

The Crucible and
Colonial America—

1600-1775

**How did
America
grow?**

- Human thirst for wealth (1492 & 1607)
- Human thirst for adventure
- Monarchs wanted to expand their empires
- Religious controversy/religious freedom (1620)
- Ridding of criminals and vagrants

Where were the major settlements?

- Puritans and pilgrims in New England (1620)
- Tobacco planters in Jamestown, Virginia (1607)

Similarities between Pilgrims & Puritans

- Both looking to reform the Church of England
- Both wanted non-Biblical elements out
- Both English settlers on east coast in 1620

DIFFERENCES

Puritans

- Reform w/in Church of England
- Settled near Boston
- Group—“City of light”
- Congregations functioned independently, chose ministers, set doctrine

Pilgrims

- “Separatists”
- Settled at Plymouth
- Individual responsibility
- Eventually absorbed by Puritans

So of all the cultures meeting in the New World, why did the English ultimately control the area by 1750?

- The Native Americans were spread out, and the many tribes lacked a unified culture
- The French were also spread out and numbered 80,000, compared to the 2,000,000 English
- The Spanish settled more along the Pacific and north of Mexico

When did English colonists refer to themselves as Americans?

Not until the 1760's
(the prelude to the Am. Revolution)

What did it mean to be a Puritan?

- Viewed God as wrathful, judgmental.
- Thought mankind utterly evil because of original sin.
- Believed only a few are predestined to be saved through JC; others are predestined to damnation.
- Hoped for sign to know of salvation.
- Taught all should strive to do God's will.
- Stayed industrious to avoid temptations.

(Cont.) What did it mean to be a Puritan?

- Promoted constant examination of the soul and *Bible*
- Professed a desire to see signs of God's favor in the material world. (If a man was wealthy, God had blessed him.)
- Since they were the chosen people, challenges toward their group meant opposition to God's will
- Merged religion and government—theocracy
- Fun was a tool of the devil.

What happened to the Puritans?

- Dissenters attacked the authority of Puritanism.
(Just as the Puritans had attacked the authority of the Church of England).
- Puritan unity gave way to diversity as the American tradition of pluralism gained strength.
- By 1700 the civil government ceased to require religious conformity.

It's arguable that the Puritans, more than any other group, influenced this country. How is the Puritan impact on our culture evident, especially in terms of what Commager wrote about? Put the following words (or a form thereof) and others into a paragraph to describe the Puritan history and the Puritans' influence on who we are as Americans: **practical, hard-working, optimistic, independent, believers of equality, and materialistic.** (Journal 1)

History of Religion

- 1500 BC—Moses lived.
- 500 BC—Old Testament compiled in Hebrew.
- 427 BC—Plato—gods should be represented as good.
- 33—Crucifixion of Jesus.
- 100—New Testament compiled.
- 313—Roman Empire recognizes Christianity.
- 570—Muhammad, founder of Islam, is born in Mecca.
- 600—Latin the only language allowed for scripture.
- 1455—1st printed *Bible* (in Latin)
- 1546--Martin Luther translates the *Bible*.

- 1531—King Henry becomes head of the Church of England after the Pope denies him a divorce.
- 1533—John Calvin establishes Calvinism the basis for Puritan Beliefs.
- 1559—Elizabeth I—Protestant religion in England.
- 1620—Pilgrims arrive in the new world.
- 1606—MacBeth popularizes witches with super powers.
- 1633—Galileo called a heretic.

History of the Salem Witch Trials

- Taught to fear devil & avoid amusement, a tool of the devil.
- Bad things were blamed on the devil.
- Ann Putnam lost children, so she asked Tituba, a slave from Barbados who spoke of magic, to contact her dead children.
- Betty Parris played at witchcraft with Tituba & the other girls, like her cousin Abigail Williams.
- Dr. Griggs came to investigate and declared an “evil hand had been placed upon them.”
- Girls gave names after frantic questioning.
- Rebecca Nurse was named.
- Girls gave “spectral” evidence in court.
- Rebecca Nurse was brought to justice, named not guilty then was re-questioned. She stared off into space because she was too worn out to answer—ultimately she hanged.

- John & Elizabeth Procter were accused.
- Abigail denounced John in court & others joined in.
- Of the 240 in prison, many were not guilty but were too poor to pay court fees; some languished as long as 7 years in jail.
- 20 were executed.
- Giles Corey testified against his own wife.
- Corey protected his heirs by not talking—his rib cage collapsed
- One said “Our Father” w/o mistake to prove his innocence.
- No reversals of justice. Judge Hathorne, was the great, great, great uncle of Nathaniel Hawthorne. (Nathaniel changed his name to distance himself from the tragedy.)
- Millions also hanged in Europe.
- One girl, Ann Putnam, admitted it was done for sport and asked for forgiveness.

FEAR + TRIGGER = SCAPEGOAT

Devil

**+ Girls dancing = 150 accused of
witchcraft**

Japan

**+ Pearl Harbor = Japanese-Americans
at internment camps**

Communists

+ HUAC = Blacklisted Artists

Infection

+ AIDS = Gay community

Terrorists

+ 911 = Muslims