Colonizing New England

Protestant Reformation
Produces Puritanism

First

In 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg cathedral.

He ignited the Protestant Reformation.
John Calvin & Predestination

Basic doctrines were stated in the 1536 document entitled *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

Stated that all humans were weak and wicked.

Only the predestined could go to heaven, no matter what.

Calvinists were expected to seek “conversions,” signs that they were one of the predestined, and afterwards, lead “sanctified lives.”
In England, King Henry VIII was breaking his ties with the Holy Roman Catholic Church in the 1530s
Puritans as Separatists

ALL Puritans believed that only “visible saints” should be admitted to church membership.

Separatists vowed to break away from the Church of England because the “saints” would have to sit with the “damned.”

King James I, father of the beheaded Charles I, harassed the Separatists out of England because he thought that if people could defy him as their spiritual leader, they might defy him as their political ruler.
After negotiating with the Virginia Company, the Separatists left Holland (initially fled there but then feared the Dutchification of their kids) and sailed for 65 days at sea on the **Mayflower** 1620, arrived at Plymouth, far from original target of Virginia

Less than half of the **Pilgrims** on the Mayflower were actually Separatists.

The Pilgrims became squatters, people without legal right to land and without specific authority to establish government
William Bradford wrote of the landing…
(excerpted from *History of Plimouth Plantation*)

Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven, who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth, their proper element. And no marvel if they were thus joyful, seeing wise Seneca was so affected with sailing a few miles on the coast of his own Italy; as he affirmed, that he had rather remain twenty years on his way by land, then pass by sea to any place in a short time; so tedious and dreadful was the same unto him.
Before disembarking from ship, the Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact, a set of rules by which to obey.

Though it wasn’t a constitution, it did set the standard for later constitutions.

Signed by 41 men,
Led to men meeting as assembly to make decisions for colony
In the winter of 1620-21, only 44 of the 102 survived.

1621 brought bountiful harvests, though, and the first Thanksgiving was celebrated that year.
William Bradford, chosen governor of Plymouth 30 times in the annual elections, was a great leader, and helped Plymouth to survive and trade fur, fish, and lumber.

In 1691, Plymouth finally merged with the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
Covenant Theology

Covenant of Grace
Puritan community was bound to God

Social Covenant
People are bound together
No privacy
Must watch each other and punish dissent
In 1629, some non-Separatist Puritans got a royal charter from England to settle in the New World. They used it as a type of constitution.

11,000 people came to Massachusetts on 11 ships.

Boston became their hub.
John Winthrop was elected governor or deputy governor for 19 years, helping Massachusetts prosper in fur trading, fishing, and shipbuilding.

"....we must consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, (and that) the eyes of all people are upon us."
The colony's first seal, depicting a dejected American Indian with arrows turned downwards, saying "Come over and help us", an allusion to Acts 16:9

Seal later memorialized on a 1930 postage stamp celebrating 300 year anniversary.
1630s
England headed to Civil War causing Puritans to flee

70,000 came to New World at this time

Around 20,000 to MA
Clergy cannot hold political office
Members can hire and fire clergy
Protestant Ethic: work hard at what you are called to do

Enjoyed worldly things like food, alcohol, and sex

Life should be simple

People must be punished for nonconforming to norms
  For example, kissing in public was fined

Christmas wasn’t celebrated as they saw no scripture supporting it

Feared hell (Michael Wigglesworth poem, “Day of Doom” (1662) was a best seller)

“They cry, they roar for anguish sore, And gnaw their tongues for horrour. But get away without delay, Christ pitties not your cry: Depart to Hell, there may you yell, and roar Eternally.”
These colonies enjoyed a long life expectancy of 70 years.

Men married at the average age of 27, women 22, and families had an average of 6 children.

Extended families were tightly knit together.

Patriarchy – authoritarian men were decision makers in the home and in public.
Mistress Pollard arrived in Massachusetts as a child with John Winthrop's fleet in 1630. She operated a tavern and had 13 children. She lived 104 years. When she died, she left 130 descendants.
Early Puritan architecture was limited by time, the lack of tooling and labor. Pilgrims, the first Puritans to land on American shores, had, by the spring of 1621, suffered devastating losses to winter kill. They had to devise shelter and a farming infrastructure before another winter struck. Their first dwellings would be little more than one room huts of "daub and wattle".

Frequently they were dug into the ground several feet to take advantage of geothermal gain. Here we see the typical skills of an English village being reflected in the building. The roof was thatch, the walls daub and wattle, and the fence riven. Perhaps what is most noteworthy is the absence of decoration and adornment. These were people that had little time for the extras in life. Basic survival was foremost in their minds, and this dwelling fills that requirement excellently well.
Later architecture, as shown in this Minister’s house, improved but was still relatively simple in design. Homes had few or small windows, typically.
Churches were more detailed and had more windows... along with being a central point of a town (on a hill).

Why do churches have more windows than homes?
Puritans treated death very seriously and mourning was a big part of their culture. Kissing and caressing the dead, displaying the body for days or weeks, insisting that children fully participate in burial rites, etc.

Death was also in their. Cotton Mather's advice to the young is instructive "... go into Burying-Place, CHILDREN; you will there see Graves as short as your selves. Yea, you may be at Play one Hour; Dead, Dead the next. Tis not likely that you will all live to grow up."

In the horn books used at school, children learned to remember "G" and "T" in the alphabet by way of the following mnemonic devices "T--Time cuts down all/Both great and small." or "G: As runs the glass/ Man's life doth pass"
Mrs. Elizabeth Freake and her baby, Mary.

Painted in the early 1670's

Married to Boston merchant

What can you infer about her life?
Love between husband and wife was celebrated

Ann Bradstreet's poem "To my Dear and Loving Husband "

If ever two were one, then surely we.  
If ever man were lov'd by wife, then thee.  
If ever wife was happy in a man,  
Compare with me, ye women, if you can.  
I prize thy love more than whole Mines of gold  
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.  
My love is such that Rivers cannot quench,  
Nor ought but love from thee give recompence.  
Thy love is such I can no way repay.  
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.  
Then while we live, in love let's so persever  
That when we live no more, we may live ever.
Soon after the establishment of the colony, The Congregational Church welcomed all “freemen:” adult males who belonged to the Puritan faith.

Unchurched men and all women weren’t allowed votes.

The provincial government was not a democracy.

Governor Winthrop feared and distrusted the common people, calling democracy the “meanest and worst” of all forms of government.

Religious leaders wielded powerful influence over the admission to church membership.
ROGER WILLIAMS

Minister in Salem, MA

Condemned MA Bay Charter for not compensating Natives for their land

Supported separation of church and state

Exiled for preaching “new and dangerous opinions” in 1635, including *The Bloody Tenant of Persecution*

Fled for Rhode Island with help from Natives, established first American Baptist Church in Providence
Anne Hutchison

Strong willed, extremely intelligent, outspoken woman, mother of 14

Challenge Patriarchy, supported separation of Church and State

Claimed that a holy life was no sure sign of salvation and that the truly saved so need not bother to obey the law of either God or man.

Brought to trial in 1638, where Anne boasted that her beliefs were directly from God.

She was banished from the colony and eventually made her way to Rhode Island.

She died in New York after an attack by Indians.
Rhode Island was called the “sewer” by its Puritan neighbors.

Land of the Outcasts… Strongly Independent Minded
Not necessarily similar; they were just unwanted everywhere else. Roger Williams and Anne Hutchison, for example.

They were against special privilege, enjoyed freedom of religion (even for Jews and Catholics), kept church and state separate, more men could vote here than in other colonies.

“Little Rhody” was later known as “the traditional home of the otherwise minded.”

It finally secured a charter in 1644.
Connecticut

1635, Hartford, Connecticut was founded

Reverend Thomas Hooker led an energetic group of Puritans here
1639, settlers of the new Connecticut River colony drafted in open meeting a trailblazing document called **the Fundamental Orders**. It was basically a modern constitution.

1638, New Haven was founded and eventually merged into Connecticut.
Maine & New Hampshire

Before Massachusetts colony was founded, there were settlers in Maine, fishing and hunting.


1623, Maine was absorbed by Massachusetts (purchased from Gorges heirs). It was not one of the 13 colonies independently. Main became a state in 1820.

New Hampshire was land granted to Captain John Mason who lived in Hampshire County, England. He sent settlers to the new territory to create a fishing colony. However, he died before ever seeing where he had spent a considerable amount of money building towns and defenses.

1641, the granite-ribbed New Hampshire was absorbed into Massachusetts. In 1679, the king separated the two and made New Hampshire a royal colony.
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Before the Puritans had arrived in 1620, an epidemic had swept through the Indians, killing over three quarters of them.

At first, Indians tried to befriend the Whites.

Squanto, a Wampanoag, helped keep relative peace. He is now a legend.
1637
English settlers and the Pequot tribe fought in the Pequot War, in which the English set fire to a Pequot village on Connecticut’s Mystic River, annihilating the Indians and bringing about forty years of tentative peace.

Settlers set fire to homes and shot fleeing survivors… then tried to convert survivors later.
IN 1675-1676, Metacom (called King Philip by the English) united neighboring Indians in a last-ditched attack that failed.

The King Philip’s War slowed colonial western march, but Metacom was beheaded and quartered and his head was stuck on a sharp pike for all to see, his wife and son sold to slavery.

Other attempts followed, but ultimately the Natives lost and were pushed westward or annihilated.

After this, New England never experienced a serious Native “threat” again.
Seeds of Colonial Unity and Independence…

In 1643, four colonies banded together to form the **New England Confederation**.

**New Haven, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, and Plymouth**

It was almost all Puritan, non-religious colonies excluded.

It was weak, but still a notable milestone toward American unity.

The colonies were basically allowed to be semiautonomous commonwealths.
Purpose of New England Confederation:

Defense against foes (Indians, French, Dutch)
Help return runaway servants and criminals

How it worked:

Each colony had 2 votes regardless of size

Significance:

Colonists gained experience with representative government, colonies were semi autonomous regardless of this joint union, the King was too busy with English Civil War to notice… but when the Restoration occurred, England took notice.
After Charles II was restored to the British throne, he hoped to control his colonies more firmly, but was shocked to find how much his orders were ignored by Massachusetts.

As punishment, a sea-to-sea charter was given to rival Connecticut (1662),

and a charter was given to Rhode Island (1663).

Finally, in 1684, Massachusetts’ charter was revoked.
In addition to granting charters to Rhode Island and Connecticut, he led the formation of what are known as The Restoration Colonies (colonies formed after the monarchy was restored following the English Civil War and brief Oliver Cromwell era.)
In 1686, the Dominion of New England was created to bolster the colonial defense against Indians and tying the colonies closer to Britain by enforcing the hated Navigation Acts.

The acts united all colonies, which angered the members of the Confederation.

The acts forbade American trade with countries other than Britain. As a result, smuggling became common.

Head of the Dominion was Sir Edmund Andros. HQ in Boston, he openly showed his association with the locally hated Church of England in a Puritan colony.

Land titles were revoked, assemblies banned, schools and churches restricted, taxes levied without consent of legislators...
Glorious Revolution

In order to get rid of the tyrannical James II, the people of England staged the Glorious Revolution, instating **William and Mary** to the crown.

Result, the Dominion of New England collapsed. **Massachusetts got a new royal charter in 1691**, but this charter allowed all landowners to vote, as opposed to the previous law of voting belonging only to the church members.

Andros tried to flee, disguised in women’s clothes, but he was captured and shipped back to England.
Following the Glorious Revolution, many colonists revolted at first.

Royal governors soon restored order but control was lessened.

This began a time known for its Salutary Neglect (laws not enforced strictly)

British leadership remained, but were seen as inept and cared little for the colonies. This bred resentment.