

The Mayflower Compact - 1620

- Pilgrims had not organized a plan of government because they thought they were going to Virginia
- Landed in Massachusetts – blown off course
- Realized they needed some rules, a government
- Before leaving boat all 41 men signed Mayflower Compact, pledging to make jus laws and elect officeholders.
- This is the second step to self-government after the House of Burgesses.

Colonial Self-Government



- Representative Government of Puritans
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- Elected Assemblies

The Representative Government of the Puritans

1630s



- Each church got its own town
- Each town governed itself by holding **town meetings**
- Meetings set laws and taxes. **Very democratic**
Everyone spoke their minds
- Each town sent a representative to the larger legislature – **General Court**
- General Court chose the governor
- Elections were held for all positions every year

Fundamental Papers of Connecticut

1639

- Adopted on January 14, 1639
- Similar to the U.S. Constitution
- Gave men more voting rights and made them eligible to run for elected positions.
- Used secret ballots for voting
- Outline individual rights and limited the governments power.
- 1686 – *Papers were hidden from the King in the old oak tree.*



Elected Assembly



- Representatives are selected or elected by the people
- Laws and taxes are written and approved by the assembly
- Membership is determined by the written law (who can vote, who can hold office, criteria)
- Examples – Jamestown (House of Burgesses / Pennsylvania)

The Enlightenment – 1650 -1815

- Age of Reason
- European politics, philosophy, science and communications were radically changed
- A group of “thinkers” began to focus human reasoning on understanding the laws that governed the natural world around them.
- Started to question the divine right of the king.

<http://socialstudieswikiofexcellence.wikispaces.com/Enlightenment>

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/65896>

John Locke - 1690



- Examined the way men formed governments
- Natural Rights – Human beings have natural rights including *life, liberty, & property*
- These rights are inalienable – can't be taken away. They are from God.
- Did not believe God gave Kings the divine right to rule.
- People form governments to protect their rights
- Right to Revolution – If government violates the rights, people have the right to rebel