

Sample ID/Proposition/Question Response

Thomas Hooker was a prominent Puritan religious and colonial leader who was one of the first Puritan settlers of Massachusetts Bay Colony and then became a founder of the Colony of Connecticut in 1636. Like other Puritans who came to New England during the Great Migration (approx. 20,000 to 25,000 from 1630-1642), he left England after Archbishop Laud began persecuting Puritans and other critics of the Church of England. After a few years in Mass Bay, Hooker came into conflict with other Puritan leaders over whether men who did not own property and were not church members should be allowed to vote. More radical than the Puritan establishment embodied by men like John Winthrop, Hooker favored a distinction between church and state. Though not exiled like Ann Hutchinson and Roger Williams, Hooker did leave Mass Bay with his congregation in 1636, establishing a new settlement at Hartford. Then with a few other congregations, he helped found the colony of Connecticut. Hooker's story suggests that Puritan orthodoxy in Mass Bay did not go unchallenged; that there were significant differences within the Puritan fold; and that heterodox beliefs attracted sufficient support to be considered a threat to the stability of Winthrop's City upon a Hill.