Chapter 3
Settling the Northern Colonies
1619–1700
Religious Background Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther protests of Catholic doctrines 95 Theses nailed to Wittenberg Cathedral in 1517.
- Denounces authority of Pope and Priests. “Bible alone was source of God’s word.” Justification by faith. Formation of Protestant branch of Christianity. Many Europeans split off of Catholic Church.
- Calvinist doctrines were sweeping into England at the time of Henry VIII.
Henry VIII

- Breaks with Roman Catholic Church.
- Becomes head of the Church of England (Anglican).
- Would keep many rituals and creeds of Catholic Church which made many unsatisfied.
- Those in Britain who wanted to purify the church of all Catholic tendencies were known as Puritans. Sought “signs of conversion”. Live sanctified lives. “Visible saints”. Holy behavior.
- Church of England admitted all their subjects.
- King James I knew if they challenge him spiritually they might challenge him politically.
Separatists

- More extreme than the Puritans.
- Start by leaving to Holland. Fear the kids were adopting too much Dutch lifestyle.
- Negotiate with Virginia Company and set sail for Americas.
- Mayflower: 65 days at sea, 102 people on board, 1 death, 1 birth.
Plymouth Colony

- Blown off course, outside control of Virginia colony.
- Captain Myles Standish
- Took preliminary surveys before settling on Plymouth rock.
- Before leaving the ship, leaders drew up and signed the Mayflower Compact.
- Promising step towards self-government—a social contract.
- Adult males soon were meeting in open-discussion town meetings to make their own laws.
Plymouth colony continued...

- First winter 1620–21 only 44 of 102 survived. Only 7 well enough to bury the dead in the frozen ground.
- None of them were willing to leave.
- Fall of 1621 was the first Thanksgiving.
- Found economic stability with fur, fish, lumber, and their faith. 7,000 by 1691.
- Merged with Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1691.
William Bradford

- Leader of the Plymouth colony.
- Elected governor of the colony 30 times.
- Biggest fear was the corruption of the non-puritan settlers who were bursting around them—especially the fisheries that were near by. “Cared more for cod than God”.
The Bay Colony Bible Commonwealth

- 1629 King Charles I dismisses parliament and sanctions anti-Puritan persecutions.
- Puritans, fearing for their faith and future, secured a royal charter for the Massachusetts Bay Company. Sought refuge in INFERTILE Massachusetts area. Boston becomes hub.
- 1630: 11 ships carrying a thousand immigrants started the large scale colony.
- The Great Migration—During the 1630’s seventy thousand left England. About 20 thousand came to Massachusetts. More Puritans went to Barbados than Massachusetts.
John Winthrop

- Became colony’s first governor. Believed he was called by God. A devout Puritan.
- Served for 19 years as governor or deputy governor.
- Helped the colony prosper.
- Fishing, shipbuilding, and fur trading were important industries.
- Declared “We shall be as a city upon a hill”
- Believed they had a covenant with god to create a holy society to be a model for the rest of the world.
What actions create this City on a Hill?
Creating the Bay colony

- People within the church had the right to vote. 2/5 of male adults. Larger than in England. Liberal by standards of the day but not a true democracy. Distrust of commoners. Rep assembly called the General Court.

- Purpose of the government was to enforce God’s laws.

- All paid taxes whether in the government–church or not.

- Religious leaders had enormous influence. Local autonomy in the church. Hell–fire and brimstone.

- Establishment of the Puritan work ethic and individualism–engaged in worldly pursuits.
Public interrogations by church leaders to determine if a conversion had truly occurred.
Church leaders could be hired or fired by a congregation.
Clergy could not hold political office. Why? They had not had a good experience with Church of England.
Protestant ethic—serious commitment to work and engage in worldly pursuits. Often passed laws aimed at making sure simple pleasures stayed simple. Life is serious and hell is real and dangerous.
Dissenters to the Colony

- Anne Hutchinson argued the logic of predestination. A holy life is no sure sign of salvation and truly saved don’t need to obey laws. (antinomianism)
- Brought to trial—persuasive argument but was banished to Rhode Island and eventually to New York where she was killed by Native Americans.
- Roger Williams argued to make a complete break with the Church of England. Challenge the charter and taking Indian lands without fair compensation.
- Challenged civil gov’t making religious policy.
Rhode Island

- Found guilty of “new and dangerous opinions” and banished. Fled to R.I. area in 1636. R.I. becomes most liberal colony in New World.
- Roger Williams establishes Baptist Church.
- Complete freedom of religion. No oaths or taxes to support a church.
- Basic men’s suffrage to start. Later had property qualifications implemented.
- Became a colony of exiles (“the Lord’s debris”). Independent and strongly individualistic.
Connecticut

- Hartford founded in 1635. Dutch and English settlers.
- Thomas Hooker led group (Puritans) from Boston to the area.
- Drafted the Fundamental Orders—a modern constitution—used as example for its colonial charter and state constitution.
- New Haven founded in 1638 and merged with the other Connecticut valley settlements to form Connecticut colony.
Fishermen and fur traders settle on coast of Maine before Plymouth settled. Attempted colonization but area was absorbed into Mass. Bay Colony and remained a part for 150 years before becoming a separate state.

New Hampshire also created out of fishing and trading activities. Grasped by Mass. initially but made royal colony in 1679.
Epidemic makes land available for new arrivals. Squanto the interpreter has relatively good relations with Wampanoags. Chief Massasoit treaty with Pilgrims for Thanksgiving.

1637 – Pequot War – as more settlers arrived, they pushed farther inland towards Connecticut Valley. Tensions grew and erupted. Pequot tribe was virtually destroyed. Settlers actually criticized by many in England. Feeble effort made to Christianize natives.

1675–76 King Phillip’s War – Massasoit’s son, Metacom, forged a native alliance. Called King Phillip by English. Assaulted English settlements.
England deep in Civil War.
Colonists on their own.
Why create it? Defense from French, Indians, and Dutch—also to deal with runaway slaves and criminals
Each colony had 2 votes. Dominated by the Puritans. R.I. and Maine settlers blackballed
First chance to work together in intercolonial matters. First major step.
Colonial Neglect Ends.

- Charles II is restored in 1660 (after English Civil War and Cromwell). Church of England back in power.
- Charles II takes an active role in colonies.
- Defiance found mainly in Mass. King legalizes Rhode Island and Connecticut charters as punishment.
- 1684 Bay colony’s charter is revoked.
Dominion of New England created by royal authority—1686 included all of New England and eventually New York and East and West Jersey.

Create colonial defense

Dominion designed to promote administration of New England. Tighter control.


Glorious Revolution becomes example for colonists. Catholic James II overthrown. Reign of William and Mary begins.

Unrest in New York and Maryland led to appointment of royal governors to restore order.

More English officials like judges, clerks, customs officials, etc.–many incompetent or corrupt

But, the new monarchs began a period of salutary neglect and only weakly enforced the laws.
Netherlands

- Dutch had become independent from Catholic Spain. Become perhaps wealthiest people of Europe. Dominated Far East spice trade for years. Dutch East India Company very powerful.
- New Amsterdam becomes New York City. Dutch West India Company formed but never as powerful as EDIC. Famous story of Manhattan.
- Created for its fur trade.
- Strong aristocratic area. Feudal estates (patroonships). No religious toleration, free speech, or democratic practices.
- English regarded the Dutch as intruders.
- Charles II’s brother, the Duke of York, is granted the land. Take over without firing a shot.
Glorious Revolution 1688–1689. James II dethroned and William and Mary take their place.

Dominion collapses and Andros is sent back to England.

Mass. Becomes a royal colony in 1691. Permanent loss of original charter. Restricted voting policy opened to male property owners.

No longer a monopoly of the Church. Puritans hold is less.

More English officials are brought to the Americas. As the 18th century goes on more resentment.
Penn’s Holy Experiment

- Religious dissenters known as Quakers.
- Refuse to support the Church with taxes. All children of God and refused to take oaths.
- William Penn: 16 years old attracted to Faith.
- 1681 acquired a large land grant because the monarchy owed his father. Named after his father.
- Attracted forward living people. Masons, carpenters, shoemakers, and manual workers.
Bought lands from the Native Americans including Chief Tammany.

No tax based Churches

Representative Assembly chosen by landowners.

Freedom of worship guaranteed to all.

Eventually pressured to keep Catholics and Jews from voting or holding office.

Very liberal features for the times. Dislike of black slavery

Some “blue laws prohibited card playing, plays, dice, etc.

Penn spent four years there. Arrested three times for treason because of his relationship with James II. Two times in debtors prison. Died of stroke
New Jersey and Delaware

- Two noble proprietors granted Jersey by the Duke of York. Originally and East Jersey and West Jersey but combined. Many New Englanders flocked to the new colony. East Jersey originally acquired by Quakers but became part of a royal colony.
- Swedish tinged Delaware had three counties. Remained under Pennsylvania governor until American revolution. Named after Lord De La War.
Middle Colonies

- New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania
- Fertile soils with expansive lands known as the bread colonies.
- Large rivers—Hudson and the Delaware. Provided for development deep into the interior.
- Industry flourished with lumber and shipbuilding. Commerce with good seaports.
- Intermediate size land holdings. Land more easily acquired than North or South.
- In between the two colonial groups. Moderate landholdings, gov’t between town and county.
- More ethnically mixed, more religious toleration, democratic.
- Benjamin Franklin