

# NEW ENGLAND



## THE BEDROCK OF THE COLONIES

### Advantages:

- The energy of the growing New England cities at the Coast.
- The vast farm land to the west for agriculture
- A True Government Lives Here
- Coastal position providing easy access for trading with incoming merchants
- Job Opportunities In Boston, Massachusetts

### Disadvantages:

- Winters can become harsh at times
- Weather is ever changing depending on which part of the region a person lives

### Governmental History and Heritage

From the early 1600's New England was run under the same government as its mother country, England herself. The three colonies that New England is comprised of are Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Until 1639 when the people of the Connecticut colony stated that a free people was the only source of a government's authority. They called these rights their Fundamental Orders. Then in 1662 the Connecticut colony received a Royal Charter that confirmed the self-government that they had created through their Fundamental Orders. In 1687 Sir Edmund Andros was named the Royal Governor of the Dominion of New England, the free government that ruled over Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Also in 1692 Massachusetts became a single colony, and not only this but it is the largest colony in New England, not to mention it is a hot spot where American institutions and traditions are formed. Although there have been a conflict or two with the native Indians such as in the Pequot War, all has been resolved through the signing of the Treaty of Hartford in 1638. As well as the treaty being signed, New England has gained peaceful relations with the natives.

## **THE CUSTOMS AND CULTURES OF THE NEW ENGLAND HERITAGE**

During the 1700's in colonial America, many colonies were searching for economic success by buying and selling raw materials to enhance and improve New England. The main language of New England was English, though different cultures and people from all over Europe, made up populations contributing to the development of this region.

One major event from the 17<sup>th</sup> century was the Great Awakening. It was a time of strong beliefs and worship in a series of revivals that extended throughout colonial America. During this time, Christianity became more developed and preached in the Christian community.

Puritans who settled in Massachusetts believed the Anglican Church could be reformed, therefore were not separatists and also followed many of the Pilgrim ways. Puritan leaders attempted to hold back unorthodox religions whenever they appeared. They went to New England to build godly churches to serve as models for English reform.

The English colonists who possessed farms and land raised tobacco, cash crops, as well as indentured servants or slaves to work in their fields. Massachusetts had been the first slave holding community in New England. Much of the New England slave trade was controlled by this nation as well. By 1700, more than 250,000 slaves had been imported into this region, making it the largest section in its population.

The Scottish people, whom were poorer than the British, had greater motivations to emigrate and the British Union of 1707 gave them legal access to all of the colonies. The growth in Scots overseas shipping also provided more opportunities and lower costs for passage.

As the colonial population increased from other nations, and decreased by the British, it proved that new ethics and beliefs came to establish a new community in New England.

Book 1000

New York

The New York State

of the State of New York

of the State of New York

of the State of New York

of the State of New York

of the State of New York

of the State of New York

of the State of New York

of the State of New York

### Famous People

The New England regions during the 17th century were mostly puritan populations. There were many famous people who made life in these regions possible. There were many important leaders such as William Bradford, John Winthrop, John Davenport, Theophilus Eaton, and John Smith. Many other people led puritan sects in New England such as Jonathan Edwards, Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson, and Cotton Mather.

The early New England settlers were the first of their kind and the leaders set important precedents. The Massachusetts Bay Colony got its name from John Smith in 1614 and gave the region the name of New England. Then on John Smith's second voyage to New England he was captured by pirates, but escaped only to return back to England. Another important and famous leader was William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts. The first attempt in the Plymouth colony was disastrous and William Bradford took over after the colony's original leader John Carver died. William Bradford was elected 30 times to serve as governor and is even credited with the first to proclaim the holiday of Thanksgiving. John Winthrop a puritan leader led his people to the New World in 1629 and joined the Massachusetts Bay Colony. John Winthrop was a respected religious figure, but was kicked out and reelected a total of 12 times. John Davenport was puritan clergyman, leader, and Co-founder of the New Haven Colony, Connecticut. John Davenport Led his people out of exile from the Netherlands to England. Then in 1637 his group arrived in Boston, Massachusetts and after founded the New Haven Colony with friend Theophilus Eaton. Theophilus Eaton was founder of the New Haven colony and first governor of the colony. Most of these great men were religious leaders as well as founders and governors.

The New England region was based on the freedom of religion and most of its inhabitants were puritans. Jonathan Edwards was a Pastor, Theologian, and Missionary. He was born in East Windsor, Connecticut. Roger Williams was also a minister and author of many books. Roger Williams was an English theologian and founder of Providence, Rhode Island. Williams was also founder of the first or second Baptist Church in America. Anne Hutchinson one of the most notable women puritan leaders settled in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Netherlands. Cotton Mather was an influential puritan minister and was involved in the Salem witch trials. He was the grandson of John Cotton another puritan minister. Cotton settled in Boston, Massachusetts.

Anthony Venette  
New England  
History

### **Early history of Massachusetts**

Until 1620 when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth there were no successful colonies or landings in Massachusetts. There were many highly successful fishing trips of the coast of Massachusetts; the most prominent of these was on the English ship named the Concord. Bartholomew Gonsold, captain of the Concord, had a large catch of codfish of the coast of Massachusetts and named it Cape Cod. At first after early trips to New England were met by very hostile Native Americans and New England was deemed too dangerous for settlement. Later though when the Pilgrims landed the Native American population had dropped significantly due to epidemics. The Pilgrims got a lot of help from Native Americans. They gave them many new foods and techniques for hunting, cooking, and fishing. The early colonists tried to convert many Native Americans to Christianity, like "Praying John" Elliot. The earliest immigrants of Massachusetts were separatists from the Church of England and moved to the Netherlands to escape religious persecution. After negotiations with England they received a charter and a commission to start a colony in Virginia. The passengers on the Mayflower were made mostly of separatists from the Church of England with a few employees of the financial backers to make sure their investments were protected. They were blown to the north by severe storms and ended up in New England and because their charter did not apply to New England they wrote the Mayflower Compact and formed a theocracy. Once they arrived they faced a harsh winter in which half the colony died. With the spring and help from the Native Americans they survived and in November new colonists were brought over. In the 1620's there was a growth in the population of Massachusetts due to other Puritan

communities forming around Plymouth. The Puritans were different from the separatists in that they were trying to reform the church from within and they were generally wealthy. The Puritans formed a new company called the Massachusetts Bay Company, which soon monopolized the area. Soon the government became based on the company and moved away from a theocracy. In 1660 after revolutions in Britain they began to tighten down on their colonies. When the colonists heard about the Glorious Revolution it sparked a new thought and thus began the Revolutionary period.

Encyclopedia Americana 18:468

### Current Status and the Future

New England's status is, as a whole, on steady ground, but each colony is maturing at its own respectful pace. Connecticut was the first colony to become a self-governing colony in New England, followed by Massachusetts, and finally Rhode Island. They are all currently governed under the Dominion of New England. Each colony is unique from the other, in the case of Massachusetts, the government of this colony is run by puritans. It is rather strictly run, but has many opportunities to make a good living in ones life, as it is where many American institutions and traditions have been and are being formed. Rhode Island and Connecticut are both a little more people friendly for those who may be looking for a more laid back colonial government. All are well developed and up to date and in some cases even more advanced than other colonies. But as with any new nation, there are some things that can be worked on. One such thing would be gaining freedom, and independent rule from Parliament, and the king, and another would be to fix the rules in the Massachusetts to be more welcome to all and not just those with the ideals of the Puritans. Other than these aspects, New England is currently a strong and thriving area and a place where the economy is steady and anyone can make a living.