

THE IMPACT OF THE HISTORY OF THE COLONIZATION
OF NEW ENGLAND AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE FORMATION
OF THE BOSTON DIALECT OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

The story of how English spread in the United States, is both remarkable and unique. In this context the emergence and consolidation of the Boston vernacular is of special interest in the history of the development of American English which has become the leading variant of global English. An important event in the colonization of the American North East took place in 1620 when a group of colonists known as the Pilgrim Fathers came to the New World on the Mayflower and settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Although the founders of the New England colonies had a spiritual mission unlike other settlers, they managed to achieve economic prosperity in the region and establish a local government which was unique for those days. These factors contributed to New England's further development which later made the region one of the most advanced in the country.

The set of Puritans ideology had a great impact on the development of capitalist society which was established in Massachusetts. Their principles contributed to the economic prosperity and high educational standards of the region. Moreover, the life style of the Puritans could not but affect the other regions of the American North-East. The Puritans were intelligent and educated people who spoke Elizabethan English. Being considered as early settlers, they brought their distinctive 'twang' (a sort of flat sounding and nasal lengthening of vowels) to Massachusetts. The extreme conservatism and nostalgia for England helped them maintain this dialect while the language of East Anglia changed (the vernacular similar to New England can still be observed in East Anglia). Today about 16 million descendants of the Puritans and many of their neighbors speak some form of this East Anglia variety. Having brought their distinctive "twang" to Massachusetts, the Puritans definitely influenced the speech of Bostonians.

The broad /a/ and the stern omission of the /r/, generally regarded as typically Bostonian. /R/ is dropped everywhere except before a vowel, eg.: *ca(r)*, *ca(r)d*, *fea(r)*, and *chowde(r)*. This frequently noted feature is popularly referred to as the vocalization of /r/ in post-vocalic position. Linking /r/ is produced if the following word begins with a vowel, eg: *the air of progress*, *after a day*. The proper Bostonian is more inclined to speak broadening his /a/, eg.: /spa:/, /fa: ðə/. Obviously there are a number of features which are typical of Boston English but those mentioned above are the ones which make native speakers of General American English easily differentiate Bostonians from the rest of Americans.

In the nineteenth century, Boston and the towns near it represented a center of intellectual activity which gave its tone to life elsewhere in the country. As the population of the colonizing aristocracy coming from London grew, the city of Boston was founded and served as an upper-class cultural center. The elite maintained the prestige of their r-less dialects by extending their influence over the

surrounding areas. Thus, Bostonians managed to maintain the prestige of their dialect which they inherited from their descendants who brought and developed their language as a separate and unique vernacular.

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS: A RELIABLE UNITY FOR THE TRIED-AND-TRUE

There are many NGOs which perform various functions, and set political, economic and sociocultural aims. The Commonwealth of Nations is a political association of 54 member states, mostly former territories of the British Empire.

Commonwealth member countries benefit from being part of a mutually supportive community of independent and sovereign states, aided by more than 80 Commonwealth organizations. The Commonwealth Secretariat supports Commonwealth member countries to achieve development, democracy and peace. Membership in the Commonwealth is a voice for small and vulnerable states and a champion for young people. This non-governmental organization helps to strengthen governance, build inclusive institutions and promote justice and human rights. Its work helps to grow economies and boost trade, empower young people, and address threats such as climate change, debt and inequality.

The Commonwealth provides training and technical assistance and support decision-makers to draw up legislation and deliver policies. It deploys experts and observers who offer impartial advice and solutions to national problems. Systems, software and research are also provided for managing resources.

Some countries like Rwanda and Mozambique has never been colonized by British Empire, but they joined the Commonwealth. It is just a sheer luck and chance for such minor and isolated countries. Meetings like CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) give smaller nations the chance to lobby for bi-lateral trade deals, to influence the positions of bigger powers at forums with real bite like the World Trade Organization (WTO). Nations like Sudan, Yemen and to a lesser extent Madagascar may well like the Commonwealth precisely because it offers access to development aid and informal trade talks while conferring prestige and an international platform.

These are the obvious advantages to be the member of the Commonwealth:

1. The Commonwealth provides a space where big and small nations can speak as equals.
2. It encourages developing members to raise their standard of democracy, rights and governance.
3. By having almost no restrictions for joining in, there is an opportunity for many countries to be or not to be in the Commonwealth as it is a voluntary association.
4. Small nations can receive support in development, opportunities for education and learning, access to healthcare.