

# **Christian Socialism Has Been Tried – It Doesn't Work**

Laurence Smart

4-4-2021

([www.CanberraForerunners.org](http://www.CanberraForerunners.org))

The believers in the 1<sup>st</sup> century weren't communists, even though they lived as community and shared everything.

There was, however, an attempt to set up a socialist community in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Christians who fled to the US from church persecution in Europe.

*The*  
MAYFLOWER  
PILGRIMS



EDMUND JANES CARPENTER

**They  
were  
the  
Puritans**

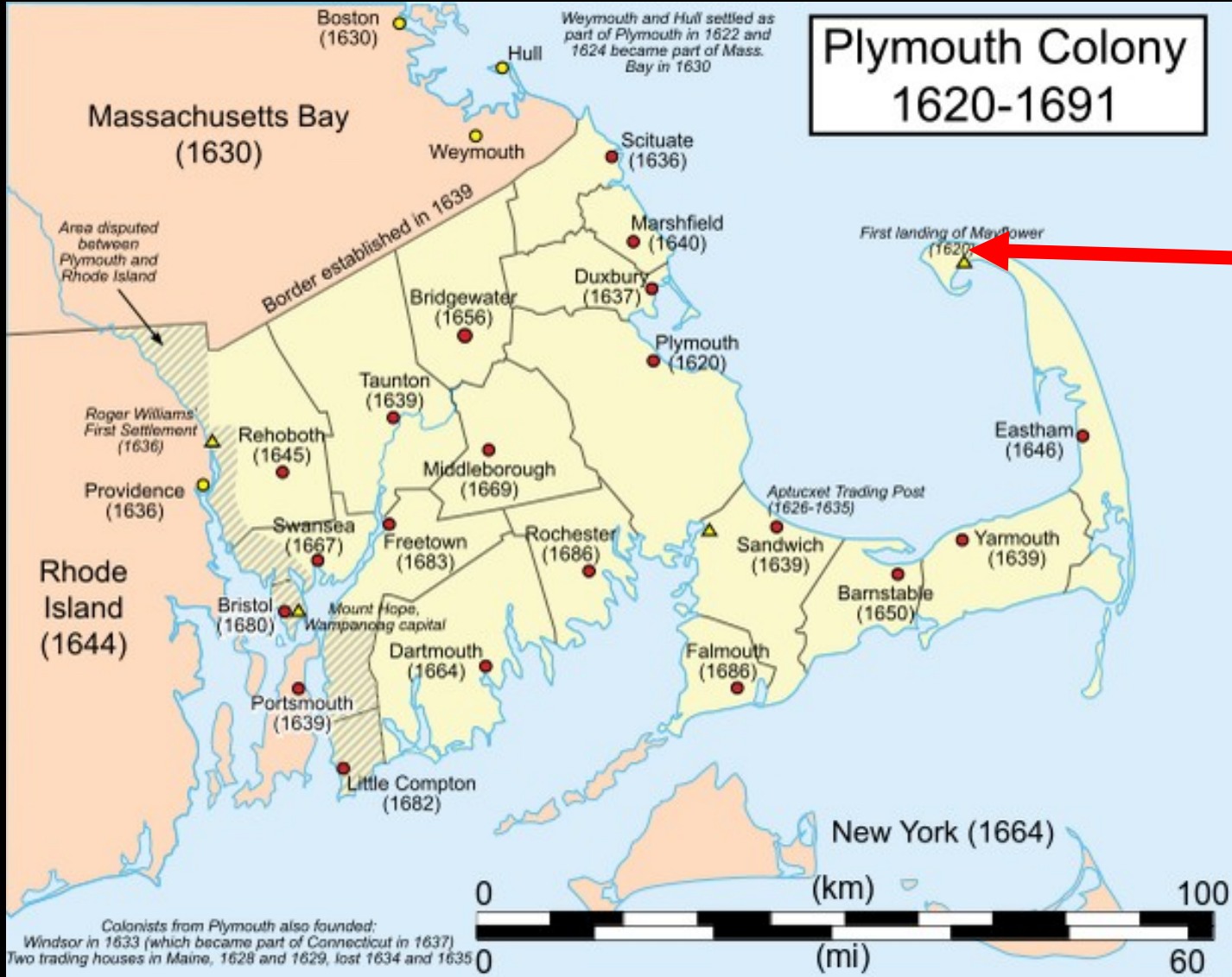
# Puritans Left Holland



# Landed in New Plymouth



# Plymouth Colony 1620-1691

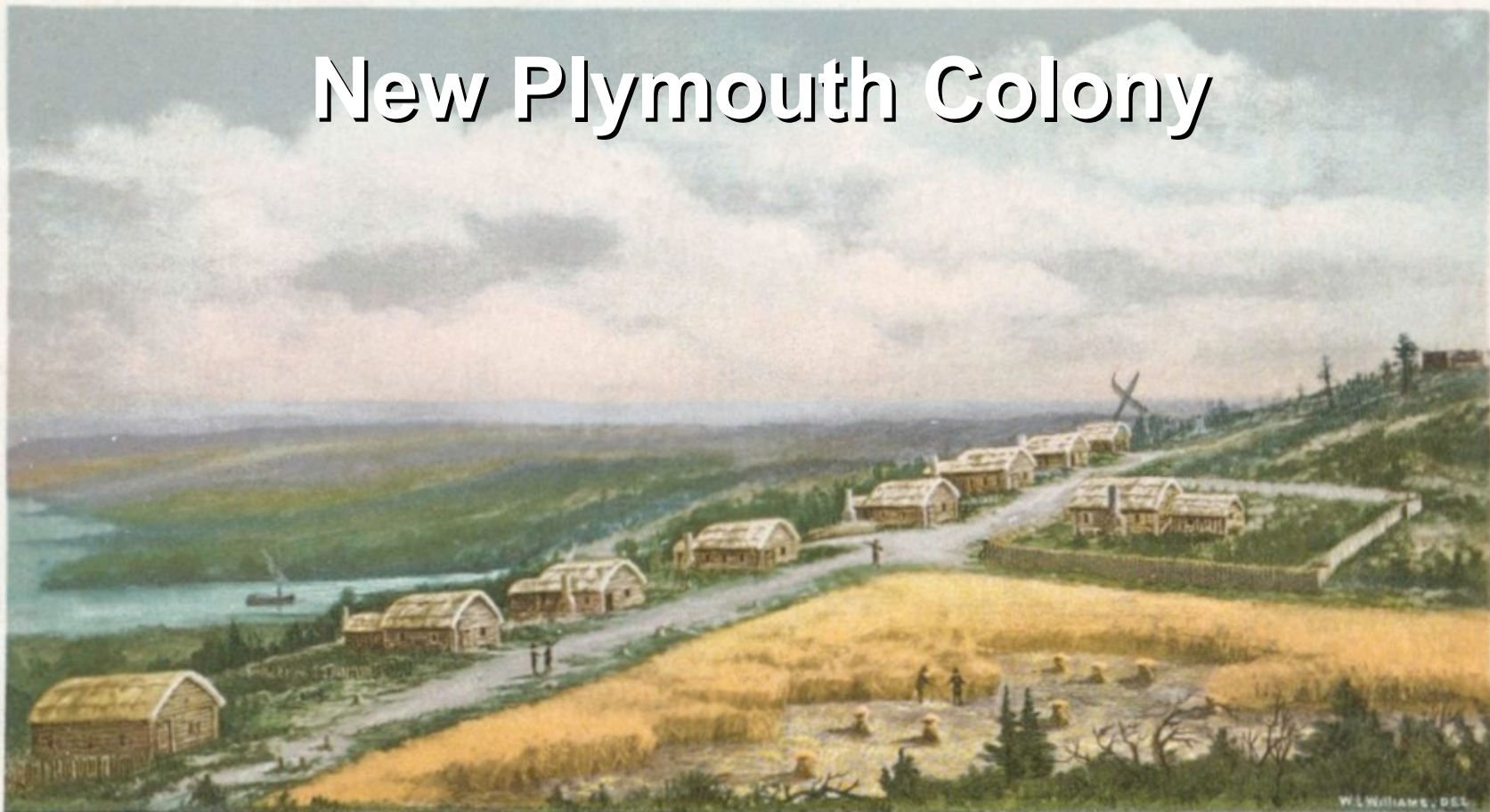


The  
landing

Colonists from Plymouth also founded:  
Windsor in 1633 (which became part of Connecticut in 1637)  
Two trading houses in Maine, 1628 and 1629, lost 1634 and 1635

The pilgrims then set up a Christian colony in the new continent of North America (USA).

# New Plymouth Colony



W. L. Williams, Del.

COPYRIGHT BY A. S. BURBANK 1891.  
STORE HOUSE.

P. BROWN - J. GOODMAN - W. BREWSTER - J. BILLINGTON - I. ALLERTON - F. COOKE - E. WINSLOW -

PLYMOUTH IN 1622.

GOV. BRADFORD. OLD FORT.

13997 PLYMOUTH COLONY IN 1622.

COPYRIGHTED AND PUBLISHED BY A. S. BURBANK, PLYMOUTH, MASS.



# Colonists



# The First Thanksgiving



The pilgrim's colony began with a form of socialism where they followed the NT principle of 'everything in common' plus a welfare system which looked after those who didn't have enough.

The experiment failed tragically, even though they were nice people who followed the best ideas of Christian living demonstrated in the NT.

The second  
governor of  
the colony  
was

**WILLIAM  
BRADFORD**



*He fixed  
the  
problem*

Bradford's dealing with the tragedy caused by their communal system is recorded in this book for all to read:

Edward Eggleston (1896) "A History Of Life In The United States"  
Section XII & XIII, Chapter the Third 'The Pilgrim Migrations'

[www.gutenberg.org/files/39882/39882-h/39882-h.htm](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/39882/39882-h/39882-h.htm)

*“After two years of labor in common had brought the colony more than once to the verge of ruin, [colony governor William] Bradford had the courage and wisdom to cut the knot he could not untie. During the scarce springtime of 1623, he assigned all the detached persons in the colony to live with families, and then temporarily divided the ancient Indian field on which →*

→ *the settlement had been made among the several families in proportion to their number, leaving every household to shift for itself or suffer want.*

*"Any general want or suffering hath not been among them since to this day", he writes years afterward. →*



→ *The assignment was a revolutionary stroke, in violation of the contract with the shareholders, and contrary to their wishes. But Bradford saw that it was a life-&-death necessity to be rid of the pernicious system, even at the cost of cutting off all support from England. In his history he draws a very clear picture of the evils of communism as he had observed them. →*

→ ...*When Bradford and the other leaders had at last successfully extricated the little settlement from its economical difficulties, it became the sure forerunner of a greater Puritan migration.*”

It was Bradford's reversion to free enterprise and the personal ownership of property which encouraged the colonists to work – if they didn't, they died of starvation.

This was Paul's work-to-eat policy enacted in reality, where people didn't bludge off others.

*“They had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression. →*

*By this time harvest was come, and instead of famine, now God gave them plenty, and the faces of things were changed, to the rejoicing of the hearts of many, for which they blessed God.”*

Modern-day Marxism is a form of socialism/communism.

Did you know that there are many Christians who are Marxists?

Pope Francis is one.

So what's bad about Marxism?

Let Thomas Sowell explain why in one of his interviews:

**Interviewer:** “You were a Marxist at one time in your life, what was your wake up as to what was wrong with that line of thinking?”

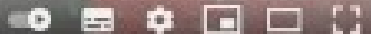
**Thomas Sowell:** “Uh, facts.”



# THOMAS SOWELL

COMMON SENSE IN A SENSELESS WORLD

▶ ⏪ 🔊 2:15 / 2:30

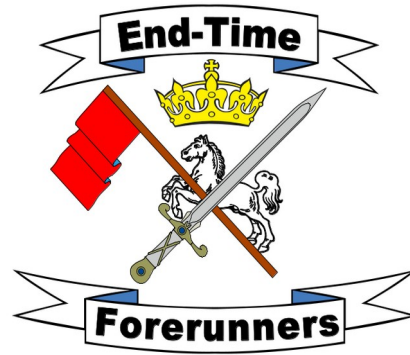


[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFxtJNK0HH8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFxtJNK0HH8)

We should not adhere to  
Communism or Marxism thinking  
it's how Jesus wants us to live in  
community

Without the King's guidance in the setting up and the running of a Kingdom community, it will not be what he wants

*This is a teaching document for educational purposes*



**L.D. Smart**

COPYRIGHT

*This document is **free** to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'.*

*All quotes are copyrighted to the authors credited.*

*Free graphics are from [www.clker.com](http://www.clker.com) & free photos are from [commons.wikimedia.org](http://commons.wikimedia.org).*

*All Canberra Forerunner documents are licensed under  
[Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)*