

Score = 2

How did the English use religion to justify treatment and killing of Native Americans?

The English believed that Christianity was the only way no matter how you grew up. They believed that God was making space for them by using diseases. "The colonists interpreted these indians deaths as divinely sanctioned opportunities to take the land. John Winthrop declared that the decimation of Indians by smallpox manifest a Puritan destiny: God was "making room" for the colonist and hath hereby cleared our title to the place" Pg. 3940. By saying God has cleared this land for them, this made all the rest of the people inclined to go with it. For them being christian was apart of being civilized. It was easier to kill a native if the "lord" told them to.

Score = 4

How did the English justify the wars they waged against the natives?

Years after the English first set foot on the New World, new settlers saw many opportunities to expand their colonizations, but there was one thing that they felt would keep them from doing so: the Natives. What the English did was just in their minds. The annihilation of the Pequot, and the taking of land from many other tribes was all for a purpose. The English needed a reason to take the land, so they stirred up some trouble, and killed a few Indians while they were at it. Shortly after, the Natives responded, "In 1622, the natives tried to drive out the intruders, killing some three hundred colonists" (35). Although the English had most likely killed more than their share of indians, they saw no reason why the Natives could do the same thing back. John Smith called this act a "massacre" and called the indians "savage and cruel beasts". Killing of English men, had given the English the right to the land of the Natives, giving them no problem to wipe the rest of them out. Besides land ownership and rights to claim it, the English saw reason to take action upon the "savage" Natives through their religion(s). When the Puritans arrived, about a third of the population of indians had been abolished by disease brought from early english settlers. The Puritans interpreted the deaths as "divinely sanctioned opportunities to take the land" (39). They felt they had a manifested Puritan destiny to take the land and make room for more settlers to come from England. Considering this, the Puritans also had no problem wiping out a few indians so more colonies could be settled and more land could be claimed. Total war was sought, and total war was achieved.