

**John Winthrop and “A Model of Christian Charity”:**

While on the ship the *Arabella* during the voyage to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, John Winthrop gave a sermon known as “A Model of Christian Charity”. He described the city as a utopia and this sermon is known for using the term “City Upon a Hill” to describe the colony and the founding of America. In his sermon, Winthrop explained that the differences in people allowed for God to be honored in different ways and that the rich and poor needed to help one another out. He also explained that a common need among the colonists was necessary and brought the community together. Having such a godly community, he hoped, would shame England into repenting and fixing itself. This revival of piety would lead to an entire nation of saints. This is important because the Puritans started out different than other colonies, since they believed that self-restraint should stop merchants from taking advantage of buyers and they hoped to turn their religious idealism into a community. It set the tone for Massachusetts and helped its development.

**Roger Williams:**

Roger Williams was an English Protestant theologian in the mid-1600s. He stirred controversy in Massachusetts and soon became a very popular and respected. He believed that church and state should be separate, and because of this idea he was seen as a threat and banished. He went on to found the colony of Rhode Island, and it became a safe place for people suffering from religious persecution. Williams is also known for founding the first Baptist Church in America. He is important because he was one of the first to propose religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and also for his work with the Native Americans. Not only did he promote equality for religions and start a colony, he also was one of the first abolitionists. The intolerance of Massachusetts bay led him to form a colony that was more tolerant.

**Indentured Servants:**

Indentured servants were unemployed English immigrants who travelled to the American colonies in hope of finding work. Many of them came over between the mid-1600s and the early 1700s. In exchange for free passage, servants worked unpaid for a master for around seven years, unless they acquired debt. After paying off their debts, servants were freed and able to start their own families. Indentured servants were vital in the colonies especially because farmers needed laborers to work their fields. Indentured servants are important because they allowed for more crops to be grown, helping their masters make a larger profit and also helping the economy of the colony. After the amount of indentured servants dwindled, the number of African slaves increased. Overall, colonies became more populated as well.

**Half-Way Covenant:**

The Half-Way Covenant was formed in the mid-1600s by a convention of clergy and laity members in New England. Many second-generation Puritans did not want to go through the hard process of becoming a member of the elect, and because of this, their kids were not able to be baptized. This was a problem, so an agreement was made. The Half-Way Covenant permitted children of baptized Puritans, elect or not, to be baptized as well. These half-way members, however, were not allowed to take communion or allowed to vote. This is important because with the creation of the Half-Way Covenant, the number of saints began to decline. It also signaled the end of the New England Way.

**House of Burgesses:**

The House of Burgesses first met in the early 1600s in Jamestown, Virginia. There were 22 members, usually 6 royally appointed councilors, and one governor (who was at first appointed by the colony and later by the British crown). The House of Burgesses met and made laws for the colony, although its power was restricted once England took more control. In the mid-1600s, the House of Burgesses was divided, with the governor and twelve advisors making up the Governor's Council. The House of Burgesses was important because it was the first legislature in the colonies and would set an example for future government in the colonies.

**Maryland's Act for Religious Toleration:**

The Act for Religious Toleration was a law drafted by Lord Baltimore in the mid-1600s. Before the law, there was tension in Maryland between Catholics and Protestants, and it led to them arguing about the use of the city's chapel. The law reinforced legal rights of the Catholics and also allowed religious groups to practice their religion without being persecuted. This was the first law that affirmed the liberty of worship. However, it was revoked a few years after being created. This law is important because some believe that it inspired laws later on guaranteeing freedom of religion. It sets the precedent for religious toleration and also shows that there was not religious acceptance in the colonies.

**Bacon's Rebellion:**

Bacon's Rebellion took place in Virginia in the late 1600s. At this time, tensions between natives and settlers began to rise due to the natives' struggle against their declining population while the settlers took more land. Resentments against the governor, William Berkeley, shifted to the natives when the governor's fur trade monopoly profited from the help of natives. Violence ensued, which the governor proposed to stop by constructing a costly chain of forts to protect the colonists. Many poor farmers disliked this costly option, so Nathaniel Bacon, a councilman, was elected to lead a group of men on an Indian slaughter. Berkeley eventually tried to call Bacon back, resulting in the rebels burning Jamestown and forcing Berkeley to flee. This is important because it was the first rebellion of the American colonies, it resulted in the burning of Jamestown, and many natives were captured and forced into slavery during this time. More importantly, it marked the end of the use of the indentured servant and the start of the use of African slaves in the American colonies.

**The Navigation Acts:**

In the mid-1600s during Cromwell's reign and after, the British parliament passed a series of acts that limited trade to other countries in an attempt to hurt the Dutch. The Navigation Acts began to cause tension between England and the American colonies, especially. These acts limited trade to British ships, restricted the exports of goods unless they passed through England or Scotland, encouraged people to different jobs in order to be more economically diverse, and forbade Americans to compete with large-scale British manufacturers. In short, these acts regulated trade and allowed England to tax the colonies. England wanted to be more self-sufficient in order to hurt their rivals' markets and to improve their own. They used products from their American colonies and pushed for their colonies to use products from them. This led to conflicts like the Anglo-Dutch Wars later on. This is important because it was the basis of colonialism, created conflict among not only European nations but colonies as well, and also led to the use of subsidies to stimulate commerce.

**The Glorious Revolution:**

The Glorious Revolution took place in the late 1600s (1688-1689) in England. Charles II and his brother James II became more openly Catholic, to the horror of the citizens. Enlightened thinkers like Locke, in his *Two Treatises* showed this, as he explained that citizens could rebel if the king was unfair. Parliament, including the Whigs, asked William of Orange and his wife Mary to intervene. This caused James II to flee. They created a limited monarchy in which Parliament had to be summoned annually, all bills had to be signed, and traditional liberties needed to be respected. Assemblies rose to power during this time in the colonies, and the Dominion of New England was destroyed after word of the Glorious Revolution reached Anglo-Americans. This is important because Anglo-Americans, after hearing about the Glorious Revolution, rose up against the representatives in the colonies and got more control over themselves, and learning in the process that they could get away with revolutions and rebellions. This, in effect, also led to the demise of the Dominion of New England.

**Middle Passage/Triangular Trade:**

The Middle Passage was the trade route that involved the bringing of African slaves to the New World in the late 1500s. African slaves were sent to the Americas; gold, ivory, and spices were sent from Africa to Europe; rum was sent from the Americas to Africa; Lumber and tobacco made its way to Europe; manufactured goods were sent from Europe to the colonies. European nations benefitting at the expense of slaves included the Netherlands, Portugal, France, and England. The British East India Company was a major player in this trade, which brought money back to Britain. The Middle Passage is important because it was a symbol of slavery's brutality and it led to a mass increase in trans-Atlantic trade.

**Salutary Neglect:**

After George I became ruler of England in the early 1700s, Britain began to focus less on its colonies. America was left on its own for a period of time, allowing self-government to grow. Assemblies were created and helped create laws for the colonists living there. People felt independent, to a degree, from Britain; however, they still felt like British subjects. This feeling of independence grew until the late 1700s when George III became king. George III, through acts such as the Stamp Act and the American Revenue Act, ended the time of salutary neglect in order to pay for British debts. The term itself originates from Edmund Burke's "Speech on Conciliation with America" to the House of Commons in 1775. This all led to conflict and eventually the Revolutionary War. Salutary Neglect was important because it created a feel of independence and led to conflict when it ended.

**Dominion of New England:**

The Dominion of New England was formed in the late 1600s by James II. The Dominion of New England consisted of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Plymouth, New York, and the Jerseys. James II consolidated them to control their unruly behavior and uncooperative trade and religious practices. The Dominion regulated land and trade and it limited the amount of representative government. After news of the Glorious Revolution in England reached colonists, they arrested Dominion leaders including the governor, Sir Edmund Andros. The Dominion government crumbled and old colonial leaders took control. This is important because the failure of the Dominion of New England helped change the attitudes of some British officials and America was left on its own for a period of time, allowing self-government to grow in America. Americans figured out that resisting the Dominion of New England and not getting punished meant that they were different than the British and could fight to get their way.

**John Locke:**

John Locke was a political philosopher from England in the mid-seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries and was known for his many works including *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, *Second Treatise of Civil Government*, and *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. He believed that civil government should be put in place to protect the people and proclaimed that men had basic rights that, if not protected by a government, the people could start a revolution in order to get their rights. This social contract between people and their government said that the people had to give up some rights and their consent to be governed and in exchange their government would protect their natural rights of life, liberty, and property. Furthermore, as described in his *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Locke states that a person is born with a “blank” mind and has the ability to author their own soul; his ideas of *tabula rasa* mean that people, while their human nature can’t be changed, have control over their own character. John Locke is important because his famous works defended the need for revolutions, such as the Glorious Revolution. He was also a symbol of Enlightenment thought.