

# The Rise and Fall of “Christian America”

John Turner

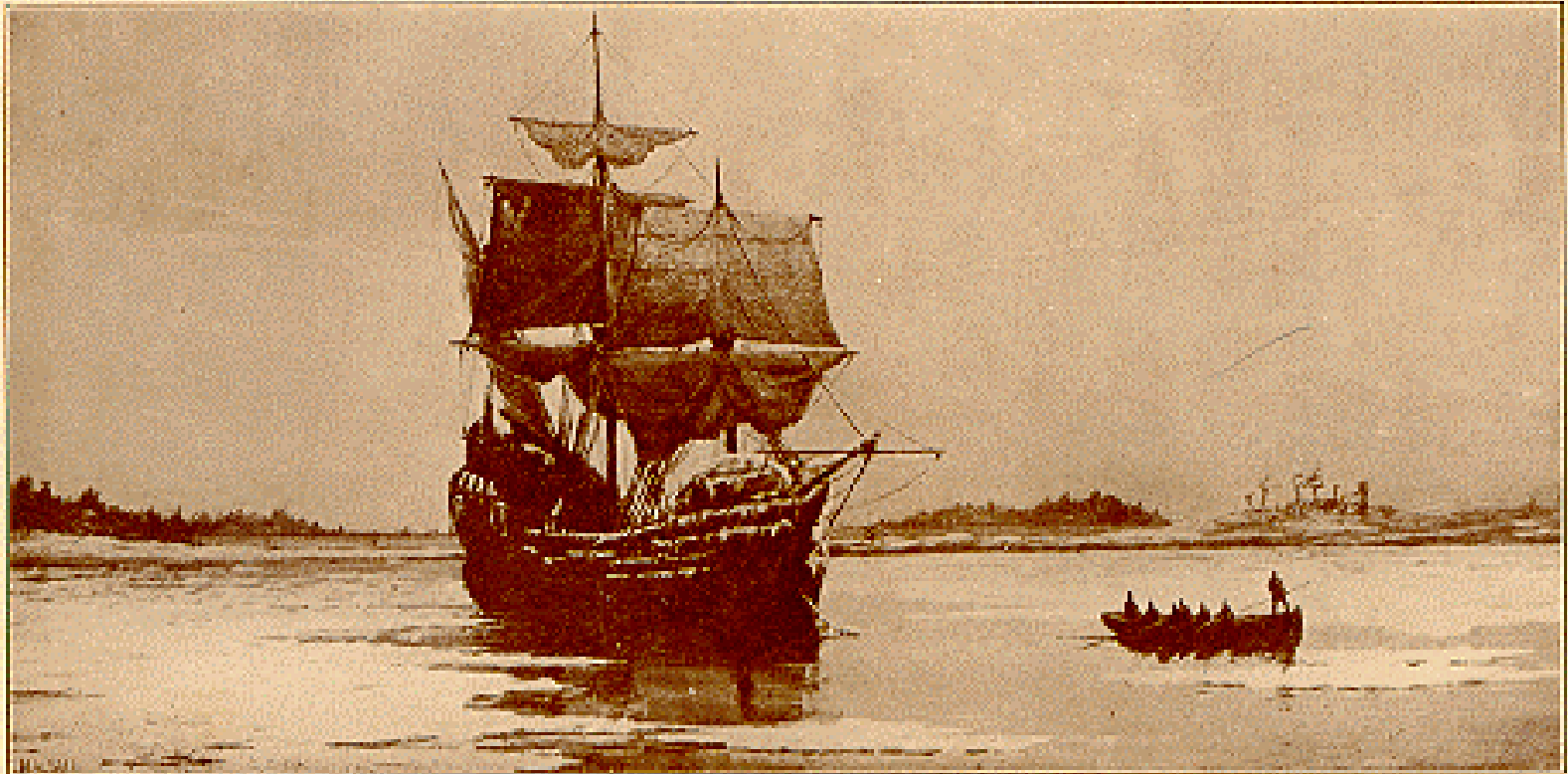
Department of Religious Studies

George Mason University

# The Rise and Fall of “Christian America”

1. Puritans, Separatists, and Dissenters in New England.
2. Religion and the Founding of the United States.
3. Religious minorities (esp. Mormons) in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America.
4. “Christian America” and the “Religious Right.”

# Pilgrims, Puritans, and New England Religion



*Photograph by A. S. Burbank, Plymouth*

*From the Painting by W. P. Beals*

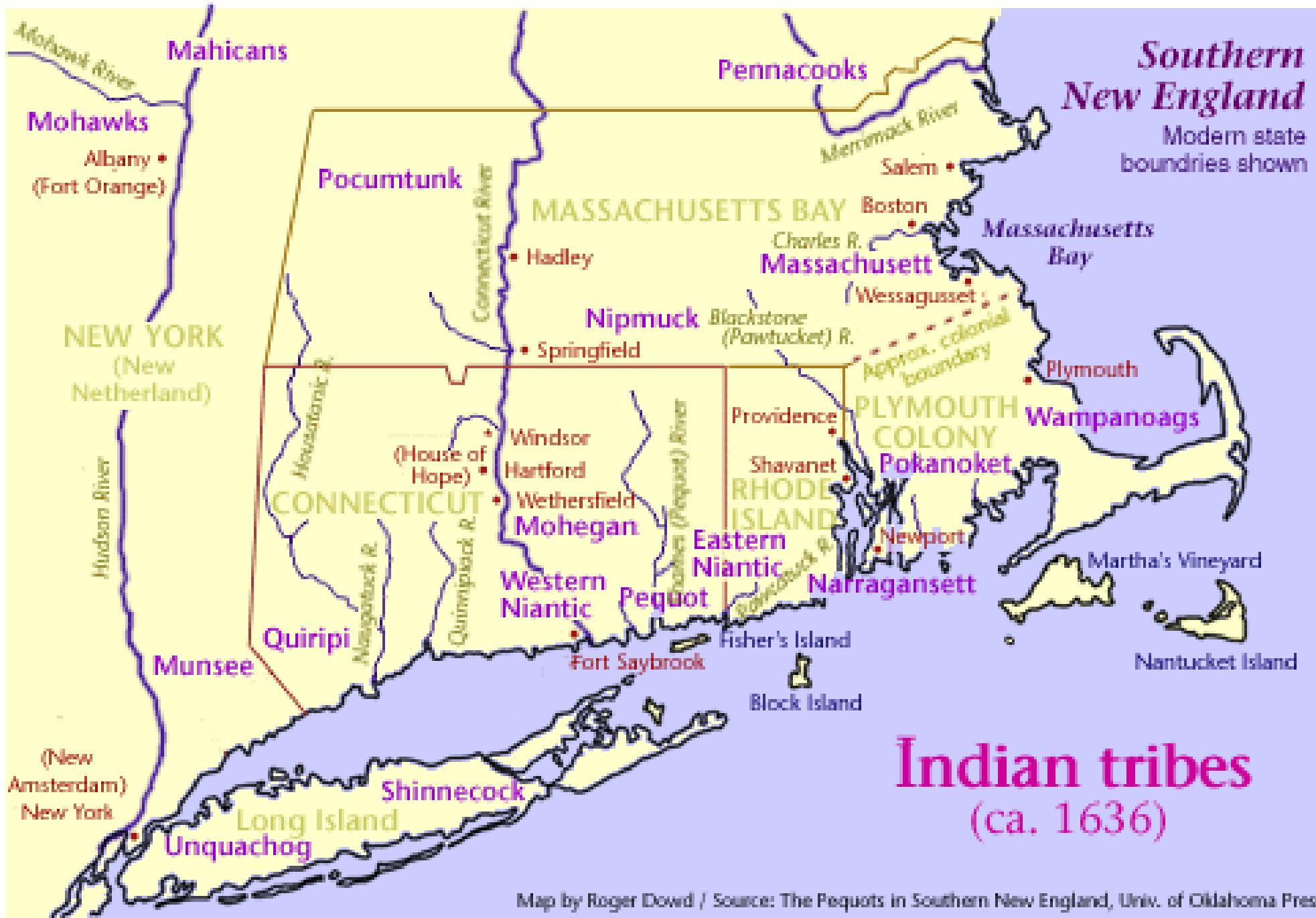
THE MAYFLOWER IN PLYMOUTH HARBOUR

# Outline

1. The “Pilgrims,” “the “Particulars,” and the Indians.
2. Massachusetts Bay.
3. The Decline of Puritanism.

# Pilgrims = Puritans?

1. “separatists” / “Brownists”, *Mayflower* (1620), Plymouth, William Bradford. “The hottest sort of Puritans.”
  2. “Puritans,” 1629-, Massachusetts Bay, John Winthrop.
- Protestant, Calvinist.
  - Congregationalist (“separatists” were, Massachusetts “became”),
  - Qualifications for church membership.



# Massasoit (Wampanoag sachem)

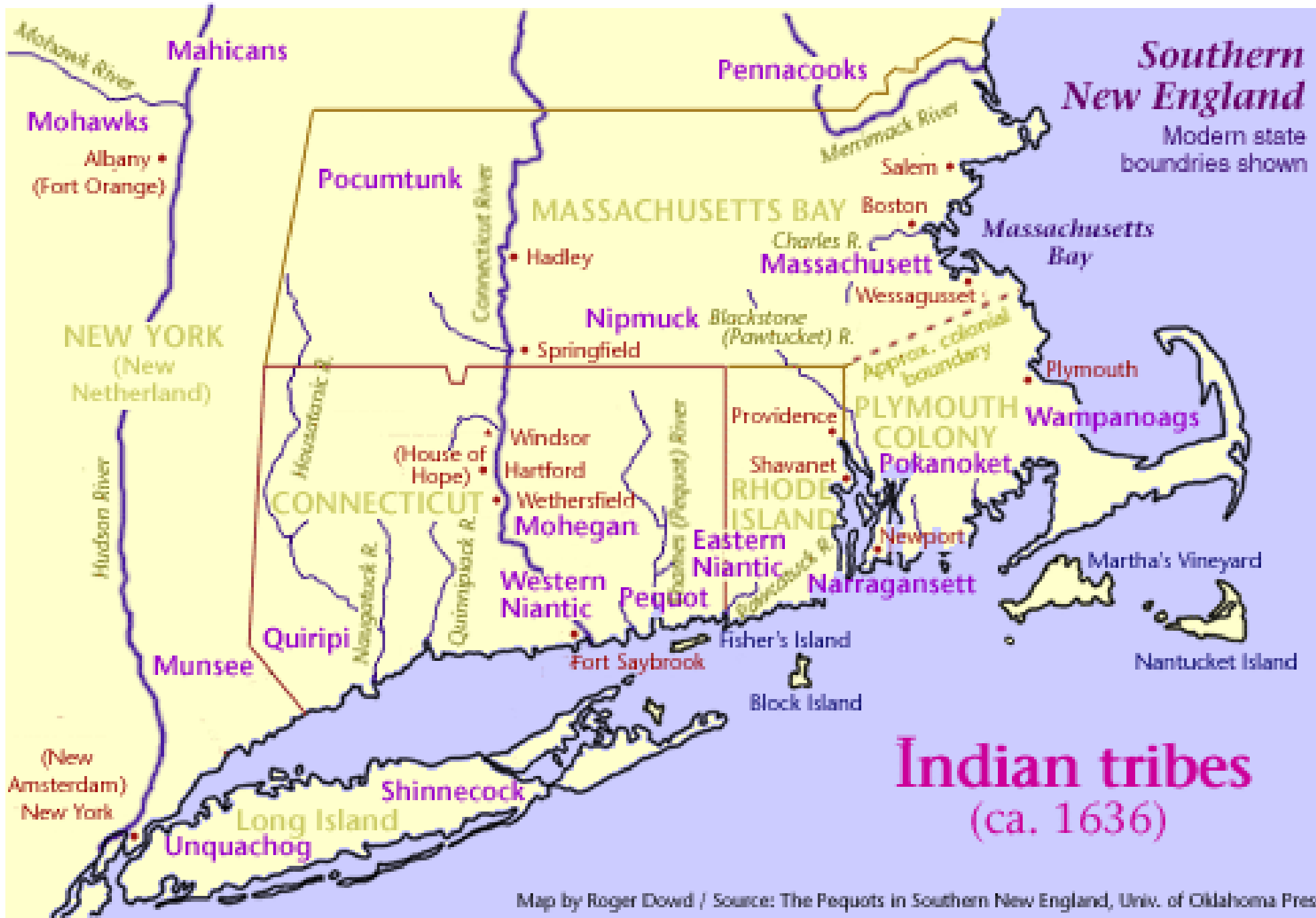


# Dissent in Plymouth

- Rev. John Lyford, John Oldham.
- Thomas Morton and Merrymount.







Map by Roger Dowd / Source: The Pequots in Southern New England, Univ. of Oklahoma Press

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# Winthrop, “Model of Christian Charity”

GOD ALMIGHTY in his most holy and wise providence, hath so disposed of the condition of mankind, as in all times some must be rich, some poor, some high and eminent in power and dignity; others mean and in submission.

# Winthrop, “Model of Christian Charity”

The definition which the Scripture gives us of love is this: *Love is the bond of perfection*. First it is a bond or ligament. Secondly it makes the work perfect. There is no body but consists of parts, and that which knits these parts together, gives the body its perfection, because it makes each part so contiguous to others as thereby they do mutually participate with each other, both in strength and infirmity, in pleasure and pain. To instance in the most perfect of all bodies; Christ and his Church make one body.

# Winthrop, “Model of Christian Charity”

The next consideration is how this love comes to be wrought. Adam in his first estate was a perfect model of mankind in all their generations, and in him this love was perfected in regard of the habit. But Adam rent himself from his Creator, rent all his posterity also one from another; whence it comes that every man is borne with this principle in him: to love and seek himself only, and thus a man continueth till Christ comes and takes possession of the soul and infuseth another principle, love to God and our brother, and this latter having continual supply from Christ, as the head and root by which he is united, gets the predomining in the soul, so by little and little expels the former.

[Division between “wicked” and “regenerate.”]

# Winthrop, Application:

That which the most in their churches maintain as truth in profession only, we must bring into familiar and constant practice; as in this duty of love, we must love brotherly without dissimulation, we must love one another with a pure heart fervently. We must bear one another's burdens. We must not look only on our own things, but also on the things of our brethren.

# Winthrop, Application:

We are entered into covenant with Him for this work...if we shall fall to embrace this present world and prosecute our carnal intentions, seeking great things for ourselves and our posterity, the Lord will surely break out in wrath against us; be revenged of such a [sinful] people and make us know the price of the breaches of such a covenant.

# Winthrop, Application:

Now the only way to avoid this shipwreck, and to provide for our posterity, is to follow the counsel of Micah, *to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God*. For this end, we must be knit together, in this work, as one man. We must entertain each other in brotherly affection. We must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities, for the supply of other's necessities.... We shall find that the God of Israel is among us, when ten of us shall be able to resist a thousand of our enemies; when he shall make us a praise and glory that men shall say of succeeding plantations, "the Lord make it likely that of *New England*." For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us.



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# Uncas (Mohegan sachem)



# Pequot War



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Engraving. Library of Congress.

# John Eliot “praying Indians”

# Religious Dissent

- Roger Williams
- Anne Hutchinson

# Puritan New England: Collapse

1660s – Halfway Covenant.

1692 – Revocation of original charters, creation of joint Province of Massachusetts. Legal protections for Church of England.