

## New England Colonies Political Systems Document: Mayflower Compact

Primary Source	Contemporary English
<p>This day, before we came into harbor, observing some not well affected to unity and concord, but gave some appearance of faction, it was thought good there should be an association and agreement that we should combine together in one body, and to submit to such government and governors as we should be common consent agree to make and choose, and set our hands to this that follows word for word.</p> <p>In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign lord, King James ...</p> <p>Having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these present, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic ... ; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, offices from time to time as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience ...</p>	<p>On the day we came into harbor some of our people are upset that we have not landed in Virginia. Since they may cause trouble we thought it would be good for all to agree that we should vote for our leaders and to make laws to govern us. We agree to the following, word for word.</p> <p>In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are signed below, all loyal subjects of our respected and admired lord, King James ...</p> <p>Having made this voyage to set up a colony in Northern Virginia for the glory of God, and the spread of the Christian faith and honor of our king and country. We do all agree in the presence of God and one of another, promise to work together to set up a government to make laws for the good of all. We will elect persons from time to time to run the colony for the good of us all. We promise to follow the laws that are made for the good of the colony.</p>

*Settlement of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies of New England  
The Huntington Library Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens*

## New England Colonies Political Systems Document: Government of New Haven Colony

October 27/November 6, 1643

Primary Source	Contemporary English
<p>It was agreed and concluded as a fundamentall order nott to be disputed or questioned hereafter, thatt none shall be admitted to be free burgesses in any of the plantations within this jurisdiction for the future, butt such planters as are members of some or other of the approved churches of New England, nor shall any butt such free burgesses have any vote in any election, (the six present freemen aft Milforde enjoying the liberty with the cautions agreed,) nor shall any power or trust in the ordering of any civill affayres, be aft any time putt into the hands of any other than such church members, though as free planters, all have right to their inherritance &amp; to comerce, according to such grants, orders and lawes as shall be made concerning the same.</p>	<p>It has been agreed and decided and will not be argued about or questioned after this point, that no one will be named a free citizen within this colony except for land owners who are members of an approved church in New England. No one but these citizens will be allowed to vote in any election. No one but these church members shall be given rights or property. As free land owners, all of these citizens have the right to anything they inherit or earn according to the law.</p>

*The Avalon Project  
Yale Law School*