Massachusetts and Virginia were two English colonies founded in the early 17th-century. Please write an essay describing the nature of their early development by exploring them through the following themes:

a) motivation to settle

b) economic development

c) labor systems

d) political formations

e) family life

f) social interaction.

To conclude your essay, explain (in no more than a couple sentences for each) how Bacon’s Rebellion and King Philip’s War (both in 1676) defined both colonies’ racial situation.

Nature of early development in Virginia:

1. **Economic development**- In **1614** the rivers in Virginia were used to plant tobacco. Tobacco was a very great source of income. It was called a **cash crop**. They would harvest tobacco and export it to Europe. Virginia was dependent on their **monocultural** **staple** crop, tobacco, so they had to import all their food and necessities. They also had to plant and harvest all tobacco fields at once because the European ships would come **only once a yea**r. Tobacco was owned by a small group of wealthy people called **elite** planters.
2. **Labor**- Virginia was a **labor-intensive** colony. Tobacco was very labor intensive to grow. It had to be taken care of every day. The elite planter would bring laborers from England by a contract called **indentured servitude**. This contract said the laborers would work for the planters in the tobacco fields for 7 years and in return will be given 50 acres of land. This contract brought tens of thousands of laborers to Virginia. The planters beat and starved the laborers. They tortured the laborers more when they reached year 5 to 7. Many laborers even died. Only 40% of them survived and became land owners. The land they got were very far away from the tobacco fields. The indenture servitude led the planters become very **heartless** who treated the laborers very brutally. Their next generation eventually started slavery.
3. **Politics** – the colony was established by the **Virginia company** that was in England. The government was a group of directors and they were very far away from the laborers and did not understand their situation. In **1619**, Virginia created their own government. It was the first representative government in North America called **House of Burgesses**. The laborers were not allowed to vote. They made very specific laws such as cows trespassing tobacco fields, taxing tobacco, building roads etc. it was a governing system for elite planters by the planters. The Virginia company allowed them to make their own laws only if they are more productive. The representative government was under the rule of empire of England.
4. **Social** **life** –How the planters interacted with each other- the planters lived very far away isolated from each other in huge houses beside their tobacco plantation. They mainly interacted with the laborers. So, they created artificial gathering to show off their wealth. All planters and laborers meet up 3 or 4 times a year. The events called **court days** lasted for a week. They would bring their horses, carriages and wrestled. The events had **social psychological** benefits.
5. **Family life**- The settlers wanted to make similar family life like England. Their definition of ideal family was a **nuclear family** with well-defined roles and submissive children. However, it was far from reality. The life expectancy of men in Virginia was only 42 to 45 and 45 to 46 for women. This was due to the reason they lived in a diseased area. Virginia was populated with **80% men and 20%** **women**. The planters (aged about 30) would marry the youngest servants (around age 17). When the wives grew older, their husbands would die. They would get ownership of all the property and get remarried. They were called **serial widowers**. There were a lot of orphans.
6. **Motivation** – people would go to Virginia for **economic improvement** and have better living standards. Virginia was the **central of trade** of the colonial era. Not religious.

Nature of early development in Massachusetts.

1. **Motivation** – This colony was started by a small group of white, wealthy **Puritans** in **1629.** A lawyer named John Winthrop established this colony. He was a devoted puritan. Puritans believed in purification. They believed people had personal relationship with god and didn’t require a bureaucracy or any rituals. The English church didn’t accept their ideas. John decided to start a new colony elsewhere based on their ideology. He forms the **Massachusetts** **Bay** **company**. They wanted to create a **covenant** community which will be a reflection of kingdom of god. People will live in unification with **justice** and **mercy.** He aspired to build a city upon a hill that will be looked upon. Utopian vision rooted with covenant community.
2. **Economic development** – Massachusetts had a **mixed** economy. Their economy reflections their motivation. They had small scaled, wide range of crops only to feed the community. People traded fairly with each other to improve their covenant unison. To bring income they traded overseas. The diversified economy led to fair distribution of wealth. They used their wealth on roads, public services, and crops. Their main trades were **whaling** and **codfish** industries. Whale oil was important oil lamps. Codfish was preserved with salt and exported. They also traded **hardwood** to build ships, which later caused deforestation. It was a mixed and diverse economy and much stabler than Virginia.
3. **Labor** – they didn’t allow other people inside the colony but they needed labor. So, they had big families about 8-13 children. Life expectancy was 71-73. The children started working very young. Women worked in the kitchen and men worked in the farms. The children were **units of labor**. They believed that sex pleasure was important for more children. If a couple were not having children the husband was called **deficient husband**. They would get divorced and remarry. The puritans work ethic - were very hardworking because they believed if they worked hard and were focused, they will get a message from god called as gods **caress**. They would be the chosen ones. The ministers said the caress would come during work.
4. **Politics** – It is a representative government system called the **General Court**. 2 representatives are elected annually from each town. There were no rebels. On town level, there are weekly town meetings where everyone is allowed to come and had a say.
5. **Family life** – ideal family was nuclear family. They were able to maintain these **cohesive** families. They treated their families as **common wealth**. It was a covenant notion. The families were made of love, care and gendered roles. Gendered division of labor.
6. **Social life** – in this colony people lived close in a **condensed** town. Their houses are around a common area where they had meetings and outside, they had farm. For covenant and trading and invigilating others. No one had **privacy** because they believed if they are alone, their minds might wander somewhere unethical.

Despite all the differences between these colonies, the Bacon’s Rebellion in Virginia and King Philips War in Massachusetts in **1676** had similar outcomes. In Bacon’s Rebellion, the planters wanted to stop future uprising against them. They started racial disparity and white supremacy. They defined blacks as property and poor whites benefited from it. King Philips war happened between puritans and native Americans due to two reasons- **religion** and **cattle**. After the war puritans captivated native Americans and sold them to slavery and started white supremacy.

Virginia

Economic development –

* Tobacco was cash crop, monocultural
* Exported to Europe and import all food and necessities
* Harvest all at once
* Who are elite planters

Labor –

* Tobacco was labor intensive to grow
* Indenture servitude
* Planters worked laborer to death
* Land they got was far away from mainland
* Led to slavery

Politics –

* Virginia company
* House of Burgesses
* Government for the planters by the planters

Social life –

* Planters’ vs Native Americans, warfare
* The king took in charge
* Planters and planters
* Court days and what happened

Family life –

* Not nuclear families
* Low life expectancy
* Serial widowers

Motivation –

* Economic improvement
* Better living standards
* Central of trade in colonial era

Massachusetts

Motivation-

* wealthy, powerful Puritans
* Massachusetts Bay company
* New colony with covenant community
* Justice and mercy

Economy –

* Mixed economy
* Wide range of crops, fair trade with each other
* Whale, codfish, hardwood
* Diverse economy and stabler than Virginia

Labor –

* 8-13 children, long life expectancy 71-73
* Units of labor- children
* Very hardworking
* Caress, chosen one

Politics –

* The general court
* 2 reps from each town
* No rebels, all had a say

Family life-

* Ideal family was achieved
* Cohesive families, covenant notion
* Family- common wealth

Social life –

* Condensed towns
* No privacy, if alone minds might wander