Church History



This is a Pilgrim... except it probably isn't...

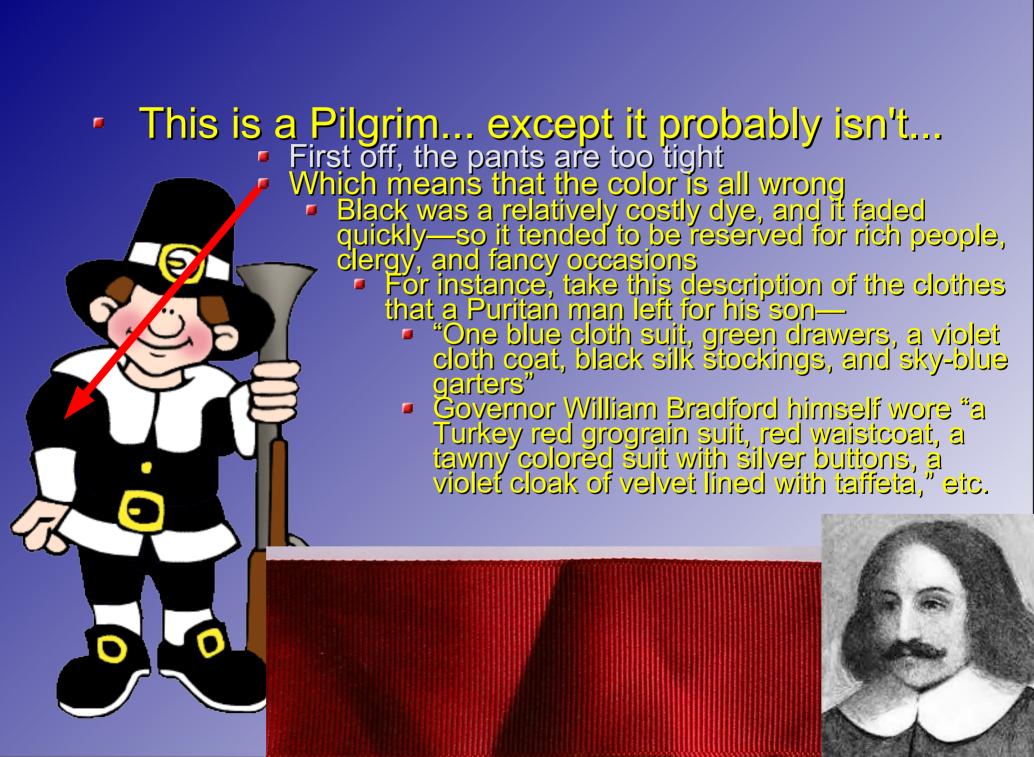
First off, the pants are too tight

Most Puritans at this time wore some variation of the Dutch "slops" that were popular among the general populace (in both Holland and England) (in part because most Puritans were, at that time, everyday people, not particularly wealthy)









This is a Pilgrim... except it probably isn't...

First off, the pants are too tight

Which means that the color is all wrong

Black was a relatively costly dye, and it faded
quickly—so it tended to be reserved for rich people,
clergy, and fancy occasions

For instance, take this description of the clothes
that a Puritan man left for his son
So—contrary to popular opinion—though the
Puritans did emphasize being relatively simple
in their style of dress, being "simple" actually
meant being more colorful in their clothing than
we often tend to think of them

(and "simple" is a relative term for the era.

(and "simple" is a relative term for the era, when "fancy" dress for men looked like this)





This is a Pilgrim... except it probably isn't...
First off, the pants are too tight
Which means that the color is all wrong
And they wouldn't have had so many buckles
Buckles didn't start appearing on shoes or hats until
the end of the century
And most men wore their belts under their doublets







This is a Pilgrim... except it probably isn't...

First off, the pants are too tight
Which means that the color is all wrong
And they wouldn't have had so many buckles
And this weapon is called a blunderbuss
Think of it like an early, flintlock "shotgun"
There's debate about whether or not iney'd even been invented by 1620

But even if they had been, they were extremely rare in the Americas, so there's very little chance that the Pilgrims had brought them along with them on the Mayflower



This is more how a Pilgrim would've looked...
Or, at its roughest, most basic style, like this





Church History

- Introduction to Church History
- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment
- The Age of Revolution
- The Modern Age
- The Postmodern Age

- AD 1st-3rd centuries
- AD 4th-5th centuries
- AD 6th-10th centuries
- AD 11th-13th centuries
- AD 14th-15th centuries
- AD 16th century
- AD 17th-18th centuries
- AD 19th century
- AD 20th century
- AD 21st century

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- Introduction to Church History
- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment (sort of)
 - The Proto-Enlightenment
 - New Worlds (part 2)

AD 1st-3rd centuries

AD 4th-5th centuries

AD 6th-10th centuries

AD 11th-13th centuries

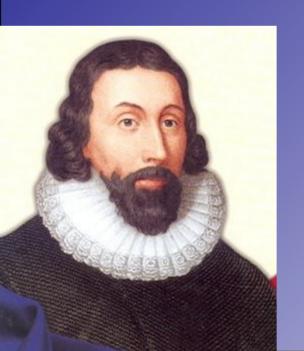
AD 14th-15th centuries

AD 16th century

AD 17th-18th centuries



Things started kicking into gear over here 1630 John Winthrop preached about a "city on a hill"



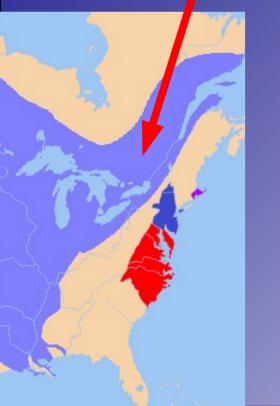


Funky little teaching moment—
Remember how the colonies are laid out now france owned the largest chunk of North America—basically, because they invested in exploring it and

(Spain is supposed to own North America, but they're mostly just puttering around the southwest, looking for cities of gold or building Jesuit missions)

(And none of the Protestant countries cared that the Pope said that Spain was supposed to own

North America)





Funky little teaching moment—
Remember how the colonies are laid out now
France owned the largest chunk of North America
The Dutch owned New Amsterdam, and were
enjoying the beaver fur trade that they'd begun there
The British Puritan Separatists known as the
"Pilgrims" had left Holland to found the Plymouth

(So was that a *British* colony or a *Dutch* colony?)





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The English had the Jamestown-based Virginia
Colony, and now had the new Massachusetts Bay
Colony, right next door to Plymouth

(Making Plymouth, for all Intents and purposes, into
a straight-up British colony)

If you were New Amsterdam, what might you be
thinking, right about now?

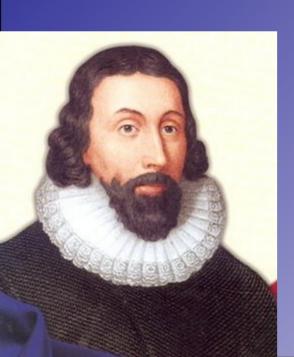
Today, we tend to think that, what with this
nearly infinite amount of new land, surely we'd
have left all of that territoriality behind back in
Furoce right? Europe, right?

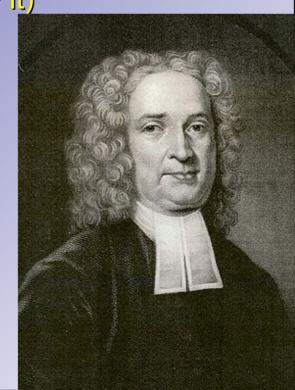
You never change human beings by changing their external situations...

Things started kicking into gear over here

1630
John Winthrop preached about a "city on a hill"
A flotilla of ships carried over 700 colonists to the new Massachusetts Bay Colony—including new governor, John Winthrop

(Note: The ships were launched with a sermon by Winthrop's friend, a very sad John Cotton—a fellow Puritan who was upset that the Separatist colonists couldn't find a way to work within the Church of England to purify it)





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On board the Arbella, Winthrop gave a lay sermon on being "A Model of Christian Charity"—about the importance of unity and community in living out the heart of the Gospel
He cited Matthew 5:14, arguing that by being such good models of Christian love toward one another, they could show the rest of the world a "perfect society" that honors Christ above all





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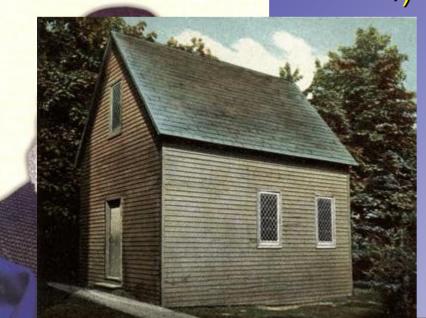
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Winthrop argued for being pure Puritans, and not letting outside ideas infiltrate and taint their pure theology and polity

(Ironically, Winthop himself was denied communion at the Salem Church because Pastor Samuel Skelton there

because Pastor Samuel Skelton there didn't think Winthrop was separated—

and thus Reformed—enough)

(This sort of thing is going to become really important later, when people like Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams pop onto the scene)



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2) The sermon set the stage for the doctrine of "American exceptionalism"—the sense that America was something truly unique and God-honoring at its core, in a way that no other country had ever been—and that we were thus something of a model Christian nation, a "New Jerusalem"

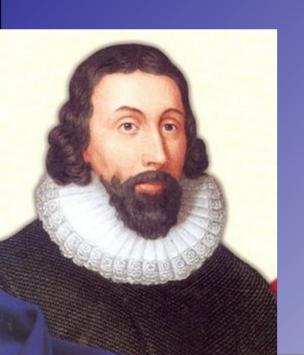


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This has been echoed by countless ministers, politicians, and presidents (including John F. Kennedy in 1961 Ronald Reagan in multiple speeches Bill Clinton in 1996, George W. Bush in 2004, and Barack Obama in 2004, and Barack **Obama in 2006)**

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This has been echoed by countless ministers, politicians, and presidents, and paved the way not only for American evangelistic explosions, both across the country and around the world, but also for American expansionism justified by "bringing the American ideal" to everyone else



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1631

Toger Williams moved to Boston
Trained in England as a jurist and theologian,
Williams found himself a Separatist, even among
the Separatists, seeing all churches as corrupt
He originally came to the New World to share the
Gospel with Native American tribes—and even
learned the languages and customs of the tribes
—but the more he studied, the more he came to
believe that there was no church left in the world to baptize them into

He was such a well-respected theologian that the Boston and Salem churches each asked him to be their pastor, but he declined—he could have no communion with any church (Note: Winthrop argued that Williams was more than a little confused, since he continued having communion with his own wife—and that would constitute at least a tiny little church right there)

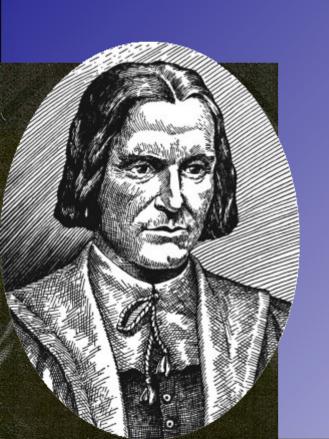


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This brought him into dispute with others such as John Cotton—who had now come to the New World himself, having been persecuted in England
Cotton preached that Separatism was wrong—Williams preached that it didn't go far enough
Cotton preached that secular governments must base their laws on the Ten Commandments—

Williams preached that government and religion should have no connection with one another Whatsoever

Each individual Christian must live out his or her faith alone, in communion with God, with <u>no</u> outside intervention



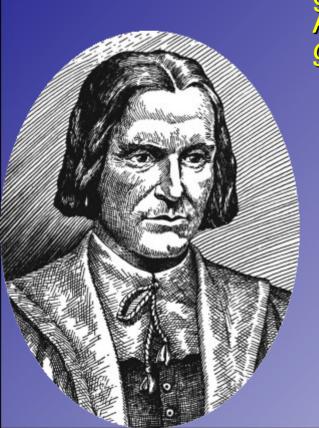
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In 1632, Williams issued a tract that berated the
government for its treatment of the Native

American tribes, saying that no British king can just give their land away by "Divine right"

The authorities took him to task for such "seditious talk," but Rev. Skelton came to his support, and brought him under the authority of his own Salem Church for his own protection

But once Skelton died in 1635, Williams began denouncing "soul yokes," preaching "soul liberty"—the idea that every human being has the right and obligation to choose their own way of worshipping the Lord, ultimately standing before God and being held personally accountable for their faith (because "forced worship stinks in God's nostrils")



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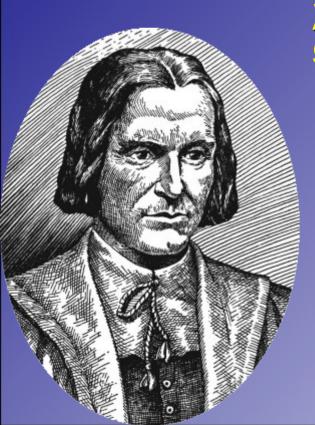
This didn't go over well with other churches

Pastor Thomas Shepard of Cambridge said,

"Tis Satan's policy to plead for an indefinite and boundless toleration"

Pastor Nathaniel Ward of loswich said that

Pastor Nathaniel Ward of Ipswich said that the only liberty for people like Williams was "free liberty to keep away from us..."



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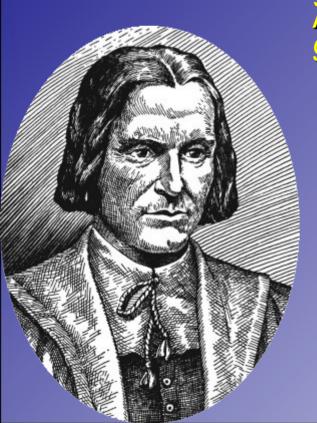
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Williams called for the Salem Church to separate themselves from all other corrupt churches...

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So they booted him out of the church, and then he was exiled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony on charges of sedition and heresy He left the colony and settled on land that he'd purchased from the Narragansetts...



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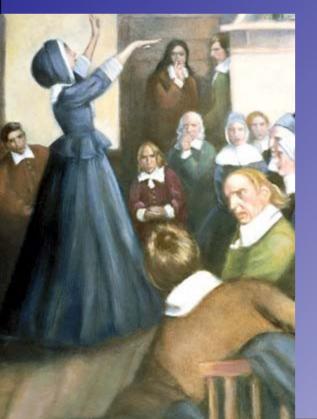
1638 Anne Hutchinson was banished as a heretic

The daughter of an Anglican minister, Hutchinson hosted discussions after church each week in her home—not small group discussions, mind you, but sometimes upwards of 60 people

Her pastor—John Cotton—preached a little bit differently than the other Puritan ministers did

Most Puritan pastors were

preaching "preparationism"
(i.e.; the need to "prepare"
yourself to receive God's grace—before you can become a Christian, you need to read the Bible, attend church services, and basically get your life "right" so that God can forgive you for your sins)



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Most Puritan pastors were preaching "preparationism" and the need to "evidence" your justification by your obvious sanctification

It sounds Arminian, but

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it's actually from extreme
Calvinism—you have no
idea if you're one of the
Elect until your sanctified
life clearly demonstrates
that you've been saved



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But Cotton (and Hutchinson, and John Wheelwright—Hutchinson's brother-in-law)

Hutchinson's brother-in-law) preached that this is a works-

oriented salvation, and at odds with God's grace lit's like saying that you've got to get healthy before the doctor would even be willing to treat you...



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home—not small group discussions, mind you, but sometimes upwards of 60 people
Though Cotton started the controversy with his preaching, Hutchinson made it incindiary with her more pointed criticisms of everyone else's pastors In 1636, she and other "free grace" leaders were brought before a colonial council to answer charges of heresy and slander

 Taking her comments out of context, they accused Hutchinson of encouraging immorality
 Cotton tried to pacify everyone and called for unity and a gracious spirit, but the damage was already done...





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In 1637, both Wheelwright and Hutchinson were banished on charges of sedition and heresy, but Hutchinson was held in contempt of court until she

could also be tried by the church as well
In 1638, the gathered pastors excommunicated her and anyone who would support her
She was forced out of the community...

...but she and her followers were welcomed onto Roger Williams' lands—which he'd named, "God's Providence"



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Anne Hutchinson was banished as a heretic
Pastor John Harvard died He was a learned scholar and minister, who had come from England with his new wife in 1637
When he died at the young age of 30 from tuberculosis, the popular minister bequeathed half of his fortune—a total of £779—and his library of 400+ books to help start up the local College of New Towne, being built in nearby Cambridge (planning for which had begun in 1636 to help train Puritan ministers)

In appreciation, the next year, the College renamed itself in his honor—"the Colledge agreed upon formerly to bee built at Cambridg shalbee called Harvard Colledge..."





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New Sweden was established

Feeling a little put out that everyone else seemed to have a piece of the New World but her—and being one of the brighter monarchs in Europe—Queen Kristina authorized a colony for Sweden In fact, the Swedes even hired Peter Minuit

(the Dutch former Governor of New Amsterdam—who had so farnously bought Manhattan Island from the [wrong] Indians back in 1626)

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Queen Kristina authorized a colony for Sweden
In fact, the Swedes even hired
Peter Minuit to lead the first
expedition to set things up
(BTW—if you feel like saying,
"Hey, I didn't know that there
was a 'New Sweden' here, too!"
don't feel too bad about it—
it only lasted 17 years, before it
was gobbled back up by New
Amsterdam in 1655)



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Roger Williams founded Rhode Island colony
It had been hard for Williams to find a place to live
The colony kept expanding, so they kept making him push out farther and farther west
Eventually, he'd moved to a small island called Aquidneck Island and settled there
(NOTE: Back in 1524, the Florentine explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano had said that it reminded him of the Greek Isle of Rhodes... which is why, in 1637, Williams referred to it in documents as the "Isle of Rodes"—or "Rhode Island") lsland")



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Over time, "Providence" had drawn a number of similarly banished people to come settle there
When the Pequot War broke out in 1637 between tribes (and between the Pequots and the colonists), Williams and his people supported the colonists
He also encouraged the Narragansetts to side with the colonists, and together, they defeated the Pequots
The other colonials didn't like Williams, but they had to admit that he was useful—especially when dealing with the Native Americans 1644

Native Américans

But tensions were high enough that Williams returned to England in 1643 to ask for his own colonial charter to protect them,



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Thus, Rhode Island became its own, official colony—and one established on religious freedom
(Note: Again, remember—contrary to modern sensibilities, this wasn't a liberal socio-political position, but an intensely conservative spiritual position—he wasn't protecting people's religious rights, so much as arguing that everyone must own his or her own faith, and be accountable before God for it personally)

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(He argued for religious tolerance specifically because he was such a strong, conservative, evangelical Christian—and true faith can never be mandated from a human authority)

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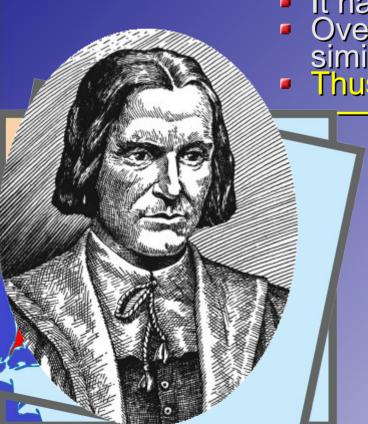
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"When they have opened a gap in the hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world,
God hath ever broke down the wall itself, removed the candlestick, and made His garden a wilderness, as at this day"

(i.e.; it's never a good idea to allow even the smallest gap in the wall between the church and the world—it invariably pollutes the church)

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Williams' concept of a necessary "wall of separation" between secular and spiritual has been picked up and run with by Americans ever since—but almost always

completely backwards...