

March 27th, 2022

There are many firsts in self-government in the early history of the 13 colonies. In 1619, the 100 or so residents of Virginia Colony at Jamestown set up a system for a town parliament for self-governing themselves. In 1620, the Pilgrims (a latter nickname given to Separatists from Leyden, Netherlands) wrote the Mayflower compact aboard ship in Provincetown Bay of Cape Cod. A November storm had blown the Mayflower off course and they landed at 44 degrees north latitude instead of just north of Jamestown as planned. The ship was damaged and the sailors, noting that technically they were south of 45 degrees which England claimed, demanded the settlers disembark. They were sailing home. So the Mayflower Compact was just supposed to be a temporary thing until the Pilgrims could get a permanent royal charter. They never succeeded and Plymouth was eventually absorbed into Massachusetts in 1691. The Puritans began to come to Boston Harbor in mass in 1630 and some of them found the fertile Connecticut River Valley by 1633. The Dutch, already in New Netherlands (New York) built a fort to claim the valley but Englishmen populated the valley. They settled at Windsor in 1633, Wethersfield in 1634 and Hartford in 1635. New Haven was established by more settlers led by Rev. John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton in 1638.

Here they established a court and wrote a body of laws. The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut is often called the world's first written constitution. It was composed by a committee of Davenport, Eaton and 5 others. "God's rule is established as the only rule in public affairs," they penned. On January 14, 1639, the authors—Hooker, Haynes, and Ludlow— presented it for adoption at Hartford.

"Forasmuch as it has pleased the Almighty God by the wise disposition of His Divine Providence so to order and dispose of things that we the inhabitants and residents of Windsor, Hartford and Wetherfield and now cohabiting and dwelling in and upon the river Conectecotte and the lands thereupon adjoining; and well knowing where a people are gathered together, the Word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent government established according to God... to cojoin ourselves to be one State or Commonwealth, preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, which according to the truth of the said Gospel is now practiced among us."

In 1643, the various colonies and communities of New England made a treaty called the New England Confederation for limited governments and advancement of the gospel to the natives. The Bible was called upon to be used for the standard for development of civil legislation. Rulers and courts were considered to be "ministers of God for the good of the people to have power to declare, publish, establish for the Plantations within their jurisdiction, the laws He hath made; and to make and repeal orders for smaller matters, not particularly determined in Scriptures, according to the more general rules of righteousness, and while they stand in force to require execution of them." (Reader should understand 'Plantation' simply means any larger landholding, not the usage that later became common in the deep South.)

At no place in these early constitutions, compacts, and treaties is slavery given any note (though indentured servants were common to pay passage to the new world). Hence the modern American leftists who claim that the country was founded on that vile institution, has now been quite challenged by historians worldwide. It should also be noted that these documents are infused with Christianity and a mission of its spread, from the days when most of these colonies were 50 to

a few hundred people. (Think of Burbank or Lamont, Oklahoma with hardly any business communities established.) So those who would argue that Christianity was unimportant in the founding or that America is not a Christian nation, should edit their revisionist history to say that Secularization is a phenomenon of the last 40 years in USA.