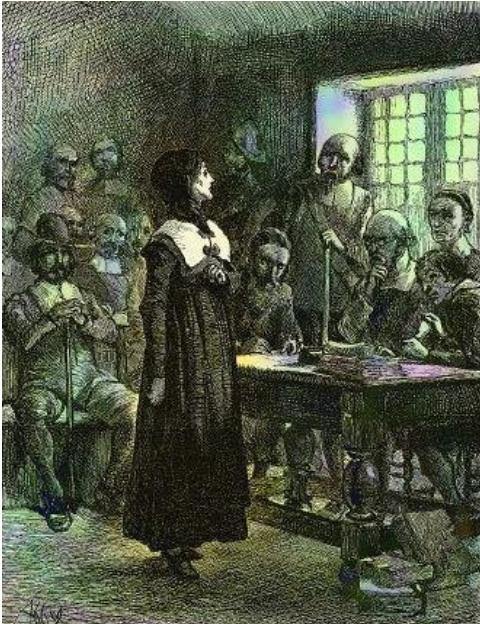


Homework: Comparing and Contrasting New England Rebels

Directions:

1. Complete the readings below about Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson, and Thomas Hooker.
2. On a separate sheet of paper, create a table or Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the three.

1. Anne Hutchinson

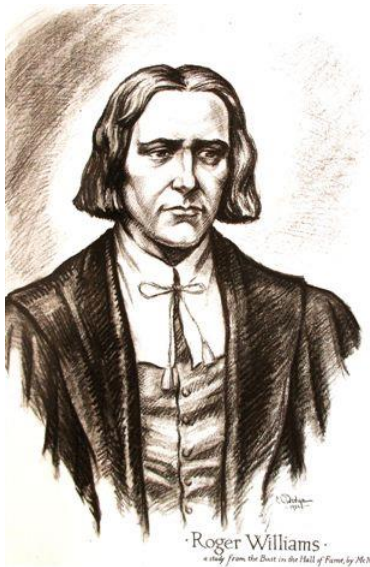


(From: Kennedy, David M., Elizabeth Cohen, and Thomas A. Bailey. *The American Pageant: A History of the Republic*. 12th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.)

The Puritans were highly religious, basing their beliefs on the teachings of a man named John Calvin. They believed in a God who was all-powerful and all-good. Humans, because of original sin, were weak and wicked. God was also all-knowing, and from the first moment of creation some people – the **elect** – had been destined for heaven and others for hell. This was called “predestination.” Puritans also believed that you could tell the elect because they had dramatic “conversion” experiences where God revealed their destiny to them.

One important person in the history of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was **Anne Hutchinson**. She was an exceptionally intelligent, strong-willed, and talkative woman. She got into trouble with the church when she claimed that people who were truly members of the **elect** did not need to bother to obey the law of either God or man. This belief (called *antinomianism*, “against the law” in Greek), was highly unacceptable to church leaders. Brought to trial in 1638, Anne outwitted her interrogators for days, until she eventually bragged that her beliefs came to her through a direct revelation from God. The Puritan leaders banished her from the colony. With her husband and children (she ultimately had 14!), she set out pregnant and on foot for Rhode Island. She later moved to New York, where she and all but one of her household were killed by Native Americans.

2. Roger Williams



(From: Kennedy, David M., Elizabeth Cohen, and Thomas A. Bailey. *The American Pageant: A History of the Republic*. 12th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.)

Roger Williams was a popular minister in Salem, in the Massachusetts Bay colony. He had radical ideas, among which was a criticism of Massachusetts’ policy of taking land from the Indians without fair compensation (payment). He also denied the right of the government to control religious behavior. All of this upset the leaders of religiously strict Massachusetts, and Williams was banished.

Helped by the Narragansets, Roger Williams fled to the Rhode Island area in 1636, in the midst of a bitter winter. Williams established the colony of Rhode Island with complete freedom of religion, including for Jews and Catholics. He demanded no oaths regarding religious beliefs, no compulsory attendance at church, no taxes to support a state church. Those outcasts who followed Roger Williams to Rhode Island enjoyed additional freedoms. They had universal voting for all men from the start, though this was later narrowed by property qualifications.

Other scattered settlements soon dotted Rhode Island. They consisted largely of people who had been banished from Massachusetts and people unhappy to live in other colonies. Many of these restless people had little in common with Williams, except being unwelcome anywhere else. Begun as a squatter colony in 1636 without legal standing, it finally established rights when it secured a charter from Parliament in 1644.

3. Thomas Hooker

(From: Bower, Bert, and Lobdell, Jim. *History Alive! The United States*. Palo Alto: Teachers' Curriculum Institute, 2002. And from: "Thomas Hooker." Britannia.com. Britannia.com, LLC., n.d. Web. 11 Sept. 2012.)



Thomas Hooker was a Puritan clergyman who lived in New Towne, a fast-growing community next to Boston. Hooker didn't agree with the laws and leadership in Massachusetts. John Cotton, one of the leaders, wanted to set up a community in which only men who were members of the church and owned property (land) could vote. Thomas Hooker, like Cotton, wanted to build a godly community, but he believed all the men should have a voice and a vote. When he heard about a fertile valley along a river to the west, he convinced his family and about 100 other people to move there with him.

It took Hooker and his followers two weeks to travel to the Connecticut Valley with all their animals and belongings. There they established a settlement on the site of an old Dutch fort where an earlier group of English colonists had settled. They called their new community Hartford. In 1639, Hartford joined with two other settlements to form the colony of Connecticut.

Hooker believed that government should be based on the "free consent of the people, to whom belongs the choice of public magistrates [officials], by God's own allowance." He helped draw up the first written constitution (plan of government) in America. This document was called the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**. The Fundamental Orders guaranteed the right to vote to all men who were members of the Puritan church.