

Q) What were the factors which led to the formation of New England Confederation of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut and New Haven colonies, in 1643?

Introduction

The New England Confederation played a significant role in bringing colonies together for few common causes and this confederation is considered to be the first time four of these colonies became united. The New England Confederation also lays its strong roots in making the United States of America independent. The New England Confederation lasted till 1684.

Causes that led to its formation

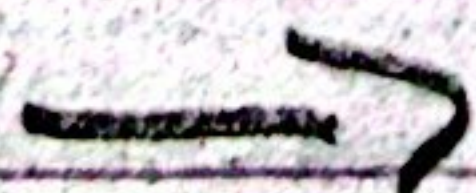
1) Civil war of UK

The English Civil War broke out in 1642, less than 40 years after the death of Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth had been succeeded by

her first cousin King James VI of Scotland. The civil war was fought between Charles I and parliament between 1642 and 1651. Due to the ongoing conflict in UK, the colonies were suffering from lack of attention by their masters and this gave them a thought of making their own alliance.

2) Threat from native Indians

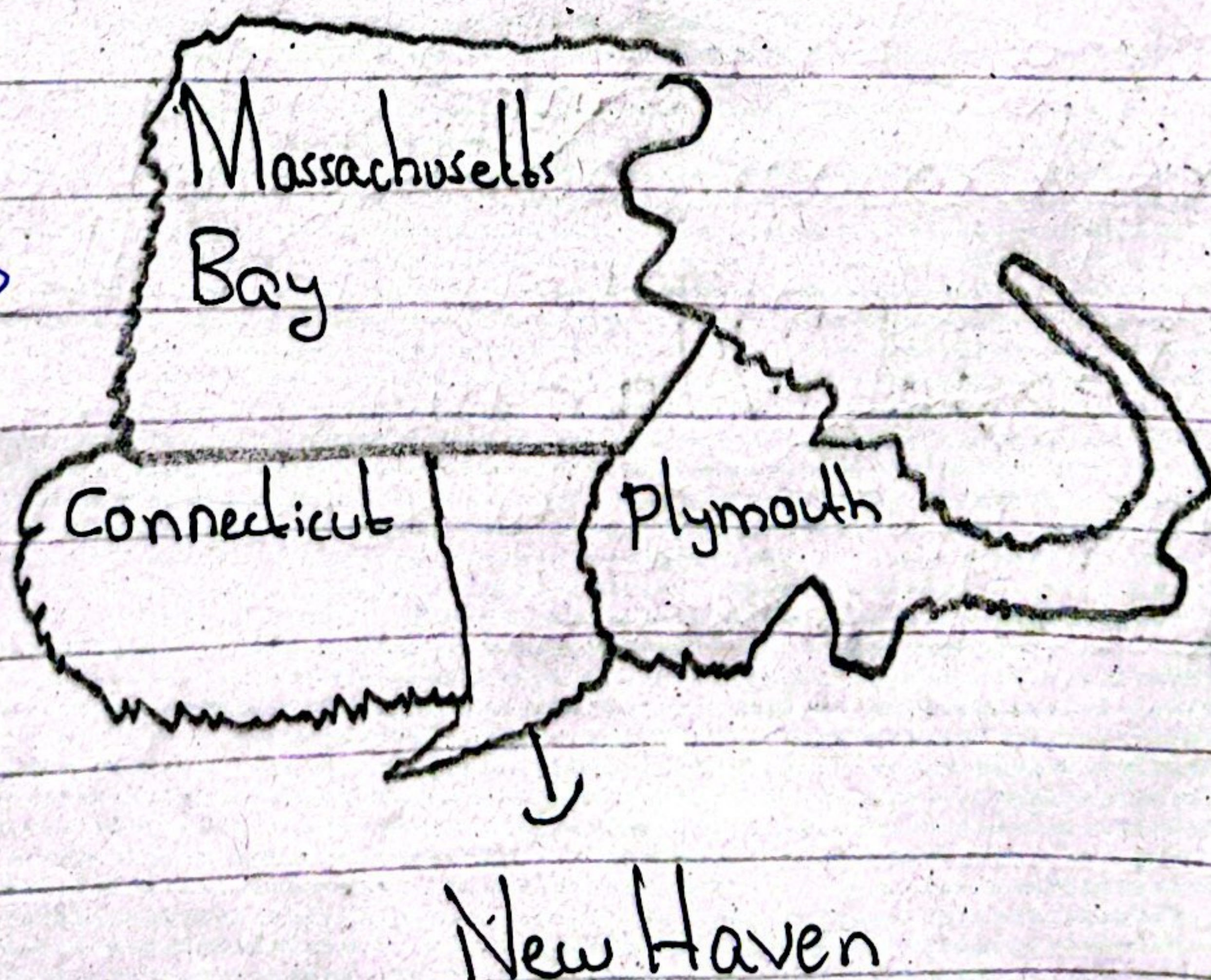
The land as we all know was occupied by the colonists and the natives, who were the real owners of the land were removed from it. This from time to time turned into hatred and many times colonies were attacked by the natives. For this reason the four colonies decided to form an alliance from the ongoing threat from the Indians. One of the famous ^{war} ~~battle~~ that was fought between the colonists and the native was the Pequot War, which ended in 1638. Hence it was necessary to form a confederation to protect themselves.



③ Impact of Spain and France.

France and Spain were rivals of the British in the American continent and there was an imperial race going on between them. Many battles were fought between these three and there was a threat of an invasion most of the time. Due to this threat, British started putting harsh policies on the colonies and the colonists. This made the colonists angry as they had nothing to do with it and it was solely the problem of the British. For this reason, they formed a confederation so they together can ~~opp~~ oppose these harsh policies. Therefore, the impact of Spain and France led to the formation of the confederation.

New England
Confederation →



④ Intra-colonial issues

All colonies at that time were going through a set of intra-colonial issues. There were differences among them on how to deal with the native tribes and also on religious freedom. All the colonies consisted of individuals with different religious perspectives. For example some colonies were dominated by the puritans or Catholics. Some were populated by the Quakers or the Protestants. Hence, these intra-colonial issues had to be dealt with and this also led to the formation of the Confederation.

⑤ Political ideology in danger

In 1619 certain changes were made in the administration of the colonies and this led to the formation of a representative assembly (House of Burgesses). This increased the say of people on how their colony should be run and it also increased political participation. This representative assembly was made in James Town, Virginia. Similarly, all other colonies wanted somehow some administration in their

colonies and were aware of their political rights. All colonies wanted increased participation on ideas of how their colonies should be run. On the other hand, the British were looking to have more control over their colonies and to resist this and pressurize British to not do this lead to the formation of the confederation.

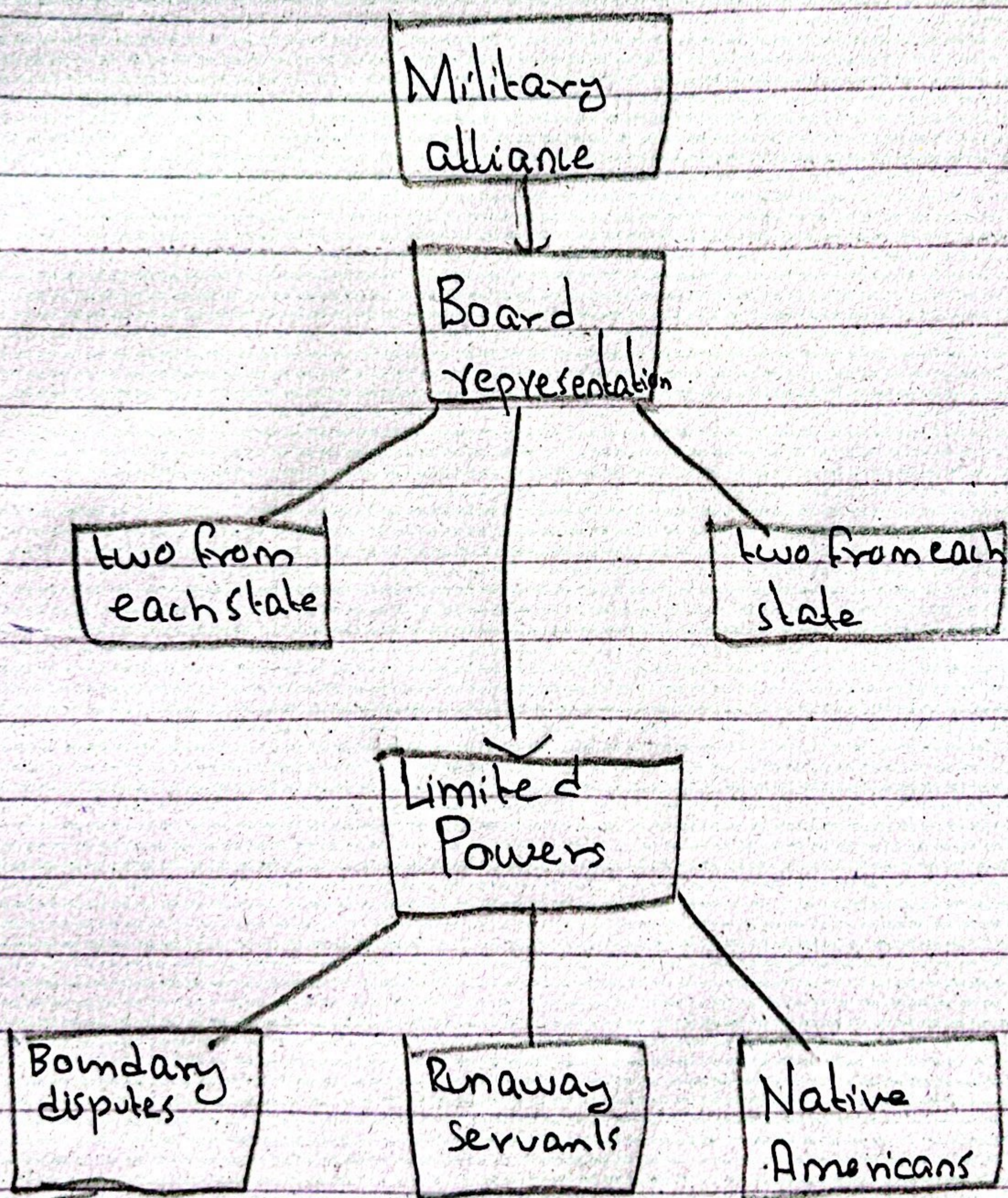
⑥ Similar social and religious orientation of areas

All four colonies had similar social and religious orientation of areas ~~all~~ as all of them wanted to progress socially and religiously. Furthermore, all four colonies wanted to protect themselves of falling prey to the commercial interests of France and Spain. Therefore, for this reason too New England Confederation was formed.

Structure of New England Confederation

The New England Confederation consisted of four colonies that formed an military alliance to protect themselves. Moreover, the confederation also consisted of board members →

two from each state and they agreed on three ~~four~~ things. Act on boundary disputes, return of runaway slaves and dealing with native Americans.



Conclusion

The New England Confederation was formed due to many reasons. Most important of them was to deal with threat of native Americans.

However, this unity played a significant role in the independence of America as through this colonies understood that they can be united or come together for a bigger cause.