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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.
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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Puritanism & Islam

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Re: Puritanism & Islam



by Kyle Schneider - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 2:13 PM

I found the findings in the audio file more interesting than I had expected. I will say that, when religion is brought up in a subject I tend to bracket it along side political talking's...."rolls eyes". I find it kind of crazy that religion has had so much pull throughout history. I feel it is who ever are more privileged regardless of their religious beliefs that tend to get the power to bend the rules to their rationality's. In today's American culture and across the world the newer generations have had a more science based upbringing and religion has taken the backseat if you will. It does not surprise me of the findings in the interview of Professor Scott Casper by the Journal of American History. If only basing my rationality on the two cultures that were in the study.

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Privilege

by Jacob Parris - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 9:23 PM

That is something to consider, that how privileged you are or have the ability to be does have a drastic impact on the amount of power you have access to. I definitely have seen this in society, where the amount of money or access someone has access to has put themselves into positions of power.

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Re: Privilege

by Kyle Schneider - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 4:09 PM

Not to include some of today's topic about greed. That was an interesting video and definitely made me pay more attention. If we include greed within our topic of "Puritanism and Islam", then I think that greed definitely played a lead role along with the amount of power as you said Jacob. The more access you have to power the more greed takes over.

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Re: Puritanism & Islam

by Zachary Sielicky - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7:55 PM

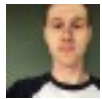
I would say Religion hasn't taken a backseat necessarily because over 50% of the population still identifies with some denomination of Christianity, and religious values play a MAJOR MAJOR role in today's political climate. Things like abortion,

who is and isn't qualified to get married ect. So I would say that religion still has a MAJOR influence even till this day in terms of political influence among people and politicians. This is why it is a hot topic every election cycle who is associated with what religion like Mitt Romney and the allegations that President Obama is a Muslim. And also why we have only had one Catholic President, John F. Kennedy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_the_United_States

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Religion

by Jacob Parris - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 10:11 PM

I agree one hundred percent, the majority of those types of decisions are made based on your religious background. I am surprised that politicians don't explicitly explain why they have a particular stance on these topics.

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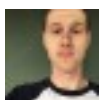
Religion and morality

by Sonja Fritz - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 8:02 PM

After hearing the audio clip about the students who were presented with the views of various religious sects of our founders (Puritans, Quakers, etc) it made sense to me how they might have a different view of religious toleration. Religion is the basis of everyone's morality. Morality is the basis for every society that has a governing leadership. Even when "religious toleration" is said to be practiced, it's all a point of perception. We have learned about Martin Luther who pinned his reasons to a door for the protestant reformation. There is the Catholics v. Huguenots, Catholics v. Protestants, and so on. Now, we compare Islam to the Mormons, who both share a few similarities in regards to whom they can marry. The "us vs them", has always existed, and it always will. Religion, or even a lack of it, will be the driving force to which we decide our society.

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Religion

by Jacob Parris - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 9:31 PM

I love what you said about religion being the driving force behind the decisions of our society, I also find it interesting that in a country that is predominantly Christian, we have a lot of decisions that are made by our government or other

organizations that may not reflect the values of Christianity.

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How many people think they are actually different

by Hope Kelley - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 8:25 PM

Listening to the audio clip made a lot of sense to me. I personally have never had problem with polygamy because if it doesn't bother someone, it should be up to the individuals. I can understand how those who are of the Muslim faith would not judge Mormons based on the amount of wives they prefer. The puritans weren't fond of what Protestants stood for, because they were almost Catholic. Separatists decided to remove themselves from the Puritans, Protestants and Catholics. The idea of religious tolerance is quite subjective. The example of the Egyptian students highlights similarities that we don't always notice.

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Re: How many people think they are actually different

by Mariah Doyle - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 3:40 PM

Hope,

Like you, I also looked at this topic with an open mind and believe that it should be up to individuals whether they want to practice polygamy or not. However, the majority of Americans don't see eye to eye about the matter. This made me wonder, what aspects of Christianity and American culture would the Muslim students be as shocked about as the general public was about polygamy?

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Re: How many people think they are actually different

by Hope Kelley - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:01 PM

Thank you for agreeing with me,

I wanted to address American views on polygamy also. On TV you see these shows like sister wives and shows about polygamous relationships and they have turned in into something it is not. Now people watch shows like that and aren't educated on polygamy, assume that is what polygamy is. Because of these shows their view is askewed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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"What's so bad about polygamy?"

by Mariah Doyle - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 9:17 PM

I wasn't particularly concerned with the fact that modern Muslims relate to the Puritans more than modern American Christians. Polygamy in America became such a taboo concept long ago, so it's not surprising that when students learn about this part of Puritanism they glaze over. I can't relate to the Puritans but I don't think their beliefs are as "out there" as many Americans believe. A well-educated student should know that the Puritans wanted to keep the basics of Catholicism, but with a closer bond/covenant with God. The Puritans also believed in predestination, the belief that everyone's fate of going to heaven or hell is decided at birth. Our class Moodle poll showed that over half the class is Christian. Predestination goes against a lot of what Christians believe in so it wouldn't be surprising if a lot of our class could not relate to the Puritans. Another large portion of our class, including myself, identified as agnostic or not affiliated with any one religion. This portion of the class would look at the religious beliefs such as predestination from a more subjective viewpoint because we don't have as much of a bias.

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Re: "What's so bad about polygamy?"

by Sonja Fritz - Friday, October 14, 2016, 2:05 PM

In class, tuesday there was a really interesting discussion on whether Puritans relate to modern day morality. For example, Puritans believed that if someone were to commit a crime, that person should be punished. I would like to think people would agree with them for wanting to seek justice for wrong doings. It's always interesting to hear people say they can't relate to the Puritans at all because they were such intolerant people. I absolutely agree that their beliefs aren't as "out there" as they are made out to be. I think most can agree with morality when it comes to justice.

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Re: "What's so bad about polygamy?"

by Breana Kobold - Friday, October 14, 2016, 9:50 PM

I agree with everything you said and it is interesting to me that the Puritans believed everyone's destiny is predetermined. If this is the case then why were the Puritans so concerned with whether or not another religion could practice polygamy? Was it because the Puritans wanted to "bring the Mormons to salvation"? While I understand that this was 150 years ago and religion was definitely more prominent in daily life than it may be now, why would the Puritans be so outwardly concerned with another person's religion especially when they

believed that these peoples destinies were already predetermined? Didn't they break off from the Church of England because they thought that there was too much wrong to fix so they started their own branch of Catholicism? They must have believed on some level that it was already too late for the people who don't believe what they believe.

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Re: "What's so bad about polygamy?"

by Mariah Doyle - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 10:38 PM

Breana,

I agree! I think they cared so much about polygamy because they wanted to save the Mormons but the way they went about saving them was too self-righteous and they thought their beliefs were the only one that could possibly be right. Even though I'm pretty sure many figures from the Bible practiced polygamy

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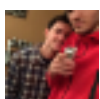
Religion Problem

by John Casares - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:17 PM

I mean I do not think polygamy is something that High School or college students (where you learn your majority about the Puritans) don't already know about it or it is something that cannot be explained to them very quickly and with relative ease. I just find it interesting that these Muslims study them to the degree that they do when compared to the american education systems. Maybe it is due to the constant religious straying that we do in our education system, you never dig deep into these religious groups and philosophies that may have had something to do with the way they lived and shaped America.

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Re: Puritanism & Islam

by Zachary Sielicky - Sunday, October 9, 2016, 11:44 PM

I would say the biggest difference between these two students would obviously be the religious aspect. Taking into consideration that Notre Dame's mascot is a leprechaun and has a massive Cathedral on campus, it is fair to say that the Catholic ideology lingers in many lecture halls to say the least, and growing up in a Catholic house hold and attending mass every Sunday growing up, I am aware of the

opposition to polygamy. And in the school in Egypt where as Mason stated in his article, "Most of his Middle Eastern MUSLIM students..." had a differing view. This highlights the biggest difference between the two groups of students.

But we are talking about Puritans and Islam, so....

I would completely agree with the statement that modern day Muslims are closer to soulmates with the English Puritans than Christians in modern day America. One of the biggest reasons I believe this to be true is to draw parallels between Islamic ideology as discussed in the Qur'an and the practices in which Muslims partake in and the words of a famous puritan speech, *City Upon a Hill*, by John Winthrop.

To highlight one, one of the Five Pillars of Islam is to partake in a pilgrimicdge to Mecca called the Hajj and fast, dress, and complete a plethora of acts as a group of Muslims together.

In John Winthrop's speech, he states that, "wee must knit together and work as one man..." (Winthrop).

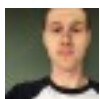
These along with many other parallels are found within both Puritan and Muslim ideology, this similarity that each religion must work as a community demonstrates how much closer their are in ideology than people from a modern day capitalist society.

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/winthrop.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Pillars_of_Islam

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Cultural Unawareness

by Jacob Parris - Monday, October 10, 2016, 6:52 PM

This finding is something that at first is striking, but as I've thought about it for a while, it would make sense as to why this is the case. As Americans, we grow up in this sort of bubble of a culture that we become accustomed to, so on the inside of our bubble, things change a little here and there and may not reflect exactly what is written down in law. As in the case of the Egyptian students, they also have grown up in society where cultural norms come about and certain ways of life are morphed into something that is probably seen as normal. Both gentlemen in the podcast talked about cultural upbringing and how religion has played a role in our governments. As a Christian myself, I have grown up with a particular set of values and views on certain things that pertain to government, culture, etc. Because of this upbringing, my views of how society should be, can sometimes be very narrow or even unintentional without considering other peoples' values or opinions and why their upbringing may

have shaped their views and decisions. When the Puritans settled, church and state were pretty much one in the same and I feel as though America has in fact grown up with these Christian values at the roots, but as time has gone on, it looks like on the surface that Christianity has taken a back seat because of the separation of church and state.

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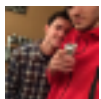
Re: Cultural Unawareness

by Mariah Doyle - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 3:30 PM

I 100% agree with you that the differing reactions from the students were primarily because of the cultural norms both in America and in Egypt where the two groups were. Because we are in the age of social media, we get to learn more about different cultures on a personal level and you'd think we'd have broken out of our "bubble" a bit more, but it doesn't seem that's the case in this situation.

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Re: Cultural Unawareness

by Zachary Sielicky - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7:46 PM

I like how you said, "As Americans, we grow up in this sort of bubble of a culture that we become accustomed to...what is written down in law." The difference between our laws and the laws in Egypt are how closely related they are to the most common religion of that region, Islam. In America, our laws don't reflect that of a Catholic or classic 1600 or 1700 puritan. But more of a Christian way, where polygamous relationships are frowned upon. So I guess I shouldn't say our laws don't reflect religious ideology, but just a select religion which is Christianity.

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Centuries of Church in State

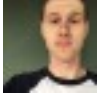
by Breana Kobold - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 8:21 PM

I think it's a very interesting that the Students at the American University in Cairo unanimously decided that polygamy was a constitutional right and that people should be allowed to maintain their religious freedom. It really shocks me and its somewhat concerning that the students in America decided exactly as the supreme court did in the 19th century because that was almost 150 years ago and its clear to see how much progress we haven't made regarding differences in religion. When the constitution was written, the first amendment states that there will be no religion within the state. I think the way the Supreme Court decided on that issue was a clear

premonition of religion IN state throughout the coming centuries. While polygamy in my opinion is not something I would choose, it ultimately does not affect my life one-way or another so who am I to decide that a family cannot legally live as polygamists?

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Polygamy

by Jacob Parris - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 10:17 PM

I think that polygamy has become taboo in this country and isn't seen as being ok, even if it does coincide with someones religion, in this case, the legality of it may not fall into the category of "separation of church and state" by some people's standards.

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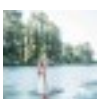
Wrongful Teaching

by John Casares - Friday, October 14, 2016, 3:36 PM

I am somewhat concerned but in no way shocked about this in the least bit. I personally feel that American have the most sheltered and specific education platform when it comes to History and its teachings. We are constantly being told things that are misconstrued and twisted to fit someone else's idea of what History and the values and concepts of the times. I believe that as Americans students we are extremely close minded due to the way we are taught about of country and partly due to our education about it. How can we really relate with these Puritans. If we do not dig deep into their values, traditions and exactly what made them who they were? I have attended catholic school my whole life and Catholic educators are one of the biggest perpetrators of changing and misconstruing history g. I have found it interesting learning and hearing about them and this podcast really solidifies the fact that we may need to change the way we are teaching parts of our history.

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Re: Wrongful Teaching

by Mariah Doyle - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 10:29 PM

The perspective you bring from your experience in your catholic school was really interesting. I'd be interested to compare lectures/lessons about the Puritans or other religious historical topics from a secular public school history class and from a catholic school history class. I'm sure the differences would be astounding!

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