

Summary: New England

Massachusetts

In the 1600s, English Puritans settled in New England. People in their communities obeyed the rules of the Bible. Puritan religion shaped the government of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. All settlers had to go to church.

A town meeting was held once a year. Only men with property could vote on laws for their town. Puritan towns had more self-government than most Spanish or French colonies.

Some colonists thought Puritans should not tell them what to believe or how to act. Roger Williams was a dissenter. He did not believe the government should make laws about religion. Williams wanted religious freedom. The Puritans banished him from Massachusetts Bay.

In 1636, Williams started a new colony that became Rhode Island. Rhode Island's government was separate from the church. Anne Hutchinson also disagreed with Puritan ministers. She held meetings that allowed men and women to discuss religion. Puritans did not think women should teach men about religion. Hutchinson was banished and went to Rhode Island.

Thomas Hooker also disagreed with the Puritans. He wanted to start a place where men who did not belong to the church could vote. He started the colony of Connecticut. Other colonists settled the area that became New Hampshire and Maine.

Conflicts over Land

The Puritans lived on American Indian land. Colonists bought the land from the Indians and expected them to leave. Indians believed land could be shared, but not owned. Colonists and the Pequot Indians fought over the land. Colonists killed most of the Pequot Indians and took their land. More colonists arrived. The Wampanoag Indian leader Metacomet, called King Philip, felt his people had to defend their land. In 1675, another war began. A year later the colonists won King Philip's War. They enslaved some Wampanoags and forced the rest to leave. Few American Indians remained in eastern New England after the war.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

town meeting *noun*, a gathering where colonists held elections and voted on the laws for their towns

self-government *noun*, a system of government that lets people make laws for themselves

dissenter *noun*, a person who does not agree with the beliefs of his or her leaders

banish *verb*, to force someone to leave



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways were Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson alike? Circle the words that tell what Roger Williams did not believe. Circle the words that tell what Anne Hutchinson did.

REVIEW What caused the Pequot War? Draw a box around the sentence that tells why the colonists and Pequot Indians fought.