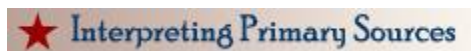


Individual Motivations for English Colonization

Look who's coming to America!



“There is no commonwealth at this day in Europe, where in there is not a great store of poor people, and those necessarily to be relieved by the wealthier sort, which otherwise would starve and come to utter confusion. With us the poor is commonly divided into three sorts, so that some are poor by impotencies, as the fatherless child, the aged, the blind and lame, and the diseased person that is judged to be incurable: the second are poor by casualty, as the wounded soldier, the decayed householder, and the sick person visited with grievous and painful diseases: the third consisteth of the thriftless poor, as the rioter that hath consumed all, the vagabond that will abide no where...and finally the rogue and strumpet....For the first two sorts...which are the true poor in deed, and for whom the word doth bind us to make some daily provision: there is order taken through out every parish in the realm, that weekly collection shall be made for their help and sustentation....The third sort...are often corrected with sharp execution, and the whip of justice abroad....Some also do grudge at the great increase of people in these days, thinking a necessary brood of cattle far better than a superfluous augmentation of mankind.”

William Harrison, 1586

1. What does William Harrison's quote tell you about English attitudes toward the poor people in English society? Select three (3) words that he uses that best reflect the attitudes of the rich toward the poor and explain why YOU selected these words.

Population of England in 1600: 3 million

Real Wages in England, 1500-1700	
Year	Pounds Sterling
1500	100 per year
1550	50
1600	40
1650	38
1700	55

Table 1

Mortality, London, 1604-1661	
Age	Number of Survivors
0 (100 people are born)	100 (all alive)
6 (by age 6, 36 are dead)	64 are still alive
16 (by age 16, 60 are dead)	40 are still alive
26 and so on...	25 and so on...
36	16
46	10
56	6
66	3
76	1
80 by age 80, on average,	0 all 100 are dead

Table 2

2. Use Table 1. Did real wages in England rise or decline between 1500 and 1700? Explain why this might have happened. Based on this information, are the poor of England really as "thriftless" as William Harrison's quote makes them out to be? Explain.

3. Use Table 2. Between what ages did the largest number of English people die? Describe possible reasons for so many people dying before reaching the age of 30 or 40.

4. Based on your analysis of these *primary sources* (reading and statistics tables), describe the type of person who would have been most likely to immigrate from England to the New World. What would motivate these people to immigrate? What are some reasons the English government might have wanted these types of people to immigrate and leave England? Explain