AP American Mrs. Scherer

Unit I: Colonial America

AIM: How democratic was Colonial America?

**Provide historical examples of EVIDENCE to support an argument!**

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|  | DEMOCRATIC | UNDEMOCRATIC |
| POLITICAL | Representative Government:*Virginia House of Burgesses – 1619**Massachusetts General Court*Self- Government:*Mayflower Compact – 1620 government by the consent of the governed**New England Town Meetings – direct democracy*Written Constitutions:*Fundamental Orders of Conneticuit – 1639 – based on the ideas of “majority rule” “consent of the governed”, “protection of the minority rights”, 1st written constitution*Trial by Jury:Freedom of the Press:*Trial of John Peter Zenger – free discussion of publicissues, freedom of the press* | Limited Suffrage:*Religious and property qualifications for voting and holding political office**Massachusetts – need to be a member of the Puritan church to be able to vote*Minorities denied civil and political rights:*Women could not vote or hold political office. Women had limited property rights and there was sex discrimination in colonial society*No separation of church and state:*Tax supported church in New England* |
| SOCIAL | Freedom of Religion:*Maryland Act of Toleration: 1649 freedom of religion to all Christians**Roger Williams founde a new colony, Rhode Island, based on freedom of worship**Willaim Penn founded the colony of Pennsylvania for freedom of worship for Quakers**George Calvert founded the colony of Maryland for freedom of worship for Catholics*Access to Education:*Massachusetts for every 50 families a school would be built**Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Kings College* | Intolerance towards Dissenters:*Roger Williams exiled from Massachusetts for belief in “Liberty of Conscience”**Anne Hutchinson exiled from Massachusetts for belief in “Antionanism” – people should be free from man’s laws*Slavery*Slave Codes in southern states codified laws against Blacks having any civil rights placing them in a second class status.*Laws regulating Behavior:*Puritan Blue Laws – meant to regulate social behavior**Salem Witch Trials – Massachusetts* |
| ECONOMIC | Social Mobility:*Diversified economy in New England and Middle Colonies created opportunites for many to get ahead*Availability of land:*Gave people who formerly did not have access to land/power in Europe the opportunity to own land*Protestant Work Ethic:*Instilled a hardworking attitude that to achieve material success was a sign of God’s favor.* | Primogeniture:*The eldest or 1st born son would inhertie his father’s estate in its entirety.*Development of social aristocracy which led to Sharp Class Differences:*Between the economic based “aristocracy” (merchants, larger landowners, planter class, government officials) and the rest of the population who often deferred to their “betters” politically and socially. This deference was primarily based on wealth.**Planter Class in Chesapeake region reigned at the top of the social heirarchy* |