

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

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Puritanism & Islam

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## Forum 1

### Puritanism & Islam

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#### 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

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#### Re: Puritans

by Rhyan Moncrief - Saturday, October 7, 2017, 8:23 PM

Between 1607 and 1609, Separatists or Puritans left England for the Netherlands(59). Bay colonists settled in tightly knit town groups which became focal units of government. As *The Puritan video* mentions, faith was the common glue that kept towns together. When faith began to fall apart, the Puritan commonwealth began to fly apart. Puritans or applicants had to prove they were saved by passing an oral test that was ministered by church members. As a person of faith, how would you differentiate your beliefs with the Puritans during this time period?

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**Re: Puritanism and Muslim Beliefs**

by Rhyan Moncrief - Sunday, October 8, 2017, 2:19 PM

In the 16th and 17th century, the Puritans were a form of English Reformed Protestants who sought out to "purify" the church of England from its Catholic practices. Religion was extremely important to the Puritans because it was a driving force behind their way of life, daily life, and world view. There is a similarity and relationship between both religions of Protestants and Muslims because both religions entered into contact during the 16th century. They both are the two largest religions in the world, and both have been inherited from Judaism. Although these religions have differences in beliefs about forgiveness, salvation, and Christ; they also have differences in their daily lives, human behavior, and their attitudes as well.

Cites

[pewform.org/2009/09/09/muslims-widely-seen-as-facing-discriminations3-2](http://pewform.org/2009/09/09/muslims-widely-seen-as-facing-discriminations3-2)[muslimcanada.org/islam\\_christianity.html](http://muslimcanada.org/islam_christianity.html)[swapmeetdave.com/Bible/Christianity-islam-chart.htm](http://swapmeetdave.com/Bible/Christianity-islam-chart.htm)

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**American students vs. Muslim students**

by Jennifer Reyes - Sunday, October 8, 2017, 2:30 PM

After listening to the Podcast, a couple of times I kept thinking, "Where is this treasure these men speak of." As an American student, I wasn't taught with accuracy or the importance about our History of the Puritans. Honestly, Puritans were just Pilgrims. I felt intrigued when Mason said, "Many of his Middle Eastern Muslim students had far more in common with the 17th century New England Puritans than did most of his American students." (Podcast) I looked up Religion in Egypt (Wikipedia) and found that over 80% of the population is Muslim. I noticed their government included secular and religious courts. I thought that was interesting too because the Puritans started government. (Introduction the Puritans) So, now you have two Religious groups controlling and civilizing their people according to their standards and beliefs. It's shows that these so called religious groups that are involved in government, at some point are letting their beliefs interfere with governmental affairs. Honestly, how can you trust that? How can anyone relate to that?

Both Religions are old and have similarities on how they started. The both fled from somewhere to start a better life. "Islamic states embarked on another great phase of expansion." (Textbook pg.17) Here they controlled the trade. Eventually they moved on to Indonesia and North India introducing the Koran and starting the Mughal Empire. (Textbook 18) The Puritans fled from Catholicism and started their own government and Religion. (Intro. The Puritans)

These Muslim students can relate because they are generation upon generation of Islam. Americans have so many different beliefs they have the freedom to choose from. So, I find it hard relating to the Puritans because they made this huge effort to distance themselves from the Catholic church because the Catholic church started making their own beliefs and in the end they ended up doing the same thing. Finally, I still do not see the treasure these men see in the Podcast.

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### **Re: American students vs. Muslim students**

by Rhyen Moncrief - Sunday, October 8, 2017, 5:29 PM

The Middle Eastern Muslim students had far more in common with the seventeenth century Puritans than did 21st century American students because both Islamic and old Puritans tend to have a love for God and a desire to follow his righteous laws of good moral and ethical behavior. They both tend to believe in a form of heaven and hell, and also mention Jesus. (Wikipedia) As an American who grew up in a spiritual household, I feel as though I can relate more with the 21st century Americans who may come from a variety of different religions and ethnic backgrounds. I think it is more difficult for me to relate to early Puritan beliefs and ways of life; however I can respect the desires of faith and commitment that are there.

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### **Re: Understanding of the Puritan experience/ differences between the students**

by Kinsey Alexander - Sunday, October 8, 2017, 7:55 PM

The Puritans, out of fear of being exposed to God's "divine wrath", aimed to remove all Catholic elements from the Church of England. King Charles I, however, would not entertain their demands. Hence, they resolved to move across the Atlantic to establish New England. Here, they based their society strictly on the teachings of the Bible. The Puritans would not tolerate people with diverging beliefs and they excluded those people from their society. They believed that the welfare of their congregation was based on how the public reprimanded their sinners and how they enforced God's laws. (Liberty, Equality, Power, p. 59 - p.65).

From this perspective, I can understand why the Puritans worked so hard to maintain their influence in the New World. They feared that non-believers and their practices would uproot the religious security of their communities. For them, it was an issue beyond religious tolerance.

Modern day America is often considered as a cultural and religious melting pot. The results of the religion poll on Moodle verify this. We are all interacting with people of various religious affiliations on a daily basis (even if most of them are Protestant and Catholic). Evidently, we don't share the same fears as the Puritans. Perhaps, this is why we feel so disconnected from them.

On the other hand, the Egyptian students all shared a common religion, Islam. As Patrick Mason stated in his essay, "the way that Puritanism offered a totalizing, undifferentiated worldview ... resonates in many, though not all, corners of contemporary Islam" ("What's So Bad About Polygamy?"). In other words, Puritans and some Muslims are similar in their religious fervor and unity. Perhaps this is an indication that the Egyptian students share the same fears as the Puritans.

What do you guys think? Could the reason the Egyptian students have a better understanding of the Puritans be because they have the ability to empathize with their fears?

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**Re: Understanding of the Puritan experience/ differences between the students**

by Jennifer Reyes - Monday, October 9, 2017, 1:22 PM

Kinsey,

I thought you had an interesting point of view from the readings. Perhaps, at some point Islam encountered fear by other groups, but I think that they all were trying to capitalize on land, trade, or slaves, so that they wouldn't be the ones to be capitalized on. However, if the Puritans really felt fear from God, when they came to New England they wouldn't have fought in the Civil War. (Introduction the Puritans) If they were so called "holy rollers" wouldn't that go against their commandments.

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**Re: Understanding of the Puritan experience/ differences between the students**

by Kinsey Alexander - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 6:34 PM

Jennifer,

I see the contradiction there. Anyone who is God-fearing would not willingly commit a sin as extreme as murder, right?

Perhaps the Puritans interpreted the commandment "thou shalt not kill" as a reference to murder without just cause. In the textbook, under *Covenant Theology* it says that the Puritans believed that "if sinners escaped public account, God's anger would be terrible toward his chosen people" (p. 61). King Charles I, prior to the civil war, attempted to exert complete control over England's religious practices. This involved neglecting Puritan requests for reform. Conceivably, some of the Puritans felt that this behavior was

sinful and warranted punishment. If they ignored King Charles, then they risked being punished by God. They must have felt that this was enough justification to violate one of their commandments.

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**Re: Understanding of the Puritan experience/ differences between the students**

by Jennifer Reyes - Saturday, October 14, 2017, 3:06 PM

Kinsey,

I believe Covenant Theology ended with the Puritans leaving England because England government wasn't trying to live by godly standards, which drove the Puritans to flee from America to build churches, according to what they felt God commanded. (textbook pg.61) They thought they were abiding by God's laws. I don't think fear from God led them to murder. Whatever reasons they used to justify their actions did not come from being spiritual people.

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**Re: Understanding of the Puritan experience/ differences between the students**

by Rachel Gragg - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 11:35 AM

Kinsey,

You bring up an interesting point here on how it is possible that the fears of the Islamic people are similar to those of the Puritans. However, I'm not sure that their fears of gods are so similar.

Through my entire life I have been a Christian and from what I've learned, fearing God is meant to be a good thing in Christianity. Because of the Protestant belief of grace, it is okay if Christians sin because they have the option of repentance. So Christians fear God only because if there is no repentance, then they could experience the wrath of God.

Now, I don't know much about the Islamic faith so I did some research and found some info on two websites (NAMB.net and islamqa.info) in order to learn what the Islamic people believe about fearing Allah. From what those websites told me, it seems that the fear of Allah is a much more terrifying fear because Allah has the tendencies of being a very angry god. Their religion gives little hope for salvation and there is little certainty of whether a person will go to Heaven or Hell. It seems as though this faith is a little more black and white in terms of, "if you sin, you're going to Hell." So it seems to me that the fears that Islamic people have of Allah and the fears that Christians and the Puritans have of God from the Bible seem a little different.

Again, I don't know much about the Islamic faith, and I could be off base here, but that's my inference. Were there other fears within the religions that seem similar to you?

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**Re: Understanding of the Puritan experience/ differences between the students**

by Kinsey Alexander - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7:23 PM

Rachel,

You mentioned from your research that the Islamic religion provides little certainty for where a person will go in the afterlife. This reminded me of the Puritan belief in predestination. Essentially, the idea is that from birth, God knows whether or not someone will be damned or saved. So the Puritans also lived their whole lives uncertain of whether or not they were going to Heaven or Hell. Their only method of finding out was by living a devout life. If God prospered their community, then it was likely that they were members of the saved. So, it seems that the Puritans didn't believe in repentance. At least this is my understanding from the reading.

Pertaining to the fears that Islam and Puritanism share, from what you've stated and from what I understand, both religions demand a life free of sin. In the case of the Puritans, entire communities would suffer if the sins of one or more individuals were brushed under the rug. Hence, why they were so adamant about keeping out non-believers and practices that didn't strictly adhere to the Bible. With Islam, perhaps they are also afraid of non-believers and unconventional practices because of how they might threaten the sanctity of their communities. One sinful individual might influence the more impressionable Muslims to follow in their footsteps, resulting in chain reaction that could potentially be detrimental to the religious commitment within their society. Essentially, what I'm saying is that both religions might agree that a pluralistic society is dangerous.

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**Re: Understanding of the Puritan experience/ differences between the students**

by Rhyan Moncrief - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 3:06 PM

" Puritans gave a novel social dimension by pairing each personal covenant with a communal counterpart. The founders of each church agreed within their church that the Gospel would be properly preached and discipline would be strictly maintained. This communal covenant determined not who was saved or damned, but the rise and fall of nations or peoples.( page 61). " The vital force behind Puritanism was the quest for conversion."(page 64). Similarly to Puritanism, Islamic religion teaches, " There's one incomparable God, Allah." ( Wikipedia) The same notion of God's greatness is portrayed in Puritan life. (<http://www.123HelpMe.com>) The idea of a united community is a concept that both Muslims and Puritans share. I can agree with your perspective, Kinsey, that perhaps there's an indication that the Muslim students share the same fears as the Puritans due to the similarity of an undifferentiated worldview that resonates in some, though not all corners of contemporary Islam.

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**Fundamental Differences in Religions**

by Rachel Gragg - Monday, October 9, 2017, 6:30 PM

It is interesting to think that maybe because of the closeness of church and state and their minds being clean of presumptions about Puritanism before hearing about it could make the Egyptian students' minds more able to understand and relate to what Puritanism is. In Islamic culture, religion "presses upon every aspect of life" (Mason) as it did for the Puritans, but the fundamental aspects of the religions are totally different. The beliefs that Islamic people have about Allah are very different from the beliefs Christians have about God from the Bible. According to Islam faith, Allah has no son, directly contradicting the most important belief of Christians.

Many of the Christian doctrines directly relate to the doctrines of Puritanism. According to our textbook, in the 95 Theses that Martin Luther wrote about Puritanism, "Salvation... comes through faith alone, and God grants saving faith only to those who hear his Word preached to them, struggle to understand it, and admit that, without God's grace, they are damned" (Liberty Equality and Power pgs 39-40). I have grown up my entire life as a Christian and still follow its practices today and that statement directly correlates with almost everything I have learned through Christianity. Modern Christianity is far more similar to Puritanism than Islam in almost every sense.

According to our class poll, more students voted for the "Christian/ Protestant" category than any of the other options. In this class, 24.4% of students identify with that label. According to the class lecture, 25.4% of the United States also identifies with that category. More people identify as Christian than any other religion in the U.S. Shouldn't a country with that much Christian influence understand Puritanism more considering it's underlying similar core values?

What do you think? How could students of a religion so incredibly different from the Puritans understand it better than the students living in America surrounded by Christianity on a daily basis?

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### **Re: Fundamental Differences in Religions**

by Hunter Coy - Friday, October 13, 2017, 11:07 AM

I think you summed it up pretty well with the quote from Mason. In the West we are largely raised with ideas of secularity, having the idea that church and state should be largely separate. But what's interesting to note is that for many years in the Islamic Middle- East, historically, church and state were united as one in the concept of a "Caliphate". That is to say, a strong, centralized empire ruled by (essentially) an emperor who also serves as the spiritual leader of all Muslims. Though we may think of the Abbasids, Fatimids, etc as being a very long time ago, the Caliphate as a concept was still very much alive in the region until about 1918-1920 after the Ottoman Empire's defeat in WWI, when the Empire was partitioned and reformed by Ataturk along western ideas of a secular republic. So, in my opinion, it would make sense that political thought in the Middle- East was developed within the context of Caliphate- type ideas. Not to say that ideas of secularity are completely absent in the Middle- east, or that everyone over there necessarily welcomes the return of a Caliphate, but the decision of the students in Cairo makes a lot more sense when viewed within the context of "church and state being one in the same for so long, and that the idea of Caliphate was physically present in the region until fairly recently."

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### **puritans**

by Macy Biggs - Monday, October 9, 2017, 8:01 PM

The puritans were radical protestants who wanted to purify the church of England or anglican church though its remaining catholic presence, they preferred plain (simple) practices. However they were also not very tolerant, many were publicly humiliated or even hung due to card playing, public drunkenness, and consensual relations. Puritans who came to America were divided into different sections some stayed with the english church while the others, separatists, formed their own churches in order to not be corrupted by the already established church. However, both were harassed by the government which made them feel they had to leave England. Puritans, later called pilgrims, left for the new world in 1620 on the mayflower after settling in Holland for awhile. They were simple living people compared to the puritans who built Massachusetts bay. John Winthrop was the founder, not only was he a land holder but an educated man as well. They took over a company that was there to promote American settlement when they arrived and turned it into a civil government. He was later then elected governor. Later he decided to sail for new England in 1630, to ensure this land would be self-governing while he was gone he took the company charter. In this society faith was the glue that held the town together. Prosperity killed Winthrop's "holy experiment" which believed that worldly success was a sign of salvation, after his death they were unable to maintain his merely regulated economy. New England was considered poor harsh and useless, however the puritans were able to build a commercial society because of things such as lumbar, fishing, ship building and ocean trade due to another colony forming not too far from the puritans they soon became yankees with the thriving new city.

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### **Believer or Nonbeliever**

by Casandra Fountain - Monday, October 9, 2017, 9:37 PM

Quite frankly, when I think about the several different religions that derived from the Church of England my eyes do gaze over. As I try to fit the pieces together I'm seeing Puritans did have a significant influence on the start of English expansion. In our class textbook, they write "the vital force behind Puritanism was the quest for conversion," (p.64). It goes on to list the numerous colonies formed from Puritans breaking off and starting their own following, i.e. Connecticut, New Haven, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Plymouth. Roger Williams, who was a Separatist, "developed eloquent arguments for religious liberty and the complete separation of church and state," (p.64). Is this the start of where our beliefs for the nation originated from?

In some ways, my beliefs in religion may formulate disagreements with the Puritan lifestyle. I don't believe your entire life needs to revolve around the "Puritan drama of the soul". If you start to analyze every part of your day and read into the moral and spiritual significances of each occurrence that happens to you, it would consume you. I don't think religion can be removed from governmental decisions especially when it is comprised of people. Whether you're a believer or not, religion plays a part in our lives. It steers us in life decisions and

shapes us as individuals. It has had an influence on me and who I am as a person, I don't expect government officials to try to remove religion from their views and decision making. In a perfect world, they should be able to. We're only human though.

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### **Re: Believer or Nonbeliever**

by Rachel Gragg - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 3:47 PM

Cassandra,

I very much agree with the fact religion cannot not be that separated from governmental decisions. As the Puritans expanded, their colonies were founded on the very nature of their religious beliefs. From the textbook we find out, "In 1639, an affluent group planted the New Haven Colony on Long Island Sound. Their spiritual leader Reverend John Davenport imposed the strictest requirements for church membership in New England" (*Liberty, Equality, Power* Pg 64). This is just one of a multitude of examples of the very premise of a colony's development being based on its religious beliefs.

As learned in class, most of the seats on the Supreme Court bench have been filled by Protestants for many years. There has just very recently been a shift in more Catholics being added. This is clearly a way of the country continuing its religious bias against Catholicism that was around at the very beginning of the country's history.

As much as our country likes to say we separate church and state, religion is just too important to people that there's no possible way we, as humans, don't show bias towards the country's leaders that share our particular religious beliefs.

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### **Understanding the Puritans**

by Jacob Spriggs - Monday, October 9, 2017, 11:09 PM

Part of the reason that the influence of religion was so important in the English colonies was that the reason the settlers decided to colonize the New World ended up being the spark that started the American Revolution. When the Separatists departed for America, they desired independence from the Church of England, just like the colonists desired independence from the English government, some 140 years later. However, in time the Separatists came to realize that it was impossible to run away from the characteristics of the Church of England completely.

In the video "The Puritans" the historian explains that the unity of the early towns were only as strong as the people's religious obedience. Some examples of small problems were drunkenness and couples having a child 9 months after they were married, but the largest problem was the wealth of individuals. The idea was that no one would take self pride in their wealth, but soon men were celebrating it. When we can understand these things, we can understand why these early towns did not live up to their religious leaders expectations, instead of our eyes simply glazing over these topics.

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### **the similarities between islam and puritanism**

by Jordan Lopez - Monday, October 9, 2017, 11:54 PM

i ran into a 1377 word essay on 123helpme.com which tells me about the two religions. They both believe in God only and seem to put a emphasis on him. Some of the similarities include a sence of community, a notion of fear, and the focus on God. Both religions have a strong bonded community and live life according to Gods desires of them.

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### **Re: Values of Puritanism & Islam**

by Jesse Elizondo - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 8:05 PM

I'm not very concerned to find that modern American students find it hard to relate with puritanism, mostly because of the covenant that puritans followed which as the textbooks described basically said that everyone was already damned unless they strictly followed God's law. The covenant also said that the community as a whole would not be punished for individual sinners unless those sinners were able to escape public account, in which case everyone would get punished. This lead the puritan communities to have little tolerance for any small sins or misdeeds and any person that was found breaking the law was punished very harshly. After learning how harsh and intolerant that puritanism could be it's not hard to imagine why most modern American students that have grown up in a society that has supported a much more lenient lifestyle, wouldn't agree with puritan ideals. Egyptian muslim students might have been able to relate more to the early puritan founders due to similarities in between the religions. According this website called IslamicReligion.com, some of the core values of islam are that they believe that God will eventually perform a final judgement on all of it's followers, and those who are deemed worthy will go to heaven. This value seems very similar to a core belief of puritanism that they are all judged by god and must follow his law to stay in his good graces. Another core value of islam is that their followers also follow a covenant to God and in return for their obedience, humanity receives benefits from God. Again this is very similar to the puritans covenant, where puritans believed that if they were obedient and followed God's law, they would be saved. The similarities between the two religions are a driving force for why the Egyptian students related with puritans better than American students.

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### **Re: Values of Puritanism & Islam**

by Kinsey Alexander - Friday, October 13, 2017, 4:28 PM

Jesse,

Americans are encouraged from a young age to believe in religious tolerance; in fact, it is in the First Amendment of the Constitution. On the other hand, the Puritans were raised to believe that their intolerance was a normal, healthy part of their society. Because we were conditioned with vastly different values, we wear a very judgemental cultural lens.

I agree that it is a good thing that we have a more difficult time relating to Puritan ideology, but I am saying this from a biased perspective. I am naturally a proponent of religious progressivism simply by virtue of being American. When we identify more intolerant societies like the Puritans, our first instinct is to look down on them. This judgemental, self-righteousness is perhaps something we should be concerned about. It makes it very difficult to have rational discussions with others when we are unwilling to see eye-to-eye.

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### **On Perceptions of American Religious History by Different Cultures**

by Hunter Coy - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7:40 PM

I think it makes sense that the students in Cairo would have sided with the Mormons and the students in the US would have sided with the Supreme Court's decision. While, of course, you can't judge every individual by their religion, polygamy has had a long history in the Middle-East, is legal in many Muslim countries, and to my understanding is permissible in Islam. In the West, we have developed ideas of secular humanism and the concept that church and state, for the most part, should remain separate. However, in many Middle- Eastern countries, government and religious ideals frequently mingle, and ideas of the many different interpretations Sharia law frequently find their way into the law books of these countries, thus rendering polygamy legal in many places.

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### **Looking at Puritanism with modern perspectives**

by Hunter Coy - Friday, October 13, 2017, 10:31 AM

I, personally, can't really relate to the Puritans, simply because we were raised in two separate times and I don't share the worldview of the Puritans. Today, most people tend to view the world through a scientific lens, regardless of their own personal beliefs, except maybe if they're fundamentalists of whatever religion they happen to follow. What I mean by this, is even if people follow a certain religion, they don't tend to think natural phenomena are sent directly by God for his own personal means. For example, today, when we see a lightning storm on the horizon we don't think "Here comes God to punish us for sins x, y, and z." We think "Oh, must be a low pressure system in the area." or something along those lines. Puritans saw themselves, and the very situation of coming to the New World, entirely within the context of religion. While I certainly don't share the opinions and worldview of the Puritans, I can certainly put myself in the shoes of someone with such convictions, in that time period and try to view things from their perspective. The Old World is dirty and full of sinners or people who have strayed too far from God's light. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, this new, Eden like continent is seemingly theirs for the taking. It must have seemed a gift from God. I certainly can't blame them for having such strong convictions, facing such long odds on the voyage and upon the actual settlement of the continent.

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### Re: Looking at Puritanism with modern perspectives

by Casandra Fountain - Saturday, October 14, 2017, 12:50 PM

Your post made me ponder why the “context of religion” was inserted in every aspect of Puritan’s lives. Yes, there was religion everywhere you look but why. One thought I had was it was easier to explain everything with religion. I think we touched slightly on this in class early on. Like you said, they blamed catastrophes and natural disasters on God punishing them. Science was just starting to make its footprint in society. And even then, I’m sure there were plenty of naysayers. Scientists weren’t truly recognized well into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Even today, when were afraid of an answer or outcome we revert back to leaving it in God’s hands or making a horrible outcome “seem” better with, it was God’s will. For me as well, it is difficult to relate to the Puritans but with thinking about how the world worked back then and trying to understand societal norms, I can see things from their perspective.

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### Re: Looking at Puritanism with modern perspectives

by Jacob Spriggs - Saturday, October 14, 2017, 7:31 PM

It never really occurred to me that the Puritans must have thought that America was a gift from God until I read your post. It now makes more sense to me why the early settlers tried so hard to control the Indians and had no regard for the Indian territory boundaries. I also now understand why the colonists thought the Indians were subject to their law, which only created more conflict between the colonies and the Indian tribes. The Puritans thought that the laws they lived by were approved by God, and if the Indians didn't obey their laws, and the Puritans didn't try hard enough to enforce these laws on the Indians, they would all feel the wrath of God.

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### Seeing the World through a Narrow Lens

by Rachel Gragg - Friday, October 13, 2017, 11:06 AM

Throughout the week as I have reflected more on the topic, the biggest reason I have been able to come up with as to why the Middle Eastern students were more susceptible to understanding the Puritan lifestyle was their lack of experience with American culture. All that they know about American culture it through what others have told them, i.e. their books and teachers. As stated earlier in the podcast, the Egyptian students were stunned to find out the polygamy wasn’t allowed in the United States because of the religious freedom stated in the Constitution. Since all the knowledge they have is from just reading about the Constitution and hearing about American culture, they are less likely to understand the values and lifestyles of Americans.

I know that I am guilty of assuming things are true because of my lack of experience. I haven’t travelled that much around the world so my view of other countries is very limited. All I know about most of the countries in the world is completely based on what I’ve read and heard about them, making it easy for me to immediately assume something about another country based on my lack of knowledge. I’m sure the Muslim students having never been to America

and seen the influence of Protestantism on our culture and the constant surroundings of Christianity all throughout America had trouble completely understanding Puritanism for all that it was and instead focused on the small pieces they related to.

What do you think? Do you think the Muslim students' limited knowledge of America helped them feel as though they relate well to the Puritans?

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### **Re: Seeing the World through a Narrow Lens**

by Jennifer Reyes - Saturday, October 14, 2017, 3:26 PM

Rachel,

I think it is possible for Muslim students to relate to the Puritans because of not having enough knowledge about their culture and beliefs. I was thinking about what we have learned about them from our textbook, podcast, and Moodle it was probably around the same information as they received. Spiritually they can relate to them because Muslims do believe in a portion of the Bible. However, in the Muslim belief they practice polygamy, (Polygamy in Islam, Wikipedia) so of course, they would be able to relate to that too. Also, both religions believe in government, and they both have spiritual laws and laws of the land.

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

by Zongyuan Shi - Friday, October 13, 2017, 3:33 PM

Puritanism is an unorganized reform movement that arose during the English Reformation of the 17th century. The results of the study of the awareness of muslim and American students to this historical issue are unexpected for me. the author of the study, Professor Patrick Q. mason, calls the reason for this that modern Islam has much more in common with Puritanism than Christianity in America today. Professor Scott Casper calls this wonderful insight since Puritanism is not a significant topic to study. It is expected that American students should know more about Puritanism since this movement have so considerable impact on the social and political, ethical ideas of Americans. It is important to note that formation of American individualism and democratic thing took place mainly under the influence of Puritanism in New England.

The main idea of Puritanism that a well-educated American student should know is the supreme authority of God over human affairs in the Church, as it is described in the Bible. Also, the ideology of Puritanism includes the principles of election and predestination, a low tolerance for sin, high moral qualities of Christians and the importance of the Church as a community of saints. It is worth noting that Puritanism that concludes that man by nature is prone to sin and corruption and can become spiritual and moral through sever discipline.

Puritanism is not only a religious faith but a philosophy, policy and a way of life. It exerted a significant influence on the New World and determined some ways for the development of America and other English speaking countries.

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