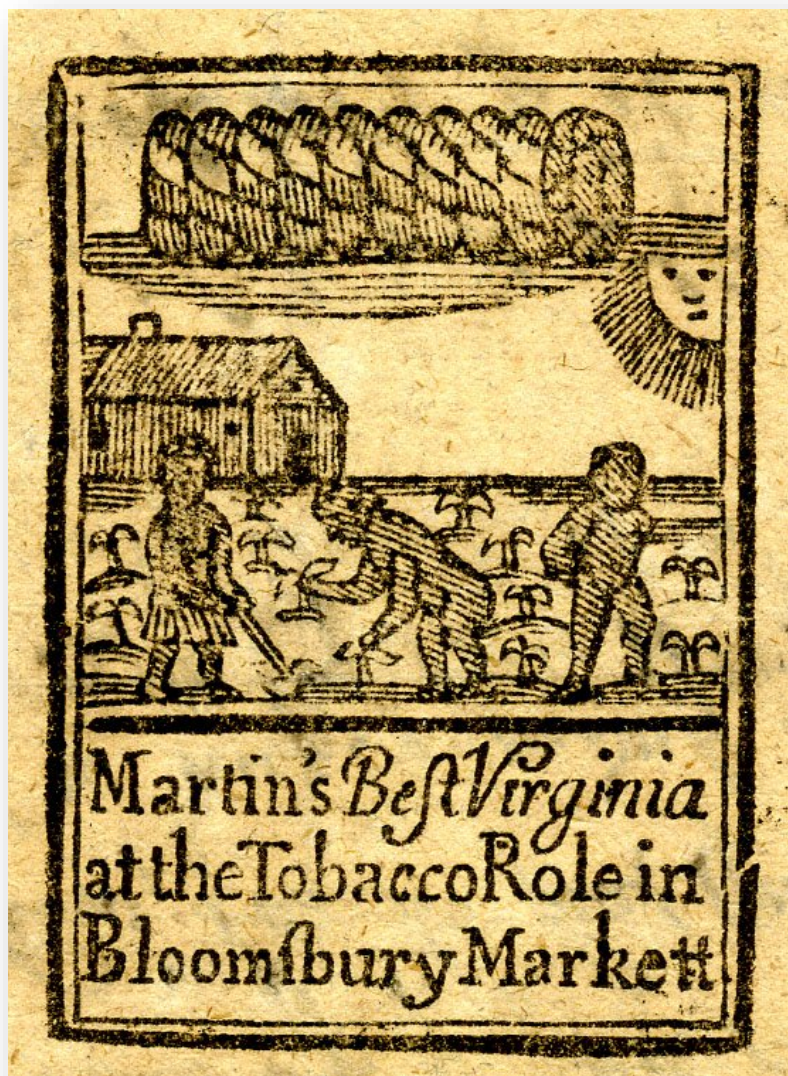
1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?

Were the British colonies so different if they were all settled by people from the same country?

By 1630, over a million and a half pounds of tobacco were being exported from Jamestown every year.

Primary Source: Advertisement

This print advertisement promotes Virginia-grown tobacco. Note that the workers in the field are African slaves.



The tobacco economy rapidly began to shape the society and development of the colony. Growing tobacco takes its toll on the soil. Because tobacco drained the soil of its nutrients, only about three successful growing seasons could occur on a plot of land. Then the land had to lie fallow for three years before the soil could be used again. This created a huge drive for new farmland.

Settlers grew tobacco in the streets of Jamestown. The yellow-leaved crop even covered cemeteries. Naturally, the colony began to expand.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



Despite the introduction of tobacco cultivation, the colony was a failure as a financial venture. The king declared the Virginia Company bankrupt in 1624. About 200,000 British Pounds were lost among the investors. The charter was thereby revoked, and Virginia became a royal colony, the first in America to be ruled directly by the Crown.

Investments in permanent settlements were risky indeed. The merchants and gentry paid with their pocketbooks. Many colonists paid with their lives. For every six colonists who ventured across the Atlantic, only one survived.

WAR AND PEACE WITH POWHATAN'S PEOPLE

By choosing to settle along the rivers on the banks of the Chesapeake, the English unknowingly placed themselves at the center of the **Powhatan** Empire, a powerful Algonquian confederacy of thirty native groups with perhaps as many as twenty-two thousand people. The territory of the equally impressive Susquehannock people also bordered English settlements at the north end of the Chesapeake Bay.

Many cultural differences separated the Native Americans from the English. The most important contrast was each side's differing view of land ownership. According to Powhatan's people, land was owned by no one. Rather, it was collectively used by the tribe. Because land could not be owned, it could not be sold or yielded in treaty. Selling land was the equivalent of selling air.

The English view of individual land ownership was completely foreign to the Powhatans, who could not understand being pushed off tribal lands so it could be sold to individuals. To the Powhatans, the loss of their land was a matter worth fighting for.

To most Native Americans who first encountered them, the English seemed harmless at first. If it were not for the good nature of Powhatan's people, the Jamestown settlers never would have survived their first few seasons in the New World.

Powhatan, the leader of the nation that shared his name, regarded the English settlers suspiciously, as he had previously regarded Spanish settlers.

However, Powhatan understood that good relations with these new inhabitants might help forge a powerful alliance. The English had guns and powder. These items might just give him the advantage he needed to defeat surrounding tribes.

Before long, Powhatan's hopes of peaceful cooperation were dashed. During the Starving Time, colonists took to raiding Native American food supplies. In retaliation, Powhatan ordered an attack.

The First Anglo-Powhatan War (1609–1614) resulted not only from the English colonists' intrusion onto Powhatan land, but also from their refusal



Powhatan: Leader of the Native America tribe that shared his name.

They lived in Virginia around the Jamestown settlement and went to war with the English settlers. Pocahontas was his daughter.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



to follow native protocol by giving gifts. English actions infuriated and insulted the Powhatan.



Primary Source: Map

John Smith's map of Virginia drawn in 1624. North is on the right side of the map. Smith included illustrations of Powhatan and local Native Americans and labeled the areas controlled by various tribes.

In 1613, the settlers captured **Pocahontas**, also called Matoaka, the daughter of a Powhatan headman named Wahunsonacock, and gave her in marriage to Englishman John Rolfe. Their union, and her choice to remain with the English, helped quell the war in 1614. Pocahontas converted to Christianity, changing her name to Rebecca, and sailed with her husband and several other Powhatan to England where she was introduced to King James I. Promoters of colonization publicized Pocahontas as an example of the good work of converting the Powhatan to Christianity. Pocahontas died in England at that age of 21. She and Rolfe had one son and it is a mark of some distinction to be able to claim that one is a descendent of Pocahontas.



Pocahontas: Daughter of Powhatan. She married John Rolfe and died in England.

Peace in Virginia did not last long. The Second Anglo-Powhatan War of the 1620s broke out because of the expansion of the English settlement nearly one hundred miles into the interior, and because of the continued insults and friction caused by English activities. The Powhatan attacked in 1622 and succeeded in killing almost 350 English, about a third of the settlers.

The English responded by annihilating every Powhatan village around Jamestown and from then on became even more intolerant. The Third Anglo-Powhatan War (1644–1646) began with a surprise attack in which the Powhatan killed around five hundred English colonists. However, their ultimate defeat in this conflict forced the Powhatan to acknowledge King Charles I as their sovereign. The **Anglo-Powhatan Wars**, spanning nearly



Anglo-Powhatan Wars: A series of three conflicts between 1609 and 1646 between the English settlers in Virginia and the neighboring Native Americans.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



forty years, illustrate the degree of native resistance that resulted from English intrusion into the Powhatan Confederacy.

Regardless of the individual people involved, the story of the relationships between English settlers and Native Americans is usually one of initial friendship, and then violent conflict over control and access to land. The war between the Jamestown colonists and the Powhatan Confederacy is simply the first in this pattern.



Secondary Source: Photograph

The capitol building in Williamsburg, Virginia. As the Virginia colony grew, the government moved inland to the town of Williamsburg. The House of Burgesses met at this building, which stands at the opposite end of a long mall from the home of the royal governor.

THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES

Although many differences separated Spain and France from England, perhaps the factor that contributed most to distinct paths of colonization was the form of their government.

Spain and France had **absolute monarchies**, but Britain had a **limited monarchy**. In New France and New Spain, all authority flowed from the Crown to the settlers, with no input from below.

The English kings who ruled the 13 original colonies reserved the right to decide the fate of their colonies as well, but not alone. The colonists drew upon their claims to traditional English rights and insisted on raising their own representative assemblies. Such was the case with the **Virginia House of Burgesses**, the first popularly elected legislature in the New World.



Absolute Monarchy: A system of government in which a king or queen has total control.



Limited Monarchy: A system of government in which a king or queen shares power with elected officials.



Virginia House of Burgesses: A legislative body created in colonial Virginia. It was an early example of democracy in America.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



Modeled after the English Parliament, the House of Burgesses was established in 1619. Members would meet at least once a year with their royal governor to decide local laws and determine local taxation.

King James I, a believer in the **divine right** of monarchs, attempted to dissolve the assembly, but the Virginians would have none of it. They continued to meet on a yearly basis to decide local matters.

What is the importance of a small legislative body formed so long ago? The tradition established by the House of Burgesses had a powerful effect on colonial development. Each new English colony demanded its own legislature in turn, and colonists became accustomed to having a say in the way their colonies were governed.

Starting with the Virginia House of Burgesses, Americans had 157 years to practice democracy. By the time of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, they were quite good at it.

CONCLUSION

So, the wealthy men who first invested in the Virginia Company lost their money, and many of the first settlers lost their lives. But in the end, Jamestown survived and the Virginia colony eventually thrived. For those who owned the tobacco plantations, life was good. For those who did not, and especially for the Native Americans who were pushed out of their ancestral lands by the English, life was less pleasant.

What do you think? Was Jamestown a good investment?



Divine Right: The belief that a king or queen derived power from God. It contradicts the Enlightenment idea that governments derive power from the consent of the people.

1 WAS JAMESTOWN A GOOD INVESTMENT?



SUMMARY

Spain had been the most powerful nation in Europe for many years due in large part to the riches discovered in the Americas. However, when the Spanish tried to invade England, her giant navy was sunk in a storm and defeated in battle. It was an important turning point in European and American history.

The English started attacking Spanish ships carrying gold, silver, and other treasure from America back to Europe. Many of these attackers were privateers who later helped found the first English settlements in America.

The first English settlement in America was at Roanoke, but it failed. No one knows exactly what happened to the settlers since they all disappeared.

English businessmen pooled their resources to form joint-stock companies to share in the cost and risk of investing in America. The first such company paid for the establishment of Jamestown in Virginia.

Jamestown was a failure in the beginning. The settlers did not know how to farm so they starved. Only with help from the local Native Americans did some settlers survive. However, they discovered that they could grow tobacco, which they could sell back in Europe. Tobacco made Jamestown and the surrounding Chesapeake Bay region profitable.

The area around Jamestown was settled by the Powhatan Native American people. They had a tense relationship with the English settlers. Sometimes they helped the settlers, but when the English took Native lands they went to war.

An important tradition established in the Chesapeake Bay region was the House of Burgesses. Neither England nor Virginia were democracies since the poor had little influence in both societies. However, the wealthy plantation owners in Virginia met regularly to make laws for their colony. This House of Burgesses helped establish a tradition of self-rule that the colonists were willing to fight for in the 1770s.



KEY CONCEPTS

Spanish Armada: The Spanish navy that sailed to attack England in 1588. It was damaged by a great storm and humiliated by Queen Elizabeth's navy, thus ending the threat of Spanish conquest of England.

Joint-Stock Company: A business in which wealthy individuals invest in order to raise funds for a venture. The Virginia Company of London is a famous example.

Primogenitor: An English tradition that a family's property would pass down to the eldest son. Many of America's first settlers were second and third sons who did not inherit money or land in England.

Tobacco: Crop that saved the Virginia colony.

Absolute Monarchy: A system of government in which a king or queen has total control.

Limited Monarchy: A system of government in which a king or queen shares power with elected officials.

Divine Right: The belief that a king or queen derived power from God. It contradicts the Enlightenment idea that governments derive power from the consent of the people.



LOCATIONS

London: Capital city of England and the United Kingdom

United Kingdom: The nation made up of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Roanoke: Walter Raleigh's failed English colony in Virginia.

Jamestown: First successful English colony in America. Settled in 1607, John Smith helped save the settlers from starvation. Eventually the colony became financially successful when John Rolfe learned to grow quality tobacco in Virginia's soil.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Privateers: Pirates that operate with a "Letter of Marque" from a monarch that gives them official protection, so long as they only attack ships from enemy nations.

Francis Drake: Prominent English privateer. He was the second person to circumnavigate the world.

Walter Raleigh: English privateer who founded the Roanoke colony.

John Smith: Leader of the Jamestown colony. He is famous for ordering that the settlers would not eat if they did not work, and dealing with Powhatan. He also wrote a famous memoir his experience in the colony.

John Rolfe: Jamestown colonist who learned how to successfully grow quality tobacco in Virginia. He married Pocahontas.

Powhatan: Leader of the Native America tribe that shared his name. They lived in Virginia around the Jamestown settlement and went to war with the English settlers. Pocahontas was his daughter.

Pocahontas: Daughter of Powhatan. She married John Rolfe and died in England.

Virginia House of Burgesses: A legislative body created in colonial Virginia. It was an early example of democracy in America.



EVENTS

Starving Time: The winter of 1609-10 in Jamestown when many settlers starved to death. Later the colonists learned to grow their own food.

Anglo-Powhatan Wars: A series of three conflicts between 1609 and 1646 between the English settlers in Virginia and the neighboring Native Americans.



BUSINESSES

Virginia Company of London: Joint-stock company that funded the Jamestown colony.

2

S E C O N D Q U E S T I O N WAS SLAVERY AN INEVITABLE PART OF AMERICAN HISTORY?



INTRODUCTION

Perhaps no problem has bedeviled Americans more than African slavery and its legacy. Some would argue that slavery is America's original sin – that there can never truly be peace or harmony in America because we are forever tainted by the stain of slavery.

By the 18th century, slavery formed a cornerstone of the British colonies. Every colony had slaves, from the southern rice plantations of South Carolina, to the northern wharves of Boston. Slavery was more than a labor system, it influenced every aspect of colonial thought and culture. The uneven relationship it engendered gave white colonists an exaggerated sense of their own status. English liberty gained greater meaning and coherence for whites when they contrasted their status to that of the unfree class of black slaves in British America. African slavery provided whites in the colonies with a shared racial bond and identity.

But, it's worth taking a moment to consider whether or not slavery had to be a part of America's story at all. Slavery is an institution created by people, and eventually ended by people. Racism is an attitude found in the hearts and minds of people, and equally so is equality. Which makes us wonder, was slavery an inevitable part of American history.

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INDENTURED SERVANTS

The growth of tobacco, rice, and indigo and the plantation economy created a tremendous need for labor in Southern English America. Without the aid of modern machinery, human sweat and blood was necessary for the planting, cultivation, and harvesting of these cash crops. While slaves existed in the English colonies throughout the 1600s, **indentured servitude** was the method of choice employed by many planters before the 1680s. This system provided incentives for both the master and servant to increase the working population of the Chesapeake colonies.


Virginia and Maryland operated under what was known as the **headright system**. The leaders of each colony knew that labor was essential for economic survival, so they provided incentives for planters to import workers. For each laborer brought across the Atlantic, the master who had paid for the worker's passage was rewarded with 50 acres of land. This system was used by wealthy plantation aristocrats to increase their land holdings dramatically. In addition, of course, they received the services of the workers for the duration of the indenture.


This system seemed to benefit the servant as well. Each indentured servant would have their fare across the Atlantic paid in full by their master. A contract was written that stipulated the length of service — typically five years. The servant would be supplied room and board while working in the master's fields. Upon completion of the contract, the servant would receive freedom dues, a pre-arranged termination bonus. This might include land, money, a gun, clothes or food. On the surface it seemed like a terrific way for the luckless English poor to make their way to prosperity in a new land. Beneath the surface, this was not often the case.

Only about 40% of indentured servants lived to complete the terms of their contracts. Female servants were often the subject of harassment from their masters. A woman who became pregnant while a servant often had years tacked on to the end of her service time. Early in the century, some servants were able to gain their own land as free men. However, by 1660, the large landowners claimed much of the best land. The former servants were pushed westward, where the mountainous land was less arable and the threat of attack from Native Americans constant. A class of angry, impoverished pioneer farmers began to emerge as they came to understand how the headright system had been manipulated to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES

Slavery, as a theory, had been a commonly accepted European practice long before the exploration of the New World. Drawing on ancient Greek and Roman history, pro-slavery defenders noted that enslaving prisoners of war was an acceptable alternative to execution—once an enemy had

 **Indentured Servant:** White immigrants to America whose passage was paid for them. In turn, they worked for a set number of years in order to off the debt.

 **Headright System:** A legal system in the British American colonies in which men who paid for the passage of indentured servants were rewarded by the government with 50 acres of land per servant. The policy was designed to encourage immigration and was used by wealthy Americans to increase their landholdings.

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surrendered, it was believed to be the victor's right to claim the life of their enemy through death or enslavement. Hence, when the Portuguese slave traders started exploring the coast of Africa where it was customary for warring indigenous tribes to enslave each other, they began to buy these slaves for export to the New World colonies. Other pro-slavery advocates argued that it was their mission to convert African non-Christians whom they referred to as heathens to Christianity and that slavery allowed them to do this more effectively. Ultimately, the desire for profit drove demand for slaves.



Primary Source: Painting

An illustration of slave life on a plantation. The main house where the White owners lived is visible in the background. The music and dance was a blend of various African and European cultural traditions.

The European demand for New World cash crops, especially sugar, tobacco, rice, and cotton, led to a demand for labor to cultivate these crops. Although the practices of indentured servitude and the enslavement of American Indians was already in place, planters in the southern British colonies quickly came to favor enslaved Africans. Not only were Africans well suited to tropical climates, they also brought special skills and husbandry knowledge for crops such as rice, which the British found useful. Slavery and the African slave trade quickly became a building block of the colonial economy and an integral part of expanding and developing the British commercial empire in the Atlantic world.

Only a fraction of the enslaved Africans brought to the New World ended up in British North America. The vast majority of slaves shipped across the Atlantic were sent to the **Caribbean** sugar colonies, Brazil, or the Spanish colonies in Central and South America. Throughout the Americas, but especially in the Caribbean, tropical disease took a large toll on the population. Unlike American Indians, Africans had a limited natural immunity to yellow fever and malaria; however, malnutrition, poor housing, inadequate clothing allowances, and overwork contributed to a high



Caribbean Islands: The small islands stretching in a long arch from Cuba to South America marking the division between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. They were colonies by the English, Spanish, French, Dutch, and Portuguese.

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mortality rate which further increased the demand for the importation of Africans to replenish the labor supply.

The transport of slaves to the American colonies accelerated in the second half of the 1600s. In 1660, Charles II created the Royal African Company to trade in slaves and African goods. His brother, James II, led the company before ascending the throne. Under both these kings, the Royal African Company enjoyed a monopoly to transport slaves to the English colonies. Between 1672 and 1713, the company bought 125,000 captives on the African coast, losing 20% of them to death on the Middle Passage, the journey from the African coast to the Americas.

In the North American colonies, the importation of African slaves was directed mainly southward, where extensive tobacco, rice, and later, cotton plantation economies, demanded extensive labor forces for cultivation. In contrast to the high mortality rates of the Caribbean sugar plantations, North American slave populations tended to live longer.

By the 1800s, many southern farmers found that natural increase was a viable alternative to importation in order to replenish their slave populations. In other words, slaves had children, who would also be slaves.

THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The **Atlantic slave trade** took place across the Atlantic Ocean, predominantly from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The vast majority of slaves transported to the New World were Africans from the central and western parts of the continent, sold by African tribes to European slave traders who then transported them to the colonies in North and South America. Most contemporary historians estimate that between 9.4 and 12 million Africans arrived in the New World from the 16th through 19th centuries.

The First Atlantic System is a term used to characterize the Portuguese and Spanish African slave trade to the South American colonies in the 16th century. During the First Atlantic System, most of these traders were Portuguese, giving them a near-monopoly during the era, although some Dutch, English, and French traders also participated in the slave trade. After the union with Spain, Portugal was prohibited from directly engaging in the slave trade as a carrier and so ceded control over the trade to the Dutch, British, and French.

And so began the Second Atlantic System, which lasted from the 17th through early 19th centuries, in which the trade of enslaved Africans was dominated by British, French, and Dutch merchants. Most Africans sold into slavery during the Second Atlantic System were sent to the Caribbean sugar islands as European nations developed economically slave-dependent colonies through sugar cultivation. It is estimated that more than half of the slave trade took place during the 18th century, with the British as the biggest transporters of slaves across the Atlantic. In the aftermath of the Napoleonic

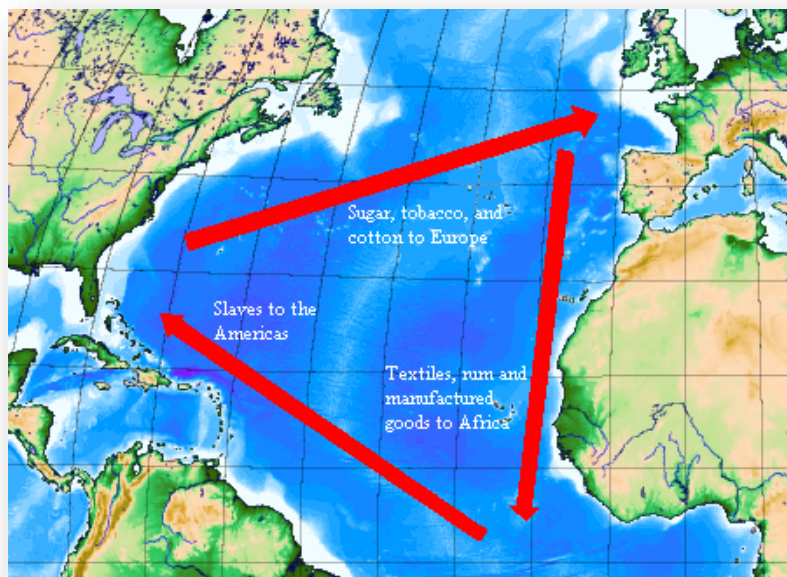


Atlantic Slave Trade: The transport of African slaves from the West Coast of Africa to the Americas (mostly South America and the Caribbean Islands) from 1500s through the 1800s.

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Wars of 1803 through 1815, most of the international slave trade was abolished, although American slavery continued until 1865.



Secondary Source: Map

The triangle trade. Sugar, tobacco and cotton were taken from America to Europe. From there, ships carried finished textiles, manufactured goods and rum to Africa where the ships loaded slaves for the Middle Passage to America.

THE TRIANGLE TRADE

The term **triangular trade** is used to characterize much of the Atlantic trading system from the 16th to early 19th centuries, in which three main commodity-types — labor, crops, and manufactured goods — were traded in three key Atlantic geographic regions.

Ships departed Europe for African markets with manufactured goods which were traded for purchased or kidnapped Africans. These Africans were transported across the Atlantic as slaves and were then sold or traded in the Americas for raw materials. The raw materials would subsequently be transported back to Europe to complete the voyage.

A classic example would be the trade of sugar (often in its liquid form, molasses) from the Caribbean to Europe, where it was distilled into rum. The profits from the sale of sugar were then used to purchase manufactured goods, which were then shipped to West Africa where they were bartered for slaves. The slaves were then brought to the Caribbean to be sold to sugar planters. The profits from the sale of the slaves were then used to buy more sugar, which was shipped to Europe, and so on. This particular triangular trip took anywhere from five to 12 weeks and often resulted in massive fatalities of enslaved Africans on the Middle Passage voyage.



Triangle Trade: The trade of slaves, raw materials and finished products between Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the British Colonies.

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THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

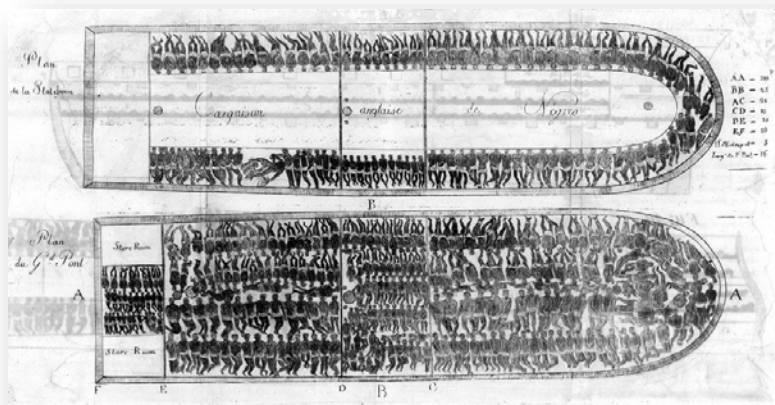
The **Middle Passage** was the stage of the triangular trade where millions of enslaved people from Africa were shipped to the New World for sale. Voyages on the Middle Passage were a large financial undertaking generally organized by companies or groups of investors, rather than individuals. The duration of the transatlantic voyage varied widely, from one to six months depending on weather conditions. An estimated 15% of African slaves died during the Middle Passage; historians estimate that the total number of African deaths directly attributable to the Middle Passage voyage is approximately two million.



Middle Passage: The trip slave ships took from Africa to America.

Primary Source: Diagram

A chilling diagram showing how slaves were packed into the holds of ships traversing the Middle Passage from Africa to America.



African kings, warlords, and private kidnappers sold captives to Europeans who held several coastal forts. The captives were usually force-marched to these ports along the western coast of Africa, where they were held for sale to the European slavers. Once sold to the European traders, African captives were brought to the slave ships for the voyage to the Americas. Typical slave ships contained several hundred slaves with approximately 30 crew members. Captives were normally chained together in pairs to save space and, at best, were fed one meal a day with water. Sometimes captives were allowed to move around during the day, but on most ships captives spent the entire journey crammed below decks.

During the Middle Passage voyage, disease (especially dysentery and scurvy) and starvation were the major killers. Furthermore, outbreaks of smallpox, syphilis, and measles were fatally contagious in close-quarter compartments. The rate of death increased with the length of the voyage as the quality and amount of food and water diminished. While the treatment of slaves on the Middle Passage varied by ship and voyage, it was often horrific. Captive Africans were considered by many Europeans to be less than human; they were instead seen as cargo or goods to be transported as cheaply and quickly as possible for trade. Corporal punishment was very

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common, with whippings used to punish melancholy or any form of resistance.

Slaves resisted in a variety of ways during the Middle Passage, usually by refusing to eat or committing suicide. In turn, crews and slave traders often force fed or tortured slaves and put nets on the sides of ships to keep slaves from attempting suicide. There are some recorded incidents of coordinated mass slave uprisings. However, few succeeded.

SLAVERY IN THE CHESAPEAKE REGION

The **Chesapeake region** was composed of Virginia, with Jamestown as its first successful settlement established in 1607, and Maryland.

During the later part of the 17th century, the development of the Chesapeake region revolved around tobacco cultivation, which required intensive labor. At first, Chesapeake farmers hired indentured servants, men and women from England who sold their labor for a period of five to seven years in exchange for passage to the American colonies, to harvest tobacco crops. However, by the 1680s, fluctuating tobacco prices and the growing scarcity of land in the region made the Chesapeake less appealing to men and women willing to indenture themselves. The scarcity of indentured servants meant that the price of their labor contracts increased, and Chesapeake farmers began to look for alternative, cheaper sources of bonded labor.

As a result, many Chesapeake farmers turned toward imported African slaves to fulfill their desire for cheap labor. Although African chattel slavery was a more expensive investment than white indentured servitude, it guaranteed a lifetime service of free labor. As the demand for Chesapeake cash crops continued to grow, planters began to increasingly invest in the Atlantic slave trade.

A great deal of support for the system of **chattel slavery** came from the wealthy white's fear of rebellions from the labor force. In the late 17th century, indentured servants made up the majority of laborers in the region. Wealthy whites worried over the presence of this large class of laborers and the relative freedom they enjoyed, as well as the alliances between black and white servants. Replacing indentured servitude with black slavery diminished these risks, alleviating the reliance on white indentured servants, who were often dissatisfied and troublesome, and creating a caste of racially defined laborers whose movements were strictly controlled. It also lessened the possibility of further alliances between black and white workers.

While laws in the tobacco colonies had already made slavery a legal institution, new laws, called **slave codes** were passed toward the end of the 17th century that severely curtailed black freedom and laid the foundation for racial slavery. Virginia passed a law in 1680 prohibiting free Africans and slaves from bearing arms, banning Africans from congregating in large



Chesapeake Region: The area around the Chesapeake Bay, including the modern states of Virginia, Maryland and the upper area of North Carolina.



Chattel Slavery: System of slavery in which the slaves are considered property with no individual rights.



Slave Codes: Laws that regulated what slaves were allowed to do, including movement, gathering, learning, rights in court, etc.

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numbers, and establishing harsh punishments for slaves who assaulted Christians or attempted escape.

Two years later, another Virginia law stipulated that all Africans brought to the colony would be slaves for life. Thus, the increasing reliance on slaves in the tobacco colonies—and the draconian laws instituted to control them—not only helped planters meet labor demands, but also served to assuage English fears of uprisings and alleviate class tensions between rich and poor whites.



Primary Source: Advertisement

An advertisement for Virginia tobacco. The role of slaves in the cultivation of tobacco was openly accepted.

SLAVERY AS A SOCIAL IDENTIFIER

The local economy in the Chesapeake was overwhelmingly agrarian, rural, and rooted in the headright system, which guaranteed numerous acres of land to any immigrant who paid their own passage to the New World and settled in the region. The headright system was designed to promote immigrant settlement and the cultivation of key staple crops that increased the prosperity of the Chesapeake region. As the headright system attracted more and more settlers to the Chesapeake, an increasing divide between coastal planters and farmers on the frontier began to emerge, with those in the westernmost areas usually poorer than planters in the east.

With the importation of African slaves, social and economic divisions between wealthy and poor farmers in the Chesapeake increased. As African slaves were generally more expensive to purchase than indentured servants, the wealthy planters invested heavily in African slaves and agricultural

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technology and expanded their lands, while poor farmers struggled to maintain their smaller agricultural enterprises.

These wealthy slave-owning planters came to dominate the top of the social and political hierarchy in the Chesapeake, placing pedigree and wealth as significant social identifiers. However, small farmers composed the largest social class in the Chesapeake. These agriculturalists owned small amounts of property and few or no slaves. The class division between wealthy planters and small farmers continued well into the 19th century, until the Civil War united these factions against the Northern states.

SLAVERY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina, later dubbed the Rice Kingdom, was the first North American colonies to be deliberately founded on slave labor. In the 17th century, wealthy planters from **Barbados** moved to South Carolina looking for new territory. Barbados was a British colony on a small island in the Caribbean. A few Whites owned plantations that covered the island. The work was done entirely by African slaves who far outnumbered the Whites. Frustrated by the limited supply of land, these men looked for a new place where they could expand. Of course, they brought their system of chattel slavery with them.



South Carolina: Colony created by English planters from Barbados. It was established with chattel slavery as an explicit foundation for the economy.



Barbados: British island colony in the Caribbean. Plantation owners from the island established South Carolina an American version of the island, complete with chattel slavery.



Primary Source: Painting

A sugar plantation in the Caribbean. The British colony of Barbados was similar. A few White overseers managed plantations for absent owners. Slaves often far outnumbered Whites on the islands, although life for slaves was so harsh that owners needed to constantly import new slaves since they died before they could have children.

The planters were well aware that African slaves had skills and attributes well suited to the semi-tropical environment of South Carolina. Hence, South Carolinian planters began importing Africans in large numbers, and in 1710, African-born slaves outnumbered American-born people. By 1720, South Carolina's population was 65% enslaved. Wealthy planters cultivated rice and other cash crops along the southeastern coast, while backwoods

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subsistence farmers were pushed out to the **Appalachian Mountains** and backcountry in the later part of the 18th century. These **backcountry** farmers, like their counterparts in the Chesapeake, seldom owned slaves.

The principle cash crop harvested by the South Carolina slave population in the early 18th century was rice, a crop which probably originated in Madagascar and had been introduced into South Carolina in 1694. Once rice was established as the principle cash crop of South Carolina, it brought unprecedented wealth and prosperity to planters and the region. By 1850, a South Carolinian rice planter, Joshua John Ward, was the largest American slaveholder, with an estate that held 1,130 slaves.

It is no coincidence that white planters in the region starting importing African slaves when rice cultivation was introduced into the South, as the first English planters in South Carolina knew little about rice cultivation. The planters relied on the expertise of their African slaves imported from the rice-growing regions of West Africa. For instance, enslaved Africans showed planters how to properly dyke the marshes, periodically flood the rice fields, and use sweetgrass baskets to quickly mill the rice.

In later years, water-powered mills, designed by millwright Jonathan Lucas, also helped expand rice cultivation in the South. Rice plantations were larger than their tobacco counterparts in the Chesapeake, and planters expected slaves to cultivate up to five acres of rice a year, in addition to growing their own vegetables to feed themselves and their families.

SLAVERY IN THE NORTHERN COLONIES

The northeastern and mid-Atlantic states, including Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, had legally permitted slavery in the 17th and 18th centuries. However, during the decades leading up to the American Civil War, almost all slaves in the North had been emancipated through a series of state legislature statutes, creating the northern “free states” in opposition to southern “slave states.”

Even though slavery was permitted, northern states characteristically had far smaller slave populations than the South. Few slave ships arrived in New York, Philadelphia, or Boston, which instead became trade centers for manufactured goods. Slaves that lived in the North were often domestic servants or bondsmen to small farmers and rural ironworks. Unlike in the South, northern farms were not large-scale enterprises that focused on producing a single cash crop. Instead they were often smaller, more agriculturally diversified enterprises that required fewer laborers. Hence, the need for chattel slavery gradually dwindled, especially as rapid soil depletion and the growth of industry in northern cities attracted rural northerners to wage labor.



Appalachian Mountains: Mountain range that runs north to south from Maine to Georgia. It divides the original 13 colonies from the interior.



Backcountry: The area away from coastal settlements, usually in the mountains that was home to most Scotch-Irish immigrants.

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SLAVE RESISTANCE

When historians retell the development of slavery in North America, they can mistakenly give the impression that the Africans and the descendants quietly passed through life, content to be enslaved. This could not be further from the truth.

Slaves everywhere resisted their exploitation and attempted to gain freedom through armed uprisings and rebellions, such as the **Stono Rebellion** and the New York Slave Insurrection of 1741. Other less violent means of resistance included sabotage, running away, and slow labor paces on the plantations.

Unlike their counterparts in the Caribbean, however, American slaves never successfully **overthrew the system of slavery** in the colonies and would not gain freedom until after the Civil War in 1865.



Stono Rebellion: A 1739 slave revolt in South Carolina. 25 Whites and 40-50 slaves were killed. The rebellion led to passage of stricter slave codes.



Haitian Revolution: Rebellion in the 1790s by African slaves in the French colony of Haiti. It led to the establishment of the independent nation of Haiti.

Secondary Source: Statue

The statue of the anonymous slave in Haiti celebrates the successful uprising of slave against the French. Unlike the American slaves, Haiti's slaves rose up in mass revolt and established an independent, black-controlled nation. Haiti is the second independent nation in the Americas after the United States.



CONCLUSION

Slavery was not invented in America, but it was carried to America by English settlers within only a few years of the settlement of Jamestown. Could this have been prevented? Was America simply swept up in a transatlantic economic system and it is unreasonable to think that there is any chance slavery would not have become an established part of the American experience?

Was slavery an inevitable part of American history? What do you think?

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SUMMARY

Much of the work done in the British colonies was first done by indentured servants. These poor people from Great Britain could not afford to pay for passage to America. Someone in America paid it for them in exchange for a set number of years of work. This system of indenture had some problems. Wealthy people who paid for the passage of others were rewarded with land, a practice that made the rich richer. Another problem was that the indentured servants could run away and blend in with other settlers since they were White.

Slavery was not an English invention. The Spanish and Portuguese had been using African slaves for many years. The first African slaves in the English colonies were probably brought from the Caribbean Islands rather than directly from Africa.

Eventually, slaves were brought directly from Africa to the Southern Colonies. Compared to life in Brazil or the Caribbean Islands, life for slaves was better in America. American slaves lived long enough to have children, which led to a natural increase in the slave population. This meant that the importation of slaves died out in America in the 1800s.

Merchants made a lot of money buying and selling slaves. They were an important part of the Triangle Trade. Slaves were purchased in Africa and brought to the Americas. Sugar, tobacco, cotton and other raw materials were loaded onto the ships in America and taken back to Europe. In Europe the ships were reloaded with finished products like furniture and guns, which were shipped off to Africa.

Of course, the voyage between Africa and America for slaves was terrible and deadly. About 15% of all slaves died before reaching land. Slavery and the slave trade was not only a European practice. Many Africans participated by capturing other Africans to sell to the Europeans along the coast.

In time, slaves were seen as property the same as horses or wagons. Strict laws, or codes, were passed throughout the colonies defining the various rights slaves did not have, and restricting aspects of their lives. Some slaves resisted, but these rebellions were always stopped, and resulted in the passage of more strict slave codes.

In the colonies, owning slaves became an important symbol of status for Whites. Only a few wealthy Whites actually owned slaves. In the Chesapeake Region (VA, NC, DE, MD) slaves worked on plantations growing tobacco. In the Deep South (SC, GA) slaves worked on plantations growing rice, sugar and eventually cotton.

The most socially segregated society was in South Carolina, which had been founded by Englishmen from the Caribbean island of Barbados. Slaves outnumbered Whites in both colonies.

There were slaves in the Northern Colonies, however, over time the total number diminished as the North turned toward industry.



KEY CONCEPTS

Headright System: A legal system in the British American colonies in which men who paid for the passage of indentured servants were rewarded by the government with 50 acres of land per servant. The policy was designed to encourage immigration and was used by wealthy Americans to increase their landholdings.

Atlantic Slave Trade: The transport of African slaves from the West Coast of Africa to the Americas (mostly South America and the Caribbean Islands) from 1500s through the 1800s.

Triangle Trade: The trade of slaves, raw materials and finished products between Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the British Colonies.

Middle Passage: The trip slave ships took from Africa to America.

Chattel Slavery: System of slavery in which the slaves are considered property with no individual rights.

Slave Codes: Laws that regulated what slaves were allowed to do, including movement, gathering, learning, rights in court, etc.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Indentured Servant: White immigrants to America whose passage was paid for them. In turn, they worked for a set number of years in order to off the debt.



LOCATIONS

Caribbean Islands: The small islands stretching in a long arch from Cuba to South America marking the division between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. They were colonies by the English, Spanish, French, Dutch, and Portuguese.

Chesapeake Region: The area around the Chesapeake Bay, including the modern states of Virginia, Maryland and the upper part of North Carolina.

South Carolina: Colony created by English planters from Barbados. It was established with chattel slavery as an explicit foundation for the economy.

Barbados: British island colony in the Caribbean. Plantation owners from the island established South Carolina as an American version of the island, complete with chattel slavery.

Appalachian Mountains: Mountain range that runs north to south from Maine to Georgia. It divides the original 13 colonies from the interior.

Backcountry: The area away from coastal settlements, usually in the mountains that was home to most Scotch-Irish immigrants.



EVENTS

Stono Rebellion: A 1739 slave revolt in South Carolina. 25 Whites and 40-50 slaves were killed. The rebellion led to passage of stricter slave codes.

Haitian Revolution: Rebellion in the 1790s by African slaves in the French colony of Haiti. It led to the establishment of the independent nation of Haiti.

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T H I R D Q U E S T I O N WAS THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY A CITY UPON A HILL?



INTRODUCTION

The founders of the New England colonies had an entirely different mission from the Jamestown settlers. Although economic prosperity was still a goal of the New England settlers, their true goal was spiritual. Fed up with the ceremonial Church of England, Pilgrims and Puritans sought to recreate society in the manner they believed God truly intended it to be designed. As the Puritan leader John Winthrop put it, they would be a “city upon a hill” that all the world would recognize as a model, and would so please God he would smile on their colony and shower them with success.

But was this so? Did they succeed in creating a model society? What do you think? Was the Massachusetts Bay colony a city up on a hill?

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ORIGINS

Religious strife reached a peak in England in the 1500s. When Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church of Rome, spiritual life in England was turned on its ear. The new church under the king's leadership was approved by the English Parliament, but not all the people in England were willing to accept the Church of England. At first, the battles were waged between English Catholics and the followers of the new Church — the **Anglicans**. The rule of Queen Elizabeth brought an end to bloodshed, but the battle waged on in the hearts of the English people.

Pilgrims and Puritans both believed in the teachings of **John Calvin** of France. According to Calvin, neither the teachings of the Catholic nor the Anglican Churches addressed God's will. By the end of Elizabeth's reign, England was a nation of many different faiths.

The Stuart Family, who ascended to the throne after the demise of Elizabeth, made life worse for the followers of John Calvin. King James and his son Charles supported the Church of England, but secretly admired the ceremonies of the Catholic Church. To these kings, Calvin was a heretic, a man whose soul was doomed for his religious views.

Separatists in England wanted to separate from the Anglican Church and were persecuted by agents of the throne. The **Puritans**, so named for their desire to purify the Church of England from within rather than leave it entirely, experienced the same degree of harassment. By the second and third decades of the 1600s, each group decided that England was no place to put their controversial beliefs into practice.

Where else but in the New World could such a golden opportunity be found? The land was unspoiled. Children could be raised without the corruption of old English religious ideas. The chance to create a perfect society was there for the taking. The Stuart kings saw America a means to get rid of troublemakers. Furthermore, allowing English Puritans and Separatists to form colonies was a way to counter the power of France and Spain in America. Everything was falling into place.

By 1620, the seeds for a new society, quite different from the one already established at Jamestown, were planted deeply within the souls of a few brave pioneers. Their quest would form the basis of New England society.

THE PLYMOUTH COLONY

Not all the English Separatists set out for the New World.

The first group to leave England actually headed for the Dutch Netherlands in 1608. They became uneasy in their new land as their children started speaking Dutch and abandoning English traditions. Even worse to the Separatists, the tolerance shown to them by the Dutch was shown to many



Anglican Church: The official Church of England. It is a protestant church created by Henry VIII when he wanted a divorce. In America, it is called the Episcopal Church.



John Calvin: French protestant minister. The Pilgrim Separatists and Puritans in England followed his teachings. They were all known as Calvinists.



Separatists: English followers of John Calvin who wanted to leave the Anglican Church. They included the Pilgrims.



Puritans: English followers of John Calvin who wanted to fix problems with the Church of England. They founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony and were led by John Winthrop.

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different faiths. They became disgusted with the attention paid to worldly goods, and the presence of many “unholy” faiths.

The Separatist experiment in the Netherlands came to a quick end, as they began to look elsewhere for a purer place to build their society. Some headed for English islands in the Caribbean. Those who would be forever known to future Americans as the **Pilgrims** set their sights on the New World in late 1620.

Over a hundred travelers embarked on the voyage of the **Mayflower** in September 1620. Less than one third were Separatists. The rest were immigrants, adventurers, and speculators.



Pilgrims: English Separatists who founded the Plymouth Colony. They lived in the Netherlands briefly before coming to America on the Mayflower.



Mayflower: The ship used by the Pilgrims to come to America.

Secondary Source: Painting

A romanticized painting of the embarkation of the Pilgrims completed in 1843 by Robert Weir. It hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol building in Washington, DC and shows them asking for God’s blessing as they set sail for America. In reality, the scene looked nothing like this.



When the weather was good, the passengers could enjoy hot food cooked on deck. When there was high wind or storms, they lived on salted beef, a dried biscuit called hard tack, other dried vegetables, and beer. The nearest thing to resemble a bathroom was a bucket.

Their voyage took about two months, and the passengers enjoyed a happier experience than most trans-Atlantic trips. One death was suffered and one child was born. The child was named Oceanus after the watery depths beneath them.

One of the greatest twists of fate in human history occurred on that voyage. The Pilgrims were originally bound for Virginia to live north of Jamestown under the same charter granted to citizens of Jamestown. Fate charted a different course. Lost at sea, they happened upon **Cape Cod**, a long fishhook-shaped peninsula jutting out from Massachusetts that is instantly recognizable on any map of the United States. After surveying the land, they



Cape Cod: Long, hook-shaped peninsula in Massachusetts. It was the first landing site of the Pilgrims and forms Massachusetts Bay.

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set up camp not too far from Plymouth Rock. Winter was fast approaching and they decided to settle where they had landed.

The Pilgrims had an important question to answer before they set ashore. Since they were not landing within the jurisdiction of the Virginia Company, they had no charter to govern them. Who would rule their society?

In the landmark **Mayflower Compact of 1620**, the Pilgrims decided that they would rule themselves, based on majority rule of the townsmen. This independent attitude set up a tradition of self-rule that would later lead to town meetings and elected legislatures in New England.



Mayflower Compact: 1620 agreement signed by the Pilgrims outlining the government for the new colony, including the right to vote for church members.

Like the Virginia House of Burgesses established the previous year, Plymouth colony began to lay the foundation for democracy in the American colonies.

SURVIVAL OF THE PLYMOUTH COLONY

The major similarity between the first Jamestown settlers and the first Plymouth settlers was great human suffering.

November was too late to plant crops. Many settlers died of scurvy and malnutrition during that horrible first winter. Of the 102 original Mayflower passengers, only 44 survived.

The Pilgrims' remarkable courage was displayed the following spring. When the Mayflower returned to Europe, not a single Pilgrim deserted Plymouth.

By early 1621, the Pilgrims had built crude huts and a common house on the shores of Plymouth Bay. Soon neighboring Native Americans began to build relations with the Pilgrims. **Tisquantum** served as an interpreter with the local tribes. Called Squanto by the English, Tisquantum had been kidnapped and taken to England nearly a decade before. He taught the Pilgrims to fertilize the soil with dried fish to improve their corn yield.



Tisquantum: Also called Squanto. He was a Native American who had learned English and helped the Pilgrims survive.

Massasoit, the chief of the nearby Wampanoags, signed a treaty of alliance with the Pilgrims in the summer. Disease had swept through the Native American village of New England in the decade before the arrival of the Pilgrims. In fact, the open land the Pilgrims found when they landed had been abandoned just a few years before as the populations crashed.



Massasoit: Native American leader of the Wampanoag Tribe who saw the Pilgrims as potential allies against the Wampanoag's traditional enemies.

The Wampanoags had suffered greatly and Massasoit was afraid of attack from their enemies, the Narragansett, further inland who had not yet experienced the outbreaks. In exchange for assistance with defense, Massasoit supplemented the food supply of the Pilgrims for the first few years.

Successful colonies require successful leadership. The man to step forward in Plymouth colony was **William Bradford**. After the first governor elected under the Mayflower Compact perished from the harsh winter, Bradford was elected governor for the next thirty years. In May of 1621, he performed the colony's first marriage ceremony.



William Bradford: Leader of the Puritan colony of Plymouth.

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Under Bradford's guidance, Plymouth suffered less hardship than their English compatriots in Virginia. Relations with the local natives remained relatively smooth in Plymouth and the food supply grew with each passing year.

By autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims had much for which to be thankful. After the harvest, Massasoit and about ninety other Indians joined the Pilgrims for a **harvest festival**. The participants celebrated for several days, dining on venison, goose, duck, turkey, fish, and of course, cornbread, the result of a bountiful corn harvest. This tradition was repeated at harvest time in the following years.

242 years later, President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. The Plymouth Pilgrims simply celebrated survival, as well as the hopes of good fortune in the years that lay ahead.

THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY

Students of history often confuse the Pilgrims and the Puritans, Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay. It is worth taking a moment to sort them out. Pilgrims were separatists. They first went to the Netherlands and then sailed on the Mayflower and created the Plymouth colony in 1620. There were few Pilgrims.

Puritans also left England in pursuit of religious freedom, but there were far more Puritans than Pilgrims. They arrived ten years after the Pilgrims in 1630 and their colony, **Massachusetts Bay**, was centered on the city of Boston. The two colonies were close together. It takes just over an hour to drive between them, and they are both in the modern state of Massachusetts. Eventually, the Pilgrims and their Plymouth Colony were absorbed into the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Compared to the Pilgrims who crossed the Atlantic in just one ship, the Puritans came in huge numbers. The Arbella was one of eleven ships carrying over a thousand Puritans to Massachusetts in 1630. It was the largest original venture ever attempted in the English New World.

The passengers of the Arbella who left England in 1630 with their new charter had a great vision. They were to be an example for the rest of the world in rightful living. The passengers were determined to be a beacon for the rest of Europe, "**A Modell of Christian Charity**," in the words of the governor **John Winthrop**. He and his followers believed that they were chosen by God to build a pure, holy society and that the world would look up to them as an example. He stated their purpose quite clearly: "We shall be as a **city upon a hill**, the eyes of all people are upon us."

Winthrop also articulated a core belief the Puritans had about their destiny. He warned that "if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us" the colony would surely fail. If however, the Puritans held firm to their beliefs,



First Thanksgiving: Celebration held in the fall of 1621 in Plymouth to celebrate the harvest. It was attended by both Pilgrims and their Native American friends.



Massachusetts Bay Colony: Colony created by Puritans in 1630. It was centered around the city of Boston and eventually absorbed Plymouth.



A Model of Christian Charity: Sermon given by John Winthrop on the Arbella on the way to America in which he described the Puritan's covenant with God and described their colony as a "city upon a hill."



John Winthrop: Puritan minister and leader who described the colony as a "city upon a hill."



City Upon a Hill: Phrase used by John Winthrop to describe the Massachusetts Bay Colony as an example for the world of a godly society.

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God would reward them and they would “live and be multiplied, and that the Lord our God may bless us in the land...” This was the Puritan covenant with God. They would be faithful, and God would bestow upon them his protection and blessing. The echoes of this belief are still present in American society. Many Americans continue to believe that this country is blessed, and that by living righteously, we will prosper, and conversely, if we allow evil to thrive, we will be beset with crisis. It is no wonder that a favorite patriotic song is “God Bless America.”



Primary Source: Painting

John Winthrop, minister and leader of the Puritans who made up the Great Migration and formed the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Puritans also believed in **predestination**. This doctrine holds that God is all-powerful and all-knowing; therefore, the fate of each individual soul is known to God at birth. Nothing an individual can do or say could change their ultimate fate. Puritans believed that those chosen by God to be saved. They called themselves the Elect. This did not mean they did not have to be devout. Quite the opposite. They believed that by trying to create a heaven on earth, God would reveal His grace, and a person would know he or she was among the Elect.

The colony needed more than a fervent church to survive. Many dissenters, Christian men and women who were not converted, also lived within the



Predestination: Puritan belief that God had chosen some people for heaven and some for hell before they were born. By doing good works on Earth, a person could come to know that he or she was among the Elect – the people bound for heaven.

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ranks of Massachusetts Bay. Towns such as Marblehead were founded by non-Puritan settlers. The Puritans allowed this for the sake of commerce. Many skills were necessary for a vibrant economy.

An elected legislature was established, echoing the desire for self-government already seen in other English colonies. Although ministers were prohibited from holding political office, many of the most important decisions were made by the clergy.

By the end of the 1630s, the **Great Migration** of Puritans out of England, had brought over 14,000 Puritan settlers to Massachusetts, and the colony began to spread. In 1691, Plymouth colony was absorbed by their burgeoning neighbor to the West.



Great Migration: Nickname for the mass immigration of Puritans to Massachusetts beginning in 1630.

Approximately 14,000 Puritans moved to America.

The great experiment seemed to be a smashing success for the first few decades. In the end however, worldly concerns led to a decline in religious fervor as the 1600s grew old.

PURITAN LIFE

New England life seemed to burst with possibilities. The life expectancy of its citizens became longer than that of Old England, and much longer than the Southern English colonies. Children were born at nearly twice the rate in Maryland and Virginia. It is often said that New England invented grandparents, for it was here that people in great numbers first grew old enough to see their children bear children.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was a man's world. Women did not participate in town meetings and were excluded from decision making in the church. Puritan ministers furthered male supremacy in their writings and sermons. They preached that the soul had two parts, the immortal masculine half, and the mortal feminine half.

It was believed that women who were pregnant with a male child had a rosy complexion and that women carrying a female child were pale. Names of women found in census reports of Massachusetts Bay include Patience, Silence, Fear, Prudence, Comfort, Hopetill, and Be Fruitful. This list reflects Puritan views on women quite clearly.

Church attendance was mandatory. Those that missed church regularly were subject to a fine. The sermon became a means of addressing town problems or concerns. The church was sometimes patrolled by a man who held a long pole. On one end was a collection of feathers to tickle the chins of old men who fell asleep. On the other was a hard wooden knob to alert children who giggled or slept. Church was serious business indeed.

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Were the British colonists so different if they were all settled by people from the same country?



Secondary Source: Painting

Pilgrims walk to church. The emphasis on religion associated with the Pilgrims today in popular culture today is founded in historical reality.

The Puritans believed they were doing God's work. Hence, there was little room for compromise. Puritans felt no remorse about administering punishment. They believed in Old Testament methods such as an "eye for an eye." Surely, God's correction would be far worse to the individual than any earthly penalty.

Harsh punishment was inflicted on those who were seen as straying from God's work. There were cases when individuals of differing faiths were hanged in Boston Common. Adulterers might have been forced to wear a scarlet "A" if they were lucky. At least two known adulterers were executed in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Public whippings were commonplace. The stockade forced the humiliated guilty person to sit in the public square, while onlookers spat or laughed at them.

Contrary to myth, the Puritans did have fun. There were celebrations and festivals. People sang and told stories. Children were allowed to play games with their parents' permission. Wine and beer drinking were common place. Puritans did not all dress in black as many believe. The fundamental rule was to follow God's law. Those that did lived in peace in the Bible commonwealth.

EDUCATION

The first public schools in America were established by the Puritans in New England during the 17th century. Boston Latin School was founded in 1635 and is the oldest public school in the United States. Lawrence Cremin writes that colonists tried at first to educate by the traditional English methods of family, church, community, and apprenticeship, with schools later becoming the key agent in socialization. At first, the rudiments of literacy and arithmetic were taught inside the family. By the mid-19th century, the role of the schools had expanded to such an extent that many of the educational tasks traditionally handled by parents became the responsibility of the schools.

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All the New England colonies required towns to set up schools. In 1642, the Massachusetts Bay Colony made education compulsory, and other New England colonies followed. Similar statutes were adopted in other colonies in the 1640s and 1650s. The schools were all male, with few facilities for girls. **Common schools** appeared in the 18th century, where students of all ages were under the control of one teacher in one room. They were publicly supplied at the local town level. They were not free but were supported by tuition or rate bills.

The larger towns in New England opened grammar schools, the forerunner of the modern high school. The most famous was the Boston Latin School, which is still in operation as a public high school. Hopkins School in New Haven, Connecticut was another. By the 1780s, most had been replaced by private academies. By the early 19th century, New England operated a network of elite private high schools, now called prep schools. They became coeducational in the 1970s and remain highly prestigious private schools today.

The first universities in the British colonies were established in New England.

Harvard College was founded by the colonial legislature in 1636 and named in honor of benefactor John Harvard. Most of the funding came from the colony, but the college began to collect an endowment. Harvard was founded for the purpose of training young men for the ministry, and it won general support from the Puritan colonies. **Yale College** was founded in 1701. Dartmouth College was chartered in 1769 and Brown University was founded by Baptists in 1764.

No longer schools to train only new ministers for the church, these schools make up the Ivy League and are some of the most prestigious universities in the world, a testament to the enduring legacy of the Puritans' belief in education.

THE NEW ENGLAND ECONOMY

Economically, New England fulfilled the expectations of its Puritan founders. The Puritan economy was based on the efforts of self-supporting farmsteads who traded only for goods that they could not produce themselves, unlike the cash crop-oriented plantations of the Chesapeake region. New England became an important mercantile and shipbuilding center, along with agriculture, fishing, and logging, serving as the hub for trading between the southern colonies and Europe.

The region's economy grew steadily over the entire colonial era, despite the lack of a staple crop that could be exported. All the colonies fostered economic growth by subsidizing projects that improved the infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, inns, and ferries. They gave bounties and monopolies to sawmills, grist mills, iron mills, fulling mills (which treated cloth), salt works, and glassworks. Most important, colonial legislatures set up a legal



Common Schools: Schools that were opened in New England in the 1700s. They were open to boys and were supported by tax money. They are an example of Puritan belief in collective sacrifice for the greater good and the value they placed on literacy.



Harvard and Yale Universities: The first two universities established in what became the United States. They were set up by Puritans to train future ministers.



Protestant Work Ethic: A belief common in New England that encouraged people to work hard as part of a godly life.

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system that was conducive to business enterprise by resolving disputes, enforcing contracts, and protecting property rights. Hard work and entrepreneurship characterized the region, as the Puritans and Yankees endorsed the **Protestant Work Ethic** which enjoined men to work hard as part of their divine calling.



Secondary Source: Illustration

Fishing was an important element of colonial New England's economy.

New England conducted a robust trade within the English domain in the mid-18th century. They exported pickled beef and pork to the Caribbean, onions and potatoes from the Connecticut Valley, codfish to feed their slaves, northern pine and oak staves from which the planters constructed containers to ship their sugar and molasses, Narragansett Pacers from Rhode Island, and plugs to run sugar mills.

The benefits of growth were widely distributed, with even farm laborers better off at the end of the colonial period. The growing population led to shortages of good farm land on which young families could establish themselves. One result was to delay marriage, and another was expansion of English settlements to new lands farther west.

In the towns and cities, there was strong entrepreneurship and a steady increase in the specialization of labor. Wages for men went up steadily before 1775. New occupations were opening for women, including weaving, teaching, and tailoring. The region bordered New France, and in numerous

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wars the British poured money in to purchase supplies, build roads, and pay colonial soldiers.

The coastal ports began to specialize in fishing, international trade, shipbuilding, and whaling after 1780. These factors combined with growing urban markets for farm products and allowed the economy to flourish despite the lack of technological innovation.

Benjamin Franklin in 1772, after examining the wretched hovels in Scotland surrounding the opulent mansions of the land owners, said that in New England every man is a property owner, "has a Vote in public Affairs, lives in a tidy, warm House, has plenty of good Food and Fuel, with whole clothes from Head to Foot, the Manufacture perhaps of his own family."

CONCLUSION

Both separatists Pilgrims and Puritans set out for America in search of religious freedom and a better life. After surviving tremendous hardships, their colonies thrived. But did they succeed in creating Winthrop's city upon a hill? Were the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies examples of pure, godly places that deserved the admiration of the world? What do you think?

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SUMMARY

In England, everyone had to belong to the official Church of England which was led by the king or queen. Some did not like this. They either wanted to purify the church or separate from the church. Both groups caused problems for the government so they were encouraged to leave.

Plymouth was founded by separatists called Pilgrims. They arrived on the Mayflower. They were a small group, but set an important precedent in America by agreeing to the Mayflower Compact and holding elections for community leaders.

The Plymouth Colony would have failed if it were not for the help of local Native Americans. The tradition of holding a Thanksgiving feast comes from this colony.

A much larger group came to nearby Massachusetts Bay Colony. They were Puritans rather than separatists. They believed in a covenant with God. They thought that if they were good Christians, God would reward them and make their colony prosper. They also believed their colony would be an example of a pure society on earth that everyone else could copy. They referred to it as a city upon a hill. These are still important ideas in American myth. Many thousands of Puritans came over time and eventually the Plymouth Colony was absorbed into Massachusetts.

Puritans were strict. Everyone had to follow the colony's rules, which included attending church. They believed strongly in education because they wanted people to be able to read the Bible. They founded Harvard and Yale Universities to train new ministers.

New England was not settled as a business like Jamestown. New England was made up of towns with families instead of plantations with single owners and slaves. New Englanders exported fish, lumber, built ships and traded.



KEY CONCEPTS

City Upon a Hill: Phrase used by John Winthrop to describe the Massachusetts Bay Colony as an example for the world of a godly society.

Predestination: Puritan belief that God had chosen some people for heaven and some for hell before they were born. By doing good works on Earth, a person could come to know that he or she was among the Elect – the people bound for heaven.

Common Schools: Schools that were opened in New England in the 1700s. They were open to boys and were supported by tax money. They are an example of Puritan belief in collective sacrifice for the greater good and the value they placed on literacy.

Protestant Work Ethic: A belief common in New England that encouraged people to work hard as part of a godly life.



LOCATIONS

Cape Cod: Long, hook-shaped peninsula in Massachusetts. It was the first landing site of the Pilgrims and forms Massachusetts Bay.

Massachusetts Bay Colony: Colony created by Puritans in 1630. It was centered around the city of Boston and eventually absorbed Plymouth.

Harvard and Yale Universities: The first two universities established in what became the United States. They were set up by Puritans to train future ministers.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Anglican Church: The official Church of England. It is a protestant church created by Henry VIII when he wanted a divorce. In America, it is called the Episcopal Church.

John Calvin: French protestant minister. The Pilgrim Separatists and Puritans in England followed his teachings. They were all known as Calvinists.

Separatists: English followers of John Calvin who wanted to leave the Anglican Church. They included the Pilgrims.

Puritans: English followers of John Calvin who wanted to fix problems with the Church of England. They founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony and were led by John Winthrop.

Pilgrims: English Separatists who founded the Plymouth Colony. They lived in the Netherlands briefly before coming to America on the Mayflower.

Tisquantum: Also called Squanto. He was a Native American who had learned English and helped the Pilgrims survive.

Massasoit: Native American leader of the Wampanoag Tribe who saw the Pilgrims as potential allies against the Wampanoag's traditional enemies.

William Bradford: Leader of the Puritan colony of Plymouth.

John Winthrop: Puritan minister and leader who described the colony as a "city upon a hill."



EVENTS

First Thanksgiving: Celebration held in the fall of 1621 in Plymouth to celebrate the harvest. It was attended by both Pilgrims and their Native American friends.

Great Migration: Nickname for the mass immigration of Puritans to Massachusetts beginning in 1630. Approximately 14,000 Puritans moved to America.



DOCUMENTS

Mayflower Compact: 1620 agreement signed by the Pilgrims outlining the government for the new colony, including the right to vote for church members.



SPEECHES

A Model of Christian Charity: Sermon given by John Winthrop on the Arbella on the way to America in which he described the Puritan's covenant with God and described their colony as a "city upon a hill."



SHIPS

Mayflower: The ship used by the Pilgrims to come to America.

4

F O U R T H Q U E S T I O N WAS WINTHROP'S DREAM OF A RELIGIOUSLY PURE SOCIETY EVER POSSIBLE?



INTRODUCTION

As you know, the settlers in New England had a clear idea of the religious code that would guide them in the creation of their colonies in America. In fact, they left England specifically because they could not follow their beliefs back home.

But then, once the colonies survived their initial years, trouble began. This should have been entirely predictable. Putting many people together and expecting them to all believe identically seems unreasonable. And so it was that the Puritan colonies split. New England is not a single state today, but a collection of states, the legacy of divisions in the 1600s.

But, perhaps if Winthrop and the leaders of the colonies could have been wiser, or more persuasive, or more strict. Perhaps things did not have to go as they did.

What do you think? Was Winthrop's dream of a religiously pure society ever possible?

4 WAS WINTHROP'S DREAM OF A RELIGIOUSLY PURE SOCIETY EVER POSSIBLE?

Were the British colonies so different if they were all settled by people from the same country?

DISSENT IN MASSACHUSETTS BAY

There was not too much room for religious disagreement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Puritans defended their dogma with uncommon fury. Their devotion to principle was God's work; to ignore God's work was unfathomable. When free-thinkers speak their minds in such a society, conflict inevitably results.

Such was the case in Massachusetts Bay when Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams spoke their minds.



Secondary Source: Illustration

The trial of Anne Hutchinson by the leaders of the Massachusetts Bay colony.

Anne Hutchinson was a deeply religious woman. In her understanding of Biblical law, the ministers of Massachusetts had lost their way. She thought the enforcement of proper behavior from church members conflicted with the doctrine of predestination. She asked simply, "If God has predetermined



Anne Hutchinson: Puritan dissident in Massachusetts. In 1637 she was banished from the colony because she believed that church rules about behavior contradicted the belief in predestination. She eventually died in an attack by Native Americans in New York.

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for me salvation or damnation, how could any behavior of mine change my fate?"

This sort of thinking was seen as extremely dangerous. If the public ignored church authority, surely there would be anarchy. The power of the ministers would decrease. Soon over eighty community members were gathering in her parlor to hear her comments on the weekly sermon. Her leadership position as a woman made her seem all the more dangerous to the Puritan order.

The clergy felt that Anne Hutchinson was a threat to the entire Puritan experiment. They decided to arrest her for **heresy**. In her trial, she argued intelligently with John Winthrop, but the court found her guilty and banished her from Massachusetts Bay in 1637.

Roger Williams was a similar threat. Two ideas got him into trouble in Massachusetts Bay. First, he preached separation of church and state. He believed in complete religious freedom, so no single church should be supported by tax dollars. Massachusetts Puritans believed they had the one true faith. Therefore such talk was intolerable. Second, Williams claimed taking land from the Native Americans without proper payment was unfair.

Massachusetts wasted no time in banishing the minister. In 1636, he purchased land from the Narragansett and founded the colony of **Rhode Island**. Here there would be complete religious freedom. Dissenters from the English New World fled here seeking refuge. Anne Hutchinson herself moved to Rhode Island before her fatal relocation to New York where she was killed by Native Americans.

America has long been a land where people have reserved the right to say, "I disagree." Many early settlers left England in the first place because they disagreed with English practice. Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson were two brave souls who reminded everyone at their own great peril of that most sacred right.

CONNECTICUT

Despite a few internal problems, Massachusetts Bay Colony was thriving by the mid-1630s. It would only be a matter of time before individuals within the colony would consider expansion.

There were obstacles to consider. Establishing a new colony was never easy. Pequot Indian settlements west of the Connecticut River were an important consideration. Nevertheless, the Puritan experiment pushed forward, creating new colonies in the likeness of Massachusetts Bay.

Thomas Hooker was a devout Puritan minister. He had no quarrels with the religious teachings of the church. He did, however, object to linking voting rights with church membership, which had been the practice in Massachusetts Bay.



Hersey: Beliefs that contradict official church teachings.



Roger Williams: Puritan who believed in the separation of church and state (government and church leadership should be separate). He was banished and founded Rhode Island.



Rhode Island: Colony south of Massachusetts founded by Roger Williams and his followers.



Thomas Hooker: Puritan minister who left Massachusetts and founded Hartford in Connecticut. He believed that all men should be able to vote, not only church members.

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In 1636, his family led a group of followers west and founded the town of Hartford. This would become the center of Connecticut colony. In religious practices, Connecticut mirrored Massachusetts Bay. Politically, it allowed more access to non-church members.

In 1639, the citizens of Connecticut enacted the first written constitution in the Western Hemisphere. The **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** called for an elected governor and a two-house legislature. It served as a model for other colonial charters and even future state constitutions after independence was achieved.

In 1637, under the leadership of **John Davenport**, a second colony was formed in the Connecticut River Valley, revolved around the port of New Haven. Unlike the citizens in Hartford, the citizens were strict about church membership and the political process. They abolished juries because there was no mention of them in the Bible. Most citizens accused of a crime simply reported to the magistrate for their punishment, without furnishing a defense.

The New Haven colony was merged into its more democratic neighbor by King Charles II in 1662.

Connecticut provides a great example of the strictness of colonial society. Laws based on scripture, called Blue Laws, were applied to Connecticut residents. Examples include the death penalty for crimes that seem minor by modern standards. Blue laws condemned to death any citizen who was convicted of blaspheming the name of God or cursing their natural father or mother. These laws were in effect at least as late as 1672 in colonial Connecticut.

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and eventually New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine are known collectively as New England. All settled by Pilgrims or Puritans, they share a similar geography, climate, economy, history and values.

NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE NEW ENGLAND SETTLERS

Tensions had existed from the beginning between the Puritans and the native people who controlled southern New England. Relationships deteriorated as the Puritans continued to expand their settlements aggressively and as European ways increasingly disrupted native life. These strains led to **King Philip's War** (1675–1676), a massive regional conflict that was nearly successful in pushing the English out of New England.

When the Puritans began to arrive in the 1620s and 1630s, local Algonquian peoples viewed them as potential allies in the conflicts already simmering between rival native groups. In 1621, the Wampanoag, led by Massasoit, concluded a peace treaty with the Pilgrims at Plymouth. In the 1630s, the Puritans in Massachusetts and Plymouth allied themselves with the Narragansett and Mohegan people against the Pequot, who had recently



Fundamental Orders of Connecticut:

Laws outlining the government of the Connecticut colony, including an elected governor and two-house legislature. Many colonies and states copied this model.



John Davenport: Leader of the colony at New Haven, Connecticut. He

believed jury trials should be abolished because juries are not mentioned in the Bible.



King Philip's War: Conflict between

Puritans in New England at the surrounding Native American tribes in 1675 and 1676. The Puritan colonies were nearly wiped out before the Native Americans were defeated.

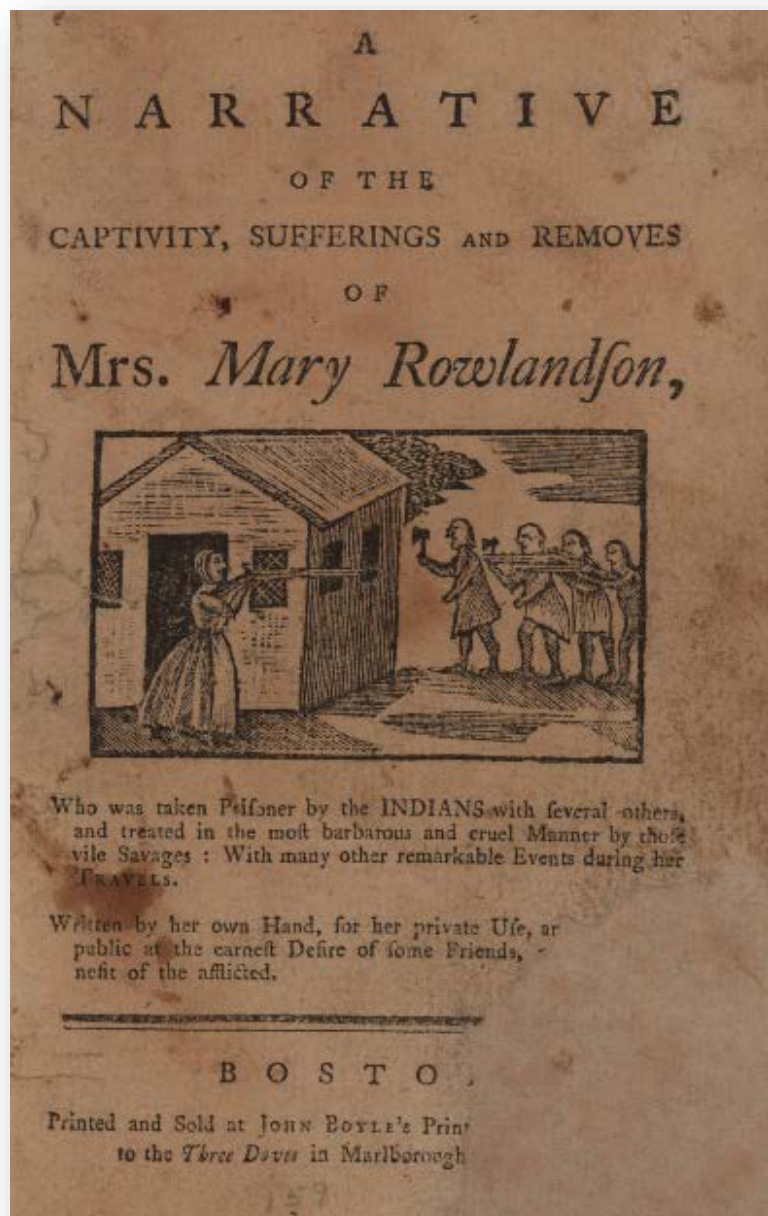
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expanded their claims into southern New England. In May 1637, the Puritans attacked a large group of several hundred Pequot along the Mystic River in Connecticut. To the horror of their native allies, the Puritans massacred all but a handful of the men, women, and children they found.

Primary Source: Book Cover

An early edition of Mary Rowlandson's memoir of her captivity during King Philip's War.



By the mid-seventeenth century, the Puritans had pushed their way further into the interior of New England, establishing outposts along the Connecticut River Valley. There seemed no end to their expansion. Wampanoag leader **Metacom** or Metacomet, also known as King Philip among the English, was

 **Metacom:** Leader of the Wampanoag and the surrounding Native American tribes who fought King Philip's War against the Puritans. He was also called Metacomet, or King Philip by the English.

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determined to stop the encroachment. The Wampanoag, along with the Nipmuck, Pocumtuck, and Narragansett, took up the hatchet to drive the English from the land.

In the ensuing conflict, called King Philip's War, native forces succeeded in destroying half of the frontier Puritan towns. They especially focused on killing cattle, which they saw as symbolic of the English unjust use of Native American land. Sometimes, they took English settlers as captives. In one such case, **Mary Rowlandson** was held for 11 weeks before being ransomed. In 1682, six years after her ordeal, she published "The Sovereignty and Goodness of God: Being a Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson". Her memoir is considered a seminal American work in the literary genre of captivity narratives. It went through four printings in 1682 and garnered readership both in the New England colonies and in England, leading it to be considered by some the first American bestseller.

In the end, the English, aided by Mohegans and Christian Indians, prevailed and sold many captives into slavery in the West Indies. The severed head of King Philip was publicly displayed in Plymouth.

The war also forever changed the English perception of native peoples; from then on, Puritan writers took great pains to vilify the natives as bloodthirsty savages. A new type of racial hatred became a defining feature of Indian-English relationships in the Northeast.

EFFECTS ON NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE

Native weapons changed dramatically as well, creating an arms race among the peoples living in European colonization zones. Indians refashioned European brassware into arrow points and turned axes used for chopping wood into weapons. The most prized piece of European weaponry to obtain was a musket, or light, long-barreled European gun. In order to trade with Europeans for these, native peoples intensified their harvesting of beaver, commercializing their traditional practice.

The influx of European materials made warfare more lethal and changed traditional patterns of authority among tribes. Formerly weaker groups, if they had access to European metal and weapons, suddenly gained the upper hand against once-dominant groups. The Algonquian, for instance, traded with the French for muskets and gained power against their enemies, the Iroquois. Eventually, native peoples also used their new weapons against the European colonizers who had provided them.

WITCHCRAFT IN SALEM

Salem, a small town in Massachusetts is notorious, even today, for the witch trials that occurred there in 1692 and 1693. Although the people of Salem focused their attention on finding and prosecuting witches, historians believe there must have been other factors that drove the hysteria. For



Mary Rowlandson: Puritan who was kidnapped by Native Americans who attacked her town during King Philip's War. She wrote a memoir of her captivity and became one of America's first famous authors.



Salem: Massachusetts town that became famous because of witch trials that took place there in 1692 and 1693.

4 WAS WINTHROP'S DREAM OF A RELIGIOUSLY PURE SOCIETY EVER POSSIBLE?



example, Salem had suffered greatly in preceding years from Native American attacks. As the town became more populated, land became harder and harder to acquire. A smallpox epidemic had broken out at the beginning of the decade. Massachusetts was experiencing some of the worst winters in memory. The motives of the young girls themselves can be questioned. In a society where women had no power, particularly young women, is it not understandable how a few adolescent girls, drunk with unforeseen attention, allowed their imaginations to run wild?

As the deeply religious residents of Salem saw it, surely the Devil had come to their town in 1692. Young girls screamed and barked like a dogs. They were seen doing strange dances in the woods. This was behavior hardly becoming of virtuous teenage maidens. The town doctor was called onto the scene and after a thorough examination, he concluded that the girls were bewitched. Now the task was clear. Whomever was responsible for this outrage must be brought to justice.



Secondary Source: Painting

One artist's idea of what the Salem Witch Trials looked like. The reality was probably very different.

The ordeal originated in the home of Salem's Reverend Samuel Parris. Parris had a slave from the Caribbean named **Tituba**. Several of the town's teenage girls began to gather in the kitchen with Tituba early in 1692. As winter turned to spring the townspeople were aghast at the behaviors exhibited by Tituba's young followers. They were believed to have danced a black magic dance in the nearby woods. Several of the girls would fall to the floor and scream hysterically. Soon this behavior began to spread across Salem. Ministers from nearby communities came to Salem to lend their sage advice. The talk turned to identifying the parties responsible for this mess.



Tituba: African slave from the Caribbean in Salem who was accused of teaching witchcraft to local girls.

4 WAS WINTHROP'S DREAM OF A RELIGIOUSLY PURE SOCIETY EVER POSSIBLE?



Puritans believed that to become bewitched a witch must draw an individual under a spell. The girls could not have possibly brought this condition onto themselves. Soon they were questioned and forced to name their tormentors. Three townspeople, including Tituba, were named as witches. The famous Salem witchcraft trials began as the girls began to name more and more community members.

As 1692 passed into 1693, the hysteria began to lose steam. The governor of the colony, upon hearing that his own wife was accused of witchcraft ordered an end to the trials. However, 20 people and 2 dogs were executed for the crime of witchcraft in Salem. One person was pressed to death under a pile of stones for refusing to testify.

THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING

During the eighteenth century, the British Atlantic experienced an outburst of Protestant revivalism known as the **First Great Awakening**.

During the First Great Awakening, evangelists came from the ranks of several Protestant denominations: Congregationalists, Anglicans (members of the Church of England), and Presbyterians. They rejected what appeared to be sterile, formal modes of worship in favor of a vigorous emotional religiosity.

Whereas Martin Luther and John Calvin had preached a doctrine of predestination and close reading of scripture, new evangelical ministers spread a message of personal and experiential faith that rose above mere book learning. Individuals could bring about their own salvation by accepting Christ, an especially welcome message for those who had felt excluded by traditional Protestantism: women, the young, and people at the lower end of the social order.

The Great Awakening caused a split between those who followed the evangelical message called the **New Lights** and those who rejected it called the **Old Lights**. The elite ministers in British America were firmly Old Lights, and they censured the new revivalism as chaos. Indeed, the revivals did sometimes lead to excess. In one notorious incident in 1743, an influential New Light minister named James Davenport urged his listeners to burn books. The next day, he told them to burn their clothes as a sign of their casting off the sinful trappings of the world. He then took off his own pants and threw them into the fire, but a woman saved them and tossed them back to Davenport, telling him he had gone too far.

Another outburst of Protestant revivalism began in New Jersey, led by a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church named Theodorus Frelinghuysen. Frelinghuysen's example inspired other ministers, including Gilbert Tennent, a Presbyterian. Tennent helped to spark a Presbyterian revival in the Middle Colonies of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, in part by founding a seminary to train other evangelical clergyman. New Lights also founded colleges in Rhode Island and New Hampshire that would later become Brown



First Great Awakening: Revival in religious practice in the mid-1700s in both England and the English colonies in America. Ministers preached a more direct connection to god that did not rely on official church leaders. The movement weakened the power of established churches and led to the creation of new denominations such as the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists.



New Lights: Ministers who led the First Great Awakening.



Old Lights: Ministers during the First Great Awakening who wanted to preserve traditional practices and rejected the teachings of evangelical ministers.

4 WAS WINTHROP'S DREAM OF A RELIGIOUSLY PURE SOCIETY EVER POSSIBLE?



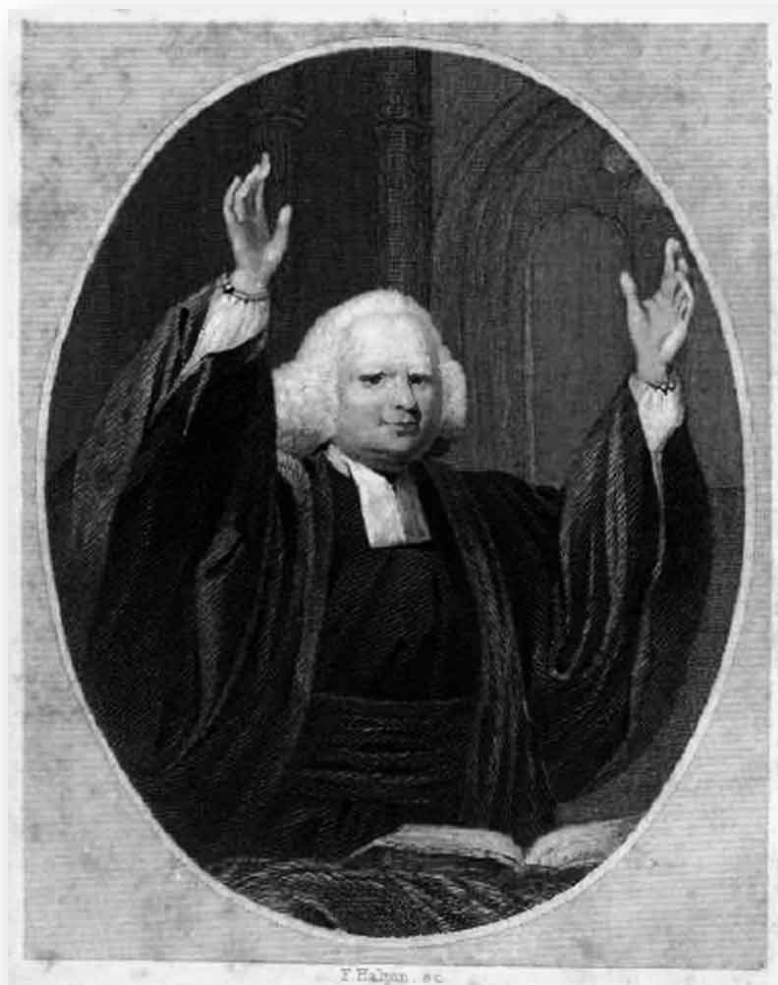
University and Dartmouth College. In Northampton, Massachusetts, **Jonathan Edwards** led still another explosion of evangelical fervor. Edwards's best-known sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," used powerful word imagery to describe the terrors of hell and the possibilities of avoiding damnation by personal conversion. One passage reads: "The wrath of God burns against them [sinners], their damnation don't slumber, the pit is prepared, the fire is made ready, the furnace is now hot, ready to receive them, the flames do now rage and glow. The glittering sword is whet, and held over them, and the pit hath opened her mouth under them." Edwards's revival spread along the Connecticut River Valley, and news of the event spread rapidly through the frequent reprinting of his famous sermon.



Johnathan Edwards: Minister of the First Great Awakening who was known for his oratory. Among his famous sermons is "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

Secondary Source: Illustration

George Whitfield, an English minister, who travelled throughout America preaching during the First Great Awakening.



The foremost evangelical of the Great Awakening was an Anglican minister named **George Whitefield**. Like many evangelical ministers, Whitefield was itinerant, traveling the countryside instead of having his own church and



George Whitfield: English minister, who travelled throughout America preaching during the First Great Awakening.

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congregation. Between 1739 and 1740, he electrified colonial listeners with his brilliant oratory.

An actor by training, he would shout the word of God, weep with sorrow, and tremble with passion as he delivered his sermons. Colonists flocked by the thousands to hear him speak. He converted slaves and even a few Native Americans. Even religious skeptic Benjamin Franklin emptied his coin purse after hearing him speak in Philadelphia.

The Great Awakening saw the rise of several Protestant denominations, including **Methodists**, **Presbyterians**, and **Baptists** who emphasized adult baptism of converted Christians rather than infant baptism. These new churches gained converts and competed with older Protestant groups like Anglicans (members of the Church of England), Congregationalists (the heirs of Puritanism in America), and Quakers. The influence of these older Protestant groups, such as the New England Congregationalists, declined because of the Great Awakening. Nonetheless, the Great Awakening touched the lives of thousands on both sides of the Atlantic and provided a shared experience in the eighteenth-century British Empire.



Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists:
Protestant denominations
established during the First Great
Awakening.

CONCLUSION

New England splintered into separate colonies because of disagreements over religious doctrine, and faced violence because of conflicts over land with neighboring Native Americans. Some of the problems of the New England colonies were entirely self-inflicted, as was the case of the Salem Witch Trials. But did this have to be? Was Winthrop's dream of a religiously pure society ever even possible?

4 WAS WINTHROP'S DREAM OF A RELIGIOUSLY PURE SOCIETY EVER POSSIBLE?



SUMMARY

Not everyone in New England agreed with the teachings of the Puritan Church. Anne Hutchinson did not believe in predestination. Roger Williams thought that the church and government should be separate. He also thought taking lands from Native Americans without payment was wrong. Both Hutchinson and Williams were expelled from Massachusetts and founded Rhode Island.

Thomas Hooker thought that voting should not be restricted to members of the church. He left to found Connecticut. A second settlement in Connecticut created the first written constitution for government in America.

Although the early New England settlements had benefited from help from local Native Americans, things went badly as time went by. English settlers took Native lands and eventually the Native Americans in the area banded together and made war on the English. King Philip's War was long and bloody. The Native Americans burned farms, kidnapped English settlers and especially killed livestock. Mary Rowlandson's memoir of her time in captivity became the first American bestseller. Eventually the Native Americans lost. The war had a strong effect on the way English settlers viewed Native Americans.

Interaction with the English had an effect on daily Native American life. Metal tools, especially guns, were important and made war between Native American groups more deadly. Also, English and French traders wanted to buy beaver fur to sell back in Europe which led to a change in Native economies. Instead of hunting for subsistence, many Native Americans focused more attention on capturing beaver for export.

A famous episode in American history were the witch trials that happened in the town of Salem in Massachusetts. A group of girls were accused of being witches. They could save themselves by naming other witches, which led to many accusations. The entire episode helps us understand the limitations of science at the time as well as the power of the church and weakness of women in colonial New England society.

By the 1700s, the power of the church was weakening in New England. Then a revival of interest in religion spread. Beginning back in England, the First Great Awakening spread through America as travelling ministers gave exciting sermons. One result was an increase in church membership and participation. Another effect was the beginning of new Christian denominations such as the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Anne Hutchinson: Puritan dissident in Massachusetts. In 1637 she was banished from the colony because she believed that church rules about behavior contradicted the belief in predestination. She eventually died in an attack by Native Americans in New York.

Roger Williams: Puritan who believed in the separation of church and state (government and church leadership should be separate). He was banished and founded Rhode Island.

Thomas Hooker: Puritan minister who left Massachusetts and founded Hartford in Connecticut. He believed that all men should be able to vote, not only church members.

John Davenport: Leader of the colony at New Haven, Connecticut. He believed jury trials should be abolished because juries are not mentioned in the Bible.

Metacomb: Leader of the Wampanoag and the surrounding Native American tribes who fought King Philip's War against the Puritans. He was also called Metacomb, or King Philip by the English.

Mary Rowlandson: Puritan who was kidnapped by Native Americans who attacked her town during King Philip's War. She wrote a memoir of her captivity and became one of America's first famous authors.

Tituba: African slave from the Caribbean in Salem who was accused of teaching witchcraft to local girls.

New Lights: Ministers who led the First Great Awakening.

Old Lights: Ministers during the First Great Awakening who wanted to preserve traditional practices and rejected the teachings of evangelical ministers.

Johnathan Edwards: Minister of the First Great Awakening who was known for his oratory. Among his famous sermons is "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

George Whitfield: English minister, who travelled throughout America preaching during the First Great Awakening.

Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists: Protestant denominations established during the First Great Awakening.



KEY CONCEPTS

Hersey: Beliefs that contradict official church teachings.



LOCATIONS

Rhode Island: Colony south of Massachusetts founded by Roger Williams and his followers.

Salem: Massachusetts town that became famous because of witch trials that took place there in 1692 and 1693.



LAWS

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut: Laws outlining the government of the Connecticut colony, including an elected governor and two-house legislature. Many colonies and states copied this model.



EVENTS

King Philip's War: Conflict between Puritans in New England at the surrounding Native American tribes in 1675 and 1676. The Puritan colonies were nearly wiped out before the Native Americans were defeated.

First Great Awakening: Revival in religious practice in the mid-1700s in both England and the English colonies in America. Ministers preached a more direct connection to god that did not rely on official church leaders. The movement weakened the power of established churches and led to the creation of new denominations such as the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists.

5

F I F T H Q U E S T I O N DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



INTRODUCTION

It has been over 400 years since the first English settlers erected their first houses in America. It's hard to even consider how many generations have passed since then, and yet, some historians argue that the beliefs, and the motivations of those first settlers still have a powerful influence today. Could it be that our lives, and our ideas are still determined by those long-dead English immigrants?

Do we still think and act like Puritans? Do we still hold racial prejudices brought to the South by planters from Barbados? What about the settlers of the other colonies – New York, Maryland, or Pennsylvania, for example? Did the people who created those societies also leave a mark that we can see today?

What do you think? Do colonial differences from the 1600s still matter today?

5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



NEW YORK

England was not the first European power to settle the land known now as New York. That distinction belongs to the Dutch. Ironically, the English explorer Henry Hudson brought the region to the attention of the Netherlands in 1609 by sailing into New York Bay and up the river that would eventually bear his name.

New Netherland became a reality fourteen years later. The Dutch West India Company hoped to reap the profits of the area's fur trade. Shortly after setting up camp, Peter Minuit made one of the greatest real estate purchases in history. He traded small ornaments and jewelry with local Native Americans for Manhattan Island. The town that was established there was named **New Amsterdam**.

The Dutch had no patience for democratic institutions. The point of the colony was to enrich its stockholders. The most famous governor of the colony, Peter Stuyvesant, ruled New Amsterdam with an iron fist. Slavery was common during the Dutch era, as the Dutch West India Company was one of the most prominent in the world's trade of slaves.

Languages that could be heard in the streets of New Amsterdam included Dutch, French, Flemish, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, and several other European and African tongues.



New Netherland: Dutch colony in America. It became New York.



New Amsterdam: Dutch town that became New York City.



Primary Source: Map

A map of New Amsterdam showing the fort and wall that protected the town. New Amsterdam was at the southern tip of Manhattan Island, and Wall Street, which ran along the wall, is now the center of American finance. The fort, which held a battery of cannon, is now the site of Battery Park.

Northwest of New Amsterdam, New Netherland approached feudal conditions with the awarding of large tracts of land to wealthy investors. This created instability as the gap between the landed and the landless grew more obvious.

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After Charles II came to the throne, the English became interested in the Dutch holdings. When a powerful English military unit appeared in New Amsterdam, Governor Stuyvesant was forced to surrender and New Netherland became New York. It marked the end of Dutch settlement in the future United States. Even today, though, New York City retains the cosmopolitan feel of the colony that gave rise to the great city.

Although majority Dutch presence was short-lived, the legacy remains.

Cultural contributions left by the Dutch include the pastimes of bowling and skating. Christmas and Easter were transformed by the introduction of Santa Claus and Easter eggs. Any resident or visitor to Harlem or Brooklyn should recognize the Dutch influence in the names of locales.

THE QUAKERS AND PENNSYLVANIA

Quakers, or the Society of Friends, had suffered greatly in England. As religious dissenters of the Church of England, they were targets much like the Separatists and the Puritans. But Friends were also devout pacifists. They would not fight in any of England's wars, nor would they pay their taxes if they believed the proceeds would assist a military venture. They believed in total equality. Therefore, Quakers would not bow down to nobles. Even the king would not receive the courtesy of a tipped hat. They refused to take oaths, so their allegiance to the Crown was always in question. Of all the Quaker families that came to the New World, over three quarters of the male heads of household had spent time in an English jail.

William Penn was a dreamer, and he was powerful. Charles II owed his father a huge debt. To repay the Penns, the king awarded William an enormous tract of land in the New World. Immediately he saw possibilities. People of his faith, the Quakers. With some good advertising, he might be able to establish a religious refuge. He might even be able to turn a profit. In, 1681, his dream became a reality.

The Quakers of Penn's colony, like their counterparts across the Delaware River in New Jersey, established an extremely liberal government for the seventeenth century. Religious freedom was granted and there was no tax-supported church. Penn insisted on developing good relations with the Native Americans. Women saw greater freedom in Quaker society than elsewhere, as they were allowed to participate fully in Quaker meetings.

Pennsylvania, or "Penn's Woods," benefited from the vision of its founder. Well advertised throughout Europe, skilled artisans and farmers flocked to the new colony. With Philadelphia as its capital, Pennsylvania soon became the keystone of the English colonies. New Jersey was owned by Quakers even before Penn's experiment, and the remnants of New Sweden, now called Delaware, also fell under the Friends' sphere of influence.



Quakers: Also called the Society of Friends, a religious group that believed in total equality and were pacifists. Their leader, William Penn, founded Pennsylvania as a haven in America.



William Penn: Quaker leader who established Pennsylvania as a haven for his followers.



Pennsylvania: Quaker colony established by William Penn. Because of the Quaker belief in peace and equality, Native Americans were respected and their land was purchased rather than taken.

5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



William Penn had a distaste for cities. His colony, Pennsylvania, would need a capital that would not bring the horrors of European urban life to the shores of his New World experiment. Penn determined to design and to administer the city himself to prevent such an occurrence. He looked with disdain on London's crowded conditions and sought to prevent this by designing a city plan with streets wider than any major thoroughfare in London. Five major squares dotted the cityscape, and Penn hoped that each dweller would have a family garden. He distributed land in large plots to encourage a low population density. This, he thought, would be the perfect combination of city and country. In 1681, he made it happen.

Penn's selection of a site was most careful. **Philadelphia** is situated at the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. He hoped that the Delaware would supply the needed outlet to the Atlantic and that the Schuylkill would be the needed artery into the interior of Pennsylvania. This choice turned out to be controversial. The proprietors of Maryland claimed that Penn's new city lay within the boundaries of Maryland. Penn returned to England to defend his town many times. Eventually the issue would be decided on the eve of the Revolution by the drawing of the famed Mason-Dixon Line.



Philadelphia: City in Pennsylvania. Its name means "City of Brotherly Love," reflecting Quaker beliefs in peace and equality. It would eventually host the Continental Congress and be the site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Secondary Source: Painting

Edward Hicks painting this work entitled the *Peaceable Kingdom* in 1839 depicting the utopian world the Quakers hoped to build in America. In the background Quakers and Native Americans meeting in peace.



With Penn promoting religious toleration, people of many different faiths came to Philadelphia. The Quakers may have been tolerant of religious differences, but were fairly uncompromising with moral digressions. It was illegal to tell lies in conversation and even to perform stage plays. Cards and

5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



dice were forbidden. Upholding the city's moral code was taken very seriously.

Quaker equality did not extend to chattel slavery. In the early days, slavery was commonplace in the streets of Philadelphia. William Penn himself was a slaveholder. Although the first antislavery society in the colonies would eventually be founded by Quakers, the early days were not free of the curse of human bondage.

Early Philadelphia had its ups and downs. William Penn spent only about four years of his life in Pennsylvania. In his absence, Philadelphians quibbled about many issues. At one point, Penn appointed a former soldier, John Blackwell, to bring discipline to town government. Still, before long Philadelphia prospered as a trading center. Within twenty years, it was the third largest city, behind Boston and New York. A century later it would emerge as the new nation's largest city, first capital, and cradle of the Liberty Bell, Declaration of Independence, and Constitution.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Throughout the early years of the English colonies, most Europeans did not take Americans seriously. American colonists were seen as the chaff of English society, bound for America because they could not make it in England.

Americans were seen as irrational religious fanatics or crude pioneers. American art literature, and science were snubbed by most cultured Europeans. **Benjamin Franklin** helped them take notice.



Benjamin Franklin: The first truly famous American. He was a printer, scientist and politician.

Franklin was born in 1706 in colonial Boston. Apprenticed to his brother, a printer, young Ben ran away to Philadelphia when he was seventeen. The next twenty-five years of his life he made a fortune as a printer in his adopted city.

His Pennsylvania Gazette surpassed all Boston publications in circulation. **Poor Richard's Almanac** became a staple for many of the literate colonials. People liked his insights and his dry wit. By the age of forty-two, he made enough money to retire.



Poor Richard's Almanac: Annual book published by Benjamin Franklin. It included useful information about when to plant crops, as well as pithy advice from Franklin.

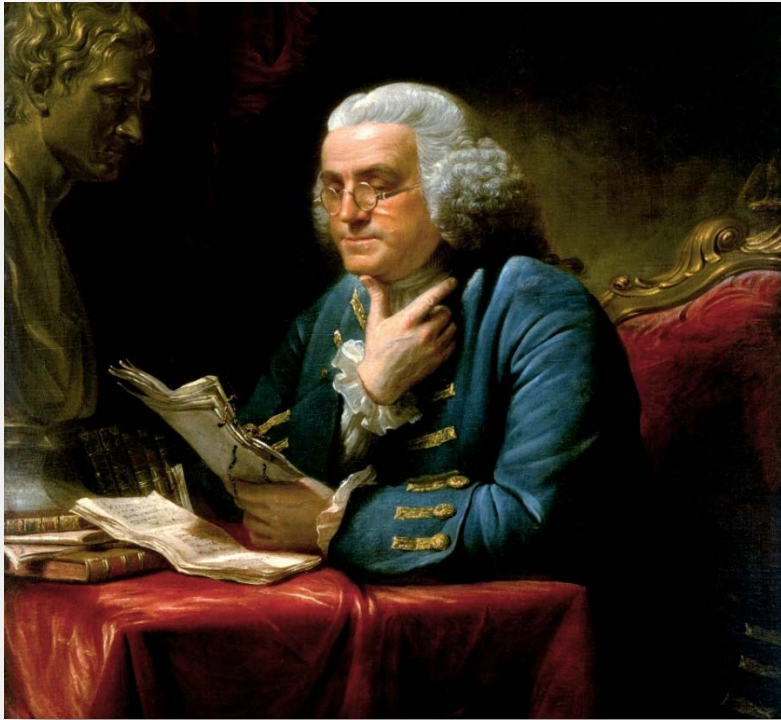
Although he gave up active control of his printing business, Franklin kept working. He decided to devote the rest of his life to philanthropic and intellectual pursuits. He established a fire house, library, and hospital for Philadelphia. He founded the University of Pennsylvania.

He became an inventor, developing products as diverse as an efficient wood-burning stove and bifocal reading glasses. Of course, his most famous work was with electricity. In his famed experiment with a kite and key, Franklin proved that lightning was a form of electrical energy. His discovery brought him honorary degrees from Harvard and Yale, as well as fame overseas.

5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



Franklin continued his life as a public servant. Although he was seventy years old when the Revolution began, he served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and as a diplomat abroad. He was received as a celebrity when he traveled through Europe. An ardent patriot, he proved to the world what great ideas could come from the western side of the Atlantic Ocean.



Primary Source: Painting

This painting of Benjamin Franklin, completed in 1767, shows Franklin at the height of his success, ten years before his participation in the American Revolution.

MARYLAND

New England was not the only destination sought by those fleeing religious persecution. In 1632, Cecilius Calvert, known as **Lord Baltimore**, was granted possession of all land lying between the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Lord Baltimore saw this as an opportunity to grant religious freedom to the Catholics who remained in Anglican England. Although outright violence was more a part of the 1500s than the 1600s, Catholics were still a persecuted minority in the seventeenth century. For example, Catholics were not permitted to be legally married by a Catholic priest. Baltimore thought that his New World possession could serve as a refuge. At the same time, he hoped to turn a financial profit from the venture.

Maryland, named after England's Catholic queen Henrietta Maria, was first settled in 1634. Unlike the religious experiments to the North, economic opportunity was the draw for many Maryland colonists. Consequently, most immigrants did not cross the Atlantic in family units but as individuals. The first inhabitants were a mixture of Catholic country gentlemen and mostly



Lord Baltimore: Cecilius Calvert. He founded Maryland as a haven for his fellow Catholics. The largest city in Maryland is named after him.



Maryland: Colony north of Virginia along the Chesapeake Bay that was established by Lord Baltimore as a haven for English Catholics.

5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



Protestant workers and artisans. This mixture would surely doom the Catholic experiment. Invariably, there are more poor than aristocrats in any given society, and the Catholics soon found themselves in the minority.

The geography of Maryland, like that of her Southern neighbor Virginia, was conducive to growing tobacco. The desire to make profits from tobacco soon led to the need for low-cost labor. As a result, the number of indentured servants greatly expanded and the social structure of Maryland reflected this change. But the influx in immigration was not reflected in larger population growth because, faced with frequent battles with malaria and typhoid, life expectancy in Maryland was about 10 years less than in New England.

Fearful that the Protestant masses might restrict Catholic liberties, the House of Delegates passed the **Maryland Act of Toleration in 1649**. This act granted religious freedom to all Christians. Like Roger Williams in Rhode Island and William Penn in Pennsylvania, Maryland thus experimented with laws protecting religious liberty. Unfortunately, Protestants swept the Catholics out of the legislature within a decade, and religious strife ensued. Still, the Act of Toleration was an important step toward religious freedom in America.



Maryland Act of Toleration: Law passed in Maryland granting religious freedom.

GEORGIA

The reach of Enlightenment thought was both broad and deep. In the 1730s, it even prompted the founding of a new colony. Having witnessed the terrible conditions of debtors' prison, as well as the results of releasing penniless debtors onto the streets of London, **James Oglethorpe**, a member of Parliament and advocate of social reform, petitioned King George II for a charter to start a new colony. George II, understanding the strategic advantage of a British colony standing as a buffer between South Carolina and Spanish Florida, granted the charter to Oglethorpe and twenty like-minded proprietors in 1732.



James Oglethorpe: Founder of the Georgia colony as a home to debtors.

Oglethorpe led the settlement of the colony, which was called **Georgia** in honor of the king. In 1733, he and 113 immigrants arrived on the ship *Anne*. Over the next decade, Parliament funded the migration of 2,500 settlers, making Georgia the only government-funded colonial project.



Georgia: Colony established by James Oglethorpe as a home to debtors. He wanted the poor of England to have a chance to start a new life. The experiment failed due to strict laws banning alcohol and slavery. Eventually it became more like South Carolina.

Oglethorpe's vision for Georgia followed the ideals of the Age of Reason, seeing it as a place for England's "worthy poor" to start anew. To encourage industry, he gave each male immigrant fifty acres of land, tools, and a year's worth of supplies.

Oglethorpe's vision called for alcohol and slavery to be banned. However, colonists who relocated from other colonies, especially South Carolina, disregarded these prohibitions. Despite its proprietors' early vision of a colony guided by Enlightenment ideals and free of slavery, by the 1750s, Georgia was producing rice grown and harvested by slaves.

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THE SCOTCH-IRISH

The **Scotch-Irish** were another group of people who left a hard life behind in England. Presbyterians from Scotland, they moved to Ireland to be free from the Church of England, but ended up in conflict with the mostly Catholic Irish. Persecuted everywhere they went, they developed a society imbued with a warrior, and fiercely independent spirit.

Scholarly estimate is that over 200,000 Scotch-Irish migrated to the Americas between 1717 and 1775. As a late arriving group, they found that land in the coastal areas of the British colonies was either already owned or too expensive, so they quickly moved inland to the mountainous interior where land could be obtained cheaply. Here they lived on the first frontier of America. Early frontier life was challenging, but poverty and hardship were familiar to them. The term **hillbilly** has often been applied to their descendants in the mountains, carrying connotations of poverty, backwardness and violence. This word has its origins in Scotland and Ireland.

The first trickle of Scotch-Irish settlers arrived in New England. Valued for their fighting prowess as well as for their Protestant dogma, they were invited by Cotton Mather and other leaders to come over to help settle and secure the frontier. In this capacity, many of the first permanent settlements in Maine and New Hampshire, especially after 1718, were Scotch-Irish and many place names as well as the character of Northern New Englanders reflect this fact. The Scotch-Irish brought the potato with them from Ireland. Although the potato originated in South America, it was not known in North America until brought over from Europe. In Maine it became a staple crop as well as an economic base.



Scotch-Irish: A group of immigrants from the borderlands of England who settled mostly in the interior regions of America, especially in the Appalachian Mountains. They are well known for their individualism and resistance to government control.



Hillbilly: Derogatory term for uneducated, poor people who live in the Appalachian Mountains.



Secondary Source: Photograph

The Great Smoky Mountains of Georgia. These backcountry hills and valleys became the home to the Scotch-Irish and continue to be the center of Appalachian culture.

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In the early to mid-1700s, the primary points of entry for the Ulster immigrants were Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and New Castle, Delaware. The Scotch-Irish radiated westward across the Allegheny Mountains, as well as into Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The typical migration involved small networks of related families who settled together, worshipped together, and intermarried, avoiding outsiders.

Most Scotch-Irish headed for Pennsylvania, with its good lands, moderate climate, and liberal laws. By 1750, the Scotch-Irish were about a fourth of the population, rising to about a third by the 1770s. Without much cash, they moved to free lands on the frontier, becoming the typical western squatters, the frontier guard of the colony, and what the historian Frederick Jackson Turner described as “the cutting-edge of the frontier”.

Because the Scotch-Irish settled the frontier of Pennsylvania and western Virginia, they were frequently in conflict with the Indian tribes who lived on the other side of the frontier. Indeed, they did most of the Indian fighting on the American frontier from New Hampshire to the Carolinas. They also became the intermediaries who handled trade and negotiations between the Indian tribes and the colonial governments.

Historian **Colin Woodward** has made the argument that it is more useful to think of America as a collection of regions, defined by their shared history and values, rather than as a collection of states. He believes that the founding of the original English colonies still shapes the way Americans in different parts of the country think today.



Colin Woodward: American historian who argued that colonial differences continue to affect politics and regional identity.

In Woodward’s view, New England, and the region to the West settled by the New Englanders who moved west tend to be more comfortable with government regulation since Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay were both ordered society, structured around religious, rule-based leadership. They value education and the sacrificing individual desires for good.

New York City, Woodward wrote is the most sophisticated society in the Western world. Just as it was in the days of Dutch settlement, it is hub of global commerce. It is also the region most accepting of historically persecuted populations and diversity.

The land stretching from Pennsylvania to the west, lands first settled by the industrials, tolerant Quakers are “pluralistic and organized around the middle class.” Unlike New Englanders, they tend to dislike government intrusion and ideological purity is not a priority.

The coastal regions in the English colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware tend to respect authority and value tradition because of the hierarchical society of the colonial plantation life.

The region from the Appalachian Mountains and into the West is home to the descendants of the Scotch-Irish settlers who still value individual liberty.

5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



They are “intensely suspicious of lowland aristocrats and Yankee social engineers” in Woodward’s view. Just as fierce as ever, they are overrepresented in America’s armed forces.

Finally, the enduring social separation and racial prejudices of the Deep South trace their roots to the caste system established by the planters from Barbados who duplicated their slave society in South Carolina.

CONCLUSION

Historians like Colin Woodward make a strong case for the enduring legacy of our English forbearers. However, it is hard to ignore the fact that 400 years have passed since John Smith or John Winthrop walked the shores of America. How many generations of people had new ideas, and new ways to living in between? Moreover, how many other people came to America with their own ideas – Germans, Russians, Italians, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Indians, Pakistanis, and so many more? The first English settlers were all Christian, albeit of differing sects, but since that time Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus have all make America their home. Certainly, those faiths have left their mark on America’s identity.

What do you think? Do colonial differences still matter today?

5 DO COLONIAL DIFFERENCES FROM THE 1600s STILL MATTER TODAY?



SUMMARY

New York was first founded by settlers from the Netherlands. They came to trade for beaver. Like the English colonies in the Chesapeake and Deep South, they had a society with a rigid social hierarchy. However, the Dutch were traders and people from many countries came to New Amsterdam. The Dutch were not in America for long. When the English took their colony they renamed it New York, but the cosmopolitan, pluralistic, trading-based tradition lives on.

Pennsylvania was also founded as a colony for religious dissidents from England. The Quakers were a group who believed in pacifism and equality. They were persecuted in England but William Penn, a wealthy Quaker obtained land from the king as a refuge for his fellow Quakers. They founded the town of Philadelphia, treated Native Americans with respect, and guaranteed religious freedom for residents of their colony. Pennsylvania played an important role in later years as a meeting place between North and South with its tradition of openness. The Founding Fathers met in Philadelphia to write the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

During the colonial era, the most famous American was Benjamin Franklin. He was an author, publisher, and scientist who made his home in Pennsylvania.

Maryland was founded as a haven for Catholics who were persecuted in England. Although it was founded as a home for a particular religious group, like Pennsylvania, it offered religious freedom for all people. Maryland is next door to Virginia and developed a slave and tobacco based economy like its larger neighbor.

Georgia was first founded as a home for poor people back in England who were in debtor's prison. Over time, Georgia came to resemble South Carolina in its social structure and economy.

While English settlers dominated the coastal regions of America and the government of the colonies, other groups also made the trip across the Atlantic. German settlers and Scotch-Irish avoided the coasts and moved inland, making their home in the Appalachian Mountains. These people were fiercely independent, distrustful of the wealthy and those in government, and have left an enduring mark on American culture in states such as West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and to a lesser degree on their neighbors.

In fact, historian Colin Woodward argues that much for American life is influenced by the people who first settled the 13 Colonies. New Englanders operate with a collective mindset and trust government. Southerners by contrast are more distrusting of government and are more comfortable with a greater degree of difference between social classes. The descendants of the Scotch-Irish, and the tolerant settlers of Pennsylvania form a boundary in the middle.



LOCATIONS

New Netherland: Dutch colony in America. It became New York.

New Amsterdam: Dutch town that became New York City.

Pennsylvania: Quaker colony established by William Penn. Because of the Quaker belief in peace and equality, Native Americans were respected and their land was purchased rather than taken.

Philadelphia: City in Pennsylvania. Its name means “City of Brotherly Love,” reflecting Quaker beliefs in peace and equality. It would eventually host the Continental Congress and be the site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Maryland: Colony north of Virginia along the Chesapeake Bay that was established by Lord Baltimore as a haven for English Catholics.

Georgia: Colony established by James Oglethorpe as a home to debtors. He wanted the poor of England to have a chance to start a new life. The experiment failed due to strict laws banning alcohol and slavery. Eventually it became more like South Carolina.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Quakers: Also called the Society of Friends, a religious group that believed in total equality and were pacifists. Their leader, William Penn, founded Pennsylvania as a haven in America.

William Penn: Quaker leader who established Pennsylvania as a haven for his followers.

Benjamin Franklin: The first truly famous American. He was a printer, scientist and politician.

Lord Baltimore: Cecilius Calvert. He founded Maryland as a haven for his fellow Catholics. The largest city in Maryland is named after him.

James Oglethorpe: Founder of the Georgia colony as a home to debtors.

Scotch-Irish: A group of immigrants from the borderlands of England who settled mostly in the interior regions of America, especially in the Appalachian Mountains. They are well known for their individualism and resistance to government control.

Hillbilly: Derogatory term for uneducated, poor people who live in the Appalachian Mountains.

Colin Woodward: American historian who argued that colonial differences continue to affect politics and regional identity.



LAWS

Maryland Act of Toleration: Law passed in Maryland granting religious freedom.



BOOKS

Poor Richard's Almanac: Annual book published by Benjamin Franklin. It included useful information about when to plant crops, as well as pithy advice from Franklin.

Q u e s t i o n T w o



Why were the British colonies so
different
if they were all settled by
people
from the
same country?

So, the English who arrived on American shores in the 1600s spread out along the coast and created 13 distinct colonies. We can group them by region. For example, the New England colonies are close together and share much of the same history, and are clearly distinct from South Carolina and its slave-based culture. But even Rhode Island and Connecticut, as close together as they are, are still different places. Why is this? Why did the English who came to America, despite all being from the same homeland, end up creating such different colonies?



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