English Rule in New York

A New Government
In 1664, the English were ready to go to war for control of New Netherland. The Dutch colonists were outnumbered and did not want to fight. They convinced the governor to give up, and the English took control of New Amsterdam.

Under English Control
English colonel Richard Nicolls renamed the colony New York. Nicolls became New York’s first governor. He made laws to protect the colonists’ rights, such as the right to a trial by jury.

The First Assembly
To protect their rights, New Yorkers asked for an assembly. James, Duke of York, refused at first, but the colonists stopped paying taxes until the assembly was approved. Members of the assembly were elected in 1683. They wrote the “Charter of Liberties,” which created a plan for government and listed people’s rights.

A Growing Colony
By 1750, people from many nations had moved to New York. New York’s population was about 27,000.

Forced to Move
Many enslaved Africans lived in New York City. Settlers forced many Native Americans to sell their land, and the Native American population in New York City decreased.