

Study Guide

The “elect”- people who had been destined for eternal bliss and others for eternal torment- This was a revolutionary idea and it developed a different form of religion.

Calvinism- the religious doctrines of John Calvin, emphasizing the omnipotence of God and the salvation of the elect by God's grace alone- It became a very important religion and it influenced many others.

Mayflower Compact- an agreement to form a crude government and to submit to the will of the majority under the regulations agreed upon- It served as a model for later constitutions.

“visible saints”- Puritans who alone were eligible for church membership- the representative assembly was not truly representative because only certain people could join it.

Dominion of New England- alliance created by England between New England and New York and East and West Jersey- The Dominion was a form of control for England and it angered the colonists and eventually fell.

Fundamental Orders- a modern constitution which established a democratic regime controlled by substantial citizens- Ideas from the Fundamental Orders were later borrowed by Connecticut for its colonial charter and its state constitution.

Antinomianism- against the law- Anne Hutchinson claimed that a holy life was no sure sign of salvation and that the truly saved need not bother to obey the law of either God or man.

Navigation Laws- laws that stitched England's overseas possessions more tightly to the motherland by throttling American trade with countries not ruled by English crown- The laws made smuggling more popular and also made the Dominion of New England greatly resented.

New England Confederation- 1643, Bay Colony, Plymouth, New Haven, and the valley settlements allied together for protection from enemies- The confederation was the first milestone towards colonial unity.

Separatists- a tiny group of Puritans that broke away from the Church of England- They were the first major group to leave England because of religious persecution and many other groups followed.

1. Puritanism is the beliefs and practices characteristic of Puritans most of whom were Calvinists who wished to purify the Church of England of its Catholic aspects. Predestination is the belief that some souls since creation were destined for eternal bliss and others were for eternal torment. Puritans have a Protestant ethic which is a serious commitment to work and to engagement in worldly pursuits. Also, Calvinists look for signs of conversion or the receipt of God's free gift of saving grace.
2. The government of the Massachusetts Bay is theocratic because unchurched men were voteless in provincial elections. It was democratic because in town governments issues were decided by majority-rule show of hands. It was oligarchic because governors and religious leaders were very powerful and influential. Lastly, it was authoritarian because when someone was to challenge beliefs or the church, they would be quickly sentenced to punishment.
3. At the time, during the 17th century, I think it was the right thing to do. In order to promote your cause you have to control what your subjects are hearing and seeing. It is comparable to propaganda in communist countries during the 20th century. You have to control what people are hearing and seeing. If people are going around contradicting what you are saying then they could convince people and you could lose power.

4. There are a few reasons for the different interactions between the Indians and the English and the Spanish. One reason is probably that the English faced larger amounts of Indians. Even though the populations had been harmed by epidemic, it wasn't the same case in North America as in the South. Another reason is probably that the Spanish tried to convert most of the Indians unlike the English. After this converting, it was easier to get along even though some resented the conversion. The English generally looked down at the Indians and didn't bother trying to convert them. This kind of interaction probably made the English and Spanish feel more like enemies than before. They both interacted with the Indians in different ways.
5. In New England and the middle colonies, there was actually a higher degree of separation of church and state than in most other places in the world. This is because many of the people immigrated to North America because in England the church and state were united. They didn't want the same things to be happening in their new area.
6. The founding of the middle colonies was a bit more complicated than most of the New England colonies. For example, New Netherland was founded by the Dutch and they had to fight off the encroaching Swedish. Then later, it was taken over by the English and renamed New York. In the case of Plymouth, the pilgrims landed there and stayed and that was about it.
7. Both the New England Confederation and the Dominion of New England were alliances between some of the colonies. The Confederation was formed in 1643 and the Dominion was formed afterwards in 1686. The Dominion included more territory than the Confederation did, and it was created not only for alliances but also for England to maintain a tighter grip on its colonial possessions. The Confederation was disbanded when after a period of virtual colonial self-rule, Charles II took a larger part in managing the colonies. The Dominion was abandoned after a mob in Boston feeling the spirit of the Glorious Revolution, captured Sir Edmund Andros and promptly sent him to England.
8. In some ways the middle colonies were more open than New England. One of these ways was that the middle colonies were more ethnically mixed than New England. They also had traditions that were mixed from several different cultures unlike New England. Another way they were more open was that they seemed to be more accepting to the Indians in some of the middle colonies. The middle colonies were also less democratic than some of the New England colonies. An example of this would be New York, which was formed from New Netherland, did not have a lot of democracy. This is because the Dutch founded it and freedoms weren't a very high priority. In New York, families with lots of land had more power than those who did not.
9. I think that the text could have done more with this point because it was not as firmly emphasized as it could have been. In some cases it talks about cultural diffusion. For example it talks about the Dutch and how they left behind customs such as Easter eggs, Santa Claus, waffles, sauerkraut, bowling, sleighing, skating and golf. In this one instance it talked quite about intertwining roots of heritage. Beyond this one example there haven't been many large examples about intertwining roots of heritage. This is especially true for African Heritage. There hasn't been a whole lot so far about the contributions of the Africans to the American culture.