

The Mayflower Compact *From Book II. Chapter XI. The Remainder of Anno 1620*

I shall a litle returne backe and begine with a combination made by them before they came ashore, being the first foundation of their govermente in this place; occassioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from the ship. That when they came a shore they would use their own libertie; for none had the power to command them, the patente they had being for Virginia, and not for New England, which belonged to another Governement, with which the Virginia company had nothing to doe. And partly that shuch an acte by them done (this their condition considered) might be as firme as any patent, and in some respects more sure.

The forme was as followeth: [*The Mayflower Compact*]

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyall subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, Franc, and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc., having undertaken, for the glorie of God, and advancemente of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and countrie, a voyage to plant the first colonie in the Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly and mutuallly in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine our selves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by vertue hearof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just and equall lawes, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the generall good of the Colonie, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witnes whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Codd the 11th of November, in the year of the raigne of our soveraigne lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie-fourth. Anno Domini 1620.