

**DOCUMENT 2.6****JOHN MARTIN, "Proposal for Subjugating Native Americans"**

1622

John Martin (1560–1632), a Jamestown councilman, suggested the strategy below for subjugating the Pamunkey after the attacks by Opechankanough depicted in Document 2.5 above.

The manner how to bring in the Indians into subjugation [under control of the English] without making an utter extirpation of them together with the reasons.

First, by disabling the main body of the enemy from having . . . [all necessities]. As namely corn and all manner of victuals of any worth.

This is to be acted two manner of ways.—First by keeping them from setting corn at home and fishing. Secondly by keeping them from their accustomed trading for corn.

For the first it is performed by having some 200 soldiers on foot, continually harrowing and burning all their Towns in winter, and spoiling their wares. . . .

For the second there must [be] provided some 10 ships, that in May, June, July and August may scour the bay and keep the rivers yet are belonging to Opechankanoe [Opechankanough].

By this arises two happy ends.—First the assured taking of great purchases in skins and prisoners. Secondly in keeping them from trading for corn on the Eastern shore and from the southward from whence they have five times more than they set themselves.

This course being taken they have no means, but must yield to obedience, or fly to bordering neighbors who neither will receive them nor indeed are able, for they have but ground cleared for their own use.

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Susan Myra Kingsbury, ed., *The Records of the Virginia Company of London, 1607–26*, vol. 3, *Miscellaneous Records* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1906–1935), 740, transcribed into modern English by Jason Stacy.

## **PRACTICING Historical Thinking**

**Identify:** What is Martin's plan for subjugating the natives around Jamestown?

**Analyze:** In what ways does this plan play to the colonists' strengths?

**Evaluate:** Martin's plan took place before the advent of widespread slavery in Jamestown. To what extent does this plan reflect certain British attitudes toward non-Europeans?