

Exploration of the Americas



Time Line Review

- 1530 • English King Henry VIII establishes Church of England.
- 1549 • Publication of the *Book of Common Prayer*, establishing prayers for recitation in English
- 1560 • The complete Geneva Bible is published in English.
- 1584 • Sir Walter Raleigh plans the Colony and Dominion of Virginia.
- 1585 • Thomas Hariot visits Roanoke Island, learns language of the Algonquian tribe.
- 1588 • Destruction of Philip II's Spanish Armada under England's Queen Elizabeth I.
 - Thomas Hariot publishes *A Brief and True Report of the Newfound Land of Virginia*. This is an attempt to present an accurate portrayal of the native people.
- 1594 • Sir Walter Raleigh hears of a "City of Gold" in South America; explores the region, and publishes an exaggerated account of his experiences.
- 1597 • English Act of Parliament creates sentences of transportation to colonies for convicted criminals.
- 1597 • James VI of Scotland (later James I of England) publishes *The True Law of Free Monarchies*

Time Line Review - Overview

- 1603 • Queen Elizabeth I of England dies. James I of England named heir.
- 1606 • Virginia Company of London is granted royal charter; sends 120 colonists to VA.
- 1607 • Jamestown, first English settlement on American mainland is founded.
 - William Bradford and other Separatists move to the Netherlands.
- 1611 • Publication of the *King James Version of the Bible*
- 1620 • The Mayflower leaves England and reaches Cape Cod after 64 days
 - Signing of the Mayflower Compact
- 1621 • William Bradford becomes leader of Plymouth Colony

Charter Companies

- A chartered company is an association formed by investors or shareholders for the purpose of trade, exploration and colonization.
- John Smith's publication *A Description of New England* was created to find such companies and individuals to support newer expeditions to the New World.
- Companies enabled merchants to band together to undertake ventures requiring more capital than was available to any one merchant or family. The purpose of such companies was to collect finances to underwrite and insure the vessels, contents, and crew.
- Profits could be made from the return voyages.
- Conflicts over territory rights were common.

True Law of Free Monarchies

James VI of Scotland states:

According to these fundamental laws already alleged, we daily see that in the parliament (which is nothing else but the head court of the king and his vassals) the laws are but craved by his subjects, and only made by him at their [proposal] and with their advice; for albeit the king make daily statutes and ordinances, [imposing] such pains thereto as he thinks [fit], without any advice of parliament or estates, yet it lies in the power of no parliament to make any kind of law or statute, without his sceptre [that is, authority] be to it, for giving it the force of a law

... And as ye see it manifest that the king is over-lord of the whole land, so is he master over every person that inhabiteth the same, having power over the life and death of every one of them; for although a just prince will not take the life of any of his subjects without a clear law, yet the same laws whereby he taketh them are made by himself or his predecessors, and so the power flows always from himself

...

True Law of Free Monarchies

Where he sees the law doubtful or rigorous, he may interpret or mitigate the same, lest otherwise *summum jus be summa injuria* [the greatest right be the greatest wrong], and therefore general laws made publicly in parliament may upon . . . [the kings] authority be mitigated and suspended upon causes only known to him.

As likewise, although I have said a good king will frame all his actions to be according to the law, yet is he not bound thereto but of his good will and for good example — giving to his subjects . . . So as I have already said, a good king, though he be above the law, will subject and frame his actions thereto, for example's sake to his subjects, and of his own free will, but not as subject or bound thereto . . .

Generalities regarding Puritan Movement

During the English reign of James I, (1603-1625) the English Puritans tried to establish a stronger reform within the Church of England.

Disagreements which resulted in the Separatists movement:

- Puritans (a faction in the Church of England) denied the Divine Right of Kings
- disliked the *Book of Common Prayer*
- some Puritan groups will maintain their membership and allegiance to the Church of England despite their feelings, *however:*
- Separatists (like the Pilgrims) held that their differences with the Church of England were irreconcilable and that their worship should be organized independently of the traditions and organization of a central state church
- even as Separatists they considered themselves to be English and as a colony they were under the dominion of the English king.

William Bradford

- A member of what is called the Scrooby movement, a collection of Separatists.
- The moved to the Netherlands temporarily in 1607, only to leave due to social/political reasons. It was here that Bradford developed his sense of writing, closely mirroring translations from the Bible, parallel structures of rhythm and image. This was his strongest influence on his own rhetorical process.
- During 1620, Bradford leaves England aboard the Mayflower.
- Bradford was one of the original signers of the Mayflower Compact.
- He was elected governor of the Plymouth colony thirty times during his life.
- He believed that he was selected to lead his people by divine authority.
- His writing style is termed the **Puritan “plain style”** which others utilized in the Colonies.

Puritan Plain Style

- contains a lack of *any* overt ornamentation
- function rules over *all* decoration
- works are very didactic, must preach a lesson, provide a moral
- limited use of adjectives, or colors, or overt descriptions
- emphasis is placed on nouns and verbs
- limited emphasis on emotions and reactions; *arousing passion is dangerous*
- God's creative work should be focus of the work and not the writer's craft itself
- material focuses on plain, simple, hard working themes
- God should be glorified in any/every daily action
- meditation on the ordinary chore builds a connection to a righteous path
- at any opportunity God should be acknowledged in the work

History Of Plymouth Plantation

Chapter IV “Showing the Reasons and Causes of Their Removal”

The place they had thoughts on was some of those **vast and unpeopled** countries of America, which are **fruitful and fit** for habitation, being devoid of all civil inhabitants, where there are only **savage and brutish** men which range **up and down**, little otherwise than the wild beasts of the same... And yet if they should, the miseries of the land which they should be exposed unto, would be too hard to be borne; and likely, some or all of them together, to **consume and utterly** to ruinate them. For there they should be liable to **famine, and nakedness**, and the want, in a manner, of all things. The change in air, diet, and drinking of water, would infect their bodies with **sore sickness, and grievous diseases**.

History Of Plymouth Plantation

And also those which should escape or overcome these difficulties, should yet be in continual danger of the savage people, who are cruel, barbarous, and most treacherous, being most furious in their rage, and merciless where they overcome; not being content only to kill, and take away life, but delight to torment men in the most bloody manner that may be; flaying some alive with the shells of fishes, cutting off the members and joints of others by piecemeal, and broiling on the coals, eat the collops of their flesh in their sight whilst they live; with other cruelties horrible to be related. And surely it could not be thought but the very hearing of these things could not but move the very bowels of men to grate within them, and make the weak to **quake and tremble**.