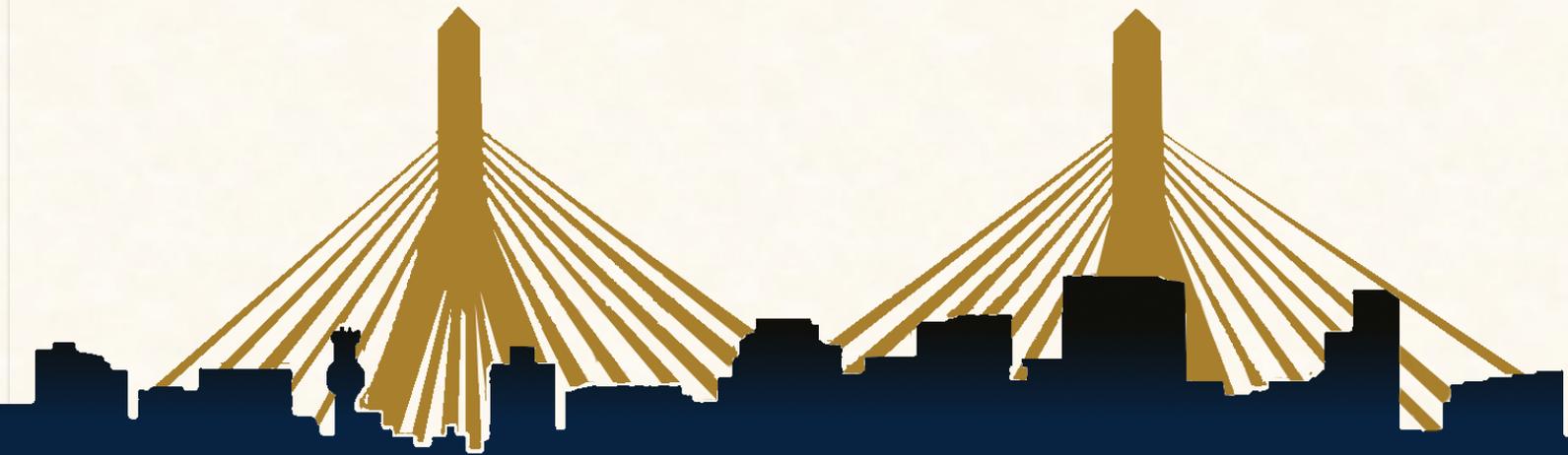




Journey and Settlement of the Pilgrims

Background Guide



EagleMUNC

Model United Nations
Conference
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Chair:

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Website:

www.EagleMUNC.org

Journey and Settlement of the Pilgrims

Introduction

Letter from the Chair:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to EagleMUNC VIII! My name is Tommy Ronan, and I am incredibly excited to be your chair for the Journey and Settlement of the Pilgrims Committee! To give you some background about me, I am from Warren, New Jersey and am a junior at Boston College currently majoring in marketing and information systems. After graduation I hope to work in the technology industry, either in New York or Boston.

As for my Model UN experience, I participated in Model UN my junior and senior years of high school, attending three conferences: HENMUN (University of Delaware) my junior and senior year and RUMUN (Rutgers) my senior year. This will be my second year in EagleMUNC, and I know that you will all make this year even more memorable than the last! Last year, I was the co-chair of the Time Capsule committee, a fictional body of journalists who used the powers of time travel to report on (and in some cases alter) the past.

As you may have been able to tell, I have a soft spot for what I like to call the “fun” committees - fictional committees that usually take place in either the past or future. What makes these committees so special in my opinion is that they lend themselves to being more immersive. As delegates (and as Pilgrims), you will get the opportunity to solve problems and face challenges that have been unheard of since the 17th century! My favorite part of EagleMUNC has always been seeing the unique ways in which delegates deal with the situations we throw at them, and I expect this year to

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be no different. That being said, while I expect this committee to be spirited and exciting, it is your involvement that will truly make this committee a success. As a former delegate I know how intimidating raising your placard can be sometimes, but ultimately each and every one of your ideas and your enthusiasm will help make this committee the best it possibly can be!

To prepare for this committee, it is imperative that you read the background guide in its entirety. This committee starts off directly prior to the Pilgrim's deciding to set sail for the New World while they were still in Holland. As such, this background guide only contains the information that they might have known and in many cases did know prior to their departure.

Our committee is not a recreation of the Pilgrim's journey, and as such, it will be influenced by your debates and decisions. As you will be representing English Pilgrims, keep in mind that you haven't yet decided on whether to or not to go to America, and, unlike my committee last year, you won't have the power to time travel! I suggest that you spend the majority of your time researching what the Pilgrims would have known and the context for the decisions they made. Some examples of research you might find helpful would be religious and cultural views of the Puritans, and any past expeditions or colonies in the New World.

As chair, I will be taking the role of John Carver, a prominent minister and leader of the congregation. If any part of this background guide is confusing, or if you have questions regarding the committee, please feel free to email me at ronantho@bc.edu.

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Our team has put a lot of work into creating a historically accurate and exciting committee for all of you, and we can't wait to see you in March for EagleMUNC VIII!

Sincerely,

Tommy Ronan



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Historical Background

English Reformation:

The story of the Pilgrims (specifically, the English Pilgrims who journeyed to the New World in 1620 to escape religious persecution, amongst other reasons) is tied to the British Monarchy, and begins with the marriage of King Henry VII's son, Prince Arthur, to Princess Catalina of Spain in 1501.¹ A few months after the marriage, Prince Arthur died, leaving Catalina (who became known in England as Catherine), a widow. After claiming they had never consummated the marriage, she received permission from the pope to remarry Arthur's younger brother, Henry VIII.² After the death of his father, Henry VIII rose to power and had many children with Catherine. Only one of whom survived - a girl named Mary. Needing a male heir to continue the Tudor line, King Henry VIII sought an annulment from the Pope to marry Anne Bolyne but was denied.³ As such, in 1534, King Henry persuaded Parliament to create the Church of England (known today as the Anglican Church) and to appoint him as the Supreme Head. In addition, all of England's Catholic monasteries were dissolved, and their wealth confiscated.⁴



King Henry VIII, 1537s

1 Cheney, Glenn Alan. 2015. *Thanksgiving*. Connecticut: New London Librarium, 2.

2 Cheney, 3.

3 "The Reformation." HISTORY, last modified April 11, accessed Aug 26, 2019, <https://www.history.com/topics/reformation/reformation>.

4 "The Reformation."

5 Kettler, Sarah. "7 Surprising Facts about King Henry VII." Biography.com, last modified June 18 2019, accessed Sep 29, 2019, <https://www.biography.com/news/henry-viii-biography-facts>.

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The Pope's refusal to annul the King's marriage was not the only precursor to the formation of the Church of England - in 1517, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther published his "95 Theses," a list of grievances against the Catholic Church that would eventually lead to the Protestant tradition splitting from Catholicism.⁶ One of the main tenets of Protestantism, and one of the reasons for this split, was the Protestant belief in "sola scriptura," that the entirety of religion should be based solely off of what is found in the Bible. This meant that the many rituals, ceremonies, garbs, and customs of the Catholic Church were seen by Protestants as excessive, and even immoral.⁷ Another defining tenet was that religion should be centered around God, rather than any individual man or other deity, including the Pope. In addition, the Catholic Church at the time was selling reprieves from penance (also called indulgences, which would reduce one's punishment after death for any sins committed). This was rejected by Luther, as he thought that redemption is based on each individual's faith and God's decisions alone, rather than one's wealth or status.⁸ As such, Protestantism was a direct rejection of papism and the Catholic Church.

In creating the Church of England, many elements of Catholicism remained. Although the Pope no longer had authority, a supreme head of the church still remained (much to the ire of English Protestants). The structure of the Church of England was similar to that of the Catholic Church, with ordained priests, bishops, and deacons. Similarly, many of the ceremonies, sacraments, and garbs (based on church tradition and

⁶ "The Reformation."

⁷ Krämer, Klaus. "The Main Differences between Catholics and Protestants." DW.COM., last modified October 30, accessed Feb 17, 2019, <https://www.dw.com/en/the-main-differences-between-catholics-and-protestants/a-3788859>

⁸ "The Reformation."

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not scripture) remained. However, several new elements were added in alignment with Protestantism: the Church of England began to place a heavier emphasis on the Bible, with one goal being “to place the Bible in the hands of the people.”⁹ One way in which King Henry did this was to authorize the first “official” English translation of the bible, now known as the Great Bible of 1539.¹⁰ In addition, a new Book of Common Prayer was authorized. Finally, the Church of England under King Henry VIII began to create new church doctrine based on Protestant theology, such as emphasizing the importance of faith as well as some of Luther’s interpretations of scripture.¹¹

Besides the Church’s increased usage of the Bible, the majority of these changes happened after King Henry died in 1547. King Henry’s reign was fraught with inherently anti-Christian behavior: he executed two wives, had mistresses, was divorced, regularly drank, was obese, and had a devotion to war. Throughout this chaotic period he did manage to produce a son, Edward, who became king at the age of nine after Henry’s death. King Edward VII (who was the first king to be raised as Protestant) continued the process of reformation up until his death five years later in 1553. One of his acts as King was the issuance of the now finished Book of Common Prayer in 1546. After his death, King Henry’s daughter from his first marriage with Catherine, Mary, became queen as a result of her technical legitimacy and the support of the people.¹² In the five years that she was queen, she attempted to restore Catholicism to its former glory, resulting in increased tensions between English Catholics and Protestants. She earned the nickname

⁹ “The Reformation.”

¹⁰ Miles Coverdale. "Great Bible (1539)." The Ohio State University Libraries Exhibits., <https://library.osu.edu/innovation-projects/omeka/items/show/19>.

¹¹ “The Reformation.”

¹² Cheney, 6.

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“Bloody Mary” after burning almost 300 prominent Protestants at the stake for heresy, and even denying a reprieve for those who had disavowed Protestantism and rejoined the Catholic faith.¹³ What started out as arrests of English Protestant clergymen then escalated with an official repeal of all religious acts enacted under King Henry VIII and Edward VI, executions, and the reunification of the Church of England with the Roman Catholic Church.¹⁴

After dying childless in 1558, the throne was passed on to Elizabeth, King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn’s daughter. As a Protestant, she reversed Mary’s reunification with the Catholic Church and attempted to quell the hatred between Catholics and Protestants. In 1559, she revised the Book of Common Prayer with even more Protestant influence, and in the same year introduced vernacular worship (meaning mass was in English rather than Latin) to make it more accessible for the populace.¹⁵ Because of her favoritism towards Protestantism, tensions between Catholics and Protestants continued to flare, and Elizabeth’s decision as Supreme Head of the Church of England to prohibit all worship outside of the Church of England further angered Protestants who believed the Church of England fell short of their desired reforms. Because Elizabeth never married or had any children, when she died in 1602 with no successors, she left the King of Scotland, James Stuart, as king.¹⁶ King James supported Queen Elizabeth’s efforts, continuing the pattern of Catholics and the Church of England at odds into the 17th century, and leaving those in the Church of England at odds with Protestant dissenters.

¹³ Cheney, 6.

¹⁴ "Mary I." HISTORY, last modified August 21, accessed Aug 26, 2019, <https://www.history.com/topics/british-history/mary-i>.

¹⁵ “The Reformation.”

¹⁶ Cheney, 6.

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Puritan Beliefs:

Protestant dissenters during the time of King James's rule were known at the time as Puritans - Protestants who were trying to "purify" the church. According to historian Glenn Alan Cheney, Puritans were those who "accepted the principle of the Church of England but wanted to purify it of its showy ceremonies, clerical vestments, and other remnants of papism, seeking these changes from inside the established church."¹⁷ All Puritans believed it was necessary to venture back to the "absolute beginning of Christianity, before the church had been corrupted by centuries of laxity and abuse" in order to locate divine truth. This meant that the Puritans refused actions such as kneeling during Communion, as there was no biblical basis that the Apostles had done so.¹⁸ The Book of Common Prayer as well as Hymns were considered by the Puritans to be corruptions of God's words, changing the meaning of the Bible. Puritans only read directly from the Bible, choosing to read a translation known as the Geneva Bible, which was translated by Protestants who fled to Geneva, Switzerland to escape Bloody Mary's reign.¹⁹ If the Geneva Bible did not describe something, then the Puritans thought it should not be practiced - this included everything from the garbs worn in the Catholic Church and Church of England, to celebrating the Christmas holiday.

Similarly, the "Puritans believed that a congregation began with a covenant between a group of believers and God."²⁰ Congregations should be independent and self-created, and church officials should be elected, not appointed. This idea of a covenant

¹⁷ Cheney, 7.

¹⁸ Philbrick, Nathaniel. 2007. *Mayflower*. London: Penguin Books, 9.

¹⁹ Cheney, 10.

²⁰ Philbrick, 9.

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also applied to one's individual relationship with God. Puritans believed that after Christ's crucifixion, God offered a covenant of grace to just a small group of people, which had long been determined by God.²¹ This group of people were known as the "Saints" or the "elect" (in that they were one of the few chosen by God to be saved). As no one could be entirely sure of whether they were one of the elect, Puritans constantly compared their own actions to others, hoping to prove to themselves they were living godly and just lives and thus were one of the ones to be saved.²² Puritans taught the stages by which one might achieve sureness of their redemption: it began with an emotional response to the sermon, in which one realizes the "heights to which a person must inspire if he or she was to achieve grace." This was followed by feeling inadequate and desperate, and after deep emotional and religious discernment, the result was the confidence that one was in fact one of the elect.²³

Within the Puritans, historians today classify those at the extreme end using a separate term – "Separatists."²⁴ None of the Separatists at the time identified themselves with the term however, instead calling themselves "visible Saints" or just "Saints." This was because they believed they were members of the elect, as previously mentioned. The Separatists were tiny groups of loosely affiliated churches, which saw less hope of reforming the Church of England. They felt that both the Catholic Church and Church of England were beyond saving, and that they were following parallel paths to Hell for belonging to countries/individuals rather than the people.²⁵ They did, however, accept the

²¹ Philbrick, 9.

²² Philbrick, 9.

²³ Philbrick, 9.

²⁴ Cheney, 6.

²⁵ Cheney, 7.

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role of a King as an absolute ruler, just in the Earthly realm and not in regards to religion.

One key belief of the Separatists was that they felt that people were the church – a gathering of worshippers rather than a building or an institution. As such, Separatist congregations were able to meet in places such as the homes of worshippers. The flexibility of worship space was beneficial for the Separatists in that it helped them avoid the threat of fines, arrest, torture, and death by hanging. “With no identifiable church buildings, no central organization, no structured hierarchy, no sign out front, and no supreme leader besides God, they were hard to identify, hard to catch in the act, and hard to eliminate as a threat to the Church of England.”²⁶

The congregations were usually led by a university-trained/ordained pastor, who was elected by the congregation’s members. Separatist pastors acted like shepherds, guiding their flock of members in interpretation and prayer, but were still just as fallible as the rest of the congregation.²⁷ It was also possible to be voted out, if necessary. In the same vein, if members of the congregation strayed from the path of God, then one would be initially warned or punished. If members continued even after the warnings, then they would be excommunicated – congregations were intense fellowships of righteousness, and as such members who did not uphold each other in the worship of God were not needed in the congregation.²⁸ Service usually meant a sermon from the minister, which was followed by prophesy, in which any of the members of the congregation could speak for any amount of time about religious doctrine – hours would pass by the time service ended. One reason for this was that Separatists felt spontaneity was essential to attaining

²⁶ Cheney, 8.

²⁷ Cheney, 7.

²⁸ Philbrick, 12.

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true and honest glimpses of the divine.²⁹ Another defining view was their belief in Calvinism – this was the philosophy that everyone should be able to participate in the administration and theology of their church. As such, all decisions in the congregation were made with the consultation of every (male) member, and everyone was able to contribute to church theology.³⁰ There were several other beliefs and customs that the Separatists practiced. Fasting was seen as a tool for clearing the mind for God’s message, so prior to any major decision the Separatists fasted.³¹ In addition, there were only three holy days: the Sabbath, which was weekly, a Day of Humiliation and Fasting, and a Day of Thanksgiving. A Day of Humiliation and Fasting occurred when a downturn in circumstances indicated God’s displeasure with their unrepented sin. A Day of Thanksgiving was celebrated when things went unexpectedly well, as a way to thank God.³²

Scrooby Congregation:

The story of the congregation central to the tale of the Pilgrims began in Babworth, England with a minister in the Church of England named Richard Clyfton. Clyfton’s sermons were famous for contradicting the popish demands of King James, and people who were seriously seeking God came from all over to listen to him. Clyfton soon found himself identifying with the Puritans and then with the Separatists.³³ In 1604, King James required all ministers to use the Book of Common Prayer and to conform to 100% of the norms of the Church of England; Clyfton chose God, and left his church. One of

²⁹ Philbrick, 12.

³⁰ Cheney, 11.

³¹ Cheney, 8.

³² Cheney, 8.

³³ Cheney, 14.

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the members of his congregation in Babworth named William Brewster let Clyfton and his family live in his Scrooby manor, a large 6 acre compound with enough space to host weekly congregation meetings.³⁴ The people of Scrooby needed a Separatist pastor and Clyfton became that pastor. Both Clyfton and Brewster had studied at Cambridge University, which at the time was a “hothouse of Puritan thought.” As such, during the early 1600s Cambridge students and professors were being arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and burned in public executions.³⁵ Many members of the congregation came from less prestigious upbringings, however: one important member of the Babworth and then Scrooby congregations was orphan William Bradford, who began watching Clyfton’s sermons when he was just twelve years old.³⁶

King James continued to crack down on Puritans and Separatists during his reign, refusing to tolerate anyone who thought the Church of England needed to be purified. As Cheney explains: “Preachers and writers, not just Separatists, were hanged.” Anyone who believed in Puritan principles or acted on them was imprisoned. Seemingly innocuous actions such as refusing to kneel during the sacrament of communion, were grounds for arrest (there was no biblical evidence of kneeling so they refused to do so). Some Puritans and Separatists were put into jail, where they often died due to unsanitary conditions and rampant infections due to overcrowding. “Meals were not included and all food had to be brought by outsiders and distributed by guards, so a long prison sentence usually meant death.”³⁷ As a result of the threat of religious discrimination and torture,

³⁴ Cheney, 15.

³⁵ Cheney, 15.

³⁶ Cheney, 14.

³⁷ Cheney, 13.

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the Scrooby Congregation met at nights, solely using lamp light and drawing any curtains and shades closed. These efforts helped protect the Separatists until 1607, when the Bishop of York became aware of the congregation's meetings in Brewster's house. Several congregation members were thrown into prison, and many more began to notice their houses were being watched. No longer able to stay hidden from British authorities, the congregation decided they needed to flee England.³⁸ In deciding where to go, the congregation leaned on William Brewster's political and diplomatic experience. Brewster had previously worked under a Puritan and British ambassador to the Netherlands, and had witnessed the possibility for religious freedom during trips to Amsterdam and Leyden.³⁹ Thus, the congregation chose Holland as their destination for several reasons, the first and main reason being that the Holland government tolerated any reasonably Christian religion, which included Puritanism. The second reason was that Holland was more liberal and socio-politically advanced than England - its economy was also moving towards trading versus manufacturing, which was beneficial for the Separatists. The final reason was that Leyden had one of the oldest universities in Europe.⁴⁰

Actually getting to Holland proved to be very difficult for the congregation. King James wanted to contain religious nonconformist's thoughts, so Catholics and groups such as Protestants were denied licenses to leave the country. Thus, they were forced to sail to Holland secretly and illegally.⁴¹ On their first attempt, they bribed an English ship captain and paid an exorbitant fee to take them from Boston, England to Holland.

³⁸ Philbrick, 12.

³⁹ Cheney, 16.

⁴⁰ Cheney, 18.

⁴¹ Philbrick, 13.

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Everyone sold all of their belongings and anything they couldn't carry with them and at night, 125 members of the congregation boarded the ship. It was a trap, and the crew and then the sheriff's officers helped themselves to all of their possessions. Seven of the congregation's leaders were locked away and the rest ordered back to Scrooby. They spent the winter as refugees, begging for food and moving from house to house.⁴²

After the release of their leaders, the Separatists tried again in the spring of 1608. They hired a Dutch captain and planned to meet him at a stretch of beach at the mouth of a river 40 miles north of Boston. To avoid drawing attention to such a large group, church leaders (Clyfton, Brewster, and another congregation leader/minister, John Robinson) separated the women and children onto a barge, which would arrive at the rendezvous point after a delay, allowing the men to walk to shore in small groups, and then begin boarding the boat.⁴³ The local militia arrived before the women and children on the barge had been unloaded, and only a portion of the men had made it onto the boat. Fearing capture, the Dutch captain continued to Holland, leaving the men on the boat without their wives, children, friends, and leaders.⁴⁴ Those left on shore and subsequently arrested were eventually released; the judges decided that putting the women in prison would separate them from their children and was unreasonable. They had no money to pay fines, and were considered by the judges to simply be "following their husbands." Little by little, the rest of the congregation arrived in Amsterdam, with Clyfton, Robinson, and

⁴² Cheney, 13.

⁴³ Cheney, 20.

⁴⁴ Cheney, 21.

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Brewster arriving last.⁴⁵ After a year, the congregation made its way to Leyden, and was now finally able to practice their religion without constant fear of arrest.



⁴⁵ Cheney, 21.

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Topic 1: Where do the Pilgrims go?

In Leyden, the Separatists found the religious tolerance they had been hoping for. This liberalism also meant protection for other “misguided” groups and religions that the Separatists had to actively avoid, including other Puritan congregations that were deemed miscreant.⁴⁶ The main issue that manifested itself in Leyden was that the Separatist children were beginning to lose their English identities, and were tempted into “extravagance” by the “evil examples” of others.⁴⁷ There were other issues as well. There had been a Dutch-Spanish armistice that was about to expire, and the Separatists worried that Spain might try to attack Holland, like it had done to England 20 years earlier. In addition, they were worried that the army would tempt young men to the unchristian profession of soldiering.⁴⁸ The Dutch economy had stagnated, and with no profitable skills in such a high-tech country, the Separatists struggled to make ends meet. The final nail in the coffin was that in 1618, William Brewster was forced into hiding after warrants for his arrest were enacted in Holland and England. In Leyden, he had established a printing press with the help of Edward Winslow. After publishing a religious piece critical of King James, the king ordered his arrest.⁴⁹ With Robert Clyfton’s death in 1617, and with William Brewster in hiding, the two members of the congregation who took charge were deacon John Carver and Pastor John

⁴⁶ Cheney, 21.

⁴⁷ Cheney, 22.

⁴⁸ Cheney, 22.

⁴⁹ Cheney, 22.

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Robinson. The Separatists could no longer stay in Holland, so the question became: where would they go?

In addition to the Separatists, many English citizens faced similar questions. The Separatists called this group of individuals "Strangers" as they were not a part of the Scrooby or Leyden Congregations.⁵⁰ The "Strangers" sought to leave England for various reasons, both religious and non-religious – these included the prospects of becoming a landowner, escaping criminal convictions, the desire for a fresh start, the potential for economic gain, and freedom from English law.⁵¹ Although the motives for wanting to leave England/Holland may have differed between the "Strangers" and the congregation, they shared a common goal: bettering their lives. Thus, it could be beneficial for the "Strangers" to join with an already established and motivated group such as the Separatists in finding a way out of England and starting anew.

Choices:

1. *Stay in Holland* - The first and easiest option for the Separatists would be to stay in Holland. In Holland, they are able to freely practice their religion, and there does not seem to be any immediate threat of religious discrimination in the country. However, economic stagnation means that the Separatists are having difficulty making ends meet, and as such no longer see themselves as getting

⁵⁰ Philbrick 16.

⁵¹ "Mayflower Passengers: Not all were there for Religious Reasons." Ancestral Findings., last modified December, accessed Aug 26, 2019, <https://ancestralfindings.com/mayflower-passengers-not-religious-reasons/>.

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ahead in life there. In addition, other issues include a perceived loss of English culture, and the untimely warrant for Brewster's arrest. Would it be possible to find ways to maintain English customs in Holland or obtain new profitable skill sets?

2. *Move back to England* - Moving back would resolve the Separatists' main complaint in Holland, the loss of English culture and customs. It would also, however, put them under the rule of King James which would be highly problematic. The Separatists would be unable to practice their religion, which is a pillar of their way of life and the motive for leaving England altogether. With Brewster's warrant and the congregation's documented arrests and illegal activity (such as crossing into Holland without the King's permission), moving back would put them all at a high risk of arrest and jail. Would taking further precautions in their worship (in addition to only worshipping at night, etc) reduce this risk enough to return home?
3. *Move to the New World* - The final and most dangerous option for the Separatists would be to venture to the New World. Making the journey would give the congregation the chance for a fresh start an entire ocean away from King James. It would also allow the congregation to create/contribute to either a new or existing settlement in ways consistent with their religious and cultural beliefs. However, much is unknown about the New World, and both the journey and settlement have a high chance for death and disease. Several prior settlements such as Roanoke have already failed - almost a hundred men and

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women at Roanoke disappeared without a trace. In addition, on a similar journey to the New World, 130 out of 180 passengers died before the ship arrived.⁵² The four main options being considered by the congregation are based on both rumors and the promotion and advertisements of areas looking for settlers. These locations are as follows:

- a. Guyana (South America) - Located in the Northeastern corner of South America, Guyana was described by William Bradford as being "rich, fruitful, and blessed with a perpetual spring and a flourishing greenness, where vigorous nature brought forth all things in abundance and plenty without any great labor or art of man."⁵³ However, this significantly warmer climate also means more diseases (and potentially more dangerous animal species). In addition, a potential worry for the congregation would be that Spain would arrive and overthrow their settlement.⁵⁴
- b. Hudson River Valley (Dutch) - The Hudson River Valley was named after English explorer Henry Hudson, who was chartered by the Dutch and as such claimed the area for them.⁵⁵ As of 1620, Holland had yet to formally establish or colonize a settlement, and as such was looking for settlers for the region. Upon hearing that the congregation was considering to

⁵² Philbrick, 71.

⁵³ Cheney, 25.

⁵⁴ Cheney, 26.

⁵⁵ "Hudson River." *Britannica Online Academic Edition*, 2019, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

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relocate to America, Dutch representatives approached the Separatists and “made them fair offers” concerning a possible settlement.⁵⁶ As the congregation is already in Holland and many members are Dutch citizens, this offer would be the easiest. In addition, it is in Holland’s best interest to stop any new English settlements in the Hudson River Valley. As rejecting the offer would imply that the Separatists are intending on settling as an English colony, Holland may try to stop the Separatists should they reject this offer. Accepting the offer, however, would mean further losing their English identities, which is the reason why the Separatists want to leave Holland to begin with.

- c. Jamestown - Jamestown is an English settlement founded by John Smith in present day Virginia in 1607.⁵⁷ As an already established English settlement, settling in Jamestown has many advantages in the forms of existing resources, shelter, and knowledge of the surrounding area, local Indians, and how to obtain and grow food in the New World. In addition, Smith’s descriptions of Southern Virginia looks promising, and the Virginia Company (British company responsible for granting permission to settle in the New World) is advertising “the good life to be had” there, and anyone who is willing to settle there will be given permission to do

⁵⁶ Philbrick, 18.

⁵⁷ Snyder, Howard A. 2015. *Jesus and Pocahontas : Gospel, Mission, and National Myth* Lutterworth Press; Casemate Publishers and Book Distributors, LLC, 1.

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so.⁵⁸ There are several downsides to Jamestown, however: while moving there meant maintaining English customs, it would also mean being unable to practice their religion. Doing so would continue their risk of persecution, and given the name of the settlement (named after King James, the tyrant they were trying to escape), it would be difficult to get away from the Church of England. In addition, Jamestown has a reputation for “lethargy, loose morals, and political confusion,” and has Indian problems in the form of raids, thefts, torture, and executions carried out by both the Indians and English.⁵⁹ Furthermore, death due to disease and starvation is common for many settlers, leading the winter of 1609 - 1610 to be referred to as “The Starving Time.”⁶⁰

- d. Hudson River Valley (English) - In the same way that the Dutch were looking to settle the Hudson before the British, the British are equally interested in establishing more settlements in the New World (the only British settlement at the time was Jamestown). This is also the area furthest away from Jamestown that the Virginia Company is able to provide a patent for, as the Hudson River valley area is the northernmost part of their jurisdiction.⁶¹ Establishing a *new* settlement in this area under the English crown would allow them to maintain their English

⁵⁸ Philbrick, 26.

⁵⁹ Cheney, 26.

⁶⁰ Synder, 56.

⁶¹ Cheney, 27.

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culture and practice their religion. However, it would also mean being far away from any of Jamestown's resources, such as aid should the Separatists need it. They will be completely on their own. The Virginia Company is offering financial backing for new settlers, but with few profits from Jamestown, the longevity of this offer is in doubt.⁶²

Topic 2: Ship Navigation and The Journey to the New World

Should the congregation decide to journey to the New World, then it is important that the Separatists and anyone accompanying them on the journey be prepared for what lies ahead. This includes knowing the general geography of the New World. Virginia was the name of all British claimed territory in the Americas, stretching from the Carolinas to Maine. However, as the Virginia Company's jurisdiction only went up to Long Island, Virginia was commonly used to refer to only the territory from the Carolinas to Long Island, and is how it will be referred to in this guide.⁶³ Within Virginia was the Chesapeake Region, which was explored by John Smith in 1607 and contained the Jamestown Colony. Smith published a map of the Chesapeake Region in 1612, which for reference contained present day Maryland, Virginia, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania.

⁶² Philbrick, 29.

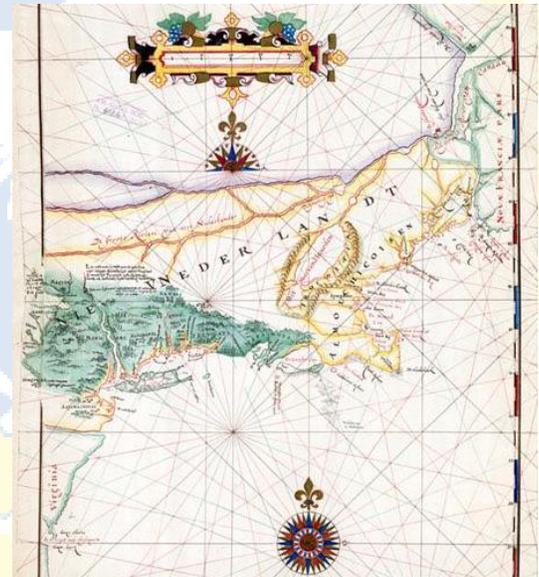
⁶³ Cheney, 16.

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Smith's 1612 Map of Virginia⁶⁴

As previously mentioned, explorer Henry Hudson sailed 150 miles up the Hudson River as part of a 1609 Dutch expedition (he was however not the first to discover the region). After Hudson's expedition, Dutchman Adrian Block explored the region further, documenting his voyages from Long Island to Cape Cod (1611 – 1614) in a map published in 1614.⁶⁵ His map was one of the first maps depicting the Hudson River Valley to be published, and included the New England area (although this term was not coined until a few years later). Block deemed the area he explored "Nieu Nederlant" – New Netherlands.



Block's Map of his 1614 Voyage⁶⁶

⁶⁴ "Smith Maps - Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail." National Park Service, last modified November 13, accessed Sep 29, 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/cajo/learn/smith-maps.htm>

⁶⁵ Cheney, 187.

⁶⁶ "Adrian Block 1614 Map." 2012, Wikipedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wpdms_aq_block_1614.jpg

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In 1616, John Smith published “A Description of New England,” which described the geography, climate, people, and resources of the area. He also published a map of the region, which is seen to the right. Smith was the first to name the region from Long

Island Sound to Newfoundland “New England,” and in his map depicted the region between Cape Cod (called Cape James in the map) and Maine.⁶⁷

There was however no “reliable English chart of the waters between Cape Cod and the Hudson”⁶⁸

All three aforementioned maps were published and available to the Separatists prior to 1620.



Smith's 1616 Map of New England⁶⁹

In order to hold the majority of the congregation and any additional Strangers, a large merchant class ship with multiple decks would most likely be necessary. Due to the large cost of a ship of that size, it would most likely have to be chartered (akin to renting the ship for the journey).⁷⁰ Should the Separatists decide it necessary to have a ship permanently at the colony, they would have to purchase one. A crew would also have to be hired to man the ship. In terms of provisions to be brought on a journey to the New World, beer would have to be brought on board as the main source of hydration due to the inevitable spoilage of fresh water on such a long voyage.⁷¹ Any animals to be raised in the New World would have to be brought on board, in addition to any items of clothing

⁶⁷ Smith, John. 1616. *A Description of New England*. Lincoln: Digital Commons @ University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

⁶⁸ Philbrick, 37.

⁶⁹ Smith.

⁷⁰ Cheney, 38.

⁷¹ Cheney, 47.

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and farming or fishing equipment. Furthermore, food items such as butter, hard biscuits, and dried fish and fruits would be necessary both for the voyage and until the Separatists could grow or hunt their own food at their destination.⁷²

The optimal time to leave for the New World would be early Spring, which would allow time to forage, hunt, fish (and salt away any fish or meat), construct shelters for the winter, and potentially harvest some food.⁷³ Once out to sea, the ship's captain would most likely use a cross staff or other similar equipment to measure Latitude (North/South).⁷⁴ To use the staff, one would hold the staff with one end pointed to the sun and the other near their eye. By lining up a crosspiece with the horizon, one could determine Latitude. It was impossible to accurately determine Longitude (East/West) however, so there was no way to tell how close to the New World a ship was.⁷⁵



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The journey to the New World is never easy – a common occurrence on ships are illness and disease, which often lead to death. Flu and pneumonia often occur due to the wet and damp conditions onboard. One example of this danger struck a different group of

⁷² Philbrick.

⁷³ Cheney, 28.

⁷⁴ "Navigation of the American Explorers - 15th to 17th Centuries." Penobscot Marine Museum., accessed August 26, 2019, <http://www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org/pbho-1/history-of-navigation/navigation-american-explorers-15th-17th-centuries>.

⁷⁵ "Navigation of American Explorers."

⁷⁶ "Navigation of American Explorers."

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Separatists in 1619, when a ship containing 180 English Separatists from Holland sailed for Virginia during the winter. Their leader, Mr. Blackwell, and 129 other passengers died before the ship arrived, due to overcrowding, disease, and a lack of water.⁷⁷

Topic 3: Legal Precedent of The Colonies

Unable to fully fund a colonization effort and eager to compete with the efforts of the French, British, and Spanish, King James decided to enlist Britain's wealthy noblemen. He chartered (i.e. created) a joint stock company called the Virginia Company in 1606. By purchasing shares of the company, one became an investor and provided the funds to create new colonies, and the profits of these colonies went back to the investors. The Virginia Company had two branches: the London Virginia Company (also known as the London Company), and the Plymouth Virginia Company (referred to as the Plymouth Company).⁷⁸ King James gave each branch the exclusive patenting rights to parts of North America. The London Company received the South, while the Plymouth Company received the North - there was also an overlap between their jurisdictions that would be given to the more successful company.⁷⁹ Essentially a patent means permission to settle - as Britain claimed the east coast, King James gave the Virginia Company the ability to choose who was allowed to settle the New World. Any colonies that were issued patents were under the British crown and thus loyal to the king. The companies were to fully fund each colony, and in exchange controlled the

⁷⁷ Philbrick, 19.

⁷⁸ Pfleiderer, Richard L. 2005. "Before New England: The Popham Colony." *History Today* 55 (1): 10.

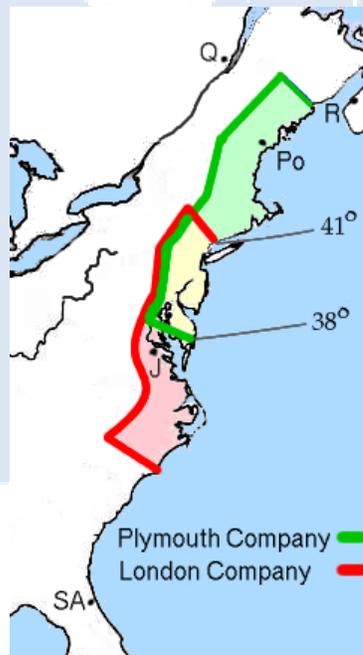
⁷⁹ Pfleiderer.

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colonies' land, resources, and profits.⁸⁰ The first and only colony issued a patent by the Plymouth Company was Popham in Maine. The colony's leader, George Popham, and many other settlers died during their first winter in 1608. After the colony's new leader came into his family's fortune, the remaining colonists returned home with him, abandoning Popham. After this failure, the Plymouth Company went dormant and no longer issued patents.⁸¹

Jurisdiction of Plymouth and London Company⁸²

After the Plymouth London Company was often referred to as the Virginia Company as it was now the sole branch. As Jamestown was having a very difficult time and was not profitable. The combination of Jamestown's lack of profits and Popham's failure led to the Virginia Company changing its patent model. To make journeying to the New World more appealing for settlers, should the colony they were given the right to own the land (versus the Virginia Company owning the land). Conditional or "particular" patents were given to anyone interested in starting a plantation, and "gave



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⁸⁰ Philbrick, 19

⁸¹ Pflederer.

⁸² "WPDMS King James Grants." 2006, Wikipedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wpdms_king_james_grants.png

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settlers the right to attempt to found a colony in five to seven years' time, after which they could apply for a new patent that gave them the permanent title to the land."⁸³ As the Plymouth Company is still dormant, a settlement in New England is not an option, and deciding to land or stay in the area could be considered mutiny. Settlers have been accused of mutiny before; one example of this occurring was when a man named Stephen Hopkins and several other Englishmen got shipwrecked on Bermuda. Hopkins plotted mutiny and wanted to stay at Bermuda rather than continue on to Virginia, the area he had permission to go to. As a result, he was sentenced to death, only surviving by pleading for his life.⁸⁴

Topic 4: Surviving the Winter

While the journey to the New World can be devastating for many, winter can prove fatal, even in places with milder weather such as Virginia and Jamestown. The winter of 1609 - 1610 became known as the "Starving Time" as a result of the deaths of over 400 of the approximately 500 colonists in Jamestown.⁸⁵ The colony had previously relied on substantial trade with the Powhatan people (group of American Indians in Virginia), with whom they would exchange various English goods or trinkets for corn. In the summer of 1609, John Smith succeeded in obtaining corn, but the colony improperly stored it, and dampness and mice spoiled the majority of their supply. Their fishing nets had been left in the water and rotted, and Indian attacks on anyone who

⁸³ Philbrick, 19

⁸⁴ Cheney, 99.

⁸⁵ Snyder, 58.

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went too far away from the settlement meant foraging or hunting was not possible.⁸⁶ With 500 colonists to feed, the colony began to starve. Settlers began to raid the little food they had, but anyone who did was executed. All of the livestock was consumed, including horses, dogs, cats, and even wild mice.⁸⁷ The winter made the water too cold for wading for oysters, and the frost made it difficult to dig for roots. As a result, settlers resorted to eating leather and even digging up deceased settlers to eat.⁸⁸ As evidenced by this story, preparation is key to surviving the winter - this begins with leaving in time to grow and harvest enough food, and not relying on trade with the Indians for food.

Although winter in the New World can be brutal, throughout the rest of the year an abundance of potential resources can be found. As reported by John Smith in his description of New England and from the descriptions of Jamestown, there was an abundance of food resources available on the mainland. Corn was grown throughout the East Coast, and could be grown by the Separatists once they arrived. In addition, Smith claimed that “the ground is so fertile, that question less it is capable of producing any grain, fruits, or seeds you will sow or plant.”⁸⁹ Some common crops grown in England at the time were wheat and barley, and according to Smith these familiar crops could be planted in the New World. Sassafras roots could be dug up and eaten (also had medicinal uses), and wild berries and fruit could be found and dried. He also reported

⁸⁶ Snyder, 52.

⁸⁷ Snyder, 56.

⁸⁸ Snyder, 56.

⁸⁹ Smith, 29.

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that the New England and Hudson River Valley area contained an abundance of bears, otters and foxes, which could be hunted for meat and the furs used to trade with the Indians.⁹⁰ Compared to the Indians near Virginia, Smith described the New England tribes in a much more positive and friendly light, suggesting they were more likely to trade.

According to Smith, the main staple of food for any colonies in the New England region would be cod. Cod was found in abundance and could be salted for the winter (he refers to salted cod as cor fish). Smith observed that cod was especially prevalent in late August, September, October, and November.⁹¹ In addition, fish such as herring, mullet, and sturgeon could be found. In his "Description of New England," Smith also lays out some equipment to bring, such as fishing nets and hooks. Finally, in regards to structures, Smith says that the forests were "overgrown with all sorts of excellent woods for building houses."⁹² Oak trees were the most common type of tree - pine, walnut, maple, and chestnut were also common throughout the East Coast at the time.⁹³ While Smith's description of these resources sounds promising, many are only useful or harvestable with the right equipment or knowledge. In addition, these resources are not procurable during the winter. As a result of this, much is still unknown about the best ways in which to survive a winter in the New World. In addition, variable weather conditions can make or break a settlement's success.

⁹⁰ Smith, 33.

⁹¹ Smith, 30.

⁹² Smith, 23.

⁹³ Cheney, 31.

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Topic 5: Native Americans

One of the main fears the Separatists had in regards to the New World was of the Native Americans. They had heard about the reports of raids and attacks in Jamestown, and knew of the dangers of the Powhatan people in Virginia. One such example was a report by Jamestown Council President Percy on an attack that occurred when Percy sent fifty men to trade with the Powhatan. After successfully trading, the majority of the men were killed and their leader, John Ratcliffe, was taken and tortured. According to Percy, Chief Powhatan (Chief of the Powhatan tribe) “caused [Ratcliffe] to be bound unto a tree naked with a fire before, and by women his flesh was scraped from his bones with mussel shells and, before his face, thrown into the fire; and so for want of circumspection [he] miserably perished.”⁹⁴ This and other sensational accounts of merciless torture were left by earlier explorers and settlers, and could be found at the university library in Leyden where the Separatists resided. As a result, the Native Americans were referred to as “Savages,” (also in part because they were not “enlightened” by Christianity) and were feared by the English.⁹⁵

There were, however, several instances of natives learning English customs. One that the Separatists knew about was Pocahontas, an English celebrity. While in Virginia, she had on multiple occasions aided the colonists - an example of this aid is when she went against her father, Chief Powhatan, to warn John Smith about an ambush on his men.⁹⁶ In 1613, Pocahontas was captured by Jamestown and held hostage as leverage to ensure the release of English settlers. By the time of her capture, she was already known

⁹⁴ Synder, 56.

⁹⁵ Philbrick, 6.

⁹⁶ Snyder, 50.

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in London as the darling “Indian Princess.” This newfound fame and title were because of her role as the Chief’s daughter, and from the stories of her aiding Jamestown.⁹⁷ As such, her residing in Jamestown (even as a hostage) was widely discussed in England. In her time with the colonists, she was treated kindly, and began to become accustomed to English food, clothing, and traditions after spending a year as a hostage. During this time she received regular Christian and English lessons, and met John Rolfe, who she fell in love with (and conversely, Rolfe fell passionately in love with her).⁹⁸ After again helping broker peace between the colonists and the natives and agreeing to convert to Christianity, she married Rolfe in 1614, a year after her capture. She was baptized, becoming Lady Rebecca Rolfe, and soon after sailed to London. ⁹⁹ As a celebrity and lady, and considered royalty by the English, Pocahontas was an important figure in England and most likely had a positive impact on the European image of Native Americans. After setting sail to return to Virginia in 1617, Pocahontas fell ill with what many believe was a respiratory illness, at which point the boat sailed back to England. Ultimately, she died due to the illness, leaving Rolfe and their son, Thomas.¹⁰⁰



The only known portrait of Pocahontas

At the time, Pocahontas was the only Indian to willingly travel to the New World - many others were captured and enslaved and sold to wealthy merchants in Europe. One

⁹⁷ Snyder, 82.

⁹⁸ Snyder, 85.

⁹⁹ Snyder, 127.

¹⁰⁰ Snyder, 133.

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example is Epenow, who was captured by English Captain Edward Harlow in 1611, and taken to England as a slave.¹⁰¹ In England he became a show attraction, where he would shout “Welcome, welcome!” to any visitors. The show failed, and Harlow gave him away to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, an English navigator and advocate for settlement of the New World. After being taught English, Epenow related tales of vast riches, including a gold mine that could be found at Martha’s Vineyard.¹⁰² Gorges trusted Epenow, and sent him and one of his captains on a ship to the New World to investigate his claims. Upon arrival, the ship was greeted by many Native Americans, several of whom were Epenow’s relatives. Epenow secretly planned his escape, and the next day jumped off the ship with the help of a volley of arrows fired by other members of his tribe.

Another example is Tisquantum, who is often referred to as Squanto. Squanto was most likely captured in New England in 1614 by an Englishmen named Thomas Hunt. John Smith and Hunt had been traveling to document and map the region, with each man leading a separate ship. After Smith departed, Hunt stayed behind and lured 27 Native Americans (including Squanto) onto his boat, capturing them.¹⁰³ He then sailed to Spain and sold them as slaves, after which Squanto was rescued by Dominican monks who most likely had the goal of converting Squanto to Christianity. Eventually, Squanto made his way to London and then Newfoundland, where he met Englishmen Thomas Dermer. With Squanto’s help, Dermer hoped he could help make amends with the New England tribes angered by Hunt and Harlow.¹⁰⁴ They sailed back to England to establish a plan,

¹⁰¹ Cheney, 142.

¹⁰² Varney, George J. "Epenow and his Gold Mine: an Incident in the Early History of Martha’s Vineyard." *The Youth’s Companion (1827-1929)*, Jul 16, 1874, 231.

¹⁰³ Cheney, 186.

¹⁰⁴ Cheney, 187.

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and in 1619 at the behest of Sir Gorges, set sail for New England. While the results of this trip are currently unknown, after the repeated enslavement of Native Americans by Hunt and Harlow, it is likely that Dermer's presence in the New England area will be met with violence by the natives.



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Bloc Positions

Separatist members of the Leyden Congregation: This bloc consists of members of the Leyden Congregation, and thus share the aforementioned religious and cultural beliefs of the Separatists and Puritans. Members of this bloc are motivated for religious reasons, and as such, all decisions must be examined through a religious and moral lens: how will this impact my fellow congregation members? How will this decision help me further my relationship with God? Only actions that will advance the congregation's ability to develop spiritually should be accepted. In addition, one key characteristic of the Separatists was that all congregation members were willing to do whatever it took to help out other poorer or suffering members, and without complaint. The lives of other Christians are sacred and must be treated as such. Members of this bloc accept King James as their ruler but only for Earthly matters, and value their English culture and heritage.

"Strangers" - those not a part of the congregation: This bloc consists of those who seek to leave England for various reasons, both religious and non-religious (although the majority were for non-religious reasons). While they were called "Strangers" by the Leyden Congregation bloc because they were not part of the congregation, they were also strangers to each other - none of them had ever met prior to planning their departure from England. Unlike the Leyden Congregation bloc, the "Strangers," were not united in their motives for journeying to the New World. Varying levels of loyalty to the British Crown were also present in this group. Some members felt that should they

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decide to journey to the New World, the minute they stepped on American soil, the lack of a British presence meant that they were free to do whatever they pleased. As the “Strangers” slightly outnumber the number of Separatists, members of this bloc have the potential to significantly shape the success of the group; however, with such differing views and levels of familiarity, this may prove to be difficult.

While both blocs may have significant differences in terms of their motives and origins, both blocs are united in their desire for a better future. In order to succeed, they must work together and agree on specific issues and actions.

Questions to Consider

Historical Background

- Should the “Strangers” adopt the customs of the Separatists? In what ways might it be beneficial or detrimental for those with non-religious motives to journey to the New World with the Separatists?
- How might the way the Separatists treat the other committee members differ based on whether they are considered by the Separatists to be part of the “elect”?
- Should “Strangers” who worship the Catholic Church or the Church of England be excluded from any of the congregation’s religious activities or services?
- Should the religious leader of the congregation also become its political leader?

Topic 1: Where Do the Pilgrims Go?

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- In deciding where to go, what are the appropriate weights to put on the decision criteria for the 3 choices (and subsequent locations for option 3). What risks are worth taking?
- How can past experiences of discrimination or war from members of the committee inform our decisions?

Topic 2: Journey to the New World

- What supplies should be prioritized for the journey to the New World?
- Are there any precautions that can be taken to reduce disease?
- Should the trip be delayed, is it worth taking the risk of arriving during the fall or winter?

Topic 3: Legal Precedent

- To what extent should the customs and practices of the Separatists impact the day to day function and administration of the colony? What should be the basis of any laws that are enacted?
- Should the committee find themselves in an area of land outside of their patent, should they prioritize relocating/moving back to the chartered land?
- In a new land with no real British soldiers or any formal British presence, to what extent should laws be followed and obeyed?

Topic 4: Surviving the Winter

- What supplies and equipment should be prioritized once the Separatists arrived in the New World?

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- What plants, animals, or other food resources should be brought over from Europe?
- Should religious beliefs be prioritized over survival?

Topic 5: Native Americans

- To what extent should the reports of savage behavior and attacks be considered for determining how best to interact with the natives?
- What kinds of relations and trade should be established with the natives?
- Can anything be done to prepare for an Native American raid should it occur?

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