

Chapter 2 Outline - Europeans Colonize North America, 1600–1650

- I. Introduction

Europeans arrived in North America for a variety of reasons. The English, however, hoped to recreate the society they had left behind, with some reforms and improvements. In any case, Europeans enjoyed little success until they adapted to the alien environment and developed viable relations with Native Americans and with each other.

- II. Spanish, French, and Dutch North America

- A. New Mexico

Spaniards under Juan de Oñate invaded and conquered the Pueblo country. Although the colony they established turned out to be poor and indefensible, Spanish authorities decided to maintain a small military outpost and a few Christian missions.

- B. Quebec and Montreal

By the middle of the seventeenth century, France had founded Quebec and Montreal, outposts that served as that nation's claim to what is now Canada.

- C. Jesuit Missions in New France

Missionaries from the Society of Jesus (Black Robes) eventually converted thousands of natives to the Catholic faith and introduced them to European culture.

- D. New Netherland

In 1614, the Dutch established a post near present Albany, New York. The presence of the Dutch traders helped spawn competition and war among the various Native American tribes.

- III. The Caribbean
- A. Warfare and Hurricanes

The Caribbean provided the area of greatest conflict between European powers, especially as the lucrative sugar industry emerged in the region. Hurricanes were a major danger faced by settlers on the islands of the Caribbean.

- B. Sugar Cultivation

European wrangling over the Caribbean islands was motivated by a desire to establish sugar plantations to satisfy the demand of the European market.

- IV. English Interest in Colonization

- A. Social and Economic Change

The doubling of the English population between 1530 and 1680 led to geographical and social mobility, and many viewed the New World as a siphon for surplus population.

- B. English Reformation

The English Reformation, which King Henry VIII initiated in 1533, set the stage for large numbers of English dissenters to leave their homeland.

- C. Puritans, Separatists, and Presbyterians

Puritans wanted to reform the Church of England, while Separatists thought the Church of England was too corrupt to be saved.

English Calvinists (Puritans and Separatists) wanted to abolish the church hierarchy, wanted the church to be free from political interference, and wanted to confine church membership to the “elect.”

- D. Stuart Monarchs

James I established a new dynasty in England in 1603. The Stuart monarchs believed in the divine right of kings and had little respect for representative government. They were also intolerant of Puritans, Separatists, and Catholics.

Conflict between the Stuart monarchs on the one hand and English Calvinist dissenters (Puritans and Separatists) and Catholics on the other hand caused thousands of settlers to leave England in the 1630s.

- V. The Founding of Virginia

- A. Jamestown and Tsenacommacah

Great difficulties beset Jamestown, the first permanent settlement in Virginia.

Jamestown survived largely as a result of aid from the Algonquian Indians, but problems arose between the Englishmen and members of the Powhatan Confederacy.

- B. Algonquian and English Cultural Differences

The Indians and the Europeans had many differing views, but the Englishmen's attitude of cultural superiority led to the greatest problems between the two peoples.

- C. Tobacco Cultivation

Tobacco provided Virginia with a cash crop that guaranteed the colony's survival.

- D. Indian Assaults

Fearful of English encroachment, Powhatan's successor Opechancanough attacked Jamestown on March 22, 1622, killing 347, or one quarter of its inhabitants. This sparked warfare that ended only

with the subjugation of the Powhatan Confederacy.

- E. End of the Virginia Company

Under the Virginia Company and later under James I, settlers to Virginia could claim 50 acres of land as a headright. In 1619 the Virginia Company allowed major landowners to elect representatives to an assembly called the House of Burgesses.

James I revoked the charter of the Virginia Company in 1624, making Virginia a royal colony.

- VI. Life in the Chesapeake

- A. Demand for Laborers

Tobacco cultivation required a large number of laborers, and Virginians experimented with several solutions, including Indian and African workers.

Virginians eventually met their labor needs by bringing indentured servants to the colony.

- B. Conditions of Servitude

Life for these migrants proved difficult, but opportunities existed for those who fulfilled their contracts.

- C. Standard of Living

For everyone in the Chesapeake, life was severe with material wealth in short supply.

- D. Chesapeake Families

The predominance of males, the economic conditions, and high mortality rates in the Chesapeake led to fewer, smaller, and shorter-

lived families in Virginia and Maryland.

- E. Chesapeake Politics

A native-born elite with local ties and interests did not emerge in Virginia and Maryland until the eighteenth century. Because immigrants composed a majority of the Chesapeake population in the seventeenth century, the region experienced political instability.

- VII. The Founding of New England

- A. Contrasting Regional Demographic Patterns

In 1635, around three-fifths of all migrants from England to the British colonies were between the ages of 15 and 24. However, of those going to New England, people aged 15 to 24 constituted less than one-third of the total.

Most migrants to New England traveled in family groups, brought more goods and livestock, and often traveled with others from the same regions.

- B. Contrasting Regional Religious Patterns

Most immigrants to the Chesapeake did not travel to the New World for religious reasons. By contrast, religion motivated many people who moved to the New England colonies.

- C. Separatists

Separatists were the first to move to New England, establishing the Plymouth settlement in 1620.

- D. Pilgrims and Pokanokets

The Pokanokets served as allies to the Pilgrims, ensuring their success.

- E. Massachusetts Bay Company

When Charles I ascended to the throne in 1625, his anti-Puritan policy led many Puritan Congregationalists to the conclusion that they should pursue their aim of reforming the Church of England in America. The Congregationalist merchants who controlled the Massachusetts Bay Company decided to transfer the company's headquarters to New England.

- F. Governor John Winthrop

John Winthrop, first elected governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1629, envisioned a communal society based on Christian charity that put the common good before the needs of the individual.

- G. Covenant Ideal

The communal ideal of the Puritans was expressed in the doctrine of the covenant. The concept of a covenanted community permeated Puritan society. This faith in mutual consent manifested itself in the colony's political institutions.

- H. New England Towns

Puritan ideas influenced land distribution in the New England colonies. Massachusetts often gave land to groups rather than to individuals, grants that led to the growth of communities rather than to large personal holdings.

- I. Pequot War and its Aftermath

English migration into the Connecticut valley ended the Puritans' freedom from clashes with Indians.

Pequot power over regional trading networks ended with the arrival of English settlers. The founding of Puritan settlements in the Connecticut valley spawned conflict with the Pequot tribe.

- J. Missionary Activities

John Eliot attempted to Christianize and civilize the Algonquians by establishing “Praying Towns,” but he met with little success.

In contrast, Jesuit missions in New France enjoyed far more success than the Puritans in converting Native Americans to Christianity.

- VIII. Life in New England

- A. New England Families

Longer life expectancy and large families were characteristics of New England.

- B. Impact of Religion

Religion permeated every facet of New England life. Church membership was a prerequisite for voting in colony elections in Massachusetts and New Haven. The Puritan colonies had strict codes of moral conduct. Religious intolerance was also a characteristic in New England.

- C. Roger Williams

Roger Williams advocated Indians’ rights, separation of church and state, and religious tolerance. Williams was banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony, and in 1635 he founded the town of Providence in what became Rhode Island. There he adopted a policy of tolerating all religions.

- D. Anne Hutchinson

Anne Hutchinson emphasized the covenant of grace and direct communication with God. Her ideas threatened Puritan religious orthodoxy and traditional gender relationships. She was banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1638.