

Location	Founded	Acts & Provisions	Full Religious Liberty?	Long-term result
Virginia	1607	First Charter (1606) explicitly forbade Catholics; 1659-1660 meeting of General Assembly passed "An Act for Suppressing the Quakers"; 1699 law entitled "An act for the more effectually suppressing of Blasphemy, Swearing, Cursing, Drunkenness and Sabbath breaking"	No. Anglicanism established. Protestant hegemony, with Catholics explicitly forbidden. Quakers also targeted, with laws established forbidding blasphemy, etc.	Christian, especially Anglican, hegemony established
Bermuda	1609	Included in the Third Charter of Virginia (1611), which called "for the Propagation of Christian Religion"; 1679 Somers Island Co. reportedly paid ministers in money, land, and a house; 1691 letter from Governor Richier to Assembly said only supported Anglican ministers	Not entirely. Protestant plurality of Anglicans, Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptists, and Quakers. Church of England established, although officially in 1691 liberty was given to all to worship in their own way	Official preference for Anglicans
Plymouth	1620	Separating Puritans/Independents; 1656: mandated church attendance; 1657–1660 ordinances vs. Quakers	No. Local unofficial Protestant toleration, but laws against Quakers	Became part of Massachusetts in 1681
Barbados and Leeward Islands	1627	Protestant toleration under Cromwell; Anglican hegemony after 1660; prosecutions of blasphemy	No. Church of England ascendent; Catholic worship in public not tolerated, although Quakers, Anabaptists, and Jews were present; seems only Anglicans allowed to use churches	Unclear; Anglican hegemony established
Maryland	1632	Catholic refuge; Maryland Toleration Act (1649) rejected an established church; later blasphemy laws	No. Religious liberty for Trinitarian Christians only; penalties for blasphemy (i.e. re: blessed virgin, apostles, or evangelists), anti-Trinitarianism, and not observing the Sabbath; explicit protection of Catholicism	Toleration Act revoked in 1654; reinstated in 1658; repealed in 1692
Rhode Island	1636	1641 Newport court order ("that none bee accounted a delinquent for Doctrine"); 1647 RI civil code ("all men may walk as their consciences perswade them"); 1663 Charter granted full religious liberty for all and "capacity to Defend themselves in their Just Rights and Liberties, against all the Enemyes of the Christian Faith, and others in all Respects."	Yes. Full religious liberty; no blasphemy provisions or penalties; Jews present as early as 1658; Roger Williams argued for full religious liberty for even atheists, Turks, and Catholics; rejection of an established church; church and state separate	Long-lasting, in theory; later issues regarding some religious minorities (citizenship, at least)
Connecticut	1639	1639 Fundamental Orders: purpose was "to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus"; stipulated all free planters must acknowledge Christ and be part of church fellowship	No. Toleration for Trinitarian Christians	Established with firm Congregational polity
New Hampshire	1639	1639 Agreement of Settlers at Exeter included provision that they would "submit ourselves to such Godly and Christian Lawes as are established in the realm of England to our best Knowledge"	No. Toleration for Christians/Protestants, but privileged Congregationalism	Long-term Congregationalist colony
Jamaica	1655	Oct. 1662 proclamation granted toleration to all who professed faith in "our Lord Jesus Christ"; Laws from 1664, 1670, and 1674 all invoked religious liberty but each established punishments for blasphemy and required that Governor be Anglican and "recommend it to all others"	No. Protestant toleration; Catholicism suppressed; after the Restoration (1660), Church of England established; blasphemy laws	Anglican hegemony; no/few Catholics; Jews and other non-Christians present but with unclear status
Breda (Netherlands)	1660	1660 Declaration of Breda	No. Charles II requested "liberty to tender consciences"; used some of the language that shows up later in the RI charter	Did not last, as Charles II made king in England

**Notes on nomenclature:**

**Toleration** refers to an official policy that permits differing religious groups to be present but with lesser standing than the dominant faith and subject to greater restriction

**Full religious liberty** means the extension of protection for private beliefs, however *heretical*, and the freedom all faiths to worship in public worship

**Separation of church and state** means no government interference in matters of religion

**Established denominations** were supported by taxes collected by governments

Location	Founded	Acts & Provisions	Full Religious Liberty?	Long-term result
Bombay	1665	Supposedly exempted local natives from the Church of England as long as they were politically loyal	No. Strong Catholic (Jesuit) presence; Catholics could worship freely at first; some Catholic property seized; local natives not allowed to worship publicly	In 1668 it came under control of the less tolerant East Indian Company; full religious liberty not implemented until much later
Carolinas	1669	1669 Fundamental Constitutions allowed proprietors to “grant liberty of conscience” to inhabitants; 1706 Church of England established	No. Officially colony open to Jews, heathens, and dissenters, but required to acknowledge that there was a God who should be publicly worshipped; atheists, scoffers, and non-monotheists excluded	Never fully implemented as originally designed; Anglicanism always privileged
New York	1674	Duke’s Laws (1674- 1691?) stated that no one “be molested fined or imprisoned for differing in Judgment in matters of Religion who profess Christianity.” Religious freedom not universally extended to Catholics (and sometimes not Quakers).	Not fully. Broad Protestant hegemony, but some toleration of Jews and dissenters. Anti-catholicism strong at first. Church and state not separate	Anglicanism ascendent
Pennsylvania	1682	The PA Frame of Government (1682) granted toleration to all who “confess and acknowledge the one Almighty and eternal God, to be the Creator, Upholder and Ruler of the world” and upheld civil law and order. Laws for observing the sabbath and against swearing	No. 1693 “Law Concerning Liberty of Conscience” ensured liberty of conscience/freedom to worship only to those who believed in God; non-trinitarians, atheists, and even (sometimes) Catholics not given full freedom	Broad Protestant plurality that included Quakers and multiple German immigrant groups
Delaware	1701	1701 Charter granted “Freedom of Consciences” only if person “confess and acknowledge One almighty God”; could only serve in govt. if professed belief in Jesus Christ, “the Saviour of the World”	No. Tolerance of Christians – not required to worship as long as acknowledged God	Christian hegemony
Georgia	1732	Charter (1732) stated perpetual “liberty of conscience allowed in the worship of God” and “free exercise of religion,” but this exempted Catholics. Law acknowledged Quakers’ conscientious objections to taking oaths	No. Toleration for non-Catholic Christians and Quakers; Anglicanism favored	Protestant colony; anti-Catholic (officially until 1770s)
Surinam	1651-1667	1662 – Restoration constitution proclaimed “liberty of conscience to all that shall live peaceably”	Not fully. Power given to proprietors to grant religious liberty to nonconformists; full freedom of worship given to Jews in 1665 (and given rights as English subjects)	Dutch recaptured Surinam in 1667
Dunkirk	1658-1662	Vision was for a tolerant society (esp. for Catholics); not realized	No. Catholicism tolerated, but public Catholic processions were banned and priests were required to swear an oath of allegiance	Sold to the French in 1662
Tangier	1662-1684	Large Catholic population; Jews permitted to have a synagogue for a while; surrounded by Muslim population	No. Officially Anglican; no other forms of Protestantism tolerated	Jews eventually expelled; Tangier given up in 1684
New Jersey	1676/1702	1676 charter of West New Jersey stated that no individual could be punished or lose privileges because of “his opinion, judgment, faith or worship towards God in matters of religion”; 1683 “Fundamental Constitutions” of East New Jersey required Trinitarian belief for govt service	No. Although in theory, West New Jersey favored religious liberty	Unified into one colony in 1702; Protestant hegemony; Catholics not always welcomed

**Notes on nomenclature:**

**Toleration** refers to an official policy that permits differing religious groups to be present but with lesser standing than the dominant faith and subject to greater restriction

**Full religious liberty** means the extension of protection for private beliefs, however *heretical*, and the freedom all faiths to worship in public worship

**Separation of church and state** means no government interference in matters of religion

**Established denominations** were supported by taxes collected by governments