

## The Most Important Motive for Colonization

*Considering all thirteen English-American colonies together, was religion, commercial interest, or something else the most important motive for colonization?*

### Introduction

During the age of colonisation, the British Empire ruled an area over which the sun never set. The government policy of expansion and increased utilisation of colonies like the Americas certainly helped the economic and social development which took place at home leading to Britain becoming one of the first industrialised societies in the world. The input gained from commerce, farming and export of material to the American continent was the fundamental reason that led to the economic boom and the growth of Britain as a powerhouse amongst its European neighbours.

A detailed record of the relationship between the American colonies and the homeland of Britain shows that the conquest of the Americas can be taken as a founding mechanism and a cornerstone of economic advancement and the industrial revolution that took place in Europe (Hamilton, 1929). However, it is possible to say that this boost to the British Empire was merely a side effect of the religious interest which the British had in converting the pagans to Christianity. Certainly, missionaries and religious thinkers also came with traders and farmers but it seems that the financial side of matters was more important overall to British interests than the religious side.

### Faith in Trade

The religious side seems nothing more than a side note since the ruler of England is the de facto head of the Church of England as the Defender of the Faith. However, the development of religion in America took quite a different path from the development of religion in Britain in just a hundred or so years after the colonies were founded. If we consider the foundations of America itself, the idea of giving a king money without him having to listen to the opinions of the tax givers appears to be more connected with economics than mere ideology.

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