

American Civilization



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I General Introduction

15.000 years ago, tides of Asian migration flowed through the Bering Strait and across the Atlantic towards the Americas. With substantial water, food supply and other resources available in each physiographic region, these migratory endeavors produced few permanent tribal settlements such the Anasazi and the Iroquois Federation. Other bands perused a living on the western plains. While other groups initiated series of civilizations- Mayan Inca and Aztec- in Mesoamerica and South America along with the Cahokia's civilization farther east. Eventually, a large portion of the Americas had been occupied by distinctive groups with deferring languages, cultures, religions and lives. And by 1500 America became a home for estimated ten millions whose life and ways remained utterly mysterious to the new world up until its admission in 1507 as the new land "America" by Martin Waldseemüller .

1. EUROPEAN EXPEDITIONS

Induced by economic, religious and political motives, the Spanish imperial ambitions underscored St. Augustine, Santa Fe., the Caribbean, Mexico, central and south America in the new world since 1565. Tracing their steps, the hostile French colonization exerted their sovereignty along St. Lawrence River by establishing fishing posts, trading posts, missions and forts in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Orleans and the Quebec. Arriving next in line, the English settlers secured the **Jamestown's fort** (1607) in Virginia, by learning secrets of tobacco's plantation in 1611 and gaining stability with the arrival of first women immigrants in 1619 **Plymouth's pilgrims** (1620) in Maryland and **Bay colony's Puritans** (1630) in Massachusetts before increasing their colonies into 13 British colonies* in total by 1750 with a trading powerhouse of shipbuilding and tobacco industry. Contrastively, the Dutch paroons sufficed themselves with persuading St. Salvador Island and the lands along the Hudson River from the Lenap in 1625 where they established a strong fur trading line. While, the Irish, Swedes and Germans pushed back in the Fortier where Native Indian's survival and freedom lied .

⊕ *Complement:Quick Facts! INDIANS!*

- The kindness of Pocahontas & the generosity of Powhatan helped spare lives of Jamestown's men and save Captain John Smith form death .
- Chief Powhatan had given his daughter's hand in marriage to John Rolf in a gesture of peace between the English & the Indians.
- The Abenaki Squanto taught Plymouth's pilgrims how to fish, cultivate land and negotiate treaties with Indians.
- William Bradford's community 1st harvest were celebrated with the Pequot tribe in Thanks Giving (1921).
- Both Pequot & Powhatan's confederacy were destroyed by the same English settlers who they helped to survive.

- Various Indian tribes allied with the French & English forces.
- Many Indians were enslaved by the Spaniards.

Reminder:Keep in mind

1. Wealth, religious freedom and land were the main motivations for English immigration to the New World.
2. Starvation, exposure, diseases and Indians Attacks took half the lives of Jamestown's men.
3. Plymouth's Pilgrims struggled with same problems save for Indians Attacks. .
4. The Separatists (i.e. Pilgrims) pledged allegiance to the British Monarch via abide to The Mayflower Compact's decree.

2. American Civilization's Eclipse

In 1588, the Spanish Armada were defeated by the British fleet upon their disclaiming the involvement of the English buccaneers in the raids of gold and silver from the Spaniards. This victory kept the Spaniards expansion at bay later in the Americas. The Dutch expansion, on the other hand, were drawn back entirely from New Amsterdam in 1664, under the English claims upon the rights of the new world on the basis of Cabot's expeditions. The French, on the other hand, reacted fiercely to the British withdraw demands. This tension between Britain and France broke into the Seven Years' War-also known as French and Indian war- (1756-1763). And though the initial armed conflicts did not go well for the English; the French troops were eventually defeated and forced back further from the British territories with the Treaty of Paris. Consequently, a great deal of North America territories land had been granted for the British Monarch who conceded all land west of the Appalachian Mountains to the Native Americans by forbidding any further expansion of its subjects "American colonists" under the Proclamation of 1763.

American Civilization's Eclipse

The Americans rebellion was an attempt to revoke the British laws by gaining a voice for the colonies in the Parliament. Lead by the " Sons of Liberty", this rebellious movement was primarily initiated for denouncing taxation and the British occupation in Boston in 1763. A year later, this mob spread like fire across the colonies who joined rabbles with protests and demonstrations for support the cause of Bostonians and repeal the Parliament's acts. In similar gesture, a body of colonial delegates (including Patrick Henry, George Washington, John and Samuel Adams, John Jay and John Dickenson) convened a 1st Continental congress in Philadelphia on Sep. 5th, 1764 in order to fight for the personal rights (i.e. life, liberty, property, assembly and trials by jury) of the colonies rather diplomatically. In response to this dissent, King George III sent the redcoats to enforce order and subdue the rebel in the colonies who retaliated by declaring war, eventually, against the state and the church of their Sovereign by the resolves of 2nd Continental congress in 1775.

Fundamental:Summary of the Key Causes to the alienation of the colonists from their British Identity

- Parliament's Tyranny, unfair treatment and violation of Salutary Neglect policies* ;
- Enacting taxing legislations without representatives* on the Colonists' part in the Parliament;
- Parliament's passage of different acts including the Stamp act 1765, Intolerable Act (1763), Tea Act (1773), sugar act (1764), Administration of Justice Act (1775);
- The occupation of Boston;

- Boston Massacre* March 5th, 1770;
- Boston tea party Dec. 16th, 1773.

💡 *Fundamental:Results & Effects*

- The Revolutionary War* 1775
- Declaration of Independence* 1776
- The War of Independence* (1776-1781)
- Defeating Great Britain and forcing it to the negotiation table 1781.
- Recognizing the independence of united states and ending war 1783.
- Signing Treaty of Paris and British withdrawal from America 1783.

3. American Civilization's Breaking Dawn

After gaining their independence, American colonies joined together in league of a Federal Government under the Articles of Confederation before adopting new republic and democratic government after ratifying the Constitution of America 1787-1789 with the first 10 Amendments (i.e. Bill of Rights) compromise to accept the Constitutional resolves of the 1st constitutional convention of 1775. For, the struggles of the colonial area and the war of independence were dedicated to democracy & freedom, to the idea that everyone should have an equal chance to make their way in America. America believes it has a special destiny to transform the vast land that stretches Westward from a Wilderness to a garden but the struggle to create a new nation free to one and all will carry America to turmoil and Civil War, World Wars and Economic Depression and more.

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By ratifying the American Constitution , Americanism emerged and developed gradually to identify and reshape the new born nation eventually as distinctive civilization from its counterparts in the Old World in terms of religion, economy, culture, social services, society, social classes, government, race and gender. Those altogether were historically inspired and emboldened by the first English settlers' motivations, the freeborn colonists' liberties, the Revolutionary war's colonial unions, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

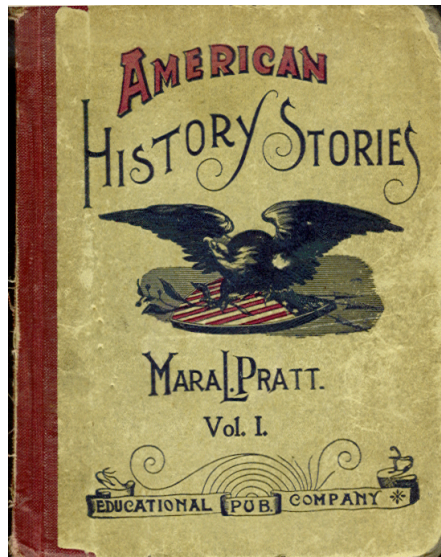
II Reading Assignment

Objectives

This tasks are for consolidating and supporting the learning outcomes of the TS1

Reading Material

<https://www.heritage-history.com/index.php?c=read&author=pratt&book=ahs1&story=plymouth>



1. Exercise

Complete the following sentence with the correct answer

John Smith's life was spared for few weeks in exchange of his

2. Exercise

John Smith'swas the Indians' biggest fear.

3. Exercise : Say if the following key facts are true or false

• The dissenters believed in the Catholic Church instead of the English Church

True

False

4. Exercice : Say if the following key facts are true or false

• The dissenters earned to be alienated from English identity and culture as well as their religious traditions.

True

False

5. Exercice : Say if the following key facts are true or false

• The dissenters lead an extravagant lifestyle

True

False

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Further reading

<https://www.heritage-history.com/index.php?c=read&author=pratt&book=ahs2>

Comprehensive questions

For Reflection

In your opinion, to what extent does history contribute in human civilization?

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Glossary

Boston Massacre

A confrontation between a crowd of Bostonians and British soldiers on March 5, 1770, which resulted in the deaths of five people, including Crispus Attucks, the first official casualty in the war for independence

Revolutionary war

The revolutionary war represents diplomatic conflict between the thirteen colonies, who fought for political liberty, religious freedom, economic independency and self-governing, and mother-country "Great Britain"- which fought for its financial interests in the American colonies.

Salutary Neglect

the laxness with which the English crown enforced the Navigation Acts in the eighteenth century

Taxation Without Representation

the principle, first articulated in the Virginia Stamp Act Resolutions, that the colonists needed to be represented in Parliament if they were to be taxed

The Declaration of Independence

Is public act of the 2nd Continental Congress that had officially disowned the American colonies from their mother country "Great Britain" on July 4, 1776.

Thirteen Colonies

The British colonies in North America that declared independence from Great Britain in 1776, which included Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, the province of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, South Carolina, and Virginia

War of Independence

Unlike the revolutionary war which was fought for the rights of colonists as subjects to the British ruler, the War of Independence was fought for gaining political separation from them.