Chapter 3
Settling the Northern Colonies, 1619–1700
FOCUS QUESTIONS
1. What religious turmoil in the Old World resulted in the little colony of Plymouth in the New World?
2. Why was the initial and subsequent colonization of the Massachusetts Bay Colony more successful than Plymouth?
3. How did the colony of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony contribute to the origins of American independence and government? What were the contributions to American independence and government from the New England Confederation, the Dominion of New England, and the Glorious Revolution?
4. What role did religious intolerance play in the founding of New England colonies other than Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay and in the founding of some middle colonies?
5. Besides England, what other nations influenced the colonization of the Atlantic coast of North America?
6. How did the colonization of Pennsylvania differ from the New England colonies and other middle colonies?

CHAPTER THEMES


Theme: The Protestant Reformation, in its English Calvinist (Reformed) version, provided the major impetus and leadership for the settlement of New England. The New England colonies developed a fairly homogeneous social order based on religion and semi-communal family and town settlements.

Theme: Principles of American government developed in New England with the beginnings of written constitutions (Mayflower Compact and Massachusetts’s royal charter) and with glimpses of self-rule seen in town hall meetings, the New England Confederation, and colonial opposition to the Dominion of New England.

Theme: The middle colonies of New Netherland (New York), Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware developed with far greater political, ethnic, religious, and social diversity, and they represented a more cosmopolitan middle ground between the tightly knit New England towns and the scattered, hierarchical plantation in the South.
I. The Protestant Reformation Produces Puritanism

• 1517 Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation.

• German Martin Luther and John Calvin of Geneva had profound effect on the thought and character of America.

• Calvinism—dominant theological credo.

• 1536 Calvin published *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 
I. The Protestant Reformation Produces Puritanism (cont.)

Major doctrines:

• **Predestination**—the elect destined for eternal bliss and others for eternal torment.

• **Conversion**—the receipt of God’s free gift.

• 1530 King Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church

• **Puritans**—English religious reformers wanted a total purification of English Christianity.
I. The Protestant Reformation Produces Puritanism (cont.)

• Controversy over church membership led to the **Separatists** breaking from the Church of England.

• King James I (1603-1625) threatened to harass the bothersome Separatists out of England.
II. The Pilgrims End Their Pilgrimage at Plymouth

• 1608 First Separatists fled to Holland.

• Over 12 years they became distressed by the “Dutchification” of their children.

• 1620 Some Separatists (known as Pilgrims) sailed on the Mayflower to Plymouth Bay.

• Mayflower Compact an agreement to form a government and submit to the will of the majority under some regulations.
III. The Bay Colony Bible Commonwealth

- 1629 Charles I dismisses Parliament and persecutes Puritans
- 1630 Puritans found Massachusetts Bay Colony
- 1630 70,000 refugees leave England during the Great Migration (see Maps 3.1; 3.2)
- Puritans believed they had a "calling" from God to lead the new religious experiment
• John Winthrop becomes governor.
• Massachusetts Bay Colony becomes the biggest and most influential colony.
• Colonists believed they had a *covenant* with God to build a holy society as a model for all humankind.
Map 3-1b p44

- To New England: 25,000
- To Chesapeake: 50,000
- To Bermuda: 4,000
- To West Indies: 110,000

From England: 189,000
IV. Building the Bay Colony

- Franchise was extended to all “freemen”—adult males who belonged to Puritans congregations.
- Unchurched men remained voteless.
- The Bay Colony was not a democracy.
Building the Bay Colony (cont.)

• Nonbelievers and believers paid taxes for the government-supported church.

• John Cotton was a prominent lead in the Massachusetts “Bible Commonwealth.”

• The Puritans were a worldly lot.

• “Protestant ethic” involved serious commitment to work and world pursuits.

• They enjoyed simple pleasures.
Building the Bay Colony (cont.)

- They passed laws regarding pleasure activities.
- Life to the Puritans was serious business.
V. Trouble in the Bible Commonwealth

- **Quakers**, who flouted the authority of the Puritan clergy, were persecuted.

- **Anne Hutchinson** carried to logical extremes the Puritan doctrine of predestination known as antinomianism.

  - 1638 she was brought to trial, set out for Rhode Island, then moved to New York, where she and her family were killed by the Indians.
• Roger Williams was an extreme Separatist.

• He challenged clergymen to make a clear break with the Church of England;

• He challenged the legality of the Bay Colony’s charter;

• He challenged the civil authority to regulate religious behavior.

• 1635 he was tried by the authorities.
VI. The Rhode Island “Sewer”

• 1636 Roger Williams, with the aid of Indians, fled to Rhode Island.
• He built a Baptist church in Providence.
• He established complete freedom of religion, even for Jews and Catholics.
• He demanded no oaths.
• He sheltered abused Quakers.
• Rhode Island became the most liberal colony.
VI. The Rhode Island “Sewer” (cont.)

Rhode Islanders:

• Exercised simple manhood suffrage.

• Achieved remarkable freedom of opportunity.

• Rhode Island, planted by dissenters and exiles, became strongly individualistic and stubbornly independent.
VII. New England Spreads Out

• New England area was highly fertile.
• Contained a sprinkling of Dutch and English.
• 1635 Hartford was founded.
• 1639 Connecticut’s *Fundamental Orders*: a modern constitution that established a regime democratically controlled by the “substantial” citizens.
• 1638 New Haven was founded.
VII. New England Spreads Out (cont.)

- 1677 Plymouth was absorbed by Massachusetts.
- 1641 New Hampshire was absorbed by the Bay Colony.
- 1679 King Charles II separated New Hampshire from Massachusetts and made it a royal colony.
VIII. Puritans Versus Indians

- 1620 Before the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth there was an epidemic.
- Three-quarters of the native people were killed.
- Wampanoag Indians befriended the settlers.
- 1621 Wampanoag chieftain Massasoit signed a treaty with the Plymouth Pilgrims.
- 1621 The first Thanksgiving was celebrated.
VIII. Puritans Versus Indians (cont.)

- 1637 Hostilities explored between Indians and whites resulted in the Pequot War; four decades of uneasy peace.
- Puritan “Praying towns” were established to Christianize the remaining Indians.
- 1675 Massasoit’s Metacom forged an alliance to create intertribal unity.
- 1675-1676 King Philip’s War.
IX. Seeds of Colonial Unity and Independence

• 1643 experiment in union when four colonies united to form the **New England Confederation**.

• Primary aim was to defend against the Indians.

• Each colony had two votes.

• The confederation was essentially an exclusive Puritan club.
IX. Seeds of Colonial Unity and Independence (cont.)

• Membership—the Bay Colony, Plymouth, New Haven, Connecticut.

• It was a milestone toward colonial unity.

• England took an attitude of benign neglect.

• 1660 King Charles II was restored and wanted to take an active, aggressive hand in the management of the colonies.
IX. Seeds of Colonial Unity and Independence (cont.)

• 1662 Charles II gave Connecticut a sea-to-sea charter that legalized the squatter settlements.

• 1662 Granted the outcasts in Rhode Island a new charter sanctioning religious tolerance.

• 1684 Bay Colony charter was revoked by the London authorities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, Reign</th>
<th>Relation to America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James I, 1603–1625</td>
<td>Va., Plymouth founded; Separatists persecuted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles I, 1625–1649</td>
<td>Civil wars, 1642–1649; Mass., Md. founded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Interregnum, 1649–1660)</td>
<td>Commonwealth; Protectorate (Oliver Cromwell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles II, 1660–1685</td>
<td>The Restoration; Carolinas, Pa., N.Y. founded; Conn. Chartered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James II, 1685–1688</td>
<td>Catholic trend; Glorious Revolution, 1688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William &amp; Mary, 1689–1702</td>
<td>King William’s War, 1689–1697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Mary died 1694)
AT THE TOWN-HOUSE in
BOSTON:
April 18th. 1639.

Sir,

Our Selves as well as many others the Inhabitants of this Town and Place adjacent, being surprized with the People sudden taking to Arms, in the first motion whereof we were wholly ignorant, are driven by the present Exigence and Necessity to acquaint your Excellency, that for the Quietting and Securing of the People inhabiting this Country from the imminent Dangers they many ways are exposed unto; and for Your own safety. We judge it necessary that You forthwith Surrender, and Deliver up the Government and Fortifications to be preserved, to be Disposed according to Order and Direction from the Crown of England, which is suddenly expected may Arrive, promising all Security from Violence to Your self or any other of Your Gentlemen and Subjects in Person or Estates, or else we are assured they will endeavour the taking of the Fortifications by Storm, if any opposition be made.

To Sir. Edmond Andros Knight.

Walt Winthrop
Simon Bradfute
William Stoughton
Samuel Shrimpton
Barthol. Gider
William Browne
Thomas Danforth
John Richards

Boston Printed by J. Green. 1639.
X. Andros Promotes the First American Revolution

• 1686 Royal authority creates Dominion of New England (see Map 3.3).
• It embraced New England, and two years later New York and East and West Jersey.
• Navigation Laws attempted to stitch England’s overseas possessions more tightly to the English crown.
• Sir Edmund Andros headed the Dominion.
X. Andros Promotes the First American Revolution (cont.)

- He generated much hostility by his actions.
- 1688-1689 The Glorious Revolution overthrew Catholic James II and enthroned Protestant rulers William II and Mary II.
- It caused the collapse of the Dominion.
- Andros was shipped off to England.
- 1691 Massachusetts was made a royal colony.
X. Andros Promotes the First American Revolution (cont.)

- Many colonies struck against royal authority.
- 1689-1691 rocked New York and Maryland.
- The new monarchs inaugurated a period of *salutary neglect*.
- Residues remained of Charles II’s effort to assert tighter colonial administrative control.
XI. Old Netherlanders at New Netherland

• 16th century the Netherlands rebelled against Catholic Spain.
• 17th century was a Dutch golden age.
• Dutch expanded their commercial and naval powers becoming a leading colonial power.
• Dutch East India Company became powerful.
• 1609 Henry Hudson ventured in Delaware Bay and New York Bay, the Hudson River.
XI. Old Netherlanders at New Netherland (cont.)

• 1623-1624 New Netherland was planted in the Hudson River area by the Dutch West India Company (see Map 3.4).

• They purchased Manhattan Island from the Indians.

• New Amsterdam—later New York City—was a company town.

• It was run by and for the Dutch company.
XI. Old Netherlanders at New Netherland (cont.)

- The investors had no enthusiasm for democratic practices.
- A local body with limited lawmaking power was established.
- The colony took on a strong aristocracy.
- Patroonships, feudal estates, were built.
- Colorful little New Amsterdam attracted a cosmopolitan population.
XII. Friction with English and Swedish Neighbors

- The Dutch company-colony was beset by numerous vexations.
- The settlers on Manhattan Island erected a stout wall, from which Wall Street derived its name.
- People from Connecticut ejected the Hollanders.
• 1638-1655 The Swedes trespassed on Dutch preserves, planning New Sweden on the Delaware River (see Map 3.4).
• 1655 Resenting the Swedes, the Dutch dispatched a small military expedition.
• It was led by Peter Stuyvesant, dubbed “Father Wooden Leg” by the Indians.
• New Sweden soon faded away.
XIII. Dutch Residues in New York

• 1664 England seized New Netherland from the Dutch.
• Charles II granted his brother, the Duke of York, the former New Amsterdam area.
• Peter Stuyvesant was forced to surrender.
• New Amsterdam was renamed New York.
• England received a splendid harbor and the stately Hudson River.
XIII. Dutch Residues in New York (cont.)

• Now the English banner waved over a solid stretch of territory from Maine to the Carolinas.

• The territory retained an autocratic spirit.

• The Livingston and De Lancey families wielded disproportionate power.

• This lordly atmosphere discouraged many European immigrants from coming.
Dutch influence:

• Named places

• Left their imprint of the gambrel-roofed architecture

• Influenced social customs and folkways.
XIV. Penn’s Holy Experiment in Pennsylvania

**Quakers**, English dissenters, known as the Religious Society of Friends:

- refused to support the established Church of England taxes;
- built simple meeting houses;
- congregated without a paid clergy;
- “spoke up” themselves in meetings when moved.
XIV. Penn’s Holy Experiment in Pennsylvania (cont.)

• They kept their broad-brimmed hats on in the presence of “betters”;
• Addressed each other with simple “thee”s and “thou”s;
• They took no oaths;
• They were people of deep conviction:
  — They abhorred strife, warfare and refused military service.
XIV. Penn’s Holy Experiment in Pennsylvania (cont.)

- Advocates of passive resistance.
- They were simple, devoted, democratic people, contending for religious and civic freedom.
- 1660 William Penn was attracted to the Quaker faith, suffering much persecution.
- Penn’s thoughts turned to the New World, where he wanted to experiment with liberal ideas in government and also to make money.
XIV. Penn’s Holy Experiment in Pennsylvania (cont.)

• 1681 he secured land from the King.
• The king called the land Pennsylvania (“Penn’s Woodland”).
• Pennsylvania was the best advertised colony.
• His liberal land policy attracted a heavy inflow of immigrants.
XV. Quaker Pennsylvania and Its Neighbors

- 1681 Penn launched his colony
  - "Squatters" were Dutch, Swedish, English, and Welsh
  - Philadelphia ("brotherly love") was carefully planned
  - He bought land from the Indians and Chief Tammany
  - He treated the Indians fairly
XV. Quaker Pennsylvania and Its Neighbors (cont.)

• Pennsylvania seemed, for a brief period, the land of amicable Indian-white relations.

• Quaker tolerance proved the undoing of Quaker Indian policy.

• Penn’s proprietary regime was unusually liberal and included a representative assembly elected by the landowners.

• There was no tax supported state church.
XV. Quaker Pennsylvania and Its Neighbors (cont.)

• *Blue laws* prohibited “ungodly revelers,” stage plays, playing cards, dice, games, and excessive hilarity.

• The Quakers were shrewd businessmen.

• By 1700 colony surpassed all other colonies but Virginia and Massachusetts in population and wealth.

• Penn spent only four years in the colony.
XV. Quaker Pennsylvania and Its Neighbors (cont.)

• His enduring monument was a noble experience and a new commonwealth.

• 1664 New Jersey was started by two noble proprietors having received land from the Duke of York.

• 1674 the Quakers bought West New Jersey.

• Later East New Jersey was acquired.

• 1703 Delaware was granted its assembly.
XV. Quakers Pennsylvania and Its Neighbors (cont.)

- Noted features of the colony:
  - No provision for a military defense;
  - No restrictions on immigration;
  - Quakers developed a strong dislike of slavery;
  - Made some progress toward social reform;
  - Contained rich ethnic groups;
  - Afforded economic opportunity, civil liberty, and religious freedom.
XVI. The Middle Way in the Middle Colonies

- The middle colonies—New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania common features:
  - The soil was fertile and the expanse was broad;
  - Became known as the “bread colonies”;
  - Rivers played a vital role—the Susquehanna, the Delaware, and the Hudson fur trade;
  - Industry flourished in the middle colonies;
  - Stimulated commerce and the growth of seaports—New York and Philadelphia
XVI. The Middle Way in the Middle Colonies (cont.)

- The middle colonies were midway between New England and the southern plantations:
  - Landholding intermediate in size;
  - Local government was between personalized town meetings and diffused county government of the south;
  - Fewer than in New England, more than the South.
XVI. The Middle Way in the Middle Colonies (cont.)

• Distinctions of their own:
  — More ethnic population;
  — An unusual degree of religious toleration and democratic control;
  — Desirable land was easier to acquire;
  — Considerable amount of economic and social democracy;
  — Finally, Britain continued its hands-off policies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1517</td>
<td>Martin Luther begins Protestant Reformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1536</td>
<td>John Calvin of Geneva publishes <em>Institutes of the Christian Religion</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1620</td>
<td>Pilgrims sail on the <em>Mayflower</em> to Plymouth Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1624</td>
<td>Dutch found New Netherland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1629</td>
<td>Charles I dismisses Parliament and persecutes Puritans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1630</td>
<td>Puritans found Massachusetts Bay Colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1635–1636</td>
<td>Roger Williams convicted of heresy and founds Rhode Island colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1635–1638</td>
<td>Connecticut and New Haven colonies founded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1637</td>
<td>Pequot War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1638</td>
<td>Anne Hutchinson banished from Massachusetts colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1639</td>
<td>Connecticut’s Fundamental Orders drafted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1642–1648</td>
<td>English Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1643</td>
<td>New England Confederation formed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1650</td>
<td>William Bradford completes <em>Of Plymouth Plantation</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1655</td>
<td>New Netherland conquers New Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1664</td>
<td>England seizes New Netherland from Dutch East and West Jersey colonies founded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1675–1676</td>
<td>King Philip’s War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1681</td>
<td>William Penn founds Pennsylvania colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1686</td>
<td>Royal authority creates Dominion of New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1688–1689</td>
<td>Glorious Revolution overthrows Stuarts and Dominion of New England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>