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# HST 201: History of United States F16 (Escobar Meta 20938 23214)

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## Forum 1

### Puritanism & Islam

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#### Puritanism & Islam

by Joe Escobar - Friday, October 7, 2016, 10:03 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Puritanism & Islam topic.  
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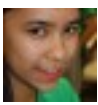
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BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Puritanism & Islam

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Puritanism?



by Emily Phan - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 10:57 AM

Students in America seem to have an ingrained horror of any religion, especially Christianity, having any influence or weight in government. It has a very negative connotation to them. They think of events like the Salem Witch Trials, the Catholic Protestant wars, or even lesser things like kids being forced to hear prayers in schools. They hear of these events and decide that religion is a definite problem or even an evil if allowed a hand in government. They feel that Puritans were unreasonable and backwards to put so much of their religion into their government; hence the Puritan society is rather incomprehensible at best and a downright evil at worst.

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### Muslim?

by Emily Phan - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 10:58 AM

Now in Muslim countries it is an excepted idea that religion is going to influence government. Students are not taught and do not feel that having religion shape parts of government to be an evil. They do not feel that the Puritans were unreasonable or backward in letting their religion sway their government. So I agree with the professor in the interview, students in America find it very hard to relate and/or understand the Puritans.

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### Re: Puritanism & Islam

by Quan Cheng - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 9:12 PM

I'm interested in different culture and I try studying the religious off-campus by myself. And I always look for the chance like visiting church to understand and learning different religious. What professor said in audio. "Perhaps I could've anticipated this if I thought more about it, but many of my Middle Eastern Muslim students have far more in common with 17th-century New England Puritans than did most of my 21st-century American students." (audio 3:28)

That's a significant finding and also new for me. I've talk this kind of question with my teacher before. She said, "I was Lutheran, which is one of the many Christian subgroup up until college." She also said, "I think because some of the Christian churches in the USA are a little 'moralistic' and have not kept up with the changes in the world. Some church are very anti-gay and not open to people of color or other religions. Most young people don't like this kind of attitude, and don't like when churches try to say that other religious are wrong." That's her personal feeling and opinion.

I went to my friends church couple times. What I saw is almost no young people went to church for liturgy. Dogmas are not change, but what do change are people. I asked lot of my American friends. Maybe they didn't go to church every Sunday, or say they didn't go to church at all. But most important thing is they still believe in God. Right?

What do you think? I'm not American people, so I want to hear more about what American students thinks, or other religious students opinion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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### **Re: Puritanism & Islam**

by Tyra Potter - Friday, October 14, 2016, 12:34 PM

Carol (Am I spelling that correctly?), I loved our discussion before class on thursday. It is so interesting how we both have a more fresh look on Christian based religions, for different reasons granted, but we have both picked up on some of the same things. We both realized that in most christian based churches the majority of people are of older generations. I am curious as to why that is. Maybe it is because millennials are growing up in a country that is more focused on monetary gain and stability than on moral stability. I am also very curious as to why so many people in older generations are so firm with their views on religion. I am going to meet up with my grandparents this weekend and try to pick their brain about it.

I wanted to thank you for talking more about the religion you saw mostly while growing up in China. I would love to do more research on it. The ideas that people are not damned from the start, but have the opportunity to redeem themselves and learn from their mistakes in a different being form. I am personally drawn to that idea because everyone has the capacity to learn and grow, why should they be judged for something they did while there were young and ignorant? They shouldn't, they should be able to learn from a third person's perspective the impacts they have on everything around them.

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### **Re: Puritanism & Islam**

by Eric Brackett - Friday, October 14, 2016, 2:03 PM

To add my two cents, I think that the reason the older generation are a bit more attached to religion than the younger is that the older generation grew up under a fear of the cold war, or even older the great depression. Fear of the unknown is a major reason people are religious in the first place. In my opinion, the reason the younger generations are also a little less inclined to be of the religious type is that they have all grown up with the mindset that you can not trust authority of any sort. From Watergate to Waco, the Reagan era back door

politics up to today with people the Iraq war. Add into that religious scandals such as the Catholic churches pedophile problem, the Mormon FDLS child bride issue in Texas and many more, it has led to a distrust in the church itself. Also with the advent of the internet you have greater access to information, and as usually follows, a more informed society is usually a less religious society.

I offer up these links to topics discussing the points. Also I would stress that this primarily opinion on my part.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-human-beast/201402/why-are-educated-people-more-likely-be-atheists>

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/7729/does-more-educated-really-less-religious.aspx>

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### Re: Puritanism & Islam

by Quan Cheng - Friday, October 14, 2016, 8:05 PM

Hi Tyra,

I totally agree with you. You said , "The ideas that people are not damned from the start, but have the opportunity to redeem themselves and learn from their mistakes in a different being form." That's what Chinese people doing now, also in the history. In China, we don't have Bible. We follow lots of book, like The Book of Changes, Tao the Ching, Master Sun's Art of War and so on, so many books. These books basically are experience about what to do and what not to do. Interesting things is even Chinese people, not all the Chinese people (I know some are not), don't read these book they still understand most of them. Who told them? Their parents. Thousands years ago, Chinese people did that way until now.

One of my favorite Chinese writer said, "Geography of China makes China be a farming culture. Ans this farming culture defiantly different than the western culture. Negative volume makes mostly don't want to move or searching new place to live, so they focus on farming. Agriculture need people listen to older generation. That makes obedience be the basic Chinese personality." And I also think that might be the reason that Chinese people prefer follow leader and listen to them, like listen to their parents.

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### Re: Puritanism & Islam



by Quan Cheng - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 10:03 PM

I'm a student from China. There are lot of different religions in China, like America. What I would say different, a significant difference is people multi-religious. What I mean by that is they will combine some religious with our own religious. Like my grandmother who believes in Buddha. She not just go to the temple, also she worship our ancestries, and believe in the Jade Emperor, the three Gods, and so on. Do Chinese people have religion? Yes, we are. Not typically European type. The book Handbook of World Religions shows, "Traditional Chinese religion reveres hundreds of mythical beings and deities."(31) That do influence my analysis since the culture are so different between China and America, also other European countries. Sometimes it is hard for me to understand the way people thought in America history and why they think that way.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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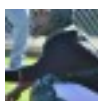
### **Religiously intolerant**

by Eric Brackett - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 10:48 PM

The audio brings up the concept of religious bias. When looking at the Puritans, who came here looking for religious freedom, they began to soon worry about indigenous populations. Soon after that the English speaking Catholics came about, and they were not tolerated based on the differences in their beliefs. The Maryland Toleration Act as sponsored by Lord Baltimore in 1649 granted religious freedom for trinity Christians (not for the Jewish minority). This idea of religious tolerance has always been a majority vs minority experience. The concept of religious toleration in this country, is a fallacy.

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### **My personal Belief**

by Eric Land - Monday, October 10, 2016, 11:13 AM

With this interview, yes I am concerned about what really happen because everything could've been blown out of proportion. Also, there has been times of people lying about what really happened with events. In example, we learned in class that Columbus lied in his letter about what he really had seen. So with this, as a human being, we lie to get people to either like or dislike whatever we are speaking about. In another topic, my eyes don't "gaze over", like said before I don't know exactly know what to believe because something could be blown out of proportion to make people think its greater or worse than actually believed. Growing up, I was always taught that the Pilgrims were here before ANYONE else and then about 8th or 9th grade I learned that Columbus was here before them. Now, college I found out that Columbus was

here a lot longer than the Pilgrims. In transition, the religious poll doesn't influence me in any way, I am a Baptist and I am more open-minded than most people that I share my religion with. It's the real world to learn about other religions. Some people with their personal beliefs are so closed minded and don't want to open their eyes towards other things that are happening.

Thanks, Eric.

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### **Re: Puritanism & Islam**

by Quan Cheng - Monday, October 10, 2016, 9:41 PM

The Poll in Moodle the result shows that most Christian in USA are Puritans, also the survey shows that. Which means Christian are the biggest part of America religious. And Puritan is a big part in Christian in USA. What professor mention in audio: "So my Egyptian students could grapple with the intricate relationship of church and state in Puritan New England in a far more informed way than most American students, who even if they were personally religious, casually dismissed religious establishments as unenlightened and even barbaric antiquities." (audio 4:11)

Seems that they do concern and worry the situation American now. They realized this problem and pointed out it.

In my country, we have almost the same problem as America. But difference is our problem is culture. People are forget the meaning of the festival, or say they are not act like before anymore. I think people don't need to worry this problem too much. We are human, changing are normal. After we change, we definitely will forgot lots information before. What we gonna do? Know it, understand it again through internet or any other way. Let people know again!

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### **Re: Puritanism & Islam**

by Grant Garcia - Friday, October 14, 2016, 9:42 PM

I like and agree with a lot of what you said in this post, I think it is irrelevant what differences people have I think what is most important is that there is respect within communities and respect for people with different views outside of that community. It doesn't really matter who can relate most to who as communities change and are different all around the world as you stated. I think we shouldn't focus on who understands who better but whether or not we changed as a nation in ways that are over all beneficial for the people of the nation.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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## Missed Early Education Opportunities

by Tyra Potter - Monday, October 10, 2016, 10:08 PM

### 1. Do you relate to Puritans and how they influenced the new world?

I understand the Puritan mindset in their travels to the new world because people, most of the time, will hold their religion more closely when they are going through a new set of challenges. I was surprised to find that Anne Hutchinson was banished because she was standing up for what she believed in. (64 textbook) Once I read that she was challenging the patriarchal puritan gender order, and she was accusing “other ministers were preaching only the covenant of works, not the covenant of grace, and were leading their people to hell” (64 textbook) I was disheartened because I thought that the whole idea was to love every one of God’s creatures, not to damn someone because they preach differently than you do.

### 2. What are the similarities and differences between the two groups of students?

Both sets of students have strong beliefs that are influenced by their surrounding societies. The Egyptian students lived in a city where religion was weighted much heavier than the religious pull on the American students. In Egypt there is more of a grey area between church and state, making most of their laws based on morals. In American culture there is more of a defined line between church and state. Both groups of students make decisions on the way in which they were brought up to view conflicts. When working through the mock supreme court lesson the students from Egypt had decided that there were no issues with polygamy since it was stated in the mormon religion that polygamy leads to salvation. Whereas the American students came to the conclusion that polygamy was unconstitutional because “even if they [were] personally religious [they] casually dismiss religious establishments as unenlightened and even barbaric antiquities.” (4:24 Casper Podcast)

### 3. What essential elements of puritanism should well rounded american students know?

American students should be given the opportunity in middle and high school to learn about the history of religion. Nothing too in depth just a timeline and breakdown of what religions grew and declined during which time periods. America views talking about religion in schools as taboo because teachers are viewed as authoritarians that could force students to change their worldviews from that of their families. Where we should be viewing teachers as mentors who give students the tools and strategies to make their own informed decisions.

### 4. How does the moodle religion poll affect your view?

I believe that the religion poll only reinstated the ideas I had on the numbers of religion in america. We are still a country that relies on Christianity and Catholicism with minorities in other religions. My personal interactions with these different types of religions has varied and I am nervous to interact with what can be an extremely sensitive subject.

5. Does your religious view add a bias to the mix?

I feel that my lack of religious background has hindered me in this discussion because I have never had to deal with the thought of an outside force being the end all be all of my life. I come from a family that respected all religions and viewpoints no matter what they were but never practiced any at home. I am intrigued as to why people believe in what they do and how they worship, but I am still very ignorant when it comes to knowing the history of most religions. I was never really given an opportunity to know where to go to find the correct information on the history of religion. None of my teachers in high school brought up the subject because it is so frowned upon in american school systems.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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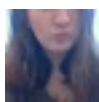
### **Re: Missed Early Education Opportunities**

by Grant Garcia - Friday, October 14, 2016, 8:50 PM

I would love to comment on your answer to the first question in this post because I find it very interesting and it is something I have experienced from people of all sorts of religions. I always find it so strange when people of one religion judge those of another. That is not to say that everyone of religion does this by any means, I just find it very interesting because I am personally not religious and it seems to me that people of any religion share a very strong common ground in the sense that the majority of religions want the same thing. A sense of community a place to look back on the good and bad things they have done and a way to be grateful, and reflect.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### **Re: Missed Early Education Opportunities**

by Katrina Furney - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:36 AM

I agree with your answer on three completely! I went to two different high schools and both of them taught early American history differently. But the class I remember specifically actually had a unit on different religions, not to in depth but enough to give us an overview of the different religions out there and what they have gone through over the years. My teacher wasn't scared of what people would say by talking about it he just wanted us to be as informed as possible.

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**Re: Puritanism & Islam**

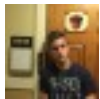


by Joseph Mann - Monday, October 10, 2016, 10:11 PM

The similarities between the puritans and the the modern religion of islam, are much more similar than the similarities between the puritans and modern americans. The islamic people and the puritans were very strongly focused on religion. Where in modern america people don't focus on religion they don't spend hours in worship and thinking about the afterlife, in my opinion Americans today are more focused on living in the moment and are not worried about the big picture or thinking about the afterlife.

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### **Re: Puritanism & Islam Podcast and my Views**

by Grant Garcia - Monday, October 10, 2016, 11:29 PM

**I am not necessarily concerned with this findings of this podcast, all though I did find it very interesting that people not even directly subject to what has been made of our country can relate to something that influences the day to day life of it, more so than those of the decedents of the people who do live in this country and are effected by forms of creating their own views on religion and its association with government. This is experience faced by the puritans of changing religious and governmental views in my eyes is something that I can relate to because often when I am subject to an unfamiliar environment, or am given the opportunity to reflect and form views of my own without hierarchy influence, the things I believe often turn out to be different often like this example with the puritans. These students are going to be very similar because they are both in experimental stages of their lives where they are going to be discovering a lot of things for themselves including how they want to go about their daily lives and what type of decisions will follow (religion included). But they are different in the sense that they are subject to very different governmental structures in the since that many of them are more heavily revolved around religion and things that are in my opinion appeal to tradition, such as basing a government around a given religion, as opposed to something that is more logical in today's society. That meaning it applies to and is more equal for people of all religions or backgrounds. Some essential elements to Puritanism that I think well educated Americans should know include that as we discussed in class they reformed the structure of government so it was less based around religion but not entirely detached. Although we are technically acclaimed to have separate church and state in my opinion the two are often very heavily attached in an average day of important government matters. The results of the Moodle pull aren't necessarily influencing my analysis they just justify what I already believed and or knew. I am not religious so I believe my bias of this study can be fairly detached and factual because I have no**

**legitimate motive to favor or oppose any side of this discussion I am not religious but I also have no problems issues or disrespect for people of any religion.**

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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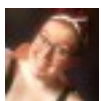
### **How my lack of religion bias's my study of Puritans**

by Katrina Furney - Monday, October 10, 2016, 11:54 PM

My lack of religion bias's my study of the Puritans because I have never been religious and I probably won't ever be religious. The fact that I'm not religious means that I can't personally understand why they did some of the things they did. Breaking off from the Church of England for example. I am bias in the fact that I don't understand this and I have never been a religious person, so I could not possibly understand the religious motives behind the Puritans decisions but I can understand that they disagreed with the decisions of the church.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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### **Re: How my lack of religion bias's my study of Puritans**

by Tyra Potter - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 5:42 PM

I can understand where you are coming from with the confusion as to how we can connect ourselves to these people's motives. When I was reading through this chapter and listening to the podcast I realized I was connecting religion to modern cliques. There was a group of people who all liked the same style of writing, so they would hold book club meetings and had strict rules for these meetings. Since all humans are different and grow as they learn new things they decided to try reading other authors with the similar style of writing. Of course there was the one group of people who were die hard fans of the original author and did not think that any other author could be as amazing as theirs. So the original group decided that they were fed up with the new author group and that they would move their book club meetings somewhere else. Where they would try and convince everyone else that their book was the best book of all.

At least that is what has sort of helped me try and comprehend the idea.

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### **Re: How my lack of religion bias's my study of Puritans**



by Eric Brackett - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 11:16 PM

I completely understand what you mean by your lack of religion creates a bias, however i would argue that despite you not having a religious affiliation, you have grown up in a puritanical culture and that has created the larger bias. I myself am of a religion that has absolutely nothing to do with any of the worlds main religions, yet having grown up here in America I can say that I am still extremely influenced by the puritanical values much of this country was founded on. Simply put, with out going into great detail, my religion has absolutely no punishment what so ever in my after life if I randomly murder someone, none, if I truly had freedom of religion I could claim that in my defense should I be arrested, however since I live here in America, and our value system is steeped heavily in Christianity, I obey the rules and do not just randomly kill people. There really is nothing stopping me from doing it, other than I accept that I live in an area where that is socially unacceptable. And it is only unacceptable do to the morality it is all based on.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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### **Puritanism & Islam**

by Tannon Rounsaville - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 10:33 PM

I myself have not looked into Puritanism or Islamic religious beliefs and values mostly because I have not been interested in either. But just because I'm not interested doesn't mean I shouldn't know the difference between the two. And the fact that I have no clue what either religion stands for or believes in is a little concerning to me.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### **Re: Puritanism & Islam**

by Eric Land - Friday, October 14, 2016, 10:11 AM

Tannon, you may never know what certain religions believe. Some are really all over the place and make no sense. I also believe that learning about some religions is also good, you don't have to be involved in one but learning just so that you know what they believe in.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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### **Losing understanding of our own history**

by Jeff Johnson - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 10:21 PM

I found this podcast very interesting and like getting the view from other students. When I hear about Puritanism I must admit my eyes might glaze over a little bit but I also think it's important to learn especially if it can help us connect better with other cultures. I also believe a lot of Americans like me grew up with little or no religion and we don't have a very good understanding how much it affects politics especially in countries like Egypt. I found it very interesting on the slide in class where it showed how much better the education in New England still is today because of the Puritans. Even in our own country with the supposed separation of church and state the Church still plays a huge role on issues like polygamy and abortion. I find it disturbing how far we are getting away from the constitution and believe it should be a bigger part of education.

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