

European Colonization Project  
Study Guide

Focus questions:

1. Why was Anne Hutchinson tried by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay?
2. How is our system of government today different from that of Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1600s?
3. Who was Roger Williams?

Summary: The Puritans are a group of religious people who strayed away from New England to go to America. They also believed that they should get rid of Catholicism and purify the Church of England. They believed that there should only be one religion, their religion. There were people who wanted to purify the Church of England either from the inside or by having their own religion. These people were called dissenters or Separatists. There were people called extreme Separatists who endangered the Puritan community. There were two famous extreme Separatists. There was Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson. Roger Williams was endangering the Puritan Community because he had two main controversial opinions that went against the Puritan belief. He believed that the land that was claimed by the English are the Native Americans' land. Also, that they should have communicated with the Native Americans to try and get the land that they want fairly. The other idea that Roger had was that people should have the right to freedom of religion. He believed that people should be able to believe in what they wanted. When the Puritan community found out about his beliefs they sent an order to have him arrested and deported back to England. When Roger found out he fled to present day Rhode Island. There he talked with the Native Americans and got a piece of land, and proceeded to set up a colony which is now the capital of Rhode Island, Providence. The other extreme Separatist

was Anne Hutchinson. She had 14 children and a husband who went to the Puritan church. She started having prayer meetings in her house with only her family and some neighbors in the beginning. Then, more women started coming and then their husband got interested as well. During these times, she had said that God had been in her presence which made many people upset because this was her saying that she didn't believe there was a need for the church or the ministers. She believed that one could interpret who God was for themselves and could talk to him directly. When the Puritan church found out about all of this, they excommunicated her from the church and banished her from the town. She went to Rhode Island after she was banished until her husband died. After he died, she moved to New Netherlands to go and live with one of her daughters and her husband. She was later killed by a massacre done by the Native Americans.

Vocab:

1. Dissenter

A dissenter is one who disagrees in matters of opinion, belief, etc. In the social and religious history of England

2. Slandering

A person that has made false and damaging statements about (someone).

3. Anabaptist

A Protestant sectarian of a radical movement arising in the 16th century and advocating the baptism and church membership of adult believers only, nonresistance, and the separation of church and state.

4. Magistrate

A civil officer or lay judge who administers the law, especially one who conducts a court that deals with minor offenses and holds preliminary hearings for more serious ones.