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(A Seasonal Catechism for the Study of Western and American Civilization)

Maritime Colonies --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 301-312)

This descriptive title recalls that the 17th- and 18th-century Anglo-American colonies were planted by the sea, along the Atlantic, from NH in the north to GA in the south? Cities were invariably ports, and communication between and within colonies often required ships making their way up and down the coast or on rivers flowing from the Appalachians eastward. Moreover, with the Mother Country an ocean away, isolation facilitated even the relative political autonomy (self-rule) of British North America.

Blessed are the Poor --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 301-312)

This beatitude offers an apt description of the earliest Anglo-Americans, a people relatively poor materially by 17th-century English and European standards? Nevertheless, the colonists were indomitable in spirit, taming a wilderness, building civilization, and founding representative governments all along the Atlantic coast. America's "health and longevity soon exceeded" Britain's, observes Kirk, and her "birth-rate became phenomenal," higher than that attained previously by any Europeans.

Colonies Religiously Tolerant (for the most part) --- (Kirk; *Roots*, pp. 301-312)

This observation reports with accuracy the religious climate in the Anglo-American colonies, where various forms of Christianity held sway? Nearly everywhere a dominant form of Protestantism took hold usually with allowance for dissenters, applied most generously in Quaker PA as well as Anglican VA and the South generally. Puritan NE, on the other hand, was disinclined to suffer gladly those it deemed fools or heretics (most non-Puritans), hounding them often out of the land.

The Lure of the Land --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 301-312)

This phrase captures the easy availability of cheap real estate throughout British America, facilitating degrees of social-political equality unheard of in the Old World? A pattern of dispersed family farms and hamlets emerged—"townships without proper towns," writes Kirk—confining cities or greater towns largely to coastal ports. For all intents and purposes, if a man could clear and cultivate the earth he could have it, acquiring in the process a political voice and vote in his jurisdiction as a "freeholder."

"Salutary Neglect" --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 301-312)

This "happy phrase of Edmund Burke," writes Kirk, "was the history of the English colonies down to the reign of George III"? The phrase implies that the Mother Country, far removed from Anglo-Americans and sensing little of economic use to herself from their enterprises, let them be to the colonists' advantage. "Accustomed from the first to virtual autonomy," Americans "developed their character as a people and their social institutions under England's protection, but without England's express direction."