

## CHAPTER 2: BEGINNINGS OF ENGLISH AMERICA, 1607-1660

### I. Jamestown

### II. England and the New World

#### A. Unifying the English Nation

1. England's stability in the sixteenth century was undermined by religious conflicts.

#### B. England and Ireland

1. England's methods to subdue Ireland in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries established patterns that would be repeated in America.

#### C. England and North America

1. The English crown issued charters for individuals such as Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh to colonize America at their own expense, but both failed.

#### D. Spreading Protestantism

1. Anti-Catholicism had become deeply ingrained in English popular culture.
2. *A Discourse Concerning Western Planting* argued that settlement would strike a blow at England's enemy: Spain.

#### E. Motives for Colonization

1. National glory, profit, and a missionary zeal motivated the English crown to settle America.
2. It was also argued that trade, not mineral wealth, would be the basis of England's empire.

#### F. The Social Crisis

1. A worsening economy and the enclosure movement led to an increase in the number of poor and a social crisis.
2. Unruly poor were encouraged to leave England for the New World.

#### G. Masterless Men

1. Thomas Moore's *Utopia* (1516) describes a place such as many could imagine America, a place where settlers could go to escape the economic inequalities of Europe.
2. The English increasingly viewed America as a land where a man could control his own labor and thus gain independence, particularly through the ownership of land.

### III. The Coming of the English

#### A. English Emigrants

1. Sustained immigration was vital for the settlement's survival.
2. Between 1607 and 1700, a little over half a million persons left England.
  - a. They settled in Ireland, the West Indies, and North America.
  - b. The majority in North America were young, single men from the bottom rungs of English society.

#### B. Indentured Servants

1. Two-thirds of English settlers came to North America as indentured servants.
2. Indentured servants did not enjoy any liberties while under contract.

#### C. Land and Liberty

1. Land was the basis of liberty.
2. Land was also a source of wealth and power for colonial officials.

#### D. Englishmen and Indians

1. The English were chiefly interested in displacing the Indians and settling on their land.
2. Most colonial authorities in practice recognized the Indians' title to land based on occupancy.
3. The seventeenth century was marked by recurrent warfare between colonists and Indians.
  - a. Wars gave the English a heightened sense of superiority.

#### E. Transformation of Indian Life

1. English goods were eagerly integrated into Indian life.
2. Over time, those European goods changed Indian farming, hunting, and cooking practices.
  - a. Exchanges with Europeans stimulated warfare between Indian tribes.

#### F. Changes in the Land

1. As the English sought to reshape Indian society and culture, their practices only undermined traditional Indian society.
2. Settlers fenced in more land and introduced more crops and livestock, transforming the natural environment.

### IV. Settling the Chesapeake

#### A. The Jamestown Colony

1. Settlement and survival were questionable in the colony's early history because of high death rates, frequent change in leadership, inadequate supplies from England, and placing gold before farming.
2. By 1616, about 80 percent of the immigrants who had arrived in the first decade were dead.
3. John Smith began to get the colony on its feet.

#### B. From Company to Society

1. New policies were adopted in 1618 so that the colony could survive.
  - a. Headright system.
  - b. A charter of grants and liberties.
  - c. Slavery; the first slaves arrived in 1619.

#### C. Powhatan and Pocahontas

1. Powhatan, the leader of thirty tribes near Jamestown, eagerly traded with the English.
2. English-Indian relations were mostly peaceful early on.
  - a. Pocahontas married John Rolfe in 1614, symbolizing Anglo-Indian harmony.

#### D. The Uprising of 1622

1. Once the English decided on a permanent colony instead of merely a trading post, conflict was inevitable.
  - a. Opechancanough led an attack on Virginia's settlers in 1622.
2. The English forced the Indians to recognize their subordination to the government at Jamestown and moved them onto reservations.
3. The Virginia Company surrendered its charter to the crown in 1624.

#### E. A Tobacco Colony

1. Tobacco was Virginia's "gold" and its production reached 30 million pounds by the 1680s.
2. The expansion of tobacco led to an increased demand for field labor.

#### F. Women and the Family

1. Virginian societies lacked a stable family life.
2. Social conditions opened the door to roles women rarely assumed in England.

#### G. The Maryland Experiment

1. Maryland was established in 1632 as a proprietary colony under Cecilius Calvert.
2. Calvert imagined Maryland as a feudal domain, but one which would act as a place of refuge for persecuted Catholics.
3. Although the death rate was high in Maryland, it seems to have offered servants greater opportunity for land ownership than Virginia.

#### H. Religion in Maryland

1. Religious and political battles emerged and Maryland was on the verge of total anarchy in the 1640s.
2. It was hoped Catholics and Protestants could live in harmony, but Protestants always outnumbered Catholics.

## V. The New England Way

### A. The Rise of Puritanism

1. Puritanism emerged from the Protestant Reformation in England.
  - a. Puritans believed that the Church of England retained too many elements of Catholicism.
2. Puritans considered religious belief a complex and demanding matter, urging believers to seek the truth by reading the Bible and listening to sermons.
  - a. Puritans followed the teachings of John Calvin.

### B. Moral Liberty

1. Many Puritans immigrated to the New World in hopes of establishing a Bible Commonwealth that would eventually influence England.
2. They came to America in search of liberty and the right to worship and govern themselves.
3. Puritans were governed by a "moral liberty."

### C. The Pilgrims at Plymouth

1. Pilgrims sailed in 1620 to Cape Cod aboard the *Mayflower*.
  - a. Adult men signed the Mayflower Compact before going ashore.
2. Squanto provided much valuable help to the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621.

### D. The Great Migration

1. The Massachusetts Bay Company was chartered in 1629 by London merchants wanting to further the Puritan cause and to turn a profit from trade with the Indians.
2. New England settlement was very different from that in the Chesapeake colonies.
  - a. New England had a more equal balance of men and women.
  - b. New England enjoyed a longer life expectancy.
  - c. New England had more families.
  - d. New England enjoyed a healthier climate.

### E. The Puritan Family

1. Puritans reproduced the family structure of England with men at the head of the household.
2. Women were allowed full church membership and divorce was legal, but a woman was expected to obey her husband fully.
3. Puritans believed that a woman achieved genuine freedom by fulfilling her prescribed social role and embracing subjection to her husband's authority.

### F. Government and Society in Massachusetts

1. Massachusetts was organized into self-governing towns.
  - a. Each town had a Congregational Church and a school.
  - b. To train an educated ministry, Harvard College was established in 1636.
2. The freemen of Massachusetts elected their governor.
3. Church government was decentralized.
  - a. Full church membership was required to vote in colony-wide elections.
  - b. Church and colonial government were intricately linked.

### G. Puritan Liberties

1. Puritans defined liberties by social rank, producing a rigid hierarchal society justified by God's will.
2. The Body of Liberties affirmed the rights of free speech and assembly and equal protection for all.
3. Although ministers were forbidden to hold office in Massachusetts, church and state were closely interconnected.

## VI. New Englanders Divided

### A. Roger Williams

1. A young Puritan minister, Williams preached that any citizen ought to be free to practice whatever form of religion he chose.
2. Williams believed that it was essential to separate church and state.

### B. Rhode Island and Connecticut

1. Williams was banished from Massachusetts in 1636 and he established Rhode Island.
2. Rhode Island was truly a beacon of religious freedom and democratic government.
3. Other spin-offs from Massachusetts included New Haven and Hartford, which joined to become the colony of Connecticut in 1662.

### C. The Trials of Anne Hutchinson

1. Hutchinson was a well-educated, articulate woman who charged that nearly all the ministers in Massachusetts were guilty of faulty preaching.
2. Hutchinson was placed on trial in 1637 for sedition.
  - a. On trial she spoke of divine revelations.
  - b. She and her followers were banished.
3. As seen with Williams and Hutchinson, Puritan New England was a place of religious persecution.
  - a. Quakers were hanged in Massachusetts.
  - b. Religious tolerance violated "moral liberty."

### D. Puritans and Indians

1. Colonial leaders had differing opinions about the English right to claim Indian land.
2. To New England's leaders, the Indians represented both savagery and temptation.
  - a. The Connecticut General Court set a penalty for anyone who chose to live with the Indians.
  - b. No real attempt to convert the Indians was made by the Puritans in the first two decades.

### E. The Pequot War

1. As the white population grew, conflict with the Indians became unavoidable, and the turning point came when a fur trader was killed by Pequots.
2. Colonists warred against the Pequots in 1637, exterminating the tribe.

### F. The New England Economy

1. Most migrants were textile craftsmen and farmers.
2. Fishing and timber were exported, but the economy centered on family farms.

### G. The Merchant Elite

1. Per capita wealth was equally distributed compared to in the Chesapeake.
2. A powerful merchant class rose up, assuming a growing role based on trade within the British empire.
3. Some clashed with the church and left to establish a new town, Portsmouth, in New Hampshire.

### H. The Half-Way Covenant

1. By 1650, the church had to deal with the third generation of the Great Migration.
2. In 1662, the Half-Way Covenant was a compromise for the grandchildren of the Great Migration, granting half-way membership in the church.

## VII. Religion, Politics, and Freedom

### A. The Rights of Englishmen

1. By 1600, the idea that certain rights of Englishmen applied to all within the kingdom had developed alongside the traditional definition of liberties.
2. This tradition rested on the Magna Carta which was signed by King John in 1215.
  - a. It identified a series of liberties, which barons found to be the most beneficial.
3. The Magna Carta embodied the idea of English freedom:
  - a. Habeas corpus

- b. The right to face one's accuser
  - c. Trial by jury
- B. The English Civil War
  - 1. English Civil War of the 1640s illuminated debates about liberty and what it meant to be a freeborn Englishman.
- C. England's Debate over Freedom
  - 1. John Milton called for freedom of speech and of the press in the 1640s.
  - 2. The Levellers called for an even greater expansion of liberty, moving away from a definition based on social class.
  - 3. The Diggers was another political group attempting to give freedom an economic underpinning.
- D. English Liberty
  - 1. After the English Civil War, there emerged a more general definition of freedom grounded in the common rights of all individuals within the English realm:
    - a. A belief in freedom as the common heritage of all Englishmen
    - b. A belief that England was the world's guardian of liberty
- E. The Civil War and English America
  - 1. Most New Englanders sided with Parliament in the civil war.
  - 2. Ironically, Puritan leaders were uncomfortable with the religious toleration for Protestants gaining favor in England, as it was Parliament that granted Williams his charter for Rhode Island.
  - 3. A number of Hutchinson's followers became Quakers, but were hanged in Massachusetts.
- F. The Crisis in Maryland
  - 1. Virginia sided with Charles I, but in Maryland, crisis erupted into civil war.
  - 2. In 1649, Maryland adopted an Act Concerning Religion, which institutionalized the principles of toleration that had prevailed from the colony's beginning.
- G. Cromwell and the Empire
  - 1. Oliver Cromwell ruled England from 1649 until his death in 1658, and he took an aggressive policy of colonial expansion, the promotion of Protestantism, and commercial empowerment in the British Isles and the Western Hemisphere.
  - 2. The next century was a time of crisis and consolidation.