In the Americas by 1700, the goods and industries of English colonies had become important parts of trade in Europe. American colonists were being born and raised in these new lands, defining more and more a unique culture based on ways of living, new forms of government, and new values. This culture was also separating more and more from England. The country’s restrictions on trade for economic boosts in Europe were frustrating many colonists, with loyalties more and more in their home than a distant world. Cultures were so strong, in fact, that they had differences in New England and the Chesapeake region. The distinct societies of these regions arose from different means of economic support, structures of religion, and government systems, due to separate approaches to founding the regions.

While the Chesapeake region was formed to make money, the New England region was formed to escape religious persecution and begin a model society. From the very beginning, colonists in the Chesapeake sought money through gold. Later, when no gold was found, they farmed. By contrast, New England had the formation of simple societies in mind first, and turned to trading when colonists’ small farms could not sustain large areas of land. As seen in John Smith’s *History of Virginia*, the citizens were desperate to make money, in any way possible. Smith, speaking from experience in the Virginia colony at a time when the colonists were still forming a society, shows that people were desperate. And these people would become the basis for Virginia society. When, later, tobacco farming would be perfected by John Rolfe, the colonists eagerly made money off the spreading industry. Bacon’s “Manifesto”, written by a struggling farmer in Virginia to urge other farmers against any restrictions to newly gained financial support through tobacco, shows farmers, once desperate for food now clinging to the industry. Bacon notes how wealth has been gained due to tobacco. Tobacco was all these farmers had--the land carried no gold, and so the only industry which could support so many settlers was agriculture. The societies of New England, in contrast, grew by support from trade. They were not desperate for money or less control because their towns were tight and constantly fueled by England. The towns were built with schools at the center, so everyone could be educated. They had resources to spare for neat construction and everyone was allotted land to start small farms and homes, but no more was needed for massive plantations. “River Plantations in Virginia” show an entirely different formation. Farms needed large tracts of land, and constant water supply. Settlements spread by one person buying land and pushing outwards. The requirements for tobacco industry were entirely separate and so built a different culture based more around individual farming than town life. Education was less frequent in the Chesapeake region, but ways of living in New England were based on separate requirements.

When New England was founded, its colonists needed security and escape from religious persecution. The Puritans’ more extreme interpretation of religious life was not respected or tolerated in England. As Massachusetts was settled, the Puritans decided that they were forming a model society. As John Winthrop’s *A Model of Christian Charity* demonstrates, they felt strong religious beliefs would structure a perfect way of living. They felt the whole world was watching them create a moral, opportunity-filled way of life. Their religion influenced every aspect of Puritan society. *Articles of Agreement*, a legal document written for early Puritan colonists to enforce their ideas about how to live, even states that they will all work to bring every Puritan to God. This is a legal document with religion stated as colonists’ aim. But this religion-based society was highly contained, as “The Puritan Migration to America, 1620-1640” demonstrates. Puritans settled only in the Massachussetts and Connecticut region; influence would spread throughout New England as some colonies were formed to escape Puritan strictness, but the Puritans remained in New England. In contrast, the Chesapeake region did not have strong religiousness at its core. They came to find money, not to form model societies. The Anglican faith was existent, but hardly strong. The College of William and Mary had to be founded simply to encourage teachers of the faith. While Puritan towns centered around the church, the spread-out settlements of the Chesapeake regions were often too distanced and sparsely populated to form strong religious communities. As “Governor Berkeley and his Council to King Charles II” shows, a man in charge of these settlements--Berkeley--knew that most settlers lived too far away and numbered too few to fight Native American threats. He meant to convince King Charles II that the nature of Virginia society would not lend itself to organized efforts. Similarly, society was too unevenly settled to form religious communities.

When colonies in the lower areas, such as the Chesapeake, were formed, land was given by government to companies or wealthy men. The sole intention was money, and so a system of government where a small group of wealthy men held most of the control was prevalent. In contrast, New England was formed with the very idea of creating societies with more equality. For example, “Articles of Agreement”, a legal document early in New England development, shows how the colonists gave land to everyone and towns were available to those of all backgrounds. Everyone had access to schools and town meetings to voice opinions. John Winthrop, a governor speaking to founding colonists, similarly voiced belief that everyone should be given what they need to survive. The stricter class structures of the South, through its founding on wealthy Englishman starting large forms, and forms of government gave greater weight to voices of the wealthy.

As these separate regions continued to form, the basis of industry would shape societies even more. The Chesapeake region would become dependant on slavery, while Puritan values abhorred it. The difference in opinion would build to conflict, where the North and South became literally divided during the Civil War. Separate sets of needs and founding ideals shaped the regions into two different cultures, with large influences throughout American history.