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Puritanism & Islam

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Friday, October 9, 2015, 11:10 PM

This forum thread is for Puritanism & Islam posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Puritanism & Islam

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The new new world.

by [Stanley Cates](#) – Saturday, October 10, 2015, 11:06 PM

I don't find myself terribly shocking that modern Americans, probably as a whole and not limited to students, have a difficult time relating to Puritans. I myself having grown up in a fairly non-denominational household have a difficult time relating to the religious ideas of Puritanism. I don't think it's that we as a people find it difficult to relate that is concerning so much as our lack of effort to relate; that is to say, that a lot of people just don't care. Professor Casper points out that the lines between state and religion in many Muslim countries are blurred at best, this is most likely much more similar to the conditions of early New England. In contrast I live in a society where I engage in activities that might shock Puritans; long hair, body piercings, casual drinking, the occasional; although not ill-intended; lewd behavior. Our society often looks past these things, if they're noticed at all.

The idea goes beyond just the Puritans too. I find that the entire way in which the world was somewhat difficult to comprehend. For example; the book states in the second paragraph on page 111 in chapter three that "New York became a haven for pirates." Really? New York? Liberal, gun hating, progressive New York? Insanity at first glance. Confronting the challenge of presentism is a constant struggle.

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Why can't our generation understand.

by [Jacob Leturno](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 3:06 PM

As a student who believes that the school system should be teaching more about the rise of our country, and less about how china rose. I do feel concerned with this finding, I personally am in the “eyes glazed over” group. I don’t understand how they had such a large impact based solely on a religion, I am an atheist and have respect for religion I just don’t believe in divine creation. The key differences between these two groups was that the puritans wanted to cleanse the church and all in it, whereas the seperatists where going to follow the same

practices but removed themselves from the corrupt church. I feel as if we where explained this better from an earlier age we would have a better understanding. We learn about other countries histories more then ours up to the college level. maybe they are learning about us the way we learn about china.

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Re: Why can't our generation understand.

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Friday, October 16, 2015, 8:53 PM

It's been some number of years since I've been in the public school system. Could you expand on this idea that we learn more about foreign countries than we do our own? I'm not saying that we shouldn't learn more about our history; I just seem to remember all of them being butchered fairly equally.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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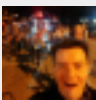
Re: Why can't our generation understand.

by [Jacob Leturno](#) - Saturday, October 17, 2015, 10:52 PM

In my recent graduation i had taken a single U.S history course in the 12 years, everything i know is self taught. most of my graduating class cant tell you their own rights let alone how the englishmen got along with indians. but we spend 4 years of midle school and our freshmen year learning about the ming dynasty and how china rose, but never about the U.S, if it was it was saying how we fixed it in a brief sentence opposed to a 2 page section.

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Do we need to reteach the Puritans?

by [Jacob Spangler](#) - Monday, October 12, 2015, 8:28 PM

The reason I find this concerning is that it almost seems that the American students have given up on the teachings of the Puritans. I will admit my eyes have glazed over because I have been learning about the Puritans in the New World for much of my public school career. I though “Oh another lesson on the Puritans here we go again.” I had not thought that I would learn anything new or gain any new understanding. As for the views on Polygamy, I am not surprised that the Egyptian students believed polygamy should be allowed via the constitution and “their own cultural context” (Scott Casper). It is a part of the Mormon religion to practice Polygamy and to the Egyptian students it would seem like the constitution would hold up the religious freedoms, however here it did not. Here I believe the “wonderful insight” is how another culture learns and reacts to the findings of another. Puritans in the new world seems like a topic that may not be taught a lot in Egypt so the students seemed eager to learn. However here in the United States students learn about this subject quite often so they tend glaze over information. It seems like some instructors (not all) need to find a way to get students here enthusiastic about the subject.

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Religious Bias

by [Jacob Spangler](#) - Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 9:40 PM

In regard to does my religion bias my study, I do think so. As much as I want to say no, as I believe that having a bias is not truly a good thing in study. My religion (which I wish to keep confidential) has a certain set of rules and boundaries per say. These rules and boundaries are different from those of the Puritans. Mainly in regard to punishment of sins, which in modern day is nowhere near as strict as the Puritans in the past. Comparing my religious rules to the Puritans makes me think that the Puritans maybe were too strict. Yes my religion does bias my study of the puritans, I wish it didn't and hope to soon look past the bias.

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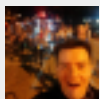
Re: Religious Bias

by [Jacob Leturno](#) - Thursday, October 15, 2015, 8:59 PM

i agree with you and i also feel as tho my religion, athiesm, does play a part in my understanding of how the early pioneers of our country lived day to day life. With my particular religion I constantly find myself disconnecting from certain point in the book where they are talking about how "god wanted this" or "how god will forgive us if we burn them" (salem witch trials) because i personally have no connection to god so i feel that what they are saying does not correlate with me. in some cases it is regretable to not be able to fully understand my ancestors.

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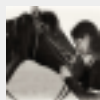
Re: Religious Bias

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 10:32 PM

I would like for one day that I could study without bias. I know we may have strayed from the original subject. However it is very important to not have bias while studying history. It's pretty impossible to not have a bias I think. Maybe that is why I cannot relate to the puritians at all and therefore makes my eyes glaze over.

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Approaching Belief and Government

by [Katie Beach](#) – Monday, October 12, 2015, 10:16 PM

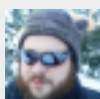
While I do not find this information “concerning,” per se, it does present quite the opportunity for an analysis of modern cultural impact on historical education. In fact, it shows how culture, and particularly religion, affects major political decisions. The “separation of church and state” is a concept that helped to build our country, but it is one that is blatantly ignored far more often than it is twisted or worked into an argument. The audio file does much more to address the inconsistencies in cultures and how they understand religion’s role in politics than it does to point out education on a particular people groups.

Similarities between modern day Islam and colonial Puritanism are not just to be sought in their beliefs and customs, but in how they are perceived by modern America. Both are known as intolerant and strict, punishing sin and corruption harshly and swiftly, and both are often topics that individuals outside of the religion feel they are well educated on due to stereotyping. Egyptian Muslims, as discussed in the audio file, have a seemingly less-biased in religion view of the American constitution, understanding that government and religion are meant to be cohesive, but not interconnected (02:06 audio file). It can be surmised that the colonial Puritans understood the same concept of separate powers, based on their rule disallowing senior church members from holding political office (03:38 Web Video–The Puritans), however this theory dissolves quickly when it is discussed that the Puritans expected the government to work with the church “to enforce more orthodoxy” (03:40). This is a major difference between the Egyptian government and its relation to Islam, and colonial Puritans and their government. In April of this year, the Egyptian Ministry of Education began enforcing the removal of Islamic texts from young classrooms (<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/en/originals/2015/04/egypt-ministry-education-remove-islamic-texts-violence.html#>), while Puritan classrooms were structured to encourage religious indoctrination (03:50).

Understanding the Puritans is central to understanding the development of colonial America, but it can be difficult to put oneself in the mindset of another people group as is necessary for study. As stated in the video, differences such as the acceptance of others monitoring one’s morals (04:08), and the expectation of economics to be ethical (04:57), are difficult for modern Americans to accept as commonalities in a culture. Seeing the variety of religions in our own classroom provides a background for what “filters” our collective analysis will be coming through. The primarily Christian/Catholic sources will share some basic beliefs with the Puritans, but will likely conflict with many of the executions of those beliefs. It will be interesting to see how this study proceeds.

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Re: Approaching Belief and Government

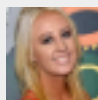
by [Stanley Cates](#) – Friday, October 16, 2015, 9:21 PM

Great points, I love it.

You said "Both are known as intolerant and strict, punishing sin and corruption harshly and swiftly, and both are often topics that individuals outside of the religion feel they are well educated on due to stereotyping." Do you suppose that if the Puritan movement were alive and well today that they would in fact be perceived in a stereotypical fashion similar to that of Muslims in America? After all, we did learn in the class videos that the Puritans were no stranger to violence and resorted to abuses to, presumably, more than one corpse. We seem to have a double edged sword here where we find it difficult to relate to the Puritans because our society is more "tolerant" to other cultures and ideas, while on the other hand we routinely condemn the "practices" of a seemingly very different culture. Any ideas?

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Relating to the understanding

by *Kelsey Huber* – Monday, October 12, 2015, 11:18 PM

I find that it can be easy to understand that those who follow the Muslim religion can relate to the Puritan following. Modern day Americans do not necessarily subscribe to one set religion. There are so many religions, cultures, and belief systems in modern America that it is hard to relate to having such strong feelings about one topic, like the Puritans did. We live in a place that allows us to get a glimpse of numerous opinions without the risk of condemnation so it is harder to feel the full force of a dedicated belief system. Since Muslims also have a religion with set rules and guidelines, it makes sense that they could more easily relate and understand the Puritans way of thinking. With that, our social and political standings are way more diverse than it was of the founding of our nation.

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