

Literary and Historical Notes of Pennsylvania Colony: A Model of Multicultural Society

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Abstract

American society is multicultural due to many ethnicities, cultures, religions, and denominations besides applying democratic principles as the cornerstone of its social-political system. It does not happen spontaneously, though. American multicultural society is a result of a long historical trace since its colonial era. One of the colonies assumed to have contributed to the presence of the early American multicultural society is the Pennsylvania colony. In this regard, this paper then intends to propose some strategies William Penn conducted as the proprietor in founding the Pennsylvania colony for such multicultural fact. This paper uses Nash Smith's interdisciplinary approach through which two perspectives are coming up, i.e., historical and literary ones. This study found that William Penn conducted three strategies, namely: (1) promoting an equal relation through friendship, (2) providing a clause of toleration in the First Frame of Government serving as a constitution of the colony, and (3) acknowledging each ethnic group's life and liberty. The first was conducted to persuade the ethnic groups, particularly the Indians, to willingly live peacefully with the white people, as depicted in a poem, Treaty of Penn. The second was designed to provide a legal basis that guaranteed all people to live with mutual trust. The last functions are an applicative form of the second and real proof of William Penn's commitment issued in his letter written in London before founding the Pennsylvania colony. These strategies appeared due to the influence of William Penn's conviction in Quakerism that generally taught him to look all human beings equal regardless of any differences such as race, sex, nation, religion, language, and others.

Keywords

Multi-Culture, Society, Quakers, Strategy, Pennsylvania, Colony, Interdisciplinary

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