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Chapter 2/3 Test DBQ

The American Colonies were destinations for immigrants for mainly Europeans during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. However, the colonies in the North developed very differently from the colonies of the Chesapeake region, both economically and socially. My thesis is that the northern and southern American Colonies developed in different ways due to the different groups of people who first settled there. The Puritan Families of the north, who came escaping religious persecution, created a much different society than the economically motivated colonists of the south.

The north became populated with towns where the first residents did their best to raise the quality of life for all. The first people to arrive in New England were the Pilgrims and Puritans, who hoped to create a hope away from religious prosecution in England and hoped to start a safe society around family and religion. Doc B These people came as families, which is clear from the arrival transcripts. For each man, there was at least one woman, and many people came in large families, bringing children and servants. Doc A John Winthrop was one of the first colonists, and he had grand aspirations for the colony, hoping to create a place with ideals of a City Upon a Hill. Doc D The northern colonists created social contracts and order soon after they arrived, with their Covenant Theology ideals and religion motivating many to work hard and to grow their town. Along with their immense faith in church, the colonists had elected committees and courts, which made self-representation normal across America. Doc E Their goals for the communal good even extended to create standards for wages and prices of goods, in order to reduce poverty. Most of these acts by the northern colonists didn’t make much money but did create a religious haven for Puritans families. These people constantly worked to better their lives, with their devoted Puritan Ethics. These first Puritans, whether they did it due to their humanity or desperation, created a society which was safe and good for the common man.

The Chesapeake region was settled by the same country as the northern colonies, but the culture and society turned out much different. The first difference was the demographic which settled the south. Doc C The first emigrants to Virginia were almost all men, already an unsustainable population. Doc F These were second sons, who inherited nothing from their parents, ambitious gold-diggers, who came to make a quick fortune, and indentured servants, who were willing to work for a passage to America. They came on behalf of companies practicing bullionism and mercantilism and were not looking to settle down, but to just make some money. When these prospects did not turn out well, the southern colonists turned to cash crops, such as tobacco, and slavery. Doc G The demographics of the southern colonists were not good for the overall wellbeing as well. Doc G The high population of single men led to less faith and attachment to the colony, and many of these men were willing to leave at any time or at any sign of danger. Compared to the northern settlers, whose families and connection to the towns caused them to be faithful to their colony, the southern colonists were unstable, and thus the colony was unstable. The immigrants who came as indentured servants also very volatile. Doc H Many of them were unable to find work after their service was complete, and this resulted in Bacon’s Rebellion. The southern colonies developed to be much less stable than the northern colonies, and this was mostly due to the early settlers, who came without families or a goal to create a long-lasting community.

The northern and southern colonies were much different in the 1600s and developed very different ways of life. This is mainly due to the first settlers of each region and the differing values of the Puritans and the Chesapeake settlers.