

HST 201: History of United States F18 (Escobar Meta 20749 22611)

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Puritanism & Islam

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, October 5, 2018, 10:35 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Puritanism & Islam topic.

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Church and State

by [Devin Brown](#) - Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 3:19 PM

In today's political atmosphere, what religion you are and how devout you are plays probably the biggest role in how likely you are to be elected, with many voters hoping to bring "good, christian values" into government. Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment intended for the separation of church and state, many Americans become hypocritical and only wish for Christian politicians. The effects of this are so deep-

rooted in America today that even on our currency, it displays "in God we trust." I can only imagine what it's like to be an atheist, and seeing emblazoned on the currency you use the endorsement of a religion that you don't believe in, being forced to go along with it.

With this being the case, I don't think that anytime soon will religion become separated from our politics, and even if there is a sudden widespread support for a movement to do so, it will take generations to rid our society of it. Just as with racism, and how we outlawed slavery etc. the older generations (and still some current ones) still hold on tight to their beliefs.

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1



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Purely Intolerant?

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 9:05 PM

While listening to the podcast, I pondered religious extremism for a moment. The lines between the Muslim reality of today and a Puritanical society in 17th century America seemed to be furthest from my mind. However, Mason's essay states that the two very religious societies (Muslim in Cairo and Puritan in New England) had more in *common* than one might think. So I looked at my notes from class: We know that the Puritans were very intolerant. So what does that say about the Muslims in Egypt? We also know that the law was considered God's law in Puritanical New England, and if someone was allowed to get away with not obeying God's law - then the whole society was to be punished. Don't spare that rod! This speaks of a beehive nesting ground for religious extremism, intolerance and the blurring of the lines between church and state. They do, in fact, seem to have much more in common than at first glance.

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1



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Re: Puritanism & Islam

by [Gehrig Van Tol](#) - Thursday, October 11, 2018, 12:55 AM

When Professor Scott Casper said in his interview that the primarily Muslim students at college in Cairo seemed to have a better understanding and relation to the Puritan religion I was honestly not shocked. I am not ashamed to say that, like it seems a good deal of the class according to the religion poll, I fall into the category of Christian, yet despite this my general understanding of the Puritan religion comes from my history class. In fact, when I hear the word Puritan my immediate thought is of the pilgrims, a group from well over 200 years ago. While the Puritans would also fall into the category of Christians, the idea that religion would not only be a factor in your life, as it would be in the modern Christian religion, but in fact THE major factor in your life that influenced all other facets of one's life is completely foreign to me despite my own Christianity. However, as Casper notes, this is very similar to the lifestyle of his muslim students where he states "the lines between religion and state are often blurry", an extremely similar statement to one the textbook makes on page 97, regarding the Puritan lifestyle, where "the close relationship between the church and state...characterized the Puritan order". While I do think the statement Casper makes that American students "dismiss religious establishment as enlightened and

even barbaric antiquities”, is an exaggeration, as once again shown by our class poll that shows a majority of the class does consider themselves at least semi-religious, I do agree that because we don’t incorporate our religion so inclusively into every aspect of our daily life, like our counterparts in the Muslim faith, we cannot possibly understand the Puritan religion in the same way that they can.

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2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Elaborating a Little Bit**by [Devin Brown](#) - Friday, October 12, 2018, 3:16 PM

To go off of what you were saying about how Muslims understand Puritan faith better than us Christian Americans, is perhaps because we see them as purely a history matter, whereas Muslims are able to make connections to their modern day religion, and derive information that we aren't able to. Just because Christians today and Puritans then are both Christians, doesn't mean we today should be able to thoroughly understand and relate to their lives, because the day-to-day was so different, and the Puritans' lives were enveloped by their religion, while many today go to Church less and less.

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1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Puritanism & Islam**by [Gehrig Van Tol](#) - Friday, October 12, 2018, 11:37 PM

As Professor Scott Casper drew comparisons between his Muslim students and the Protestant faith in their ability to relate to each other I thought back to the web video “the Protestants”, which stated that the Puritans wanted to purify the Protestant church. Already thinking about the connections between the Puritan and Muslim religions, I thought about how just as how the Puritans were a more specific and specified version of the Protestant church, just so the Muslims were a more specific and specific version of the Christian Church. While in today's political climate it is a widely held belief that the Christian and Muslim religions are completely separate, in fact the both are considered Abrahamic religions, which all are actually descendents of the religion of Judaism and worship the God of Abraham. Despite this, there are many key differences between the religions of Islam and Christianity, just as there are key differences between the religions of Puritanism and Protestantism. They are essentially based on the same key principle that make up the Abrahamic religions; in fact, because Puritanism would fall under the overarching branch of Christianity, it would also technically be considered an Abrahamic religion. For all these reasons I found it fairly easy, upon deeper reflection, to draw several core comparisons of the similarities of the Puritan and Muslim religions.

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1

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**Baised study.**by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, October 13, 2018, 11:35 PM

I do believe my religion does bias my study of not only these people. But I also believe no matter what a person believes in it will always bias their study, or what a person doesn't believe in. Sometimes that can make it hard to study different religions when you come in with a closed view I believe. That doesn't mean Im not able to come in with an open mind but it doesn't help when it comes to studying something you may not agree with.

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