

21L007 After Pocahontas

In 1622, Powhatan's brother Opechancanough (Smith's captor) led an uprising against the English colony in which about 350 colonists were killed. An apologist for the Virginia Company wrote in the same year that "this massacre ... must needs be for the good of the plantation after, and the loss of this blood to make the body more healthful." Why?

- **First**, Because betraying of innocence never rests unpunished....
- **Secondly**, Because our hands which before were tied with gentleness and fair usage, are now set at liberty by the treacherous violence of the Savages, not untying the knot, but cutting it: So that we ... may now by right of War, and law of Nations, invade the Country, and destroy them who sought to destroy us: whereby we shall enjoy their cultivated places ... possessing the fruits of others' labours... [Colonists will have the use of land already cleared by the Indians].
- **Thirdly**, Because those commodities which the Indians enjoyed as much or rather more than we, shall now also be entirely possessed by us ... [Game will be more abundant, as the English will not kill laying fowl, female deer, etc.] ... whereby, as also by the orderly using of their fishing weirs, no known Country in the world will so plentifully abound in victuals.
- **Fourthly**, Because the way of conquering them is much more easy than of civilizing them by fair means, for they are a rude, barbarous, and naked people, scattered in small companies, which are helps to Victory, but hindrances to Civility: Besides that, a conquest may be of many, and at once; but civility is in particular, and slow, the effect of long time, and great industry. Moreover, victory of them may be gained many ways; by force, by surprise, by famine in burning their corn, by destroying and burning their boats, canoes, and houses, by breaking their fishing weirs, by assailing them in their huntings ... by pursuing and chasing them with our horses, and blood-hounds to draw after them, and mastiffs to tear them, which take this naked, tanned, deformed Savages, for no other than wild beasts ... By these and sundry other ways, as by ... animating and abetting their enemies against them, may their ruin and subjection be soon effected. ... So likewise Ferdinando Cortés vanquished King Motezuma, and gained the kingdom of Mexico from him, by the aid and furtherance of the neighbouring people of the province of Tascala, being deadly enemies to the Mexicans And by these factions and differences of petty Princes, the Romans took their greatest advantage to overcome this Island of Great Britain...
- **Fifthly**, Because the Indians, who before were used as friends, may now more justly be compelled to servitude and drudgery, and supply the room of men that labour, whereby even the meanest of the Plantation may employ themselves more entirely in their Arts and Occupations, which are more generous ...
- **Sixthly**, This will for ever hereafter make us more cautious and circumspect, as never to be

deceived more by any other treacheries, but will serve for a great instruction to all posterity there, to teach them that *Trust is the mother of Deceit*, and to learn them from the *Italian*... He that trusts not is not deceived: and make them know that kindnesses are misspent upon rude natures, so long as they continue rude ...

Edward Waterhouse, *A Declaration of the State of the Colony in Virginia* (London, 1622)