

The Hartford Treaty, 1638
Signifying the Close of the Pequot War

Articles of Agreement between the English in Connecticut
~And the Indian Sachems [of the Narragansets and Mohegans]

A Covenant and Agreement Made between the English inhabiting the Jurisdiction of the River of Connecticut of the one part and.....the Narragansets and the Mohegans...as follows at Hartford on 21st September 1638.

There is a Peace...made between the Narragansett and Mohegans Indians and all former Injuries and wrongs offered each to other remitted and buried and never to be renewed any more from henceforth –

It is Agreed if there fall out injuries and wrongs for future to be done or Committed each to other or their Men they shall not presently revenge it but they are to appeal to the English....and they are each to do as is by the English set down and if the one or the other refuse to do it shall be lawful for the English to compel them and to side and take part if they see cause against the Obstinate or refusing party ~~

It is agreed, and a conclusion of peace and friendship made, between the Narragansetts and the Mohegans as long as they carry themselves orderly and give no just cause of offense; and that [n]either of them do shelter any that may be enemies to the English that...formerly...had hand in murdering or killing any English man or woman.

Either of them [Narragansetts or Mohegans] shall as soon as they can either bring the Chief Sachem of our late Enemies the Pequots that had the chief hand in killing the English to the...English or take off their heads. Also for those murderers that are now agreed upon amongst us that are living, they shall as soon as they can possibly, take off their heads...or else whersoever they or any of them shall come amongst them or to their Wigwams or any where if they can by any means come to them ~

And whereas there be or is reported for to be said Narragansetts and Mohegans, 200 Pequots living that are men, women and children, the English do give unto..[them]...and that after they, the Pequots, shall be divided as aforesaid shall no more be called Pequots but Narragansetts and Mohegans

And as their men or either of them are to pay for every [Pequot man] one fathom of Wampam and for every youth half so much and for every [Pequot child] one hand to be paid at hilling time of corn at Connecticut yearly.

Also, and [the Pequots] shall not...live in the country that was formerly theirs but now is the English by conquest neither shall the Narragansets nor Mohegans possess any part of the Pequot Country without leave from the English...

The said Agreements are to be kept inviolably by the Parties above said and if any make breach of them, the other two may join and make war upon such as shall break the same unless satisfaction be made being reasonably required ~~

Haynes Governour
John Haynes Roger Ludlow Edward Hopkins

The Mark of Miantinomy {Narragansett Chief}
The Mark of Uncas (Mohegan Chief)

With your group, read the treaty and answer the following questions.

1. Who is signing the treaty? Name all 3 groups involved.
2. When was the treaty signed? Put the treaty into the proper historical context: what was occurring in the region at the time? What dispute is it solving?
3. What do the signees agree to? Quote two examples from the treaty.
4. What does the treaty say with regards to the Pequot? What happens to the survivors?
5. What is the overall message that this treaty sent to the natives of New England (both allies and potential enemies)?

Overview of King Philip's War

King Philip's War (1675-1676) marked the last major effort by the Native Americans of southern New England to drive out the English settlers. With tensions spilling over following the collapse

of trade partnerships and aggressive expansion of colonist territories, Pokunoket chief Metacom — a.k.a. King Philip — led a bloody uprising of Wampanoag, Nipmuck, Pocumtuck and Narragansett tribes. The fighting lasted fourteen months and destroyed twelve frontier towns, ending shortly after Metacom was captured and beheaded. Some of his supporters escaped to Canada, while others who surrendered were sold into slavery.

King Philip's War of 1675-1676 (also known as Metacom's Rebellion) marked the last major effort by the Indians of southern New England to drive out the English settlers. Led by Metacom, the Pokunoket chief called 'King Philip' by the English, the bands known today as Wampanoag Indians joined with the Nipmucks, Pocumtucks, and Narragansetts in a bloody uprising. It lasted fourteen months and destroyed twelve frontier towns.

Although the sequence of events leading to the outbreak of war is unclear, the Indians' resentment of the English had been building since the 1660s. They had become increasingly dependent on English goods, food, and weapons, and their bargaining power diminished as the fur trade dried up, tribal lands were sold, and Metacom and other leaders were forced by the colonists to recognize English sovereignty. Rather than accommodate further, some of the Indians took up arms. Others, including the Mohegan, Pequot, Massachusetts, and Nauset Indians, sided with the English.

The war ended in August 1676, shortly after Metacom was captured and beheaded. Some of his supporters escaped to Canada; those who surrendered were shipped off as slaves to the West Indies. The Puritans interpreted their victory as a sign of God's favor, as well as a symbolic purge of their spiritual community. The Indians who remained faced servitude, disease, cultural disruption, and the expropriation of their lands.

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Peace Treaty, King Philip's War

... The government of Boston have concluded a peace upon these terms.

1. That there be henceforward a firm peace between the Indians and English.
2. That after publication of the articles of peace by the general court, if any English shall willfully kill an Indian, upon due proof, he shall die, and if an Indian kill an Englishman and escape, the Indians are to produce him...and try all by the English laws.
3. That the Indians shall not conceal any known enemies to the English, but shall discover them and bring them to the English.
4. That upon all occasions the Indians are to aid and assist the English against their enemies, and to be under English command.