

## **How Democratic was Colonial America?**

During the 17th and 18th centuries, colonists came from Europe for Economic opportunities and religious freedom. The Great Awakening caused the questioning of authority and search for freedom. Colonists began to write constitutions, sign social contracts, and elected representatives for assemblies where they make the laws. A Democracy is a government where all the people have a say in what they want. But how democratic was Colonial America? Colonial was both democratic and undemocratic in different ways.

Colonial America was democratic in many ways. The Mayflower Compact was a social contract that demonstrated democracy. The pilgrim leaders created equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices from time to time.(Doc A)The Virginia House of Burgesses was made up of elected representatives, who were voted on by the people.(Doc C)It was ordered that no one person could be elected governor more than once in two years.(Doc D)

Colonial America was also undemocratic to certain people, because not all the citizens got the same rights as everyone else. Slaves were traded as part of southern economy and had no legal rights, they were also forbidden to learn to read or write.(Doc B)In order to vote you had to be a white, Christian, male and own a certain amount of land.(Doc E)

How Democratic was Colonial America? The thirteen colonies didn't seem very democratic because they didn't just exclude people from voting, but discriminated them. America didn't seem to democratic at all at the time.