Text of Plaque Commemorating Metacomet (King Philip) in Plymouth Massachusetts’ Post Office Square
After the Pilgrims’ arrival, Native Americans in New England grew increasingly frustrated with the English settlers’ abuse and treachery. Metacomet (King Philip), a son of the Wampanoag sachem known as the Massasoit (Ousameqin), called upon all Native people to unite to defend their homelands against encroachment. The resulting “King Philip’s War” lasted from 1675-1676. Metacomet was murdered in Rhode Island in August 1676, and his body was mutilated. His head was impaled on a pike and was displayed near this site for more than 20 years. One hand was sent to Boston, the other to England. Metacomet’s wife and son, along with the families of many of the Native American combatants, were sold into slavery in the West Indies by the English victors.

Text of Plaque on Cole’s Hill, Plymouth Massachusetts
Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered at noon on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. To them, Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of their people, the theft of their lands, and the relentless assault on their culture. Participants in a National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.

Mayflower 400 : Stop Sanitising History
The English colonisation of North America involved
Wars
Enslavement
Slave Trading
Genocide
Land Grabbing
‘The Doctrine of Discovery’

Sanitising History in Plymouth
‘Every child in Plymouth will know the story of the Mayflower’
(Plymouth Council Scrutiny committee, 16/03/2016)
But it should be the FULL story of the founding of New England

https://mayflowermavericks.wordpress.com
@MayflowerM1620
Mayflower Mavericks
The Caribbean Connection – Feeding the slaves

The colonies of New England were founded on land forcibly taken from the Indigenous Nations of the region. The land they seized was used to establish a successful economy through trade with the British Caribbean slave colonies.

As you will be aware, large scale land appropriation, war, slavery and slave trading are central not marginal issues to the teaching of British colonial history in the Americas.

Starting with the Plymouth Mayflower Museum in 2015, and continuing with documents posted on your website, the preparations for the Mayflower 400 commemorations are conspicuous by the absence of slavery and the Caribbean and the marginalisation of 300 years of colonial massacres and land grabbing. These omissions and acts of sanitisation, coupled with the misleading and obsessive focus on the ‘Pilgrim Fathers’, act to de-contextualise events. This is not what history education should be.

Though you have chosen to adopt the colonial narrative about the Mayflower journey for your education project, perhaps you are not aware of how controversial and excluding this approach is as you have also expressed a wish to have inclusive commemorations.

I/we am/are writing to you to propose that you suspend your education project as a matter of urgency, until the views and narratives of Indigenous American, African American, and Caribbean groups in relation to Mayflower are sought. I/we would be grateful if you could address our concerns.

Write to: https://www.mayflower400uk.org/about/contact-us/
Heather.Ogburn@plymouth.gov.uk; Tom.Cox@plymouth.gov.uk; Judith.Harwood@plymouth.gov.uk; amanda.lumley@plymouth.gov.uk

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