Jesse Evers

Mr. Mahar

History

Period 3

**Reasons for New England and the Chesapeake's Differences in Society**

The difference in the societies of New England and the Chesapeake was caused primarily by the reasons for which immigrants traveled to each region. People generally colonized New England if they were seeking religious freedom and/or if they had families. The Chesapeake was settled by young entrepeneurs looking to grow cash crops and make their fortune on plantations. The culture of the immigrants of each area was very different, leading to a cleft between the two societies.

The many Puritans who settled in New England believed in close-knit groups. They strongly supported the cohesion of the rich and the poor to make the community better for everyone (Doc A). The Puritan Church made laws preventing excess profit because they viewed profit past what is needed to survive as a sin (Doc E). This further discouraged lone entrepreneurs from coming to New England, since their primary motive was profit, which they did not want curbed by local laws if they could avoid it. The Puritans also strove to make sure that everybody had equal quality of living, as opposed to competing for the best lifestyle. It was required in New England that each town promised to provid adequate area for housing and farming for each family living in it before it was allowed to be created (Doc D). The residents of the Chesapeake were trying to push each other out of the arena, rather than making sure that they left room for each other. The two places' had a totally different style of living, bringing them apart from each other culturally.

Almost all of the immigrants to the Chesapeake were single and male. They were there for the money in crops like cotton and tobacco. They were not very religious, liked the Chesapeake's longer growing system, and were much more in favor of slave labor than the populace of New England. Eighty-five percent of the people aboard the Merchant's Hope from England going to Virginia were male, and most of them were between the ages of sixteen and thirty (Doc C). In contrast, almost everyone on a ship bound for New England from Britain were either members of families or family servants. Only a few of the people on the ship were by themselves. There were children as young as one year old and adults as old as forty (Doc B). Families have a different impact on culture than an abundance of single men would. This made the divide in the Chesapeake and New England societies even larger.

The people of the Chesapeake were far more hungry for glory than the citizens of New England. On a ship bound for Virginia, the “gold searchers” mutinied and tried to change the ship's course back towards England to enact an unknown plan of their own. When the captain of the ship found out about the mutiny, he shot its leader. (Doc F). People such as these were not welcomed in areas primarily full of families, and neither did families want to live in an area populated with this type of people. The more single men came to the Chesapeake, the fewer families came, and this continued until the societies were almost completely separate from each other.

The difference in the type of people who settled in New England as opposed to those who settled in the Chesapeake was exacerbated by the goals of the different groups of people. Their customs brought their societies farther and farther apart until their cultures were extremely different from each other.