

New & Old Country Narratives — 1620–1630

Headcounts, drivers, & a working timeline for the decade

New Country (Americas) — headcounts (sketch)

- **Indigenous peoples** remain the overwhelming majority; alliances and rivalries shape every colonial foothold.
- **Virginia** grows through tobacco and headrights but stays dispersed; mortality high.
- **Plymouth** is tiny but cohesive; survival rests on Wampanoag diplomacy and seasonal skill.
- **New Netherland** is a trading outpost network—Fort Orange (1624) upriver; New Amsterdam (1626) at the estuary; population modest and mercantile.
- **Quebec** endures as a small, alliance-anchored post; **St. Augustine** persists as a military-religious node.

New Country — drivers

- Tobacco prices and labor demand spread riverside farms; private landholding accelerates.
- WIC charter (1621) energizes Dutch Atlantic trade; 1629 patroonship charter floats manorial experiments.
- Covenant church life at Plymouth binds settlers to shared discipline and relief.
- Trade corridors (beaver, fish, timber, salt) pull people to specific landings and inlets.
- Disease and war shocks (e.g., 1622 in Virginia) repeatedly reset settlement patterns.

New Country — timeline, 1620–1630 (selected)

- **1620** — Mayflower lands; winter 1620–21 severe; Wampanoag diplomacy follows.
- **1621** — Dutch West India Company chartered; fur and Atlantic schemes expand.
- **1622** — Powhatan/Opechancanough assault in Virginia; colony regroups under arms.
- **1624** — Virginia becomes a royal colony; Fort Orange active upriver.
- **1625** — New Amsterdam grows at the tip of Manhattan.

- **1626** — Peter Minuit’s “purchase” of Manhattan; beaver trade organizes around the post.
 - **1628** — Naumkeag (Salem) planted under Endecott.
 - **1629** — Massachusetts Bay charter; Dutch patroonship charter; migration preparations.
 - **1630** — Winthrop fleet arrives in the Bay; Boston founded (anchor point for next decade).
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Old Country (Europe) — drivers

- **Thirty Years’ War** redraws power and devastates corridors from Bohemia to the Rhine.
- The **Dutch Republic** leans into maritime trade and finance; truce with Spain ends (1621).
- **England** wrestles with revenue and religion (Petition of Right 1628; Charles I’s Personal Rule 1629).
- **France** consolidates under Richelieu (from 1624), shaping Atlantic priorities.
- **Prices, coin, and enclosure** keep nudging smallholders and craftspeople toward towns and circuits.

Old Country — timeline, 1620–1630 (selected)

- **1620** — Battle of White Mountain; Habsburg recovery in Bohemia.
 - **1621** — Twelve Years’ Truce ends; WIC chartered.
 - **1624** — Richelieu becomes chief minister; policy steadies.
 - **1625** — Charles I ascends in England.
 - **1628** — Petition of Right; fiscal/religious debates harden.
 - **1629** — Charles I dissolves Parliament; Personal Rule begins.
 - **1630** — Gustavus Adolphus lands in Germany; Swedish phase of the war opens.
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Reading the two together

Use the **drivers** sections to interpret why families move, borrow, or marry where they do; use the **timelines** to anchor specific records (patents, baptisms, musters, notarial acts). Headcounts remind us that European colonies are still tiny and contingent.