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AP US History, Mr. Mills

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Mercantilism – a theory followed by England that justified their control over the colonies. They believed that a country's wealth and power (economic, military, and political) could be measured by the amount of money in its treasury. To have more money, a country needed to export more than it imported. Having colonies helped in this goal; they could buy raw materials from the colonies (reducing foreign imports) and provide a market for exports. The American colonists were expected to provide things England needed and to not export certain things to other countries; to buy certain goods exclusively from England, and to not become self-sufficient. The British passed laws over time to regulate this system.

Dominion of New England – an England-imposed multi-colonial government that helped enforce the trade laws and defend the colonies against the Indians. The Americans were used to trading illegally with forbidden countries, and as the enforcement was increased, smuggling became more and more common. In charge of this government was Sir Edmund Andros, who established headquarters in Boston. He quickly laid heavy restrictions on meetings, press, schools, land ownership, and smuggling. The colonists were very resentful and when the English king was dethroned, they rebelled against Andros. Andros fled, and thus ended the Dominion of New England.

New England Confederation – in 1643, some colonies banded together to form the New England Confederation. The colonists were forced to rely upon their own strength and resources, as England was deeply involved in civil wars. The jurisdiction of this group included inter-colonial problems: runaway servants, criminals who fled to other colonies, etc. It consisted of four Puritan colonies: Massachusetts' Bay Colony and Plymouth, and Connecticut's New Haven and valley settlements. Each colony had two votes.

Half-Way Covenant – as new members of the Puritan church lessened, ministers announced (in 1662) the Half-Way Covenant, which admitted to baptism the children of existing members, instead of only the "elect". These non-elect but baptized members were not, however, admitted to "full communion".

Maryland Toleration Act – Maryland was founded by Lord Baltimore as a place where Christians could freely come, specifically Catholics, of whom Lord Baltimore was. It became populated with Protestants. Surrounded by Protestants, Lord Baltimore hoped to protect the Catholics from the Protestants, in case their majority took over, by issuing the Act of Toleration. This guaranteed toleration to all Christians (but only Christians). Though this sanctioned less toleration than had previously been allowed, it did secure security for the Catholics.

Anne Hutchinson – challenging the Puritan views, she claimed that living a holy life was no sure sign of salvation, and the truly saved need not follow any laws of God or man. This assertion, called antinomianism, was considered heresy. Put on trial for days, she boasted that she had come to believe these things by direct revelation from God. The Puritans banished her. She and her family moved to Rhode Island, then New York.

Navigation Acts – these were imposed on colonists by England to control the trade flow. All exports and imports had to be in British ships, and certain products could only be traded with England. The English collected tariffs and taxes on traded items. Because the Americans bought more from England than they sold there, there was a major money shortage there.

Roger Williams – a Puritan minister. He had radical ideas and didn't fear to express them. He hounded his fellow clergymen to make a clean break with the corrupt Church of England, and denied the authority of civil government to regulate religious behavior. He was found guilty and ordered to leave. Williams fled to Rhode Island, helped by friendly Indians. He then built a Baptist church and established complete freedom of religion.