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**America's First Century: Algonquian
Annihilation I**

Lead: Throughout history there have been large human migrations, during which there were often winners and losers. In seventeenth century Virginia, the big losers were Native Americans.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Mass migration happens for a variety of reasons. Economic greed or economic opportunity, imperialism, ideology or religion, hunger, disease, climate change, or

any number of reasons, can cause a large number of people to leave their homes and move to a new place. If the numbers favor the immigrants, the old society is swamped and many may die.

Roman armies led a significant migration throughout the Mediterranean world. Roman merchants and citizens followed those armies and migrated to establish the greatest empire the world had known to that date. A thousand years later, Rome's arthritic empire was itself destroyed by mass migration. Wave after wave of Germanic and Asian tribes pushed into Europe and supplanted the rich Greek and Roman culture with their own.

Evangelical Islam swept across North Africa into what is now Spain and Portugal and almost into France, and in the east, into the Balkans. Hundreds of years later Christian kingdoms pushed back, stopped and then reversed that movement of Islamic culture. Spanish, Portuguese, French and English migrated to the New World and supplanted, reduced or eradicated the Incan, Mayan, Aztec and other Native American populations and culture.

In Virginia, the English established a permanent settlement at Jamestown in 1607. Almost from the beginning relations with the native Chesapeake Algonquians were hostile. Whether by

disease, starvation, loss of land or direct military action, Native Americans had stepped onto the slippery slope to annihilation. If they resisted, as they did, sometimes violently, they died. If they gave in and accommodated the whites, they died. Mass migration of Europeans simply overwhelmed them.

At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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