



3.2 THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES: THE PURITANS OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY

SETTLEMENT OF NEW ENGLAND	While the settlements in Virginia were taking root, similar developments were underway in New England. Another group of entrepreneurs, the PLYMOUTH COMPANY , received a charter in 1606 to plant a colony in New England, but for many years all efforts failed.
Pilgrims	In 1620, the first permanent settlement in New England appeared when the PILGRIMS , fleeing from the corruption of the Old World, established a tiny village at Plymouth Harbor. Other small groups soon settled to the south.
Great Puritan Migration	Not until the GREAT PURITAN MIGRATION began in 1629, however, did the English actually arrive in great numbers. The first group of 400 Puritans was followed in 1630 by a large migration: seventeen ships bringing in approximately 1,000 settlers. Puritan settlements sprang up in Dorchester, Boston, Watertown, and elsewhere, forming the basis for the MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY . By 1642, 16,000 additional settlers had arrived.
THE PURITANS	Puritanism in England began as an ATTACK ON ANGLICANISM , the established Church of England. The Puritans felt that the church maintained too many remnants of Roman Catholicism with its rituals, sacraments, and focus on externals (incense, statues, holy water, etc) rather than on inner spirituality. Yet they were not separatists like the Pilgrims. They preferred to reform the Church from within.
Motives for Colonization	<p>ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND RELIGIOUS considerations motivated the Puritans to come to the New World.: (1) They viewed DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (dislocations because of the enclosure movement, the sluggishness of the textile industry, and mounting inflation) as God’s way of weaning his people from their native land. (2) They desired the FELLOWSHIP of other devout Puritans. (3) And they wished to fulfill God’s design for them. England, they felt, was an “elect” nation chosen by God to play a great role in human destiny. But England was now hopelessly corrupt. They hoped to create a model Puritan community, a “CITY UPON A HILL,” which would to be a beacon to all mankind of a Godlike society. They would convert England, enable her to fulfill her destiny, and transform society.</p> <p>The classic statement of Puritan expectations for Massachusetts Bay Colony is <i>A Modell of Christian Charity</i> (1630) by the first governor, John Winthrop. The URL is: http://occ.awlonline.com/bookbind/pubbooks/garraty_awl/chapter1/medialib/primarysources2_2_3.html The most important passages are near the end of the document.</p>
Covenant Theology	<p>Before assuming that the Puritans migrated for religious freedom alone, read Winthrop's views on how much and what kind of liberty he would allow in Massachusetts Bay: http://www.constitution.org/bcp/winthlib.htm.</p> <p>The most notable CONTRIBUTION New Englanders made to the Puritan movement was the RESTRICTION ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP. An individual seeking church membership had to adhere to certain doctrines of faith. The most important of these were the COVENANTS OF SALVATION consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The COVENANT OF WORKS: the agreement whereby God pledged eternal happiness to Adam in return for his absolute obedience to God’s will. ■ The COVENANT OF REDEMPTION: the agreement whereby the Father contracted with the Son to provide for the salvation of some men and women through Christ’s sacrifice.

<p>Proof of Election</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The COVENANT OF GRACE: the agreement whereby the elect might receive saving grace through the Spirit in return for faith. <p>In addition, the person who sought church membership had to live an upright life and show PROOF OF ELECTION by testifying to a CONVERSION EXPERIENCE.</p>
<p>Government</p>	<p>As much as possible, the Puritans tried to make their lives conform to their view of God’s law. The leading officials in the towns of the Massachusetts Bay Colony were the “FREEMEN,” who had to be male church members. All the other men were designated “INHABITANTS” and could vote and take part in the town government. At the town meetings, every man, regardless of status, could speak up – a LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION UNPRECEDENTED in the 17th century. When land was distributed, house lots were set close together near the center of town. This physical layout enabled colonists to keep an eye on their neighbors and to ENFORCE GODLY BEHAVIOR.</p>
<p>DISSENTERS Roger Williams Anne Hutchinson</p>	<p>Puritan emphasis on individual Bible study soon resulted in dissension among some of the faithful who believed that God’s ways could be interpreted differently from the interpretations of ministers. The two most important DISSENTERS were ROGER WILLIAMS and ANNE HUTCHINSON. Williams believed that the church and government should be completely separated. He was expelled from Massachusetts and helped found the colony of Rhode Island. Hutchinson, who challenged the traditional subordinate role of women in Puritan society by expressing her own religious convictions, was excommunicated and banished to Rhode Island and then Long Island.</p>
<p>ECONOMIC SUCCESS</p>	<p>Puritan emphasis on these concepts enabled the colonists to adjust easily to the economic realities of the New World:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PREDESTINATION: the concept that God predestined some for salvation ■ CALLING: an individual’s occupation as well as his roles as father, son, husband, wife, subject, ruler, etc. ■ STEWARDSHIP: the concept that wealth came from God, that men were merely trustees of God’s wealth, and that it must be used for God’s purposes. ■ CAPITALIST VITURES: hard work, thrift, strict attention to your calling were qualities to be cultivated by those who hoped to enter Heaven.
<p>COMPROMISE: HALFWAY COVENANT</p>	<p>New England’s rocky soil and harsh winters made growing and exporting crops like tobacco impossible. Instead the Puritans developed a FUR TRADE with the Indians, a TIMBER INDUSTRY, and the FISHING TRADE. The latter stimulated colonial SHIPBUILDING, TRADE NETWORKS, and a MERCHANT CLASS.</p> <p>New England’s population increased during the 17th century. As the years went by, the children of the original founders had children of their own, but the religious intensity of the original Great Migration generation declined. FEWER PEOPLE could honestly say that they had PROOF OF ELECTION (a conversion experience). This meant that they could never take communion and that their children could not be baptized.</p> <p>Since church membership had been declining rapidly, extinction seemed possible. Consequently, the Puritans made a difficult decision. In 1662, after intense soul-searching and debate, they drew up a HALFWAY COVENANT by which UNCONVERTED CHILDREN OF SAINTS COULD BECOME HALFWAY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH. This meant that their children could be baptized and young people could grow up in the church. However, they would still not be allowed to take communion or vote in church affairs until they received their conversion experience. The PURITY OF THE CHURCH had been diluted, but at least it could SURVIVE.</p> <p>In time, this led to a broader policy concerning church membership. By the end of the century, all who professed true Christian faith and lived good lives could be baptized and, in some</p>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	<p>cases, even receive communion. Thereafter, a church was no longer a gathering of the elect, but a territorial unit.</p> <p><u>Also applicable to the Puritans:</u> Historians have observed that the English colonists who came to America experienced soaring expectations, frustration, disaster or near disaster, and then slow adjustment to the grinding realities of life on the wilderness edge of the North American continent. Trace this pattern as it occurred in the settlement of Massachusetts. How did the Puritan colonists compromise their values to insure their survival as a community?</p> <p>Think about the similarities and differences between the settlement of Virginia and Massachusetts in terms of intentions, populations, and outcomes (social, political, economic, or religious). What institutions and/or events reflect these similarities and differences?</p> <p>Where would you rather have lived (Virginia or Massachusetts)? Explain your answer.</p> <p>In which colony (Virginia or Massachusetts) can you more clearly see the roots for specific aspects of later American culture?</p>
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