

COMPARISON OF VIRGINIA AND NEW ENGLAND—SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

JAMESTOWN COLONY

The Immigrants

Mainly from South & West of England

Came to make profit for investors & desire to spread Anglican religion

Initially men only

Mostly lower strata and elite

Came unprepared with food/necessities

Low rates of literacy

2/3 unskilled laborers and farmers

About 75% indentured

Passage paid by others

Poor survival rate

Legal Status

Arrived in VA under Virginia Charter

Land ceded to gentry by Council

PLYMOUTH COLONY

Mainly from Northern & Eastern England

Came for religious independence & economic improvement

Initially families & single people

Mostly middle to lower class

Came prepared with food/seeds/necessities

Higher rates of literacy

Unskilled to skilled

Limited number of servants

Passage paid by general loan

Initially poor survival, subsequently Successful

Arrived in Plymouth without a Charter

Land “purchased” from native people;
Additional land allotted based on family size

MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY

From multiple areas of England

Came for religious dominance & economic gain

Initially families & servants

Mostly middle class

Came prepared with limited foods but necessities

Higher rates of literacy

60% artisans

Economically mixed

Paid own passage

High survival rate, 20% returned to England

Arrived in Massachusetts with a Charter

Land acquired & sold by consortia

Terrain/Climate

Unglaciaded, sandy clay-rich soil

Growing season about 210 days

No deep water ports

Location of settlement undesirable;
created unhealthy environment

Glaciaded, rocky to sandy soil

Growing season about 150 days

No deep water ports

Location of settlement very desirable;
promoted healthy environment

Glaciaded, rocky to sandy soil

Growing season about 140 days

Deep water ports

Location of settlements very desirable;
promoted healthy environment

Religion

Not a key reason for immigration

Dominantly Anglican

All Quakers banished by 1658 law

?

Key reason for immigration

Dominantly Separatists

Quakers & Baptists accepted after a few years

Religion not required to hold civic office

Prominent reason for immigration

Dominantly Puritans

Quakers deported to RI

Puritan religion required to hold civic office

Relations with Indigenous People

Contentious from the beginning

?

Compatible in the beginning; contentious later
Separatists taught agricultural practices by natives

Separatists purchased land from indigenous
people

Contentious most of the time

General Court awarded large grants
of land, generally no compensation

Financial Situation

Well-financed by Virginia Company of London

Tax revenues to large numbers of poor

Indebted to Investors in London (Adventurers)

?

Privately well-financed

Tax revenues to churches and schools

Justice/Civil Law

Believed in hegemonic liberty—right to rule, domination over others

Criminal justice goal: preserve hierarchy

Libertarian—communal & voluntary restraints imposed as decided in group meetings

Criminal justice goal: preserve civility

Religious leaders key civil leaders

Criminal justice goal: preserve civility

Social Practices

About 50% people had Biblical names

About 25% of eldest had name of grandparent

Marriage a religious ceremony

Age of brides about 17 years

About 90% people had Biblical names

About 90% eldest had name of grandparent

Marriage a civil affair

Age of brides varied widely

About 90% people had Biblical names

About 65% eldest had name of grandparent

Marriage a religious ceremony

Age of brides about 23 years

Slavery

Enslaved Africans were common

Enslaved indigenous people?

Enslaved Africans very rare

Enslaved indigenous people rare

Enslaved Africans were minimal

Enslaved indigenous people frequent

Explorations

Search for gold and silver, and for South Sea important

Search for areas to establish trading posts important

Search for lands to settle new towns & trading posts important