

**Freeman and Subject, County and Town, Colony and Crown:
Government in Colonial America**

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- I. Hierarchical Government and the Great Chain of Being
 - A. To be human is to be a potential subject
 - B. Value of being a subject
 - 1. Protection
 - 2. Legal rights and privileges
 - C. Dangers of not being a subject
 - D. Unitary Power and Sovereignty – church and state
 - E. The Family as part of Government
 - F. Alternatives – Native American Government
 - 1. Varying forms of authority (war chiefs, trade chiefs, shamans)
 - 2. Localized authority – villages and bands
 - 3. Varying categories of authority: age, gender

- II. Privileged Enclaves Within Royal Government
 - A. Royal Grants of Power and Privilege: Cities and Towns, Universities, Trading Companies
 - B. The meaning of “freeman”
 - 1. Admittance to special rights and privileges
 - 2. Responsibilities for government
 - C. Chartered colonies as Privileged Enclaves

- III. Massachusetts Bay: Company and Colony
 - A. Corporate Charter
 - 1. Why grant power and privileges?
 - 2. What were its powers and privileges? (Cf. Virginia)
 - 3. Who was eligible for freemanship?
 - B. Internal Divisions of Power
 - 1. Counties
 - 2. Towns
 - C. The Meaning and Purpose of Town Government in Massachusetts
 - D. Churches and Governments in Massachusetts

- IV. Colony and Crown
 - A. Colony Autonomy and Crown Control -- The Navigation Acts
 - B. Conflict and Revolution in English Government, 1639-1689
 - 1. The Assault on Corporate Privilege
 - 2. Royal Government and Absolutism
 - 3. Parliament Pushes Back
 - C. A New Massachusetts Charter, 1689
 - D. The Problem of Parliament and the Roots of Revolution