



Charter to Sir Walter Raleigh : 1584

Version one: original spellings.

ELIZABETH by the Grace of God of England, Fraunce and Ireland Queene, defender of the faith, &c. To all people to whome these presents shall come, greeting.

Knowe yee that of our especial grace, certaine science, and meere motion, we haue given and graunted, and by these presents for us, our heires and successors, we giue and graunt to

our trustie and welbeloued seruant *Walter Raleigh*, Esquire, and to his heires assignee for euer, free libertie and licence from time to time, and at all times for ever hereafter, to discover, search, finde out, and view such remote, heathen and barbarous lands, countries, and territories, not actually possessed of any Christian Prince, nor inhabited by Christian People, as to him, his heires and assignee, and to every or any of them shall seeme good, and the same to haue, horde, occupie and enjoy to him, his heires and assignee for euer, with all prerogatives, commodities, jurisdictions, royalties, privileges, franchises, and preheminences, thereto or thereabouts both by sea and land, whatsoever we by our letters patents may graunt, and as we or any of our noble progenitors haue heretofore graunted to any person or persons, bodies politique. or corporate: and the said *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee, and all such as from time to time, by licence of us, our heires and successors, shall goe or trauaile thither to inhabite or remaine, there to build and fortifie, at the discretion of the said *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee, the statutes or acte of Parliament made against fugitives, or against such as shall depart, romaine or continue out of our Realme of England without licence, or any other statute, acte, lawe, or any ordinance whatsoever to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.



And we do likewise by these presents, of our especial grace, meere motion, and certain knowledge, for us, our heires and successors, giue and graunt full authoritie, libertie and power to the said *Walter Salem*, his heires and assignee, and every of them, that he and they, and euery or any of them, shall and may at all and euery time, and times hereafter, haue, take, and leade in the saide voyage, and trauaile thitherward, or to inhabit there with him, or them, and euery or any of them, such and so many of our subjects as shall willingly accompanie him or them, and euery or any of them to whom also we doe by these presents, giue full libertie and authority in that behalfe, and also to hare, take, and employ, and vse sufficient shipping and furniture for the Transportations and Nauigations in that behalfe, so that none of the same persons or any of them, be such as hereafter shall be restrained by us, our heires, or successors.

And further that the said *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee, and euery of them, shall haue holde, occupie, and enioye to him, his heires and assignee, and euery of them for euer, all the soile of all such lands, territories, and Countreis, so to bee discovered and possessed as aforesaide, and of all such Cities, castles, townes, villages, and places in the same, with the right,

royalties, franchises, and iurisdictions, as well marine as other within the saide lances, or Countreis, or the seas thereunto adioyning, to be had, or used, with full power to dispose thereof, and of euery part in fee-simple or otherwise, according to the order of the lawes of England, as neere as the same conveniently may bee, at his, and their will and pleasure, to any persons then being, or that shall romaine within the allegiance of us, our heires, and successors: resewing always to us our heires, and successors, for all services, duties, and demaundes, the lift part of all the oare of golde and siluer, that from time to time, and at all times after such discouerie, subduing and possessing, shal be there gotten and obtained: All which lances, Countreis, and territories, shall for ever be holden of the said *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee, of us, our heirs and successors, by homage, and by the said paiement of the said fift part, resewed onely for all services.

And moreover, we doe by these presents, for us, our heires and. successors, giue and graunt licence to the said *Walter Raleigh*, his heirs, and assignee, and euery of them, that he, and they, and euery or any of them, shall and may from time to time, and at all times for euer hereafter, for his and their defence, encounter and expulse, repell and resist as well by sea as by lance, and by all other wayes whatsoever, all, and every such person and persons whatsoever, as without the especiall liking and licence of the saide *Walter Raleigh*, and of his heires and assignee, shall attempt to inhabite within the said Countreis, or any of them, or within the space of two hundreth leagues neere to the place or places within such Countreis as aforesaide (if they shall not bee before planted or inhabited within the limits as aforesaide with the subjects of any Christian Prince being in amitie with us) where the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires, or assignee, or any of them, or his, or their or any of their associates or company, shall within sine yeeres (next ensuing) make their dwellings or abidings, or that shall enterprise or attempt at any time hereafter unlawfully to annoy, either by sea or lance, the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heirs or assignee. or any of them, or his or their, or any of his or their companies giuing, and granting by these presents further power and authoritie, to the said *Walter Raleigh*, his heirs and assignee, and euery of them from time to time, and at all times for euer hereafter, to take and surprise by all maner of meanes whatsoever, all and euery those person or persons, with their shipper, vessels, and other goods and furniture, which without the licence of the saide *Walter Raleigh*, or his heires, or assignee, as aforesaide, shalbe founde trafiquing into any harbour or harbors, creeke, or creekes, within the limits aforesaide, (the subjects of our Realms and Dominions, and all other persons in amitie with us, trading to the Newfound land for fishing as heretofore they haue commonly used, or being driven by force of a tempest, or shipwracke onely excepted:) and those persons, and euery of them, with their shippes, vessels, goods and furniture to deteine and possesse as of good and lawfull prize, according to the discretion of him the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires, and assignee, and euery, or any of them. And for uniting in more perfect league and amitie, of such Countreis, lances, and territories so to bee possessed and inhabited as aforesaide with our Realmes of Englande, and Ireland, and the better incouragement of men to these enterprises: we do by these presents, graunt and declare that all such Countreis, so hereafter to be possessed and inhabited as is aforesaide, from thencefoorth shall bee of the allegiance of vs. our heires and successours. And wee doe graunt to the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires, and assignee, and to all, and euery of them, and to all and euery other person, and persons being of our allegiance, whose names shall be noted or entred in some of our Courtes of recorde within our Realme of Englande, that with the

assent of the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires or assignes, shall in his journeis for discouerie, or in the iourneis for conquest, hereafter trauelle to such lands, countreis and territories, as aforesaide, and to their, and to euery of their heires, that they, and every or any of them, being either borne within our saide Realmes of Englande, or Irelande or in any other place within our allegiance, and which hereafter shall be inliabiting within any the lands, Countreis, and territories, with such licence (as aforesaide) shall and may haue all the priniledges of free Denizens, and persons native of England, and within our allegiance in such like ample manor and fourme, as if they were borne and personally resident within our saide Realme of England, any lawe, custome, or vsage to the contrary notwithstanding

And for asmuch as upon the finding out, discovering, or inhabiting of such remote lands, countreis, and territories as aforesaid, it shal be necessary for the safetie of al men, that shal aduenture them selues in those murnies or voyages, to determine to line together in Christian peace, and ciuil quietnes ech with other, whereby euery one may with snore pleasure and profit enjoy that whereunto they shall attaine with great Paine and perill, we for vs. our heires and successors, are likewise pleased and contented, and by these presents do giue and graunt to the said *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee for ever, that tree and they, and euery or any of them, shall and may from time to time for euer hereafter, within the said mentioned remote lances and Countreis in the way by the seas thither, and from thence, inane full and meere power and authoritie to correct, punish, pardon, gouerne, and rule by their and euery or any of their good discretions and pollicies, as well in causes capital, or criminal!, as ciuil, both marine and other all such our subjects as shall from time to time aduenture themselves in the said iournies or voyages, or that shall at any time hereafter inhabite any such lances, countreis, or territories as aforesaide, or shall abide within 200. leagues of any of the saide place or places, where the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires or assignee, or any of them, or any of his or their associates or companies, shall inhabits within 6. yeeres next ensuing the date hereof, according to such statutes, lawes and ordinances, as shall bee by him the saide *Walter Raleigh* his heires and assignee, and euery or any of them deuised, or established, for the better government of the said people as aforesaid. So always as the said statutes, lawes, and ordinances may be as neere as conveniently may be, agreeable to the forme of the lawes, statutes, gouvernement, or pollicie of England, and also so as they be not against the true Christian faith, nowe professed in the Church of England, nor in any wise to withdraws any of the subjects or people of those lances or places from the allegiance of vs. our heires and successours, as their immediate Soueraigne vnder God.

And further, wee doe by these presents for vs. our heires and successors, giue and graunt full power and authoritie to our trustie and welbeloued counsailer sir *William Cicill* knight, Lorde *Burghley*, our high Treasurer of England, and to the Lorde Treasurer of England, for vs. our heires and successors for the time being, and to the priuie Counsell, of us, our heirs and successours, or any foure or more o f them for the time being, that tree, they, or any fours or more of them, shall and may from time to time, and at all times hereafter, under his or their handes or scales by vertue of these presents, authorise and licence the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee. and euery or any of them by him, and by themselves, or by their, of any of their sufficient Atturnies, deputies, officers, ministers, factors. and servants, to imbarke and transport out of our Realme of England and Ireland, and the Dominions thereof all, or any of his, or their

goods, and all or any the goods of his and their associate and companies, and euery or any of them, with such other necessaries and commodities of any our Realmes, as to the saide Lorde Treasurer, or foure or more of the priuie Counsaile, of vs. our heires and successors for the time being (as aforesaide) shalbe from time to time by his or their wisdomes, or discretions thought meete and convenient, for the better reliefe and supportation of him the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires, and assignee, and euery or any of them, and of his or their or any of their associate and companies, any acte, statute, lawe, or other thing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided alwayes, and our will and pleasure is, and wee do hereby declare to all Christian kings, princes and states, that if the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires or assignee, or any of them, or any other lay their licence or appointment, shall at any time or times hereafter. robbe or spoile by sea or by lance, or do any acte of unjust or unlawful hostilitie, to any of the subjects of vs. our heires or successors, or to any of the subjects of any the kings, princes, rulers, governors, or estates, being then in perfect league and amitie with us, our heires and successors, and that upon such injury, or upon lust complaint of any such prince, ruler, gouvernoir, or estate, or their subjects, wee, our heires and successours, shall make open proclamation within any the Fortes of our Realme of England, that the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee, and adherents, or any to whome these our letters patents may extende, shall within the termes to be Emitted, by such proclamation, make full restitution, and satisfaction of all such inJuries done, so as both we and the said princes, or other so complaying, may horde vs and themselves fully contented. And that if the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee, shall not make or cause to be made satisfaction accordingly, within such time so to be limited, that then it shall be lawfull to us our heires and successors, to put the saide *Walter Raleigh*, his heires and assignee and adherents, and all the inhabitants of the said places to be discovered (as is aforesaide) or any of them out of our allegiance and protection, and that from and after such time of putting out of protection the said *Walter Rategh*, his heires, assignee and adherents, and others so to be put out, and the said places within their habitation, possession and rule, shaL be out of our alleageance and protection, and free for all princes and others, to pursue with hostilitie, as being not our subjects, nor by vs any way to be avouched, maintained or defended, nor to be holden as any of ours, nor to our protection or dominion, or allegiance any way belonging, for that expresse mention of the cleer yeerely value of tile certaintie of the premisses, or any part thereof, or of any other gift, or grant by vs. or any our progenitors, or predecessors to the said *Walter Raleigh*, before this time made in these presents be not expressed, or any other grant, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restraint to the contrarye thereof, before this time giuen, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof, we haue caused these our letters to be made patents. Witnesse our selues, at *Westminster*, the 25. day of March, in the sixe and twentieth yeere of our Raigne.

Charter to Sir Walter Raleigh : 1584

Version 2: Modernized Spelling.

ELIZABETH by the Grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith, &c. To all people to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

Know ye that of our especial grace, certain science, and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we give and grant to our trusty and well beloved servant Walter Raleigh, Esquire, and to his heirs assignee for ever, free liberty and licence from time to time, and at all times for ever hereafter, to discover, search, finds out, and view such remote, heathen and barbarous lands, countries, and territories, not actually possessed of any Christian Prince, nor inhabited by Christian People, as to him, his heirs and assignee, and to every or any of them shall seem good, and the same to have, horde, occupy and enjoy to him, his heirs and assignee for ever, with all prerogatives, commodities, jurisdictions, royalties, privileges, franchises, and preeminences, thereto or thereabouts both by sea and land, whatsoever we by our letters patents may grant, and as we or any of our noble progenitors have heretofore granted to any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate: and the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee, and all such as from time to time, by licence of us, our heirs and successors, shall go or travel thither to inhabit or remain, there to build and fortify, at the discretion of the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee, the statutes or act of Parliament made against fugitives, or against such as shall depart, romaine or continue out of our Realm of England without licence, or any other statute, act, law, or any ordinance whatsoever to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And we do likewise by these presents, of our especial grace, mere motion, and certain knowledge, for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant full authority, liberty and power to the said Walter Salem, his heirs and assignee, and every of them, that he and they, and every or any of them, shall and may at all and every time, and times hereafter, have, take, and lead in the said voyage, and travel thither-ward, or to inhabit there with him, or them, and every or any of them, such and so many of our subjects as shall willingly accompany him or them, and every or any of them to whom also we doe by these presents, give full liberty and authority in that behalf, and also to hare, take, and employ, and use sufficient shipping and furniture for the Transportations and Navigations in that behalf, so that none of the same persons or any of them, be such as hereafter shall be restrained by us, our heirs, or successors.

And further that the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee, and every of them, shall have hold, occupy, and enjoined to him, his heirs and assignee, and every of them for ever, all the soil of all such lands, territories, and Countries, so to bee discovered and possessed as aforesaid, and of all such Cities, castles, towns, villages, and places in the same, with the right, royalties, franchises, and jurisdictions, as well marine as other within the said lances, or Countries, or the seas there unto adjoining, to be had, or used, with full power to dispose thereof, and of every part in fee-simple or otherwise, according to the order of the laws of England, as near as the same conveniently may bee, at his, and their will and pleasure, to any persons then being, or that shall

remain within the allegiance of us, our heirs, and successors: reserving always to us our heirs, and successors, for all services, duties, and demands, the left part of all the oare{?} of gold and silver, that from time to time, and at all times after such discoveries, subduing and possessing, shall be there gotten and obtained: All which lances, Countries, and territories, shall for ever be holden of the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee, of us, our heirs and successors, by homage, and by the said payment of the said fifth part, reserved only for all services.

And moreover, we doe by these presents, for us, our heirs and. successors, give and grant licence to the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs, and assignee, and every of them, that he, and they, and every or any of them, shall and may from time to time, and at all times for ever hereafter, for his and their defense, encounter and expel, repel and resist as well by sea as by lance, and by all other ways whatsoever, all, and every such person and persons whatsoever, as without the especial liking and licence of the said Walter Raleigh, and of his heirs and assignee, shall attempt to inhabit within the said Countries, or any of them, or within the space of two hundred leagues near to the place or places within such Countries as aforesaid (if they shall not bee before planted or inhabited within the limits as aforesaid with the subjects of any Christian Prince being in amity with us) where the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs, or assignee, or any of them, or his, or their or any of their associates or company, shall within sine[?] years (next ensuing) make their dwellings or abidings, or that shall enterprise or attempt at any time hereafter unlawfully to annoy, either by sea or lance, the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs or assignee. or any of them, or his or their, or any of his or their companies giving, and granting by these presents further power and authority, to the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee, and every of them from time to time, and at all times for ever hereafter, to take and surprise by all manner of means whatsoever, all and every those person or persons, with their shipper, vessels, and other goods and furniture, which without the licence of the said Walter Raleigh, or his heirs, or assignee, as aforesaid, shall be found trafficking into any harbor or harbors, creek, or creeks, within the limits aforesaid, (the subjects of our Realms and Dominions, and all other persons in amity with us, trading to the Newfound land for fishing as heretofore they have commonly used, or being driven by force of a tempest, or shipwreck only excepted:) and those persons, and every of them, with their ships, vessels, goods and furniture to detain and possess as of good and lawful prize, according to the discretion of him the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs, and assignee, and every, or any of them. And for uniting in more perfect league and amity, of such Countries, lances, and territories so to bee possessed and inhabited as aforesaid with our Realms of England, and Ireland, and the better encouragement of men to these enterprises: we do by these presents, grant and declare that all such Countries, so hereafter to be possessed and inhabited as is aforesaid, from thenceforth shall bee of the allegiance of vs. our heirs and successors. And we do grant to the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs, and assignee, and to all, and every of them, and to all and every other person, and persons being of our allegiance, whose names shall be noted or entered in some of our Courts of record within our Realm of England, that with the assent of the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs or assigns, shall in his journeys for discoveries, or in the journeys for conquest, hereafter travel to such lands, Countries and territories, as aforesaid, and to their, and to every of their heirs, that they, and every or any of them, being either borne within our said Realms of England, or Ireland or in any other place within our allegiance, and which hereafter shall be inhabiting within any the lands, Countries, and territories, with such licence (as aforesaid) shall and may have all the privileges of

free Denizens, and persons native of England, and within our allegiance in such like ample manor and form, as if they were borne and personally resident within our said Realm of England, any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding

And for as much as upon the finding out, discovering, or inhabiting of such remote lands, Countries, and territories as aforesaid, it shall be necessary for the safety of all men, that shall adventure them selves in those journeys or voyages, to determine to live together in Christian peace, and civil quietness each with other, whereby every one may with snore pleasure and profit enjoy that whereunto they shall attain with great Paine and peril, we for vs. our heirs and successors, are likewise pleased and contented, and by these presents do give and grant to the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee for ever, that tree and they, and every or any of them, shall and may from time to time for ever hereafter, within the said mentioned remote lances and Countries in the way by the seas thither, and from thence, inane full and mere power and authority to correct, punish, pardon, govern, and rule by their and every or any of their good discretions and policies, as well in causes capital, or criminal!, as civil, both marine and other all such our subjects as shall from time to time adventure themselves in the said journeys or voyages, or that shall at any time hereafter inhabit any such lances, Countries, or territories as aforesaid, or shall abide within 200. leagues of any of the said place or places, where the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs or assignee, or any of them, or any of his or their associates or companies, shall inhabits within 6. years next ensuing the date hereof, according to such statutes, laws and ordinances, as shall bee by him the said Walter Raleigh his heirs and assignee, and every or any of them devised, or established, for the better government of the said people as aforesaid. So always as the said statutes, laws, and ordinances may be as near as conveniently may be, agreeable to the form of the laws, statutes, government, or policy of England, and also so as they be not against the true Christian faith, now professed in the Church of England, nor in any wise to withdraws any of the subjects or people of those lances or places from the allegiance of vs. our heirs and successors, as their immediate Sovereign under God.

And further, wee do by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant full power and authority to our trusty and well beloved chancellor sir William Cicill knight, Lord Burghley, our high Treasurer of England, and to the Lord Treasurer of England, for vs. our heirs and successors for the time being, and to the privy Council, of us, our heirs and successors, or any four or more o f them for the time being, that tree, they, or any fours or more of them, shall and may from time to time, and at all times hereafter, under his or their hands or scales by virtue of these presents, authorize and licence the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee. and every or any of them by him, and by themselves, or by their, of any of their sufficient Attorneys, deputies, officers, ministers, factors. and servants, to embark and transport out of our Realm of England and Ireland, and the Dominions thereof all, or any of his, or their goods, and all or any the goods of his and their associate and companies, and every or any of them, with such other necessaries and commodities of any our Realms, as to the said Lord Treasurer, or four or more of the privy Council, of us. our heirs and successors for the time being (as aforesaid) shall be from time to time by his or their wisdom, or discretions thought meet and convenient, for the better relief and supportation of him the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs, and assignee, and every or any of them,

and of his or their or any of their associate and companies, any act, statute, law, or other thing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided always, and our will and pleasure is, and wee do hereby declare to all Christian kings, princes and states, that if the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs or assignee, or any of them, or any other lay their licence or appointment, shall at any time or times hereafter. rob or spoil by sea or by lance, or do any act of unjust or unlawful hostility, to any of the subjects of us, our heirs or successors, or to any of the subjects of any the kings, princes, rulers, governors, or estates, being then in perfect league and amity with us, our heirs and successors, and that upon such injury, or upon lust complaint of any such prince, ruler, governor, or estate, or their subjects, wee, our heirs and successors, shall make open proclamation within any the Fortes of our Realm of England, that the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee, and adherents, or any to whom these our letters patents may extend, shall within the terms to be Emitted, by such proclamation, make full restitution, and satisfaction of all such injuries done, so as both we and the said princes, or other so complaining, may horde vs and themselves fully contented. And that if the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee, shall not make or cause to be made satisfaction accordingly, within such time so to be limited, that then it shall be lawful to us our heirs and successors, to put the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assignee and adherents, and all the inhabitants of the said places to be discovered (as is aforesaid) or any of them out of our allegiance and protection, and that from and after such time of putting out of protection the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs, assignee and adherents, and others so to be put out, and the said places within their habitation, possession and rule, shall be out of our allegiance and protection, and free for all princes and others, to pursue with hostility, as being not our subjects, nor by us any way to be vouched, maintained or defended, nor to be holden as any of ours, nor to our protection or dominion, or allegiance any way belonging, for that express mention of the clear yearly value of title certain of the premisses, or any part thereof, or of any other gift, or grant by vs. or any our progenitors, or predecessors to the said Walter Raleigh, before this time made in these presents be not expressed, or any other grant, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restraint to the contrary thereof, before this time given, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patents. Witness our selves, at Westminster, the 25. day of March, in the six and twentieth year of our Reign.

Source: The Avalon Project. Yale University School of Law
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/raleigh.htm>

Spelling modernized by Michael R. H. Swanson, Ph. D.