

HST 201: History of United States F17 (Escobar Meta 20887 23004)

Home ► My courses ► HST 201 F17 (Escobar Meta 20887 23004) ► Week 3 ► Forum 1 ►
Puritanism & Islam

 Search forums

Forum 1

Puritanism & Islam

[• Subscribe](#)[◀ Puritanism & Islam](#)[Creatures of Empire ▶](#)

Puritanism & Islam

by Joe Escobar - Friday, October 6, 2017, 11:08 AM

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

Sum of ratings: -

[Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Separation of Church and State?

by Lloyd Higgins - Sunday, October 8, 2017, 10:06 PM

After listening to the podcast with Professor Scott Casper talking about how middle eastern students relate more to American puritans during the 17th century, I was able to draw a conclusion that perhaps a large part of why or how the students relate more is due to the process of Sharia law in the Middle East

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_of_Islamic_law_by_country). Due to the defining influence Islam has on the laws formed within these countries, specifically within the 2014 constitution of Egypt, it is no surprise that Middle Eastern students more closely identify with a past culture that had religion permeate every facet of life. Within the United States, we

certainly have a diverse range of religious practitioners and those that adhere to their beliefs. However, laws have increasingly moved away from religious influence over the past decades (<http://www.pewforum.org/2006/08/24/many-americans-uneasy-with-mix-of-religion-and-politics/>)

This has led to a trend where religion is no longer as involved with many aspects of the American way of life and the governing bodies. While some laws are influenced by supreme court justices who are religious, the overwhelming diversity in American politics has become a catalyst for less religious influence in federal and state statutes.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Being a minority in a country with very little church and state separation

by Maayan Kirtner - Monday, October 9, 2017, 6:53 PM

Being Jewish in a practically all white and christian country, I am definitely biased, when talking about Muslims I am even more biased. These days, I am not allowed in Egypt let alone any other Muslim country, I have had terrible encounters with Muslim people in the Middle East, so yes, I am completely biased and rightly so. The religion and culture of Muslim people is so different now than Judaism that there are definitely times where I get angry about certain aspects of the Muslim religion and culture. I might be angry and annoyed at some topics or aspects of the religion, but that won't stop me from learning more about it. Now the idea that both Puritans and Muslims in both centuries had little to no separation between church and state is kind of frightening to me. I live as a minority in this mainly christian country, if there was no separation of church and state, this would be a terrible place for me and other Jews to live. Yet, I also see that although there is said to be a separation in the government, because the country is mainly christian, there is always going to be influence from the church and peoples religious ideals. Government should definitely be separated form religion, specifically because, though there is a majority of a single religion, it is not the only religion. You can see all over the world today, and even in the U.S. what is happening when religion becomes part of the running of governments. There is unrest and anger, bills pass that are extremely influenced by someones religious beliefs. It cuts a persons rights to their own religion. In the interview by Professor Casper, he states that he is speaking to Egyptian students, these are muslim students, it is odd to me to think that these students, would find themselves more in-tune with a religious group from a hundred years ago. This only goes to strengthen the fact that there are so many religions in the states, compared to a single religion in the Middle East. Puritans are the only people who still are similar to Muslims of today. As Professor Casper said, it Is a "wonderful insight," but an insight into how little certain religions and countries have changed over the last hundred years.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Egyptian and American student differences

by Jack Westphal - Friday, October 13, 2017, 3:28 PM

I relate to this post a lot, Maayan. I agree that separation of church and state is necessary, as there isn't only one religion practiced in the United States, and the First Amendment calls for the freedom of religion, which I believe is hard to uphold when you run a theocracy. Religious influence in government is inevitable, and like you said, there is always going to

be bias due to people's religious ideas, which isn't strictly limited to the voters, but to the government officials who hold office as well. One thing I think is important to highlight, is that the students from Notre Dame and the students from Egypt came to different conclusions using the same resources about the polygamy case (Reynolds v. United States), where the American students ruled against allowing polygamy (as did the United States), while the Egyptian students ruled for religious freedom and the removal of bigamy charges.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Puritanism & Islam

by Joshua Sims - Monday, October 9, 2017, 7:18 PM

I feel as though the comment that puritanism in an egypt is a wonderful insight, makes me as as an american feel under educated. Being in a place where more people know about puritanism shows how little we know about our past, how we relate to it, or even how far we have strayed. According to the introduction of *The Puritans*, It informs us that we have misconception about the whole puritan religion/concept. In the podcast Casper shows that we have little to no understanding or personal connection to the puitans. So obviously, when you go somewhere and find out other people are more connected to what the puritans believed, it would be a major wonderful insight.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Biases in Religious views

by Benjamin Hawley-Gamer - Monday, October 9, 2017, 9:19 PM

The finding in this study is concerning to me. It is concerning not because students in other countries have a better grasp of the American constitution, but because they act more and base more on what the constitution says. The group or Cairo students who acted more on the side of what the constitution states than the Notre Dame students who brought more of their personal views and opinions into the debate shows that Americans will often put their own views and biases into a decision. There are many differences in the Cairo students and the Notre Dame Students, mostly being the religions that dominate both of their lives, Cairo being predominantly Muslim and Notre Dame being predominantly Catholic. However, both groups of students will be influenced by pre-existing notions of what is right and wrong, just like everyone. My personal views can affect this opinion on this response, I am agnostic, but I am fascinated by religion and religious history but do not practice one myself which allows me to look at a religious based decision and find the fault or look at a non religious based decision and find fault. I do not have a religion that guides my views or ideals, but I still have a pre-set cultural bias.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Church and State

by Jack Westphal - Monday, October 9, 2017, 10:05 PM

I'm concerned with this finding because it highlights what separation of church and state means to many people in the United States; the removal of minority religious groups from impacting policy in the United States. The students from Egypt and America are similar in that they systematically came to conclusions using the Constitution, but they differ in that they came to different conclusions, and that they're from different cultural backgrounds. The essential elements of Puritanism that students should know, is that religion was a major aspect of their life in a way that modern Islam is now in much of the Middle East, and unlike how Christianity is practiced in the states (Audio Clip, 3:40-4:00) . I felt that the results from the moodle poll landed about where I expected them to in terms of non-religious/religious students, though it doesn't impact my analysis very much. I feel like my background as someone who is non-religious helps to allow me be unbiased. Someone who is religious could also be as equally unbiased, but I feel confident knowing I don't support or give credit to one religion more than I do another. Dr. Nash's statement on Native American worldview and separation of secular and religious life is historically true, but as we've discussed in class, the image of Native Americans being 'at one with nature' and providing constant peace and protection to the environment is more than likely exaggerated. While I believe there should be complete separation of church and state, I don't believe religion can ever be fully removed from government functions because every religious scripture designates several different actions and practices as forbidden, while the government may 'promote' said forbidden practice and upset the people following that religion, causing a division between upset religious people, and people who aren't affiliated with the religion upset that someone is trying to change their way of life.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



What we don't know

by Lindsay Schnell - Monday, October 9, 2017, 10:18 PM

After listening to the audio file and reading the text, I have learned something new that in the 1620s the Puritans brought their religious views to the Atlantic to New England (pg.40). With that being said; growing up as a child my Grandmother was a Catholic. So every time we were their visiting or even when she was visiting we were at a catholic church. So for the 1st ten years of my life I grew up going to a catholic church. Throughout my teen years, I got the chance to experience different religions and how the differ. I've been to a Mormon church, Christian church, and a Jehovah church. I was pleased with how they taught their young kids about their faiths. The last few years I started to go to a Christian church and take my girls. So when I listened to the audio file about professor Scott Casper I was stunned about his finding with how Muslim students in Egypt understand and or relate to English Puritans better than Americans do. That's something that interested me more, because how could they understand more? After hearing about the Puritans my eyes never glazed over they just got bigger. I believe one thing Americans should know is that the Puritans didn't believe in democracy, freedom or liberty but Puritanism and Democracy do share some beliefs.(INTRODUCTION: THE PURITANS, article). The religion poll we did in class I was kind of disappointed, because we could have had a more accurate graph of all the several types of religion that people believe in. I am always up to learn about people's faith, it makes the world better I feel if we at least get to know them before me make judgments on others. I feel that the influence on government decisions that base this off religion should have nothing to do with it. What people believe in is their right to do so. Just because someone does something horrible because of their faith doesn't mean that others who believe in that faith that they are going to do something horrible. Who have to get to know someone or something before you can really make assumptions about them or it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: What we don't know

by Maayan Kirtner - Saturday, October 14, 2017, 8:17 PM

I suppose my eyes did glaze over while listening to the talk about the Cairo Muslim students and the Puritans. This is because of my biased opinion of religion, specifically christian and Muslim religions. On your point about democracy, it is very true that we live in a country that has democracy, but on the other hand, Cairo has no democracy, it is a dictatorship that is ruthless and intolerant. Puritans may have had some democracy, but they, like Cairo, Egypt are intolerant of other peoples. No matter the idea that the puritans wanted with democracy they still could not have that freedom of religion. Freedom of religion to the Puritans meant that you gladly worshiped god in the way they wanted, and behaved in the way that a good Puritan should. It did not mean that someone could have freedom of self expression of themselves or the god and religion they want. And this is exactly what the the Cairo students are up against. Their country tells them that they can not stray from the Muslim religion, yet in the privacy of a classroom they can speak out about what freedoms they would like, and the main freedom that all the students seemed to want was the freedom of religion and freedom within the religion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: What's the relevance?

by Scott Fails - Monday, October 9, 2017, 11:39 PM

I suppose my eyes do "glaze over" a bit when discussing the Puritans influence in the new world. Perhaps the term "glaze over" is not an ideal term for my general confusion in the relevance of Muslim Egyptian students and their understanding of the Puritans versus American students. While yes I do believe in the importance of informational understanding for the American students, I find the results of these particular findings from Professor Mason to kind of be on par with the way the way we as Americans are becoming more and more lack luster to the world around us in many social and educational situations. It may sound like a broad statement, but that is my personal understanding and general belief. In regards to the question referring to the removal of religion on the influence of government decision, I don't believe that is possible at all. Many government decisions are made by people who vote the way they do strictly based on the beliefs of their religion. That said, it is impossible to think that the two could successfully be separated as there would never be a known baseline to gauge where the opinion of the voting member originated.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: What's the relevance?

by Ezequiel Magana - Saturday, October 14, 2017, 2:20 PM

I agree with your statement on how government and religion could never be separated in America in this day and age. The United States of America was founded by Christian moral truths and over time it gradually grew to a Christian nation even though we have freedom of religion. We have two major political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. We all

know that Democrats are willing to do anything for the freedom of the American people that's why we see more religions other than Christianity and Catholicism. But Republicans are the ones that call themselves die hard Christians and are willing to do anything for their country. Having that being said the general belief is that the removal of religion from the government can never be successfully done because in this country it's all about your own religious beliefs and no one can ever take that away from you.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Religious Influence on Government Decisions Today

by Nicholas LaMonica - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 6:59 PM

In context to present day, I don't think that religion can be "removed" from its influence on government decisions; at the end of the day, congressmen and women are humans, and will believe what they want with whatever biases they may have. However, I DO think that religious bias is unhealthy when it comes to creating laws and maintaining a fair justice system. While it is our constitutional right to practice or believe in any religion free of persecution, equal representation should come before all else, especially in our legal system. Government intervention should only be necessary to give representation to a religious group who is being oppressed and cannot speak for themselves. That being said, the question of SHOULD religion be "removed" from government decision is something that is impossible to achieve in the United States. Voters tend to choose candidates that propagate their own interests, and this is seen in the fact that most of our presidents are Protestant.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Religious Influence on Government Decisions Today

by Maayan Kirtner - Friday, October 13, 2017, 4:38 PM

I do agree that religion cannot technically be "removed" from government, although it should be. Religion has no place in politics, however, the people in politics see the world how they want to and that influences them. If politicians are religious then that will absolutely have a say in politics, even if they don't realize it. The united States is one of the few countries that has only two major political parties and two or three minor ones. And that really changes how people vote. It means that religion is going to play a part. If you are christian and the politicians are christian and secular, well you are likely to pick the christian because they hopefully will have the same beliefs, even if you like some of the other candidate policies better. In other countries around the world, there are many a parties, so many that there could be multiple religions showcased, that way you cannot as easily pick via religion, but you have to think about it more., and when there are so many political parties, there are more bases and biases covered. Laws cannot be made with a single party at the head.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Understanding Puritans

by Ezequiel Magana - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 11:02 PM

The essential elements of Puritanism that a well-educated American student should know is that Puritans were strictly for god and god only. Puritans believed that God predestined everything on earth, obviously including people. Puritans believed in double predestination. Like in INTRODUCTION: THE PURITANS by Perry Miller and Thomas H. Johnson, Paragraph titled Predestination and Election "All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation." Another essential element is that Puritans believed the Bible was the main doctrine and that everything in it should be regulated into everyone's life. The Bible set rules and regulations that everyone should abide to their own life. The Puritans took that too heart because without it they could be damned and not be preordained to eternal life. The religion poll shows exactly what Puritans did in developing the religion in the United States. It shows that more people according to our religion poll are Christians/Protestant than any of the other religions on the data chart shows.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The Influence of Religion in The Government

by Kerianne Guza - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 6:46 PM

Ever since the beginning, when humans were first creating governments, religion has always played a role. Many groups, such as the Native Americans, did not see any separation. This idea of separating church and state really began to take hold strongly in Rhode Island, but that was not the case in other states. They strongly held onto their beliefs and let them influence their every acts. When you look into the beliefs of the people in that area, it starts to make sense. A good example is the puritans. They held the belief that "if sinners escaped public account, God's anger would be terrible towards his chosen people" in that area (Liberty, Equality, Power. pg.61). I'm sure you can only begin to imagine how that belief could influence your decisions, as a member of the government.

However, the world now is very different. Just as it began in Rhode Island, the idea of separating church and state has spread throughout the rest of North America. Now it's hard to imagine a time so different, but for people such as Professor Scott Casper's students in Egypt, the great influence of religion isn't such a crazy idea to comprehend.

I think that you can limit the influence of religion, but it can never be completely eliminated from government. If you take a look at our government now, you will find that it still is influenced by religion. Taking a look at the government officials, including the supreme court justices that we looked at during class, you will rarely see any atheist. If you make a quick google search, you will find that there is not a single atheist congress member. If someone has a religion, are they at least somewhat bias? I'd like to think not, but you cannot deny that some people probably are. If you make decision based strictly on our constitution, then there is much less room to argue. However, if it is based off of religion, there is much more room to argue given the amount of people without the same religious beliefs. This is the kind of thing that pushes church and state further and further away from each other and brings us closer to a day when church and state truly are separate.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Should Religion be in Government



by Benjamin Hawley-Gamer - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 8:33 PM

Puritans believed that it was god's wish for them to reform the Anglican Church from its remaining ties to Catholicism and live life purely by the scriptures (Puritan Web Video). They based their government on the church and Winthrop would make sure that the Massachusetts colonies would be self governing by taking the charter with him to the new world. The towns of the Puritans would be based around a small group of people and would be built around the church. Being based around a religious government is a weird idea to modern Americans and some believe that there should be no ties to religion and government, though this is not the case in many countries around the world, like Egypt. In Egypt the idea of religious freedom is guaranteed, but the country's official state religion is Islam, even the laws and legislation passed are based on Shari'a Law (heritage.org). When it comes to the United States there's no question that religion is supposed to be, and should be, separate from government. There will always be a biased on any lawmaker's decision based on religion, look at the abortion debate, the lgbtq debate and some might argue the biased against muslims (not entirely based on religious bias). In my opinion, religion should not dictate the laws passed in the country, it should not influence laws that can affect many non religious people, but I don't think it can be "separated" completely from government, because no matter what everyone will have cultural/religious bias.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Should Religion be in Government

by Maayan Kirtner - Friday, October 13, 2017, 11:52 AM

I actually disagree with you when you said that religious freedom is guaranteed in Egypt. Religious freedom is in no way guaranteed. Over the last decade of two there have been riots and prejudice because of someones religion. Jews are not allowed in Egypt, it is dangerous to be any religion other than Muslim, even if the government says that you are allowed to practice any religion. If you google religious freedom in Egypt the pages that come up all state that there is no religious freedom. Heritage.org states, "*The Egyptian government has played a major role in creating and maintaining a religiously intolerant environment in Egypt that is hostile to non-Muslims and any Muslims who deviate from government-endorsed religious norms and traditions.*" This sentence shows that the students in Cairo are biased, they may not even be allowed to think any differently. The Cairo students of today are exactly like the Puritans of the 16th century, which is very frightening. Like the Puritans, who were intolerant of other peoples the Muslims of Egypt are like that as well, either by force or choice.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Should Religion be in Government

by Nicholas LaMonica - Friday, October 13, 2017, 3:46 PM

That was very interesting, thank you. I wanted to say that the students in Cairo are biased, but wasn't sure how to articulate. Now that I've read about the religious tensions in Cairo (i.e. Jewish people not being allowed passage), the question of *can these students connect to 18th century Puritans* is a lot easier to answer. Yes, because in Cairo

religion is intertwined into society to a degree that is alien to Americans. Because the United States' reputation is built on having civil liberties and protections, such as the first amendment, we all experience religious tradition that is different than ours and become more tolerant people by allowing others that space.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

◀ Puritanism & Islam

Creatures of Empire ▶

 Moodle Docs for this page

Accessibility at Lane

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Log out)

HST 201 F17 (Escobar Meta 20887 23004)