

North America Colonies

For those who crossed the ocean to find a new motherland in the North America, the exploration of the new territories began with the search for new sources of minerals, fur, natural resources, wood, and other raw materials that could be used in industry or exported. One more reason to establish colonies on the territory of both American continents were the religious beliefs, as not all the people could live under the oppression of the Church. Most people whose religious views differed from those of the majority had a great deal of courage and despair to abandon the life they were accustomed to and leave to another continent. They possessed much courage, and not all of them saw the land after the voyage because many of them did not survive in a shipwreck. Nevertheless, those who were persecuted had no other choice than taking a risk and going to the New World.

The Colony of Virginia is one of the first British settlements on the territory of the North America. Initially, all settlings of the Eastern shore were called the Colony of Virginia, but then the population grew, and new towns and villages formed separate communities with their own governments and traditions.

The Virginia colony was to be named the Virginia Council, and the London Council had provided the first settlers of the Virginia colony with specific directions about the place of establishing the settlement. Doing any harm to natives was forbidden to immigrants. The goal of the colony was “the evergreen search for a north-west passage to the Pacific” (Gender and Goldman 12). However, this goal was not reached; settlers searched for some minerals, such as gold and copper, but did not find any.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was established by the founders of the Colony of Virginia. As the territory was rather rich in different mineral resources and

other useful materials, it was decided to establish a colony there. Besides, most settlers of the new territories were victimized; others were just banished or were looking for a shelter from the anger of governors.

The governmental structure was the same in many colonies: one governor was in charge of the territory; curiously enough, there were cases when a governor was in Britain and it took a lot of time to get to the governed town. But religious customs and cultural traditions depended on the people that inhabited the town. If most citizens were Puritans, Puritanism became the dominating religion in the community.

On the territory of the Massachusetts Bay colon, people who were free had a right to vote in order to form judicial, legislative and executive branches of power. After that, the governor's assistants created the taxation system, set up town boundaries and elected officers. The main religion in the community was Puritanism.

The inhabitants of both the Colony of Virginia and the Massachusetts Bay Colony had the same religion; they supported liberalism as they have been oppressed before. Immigrants lived in peace with natives and tried to establish friendly relations with other colonies even if they had different cultural and religious traditions.

Bibliography

Gender, Stephen, and Arnold Goldman. *American Literature in Context. Vol. 1.* U.K.:
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