

An Act Concerning Religion: Lord Baltimore

(Note: These are excerpts from the text, not the full text)

That whatsoever person or persons within this Province and the Islands thereunto belonging shall from henceforth blaspheme God, that is Curse him, or deny our Saviour Jesus Christ to bee the sonne of God, or shall deny the holy Trinity the father sonne and holy Ghost, or the Godhead of any of the said Three persons of the Trinity or the Unity of the Godhead, or shall use or utter any reproachfull Speeches, words or language concerning the said Holy Trinity, or any of the said three persons thereof, shalbe [shall be] punished with death and confiscation or forfeiture of all his or her lands and goods to the Lord Proprietary and his heires.

The Toleration Act was said to provide religious freedom. However, who does it give religious freedom to?

What groups would not be included?

And be it also further Enacted by the same authority advise and assent that whatsoever person or persons shall from henceforth upon any occasion of Offence or otherwise in a reproachful manner or Way declare call ordenominate any person or persons whatsoever inhabiting, residing, traffiqueingtrading or comerceing within this Province or within any the Ports, Harbors, Creeks or Havens to the same belonging an heritick, Scismatick, Idolator, puritan, Independant, Prespiterian, popish prest [priest], Jesuite, Jesuited papist, Lutheran, Calvenist, Anabaptist, Brownist, Antinomian, Barrowist, Roundhead, Separatist, or any other name or terme in a reproachfull manner relating to matter of Religion shall for every such Offence forfeit and loose the somme of tenne shillings sterling or the value thereof to bee levyed on the goods and chattells of every such Offender and Offenders, the one half thereof to be forfeited and paid unto the person and persons of whom such reproachfull words are or shalbe spoken or uttered, and the other half thereof to the Lord Proprietary and his heires Lords and Proprietaries of this Province. But if such person or persons who shall at any time utter or speake any such reproachfull words or Language shall not have Goods or Chattells sufficient and overt within this Province to bee taken to satisfie the penalty aforesaid or

that the same bee not otherwise speedily satisfied, that then the person or persons soe offending shalbe publickly whipt, and shall suffer imprisonment without baile or maineprise untill hee, shee or they respectively shall satisfy the party soe offended or greived by such reproachfull Language by asking him or her respectively forgiveness publicly for such his Offence before the Magistrate of cheife Officer or Officers of the Towne or place where such Offence shalbe given.

In a sentence or two, what does the Toleration Act make illegal? (Hint)

What is the penalty, underline or circle in the text, and then bullet below.

And be it further likewise Enacted by the Authority and consent aforesaid That every person and persons within this Province that shall at any time here after prophane the Sabbath or Lords day called Sunday by frequent swearing, drunkennes or by any uncivill or disorderly recreacion [recreation], or by working on that day when absolute necessity doth not require it shall for every such first offence forfeit 2s.6d sterling or the value thereof, and for the second offence 5s sterling or the value thereof, and for the third offence and soe for every time he shall offend in like manner afterwards 10s sterling or the value thereof. And in case such offender and offenders shall not have sufficient goods or chattells within this Province to satisfy any of the said Penalties respectively hereby imposed for prophaning the Sabbath or Lords day called Sunday as aforesaid, That in Every such case the partie soe offending shall for the first and second offence in that kinde be imprisoned till hee or shee shall publicly in open Court before the cheife Commander Judge or Magistrate, of that County Towne or precinct where such offence shalbe committed acknowledg the Scandall and offence he hath in that respect given against God and the good and civill Governement of this Province, And for the third offence and for every time after shall also bee publicly whipt.

Put the underlined portion in your own words.

Was Maryland really open to all religions? Explain.

Maryland


By this time another English colony had been founded in the region immediately to the north of Virginia. It had a different origin than any of the others, being essentially the property of a single person. The English rulers claimed America as their private possession to do with as they wished. For this reason few people objected when Charles I gave 10 million acres (4 million hectares) of land around Chesapeake Bay to an important English nobleman, George Calvert, Lord Baltimore. The grant gave Calvert enormous power. He could found manors such as had existed in feudal times and hold the residents as serfs. He could act as the prosecutor and judge of anyone accused of breaking the law. He was known as the proprietor, or owner, of the area, and his colony was thus a **proprietary colony**.

Calvert died before the king's seal was attached to the charter making the grant. His son Cecilius Calvert became the first proprietor of the colony, which was called Maryland in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles I. The Calverts were Catholics and hoped to make Maryland a Catholic colony.

The first settlers landed in 1634 and founded the town of St.

of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore

Life was relatively easy for them because Virginia, now a colony, was nearby. They could get food and other supplies from Virginia, and they did not have to wait for ships from distant England. They scarcely needed gold. Instead they turned promptly to growing tobacco. Despite the charter Cecilius Calvert soon realized that he could not run Maryland like a feudal lord. In order to attract settlers, he had to allow people to own land and to have some say in the government. Although he encouraged Catholics to settle in Maryland, a majority of the people who came there were Protestants. The Catholics received large land grants and held most of the important positions in the colony. The Protestants resented this favoritism. To make the Catholic Church the official church of Maryland might have caused a revolution.

Calvert dealt with this problem shrewdly. He encouraged the legislature to pass the Toleration Act of 1649, which guaranteed freedom of religion to all Christians. On the surface the Catholics were "tolerating" the Protestants. In fact, the Catholic minority was protecting itself. 

"Founding of Maryland" was painted by Emanuel Leutze. What does this scene say about religious life in Maryland? What does it say about relations between the colonists and the local Indians?

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Maryland:

- 1) What family was granted the Maryland settlement? How big was the land grant?

- 2) What power could this family exercise over the area?

- 3) Define: *Proprietary Colony*

- 4) Explain who Maryland was named after and who Maryland was created for?

- 5) Where did the settlers first settle in Maryland? Was life easy or difficult for these newcomers to the New World? Also, what did the Maryland settlers focus on for their economy?

- 6) Explain how Calvert attracted settlers to Maryland.

- 7) Define: *Toleration Act of 1649*.