

English were not totally free from this but, in all fairness, they got most of their money from the new world by piracy on the high seas...not oppression of the Indians. Since little of value had been seen in North America, the moves of the European princes were to South America. The northern continent was a fur-fish sort of place but its life as a place of refuge came to be symbolic with the hopes of many scattered moves. To those who were harassed in several of the European states, the idea of going to a place of population where there was room and a government of their own could be convened had much appeal. Hence the moves to the northern hemisphere of the new world were very much conditioned by the desire for a new and settled life..a release from tyrannies of varied sorts and a hope for a finer establishment.

But the settlement of North America came slowly. There is no point to argue today over the earlier Viking visits and the Columbus datings. The concept of living in the "bush" grew slowly on the European mind. When it did begin there was yet a sluggishness to face the ruggedness of the unknown. No wonder that the adventurers who desired to make a fortune quickly were among the first to come and to go. The earlier settlers included the English, Dutch, Swedish with some French and Portuguese. The essential difference in the northern and southern American settlements was this: those coming to the North came to found communities and build states. They were not primarily adventurers, fortune hunters or exploiters. For the most part they represented an industrious community searching for a more satisfactory life than they had known in the homeland. This was true in matters of religion and economic life as well. To a large extent those who went to South America were just the opposite. The lure of gold was overwhelming and it brought an oppressive and greedy society.

The New England Migration

III.2.a. New England

The Non-Conformists

Non-Conformists

The English congregations that followed non-conformity (the separatist congregationalists known romantically as the Pilgrims) had moved to Holland in some numbers in the end of Elizabeth's reign and in the early days of James I. They were in themselves diverse and the companies of Smith and Helwys became largely baptistic while the followers of Robinson remained congregational. The Scrooby congregation (Robinson's group) moved to the Netherlands early in James' rule and stayed there for 11 years.