

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NEW ENGLAND compiled by Hal Haller

- First settlement in 1620 by the Puritans (156 years before the Declaration of Independence)
- Religious freedom - a part of its inception
- Leader through every era of our history (i.e. Eight US Presidents from Harvard alone)
- Every new idea is measured by this value
- New Englanders are reluctant to embrace change unless you can show that doing so will...
 - enhance their quality of life
 - improve their economic welfare
- Fewer people change their religion in New England (21.2%) than in any other region of the country (35.7% average)
- Many are generational New Englanders.
- New Englanders would rather spend money fixing an old house than building a new one
- Highly educated populous
- More schools of higher education
- Rationalism contrasted with emotionalism
- 20% of the world's future leaders are studying in Boston at any given time (Harvard study)
- Three primary influences: England, Ireland and Italy
- Old World immigration and influence
- Over 110 language groups!
- There are more Irish residents in Boston than any other city in the world
- By percentage (13%) there are more Brazilians in Metro-Boston than any other US city.
- Small states, smallest region
- Isolated by "water"
- Rocky region (hard soil)

- Bigger is NOT seen as better
- Smallness believed to equal intimacy (families close by)
- Town-centric'
- Small region/Small town living/smaller churches
- Very few mega churches
- "Where everybody knows your name" Cheers theme song
- New Englanders trust local government more than they do state and federal government. When asked which level of government spends tax dollars most wisely, 50% said "local"; 24% said "state"; 14% said "federal"
- Spirit of Independence
- Leadership in a New Nation (not just politics)
- Literary Influence (Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Alcott, etc.)
- Better is better (quality first)
- Everything that's worth doing is worth doing well (schools, hospitals, arts...)
- New Englanders have fought in every major conflict since the Revolutionary War
- The A & E Network showing of "Pops Goes the 4th" is their number one cultural event annually
- New Englanders are tough, gritty, responsible and self reliant. They expect you to be the same way.
- They believe they know better especially if you are not from New England.
- Related to rugged individualism, education, and political correctness, New Englanders see themselves as liberal, progressive, open, affirming and tolerant
- They believe they are "an enlightened people"
- New England Christians evangelize less than believers in other regions. Only 25% of believers in New England have encouraged others to believe in Christ, versus 46.5% in the whole United
- Getting the rock out of the soil cannot be done in one year; it takes multiple seasons to do it.
- Ministry must be done with perseverance. Those who minister over the long haul typically succeed.

- Outside influences are held in suspicion (distrust)
- Businesses that survive in NE are either indigenous or take major losses in the early years to get established in the region
- New England is the LAST place in America typically where businesses will introduce their product
- Established by religious people fleeing persecution. (Boston founded by Wm Blackstone. Roger Williams established 1st Baptist Church in Providence, RI)
- 1st Great Awakening here (Whitefield)
- American missionary movement (Haystack Revivals)
- Graham Crusade in 1947 last great Christian impact event
- Came to NE “en masse” in 1880’s
- European in influence
- Nominal involvement in 2nd, 3rd, etc. generations (to many it is really a cultural value, not religious)
- Highest percentage of ‘Nones’
- Highest per capital of atheists
- Five out of 6 states the ‘least religious’ in the US
- Post Christian/Pre Christian Environment
- New England is a different place to minister than any other place in the world.
- To do missions effectively, you will have to learn, adjust, and be willing to serve.