

HST 201: US History F19 (Escobar)

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Puritanism & Islam

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, October 12, 2019, 12:50 PM

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

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, which clearly describes the source and questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Puritanism & Islam

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How to Understand Puritan Life

by [Glorianna Whiteman-Reyes](#) - Sunday, October 13, 2019, 12:29 PM

Personally I find it very hard to relate to the way Puritan settlers ran their lives. I would describe myself as an atheist and have only attended religious gathering a handful of times in my life. Puritan practices of moral censorship seem extreme and barbaric when faced with the knowledge of public hangings and belittlement of morally ambiguous practices that seem very standard today. (Puritan video 4:10 mark). In truth, I don't find Muslim students' deeper understanding of puritan life all that surprising or alarming. Islam is one of the prevailing religions that seems to permeate all aspects of life, including, and maybe especially, home life. (Scott Casper podcast 3:50 mark). The reason I don't find this lack of connection to the religious influences

of puritan life that alarming is because I think there are other ways to look at and relate to these people without necessarily having to know or understand that much about their faith. In past classes when I studied the begins of American Conlonization I always paid close attention to the influence of family life on the colonies. Settlers in Virginia had very high numbers of men and very few women wich equaled sparse families. Jamestown settlers were there for profit and thus had less permanent homes and less neighborly affection with their neighbors. The puritans, however, came in families to settle. They depended on one another to build towns and feed families. (Puritan video 2:20 mark) The issues of morality and strict laws make more sense to me in this context because this standard we uphold families and neighbors too is still someone in place. The idea of setting examples for children and upholding a moraly right society is still in place, even if to a lesser extent than it was.

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The teaching of religion

by [Clay Noteboom](#) - Sunday, October 13, 2019, 1:50 PM

The role of religion in history is incredibly important to learn, yet American students don't, at least during high school. At home, they learn one aspect of religion: their parents'. In my experience, high school teachers barely touch on world religions. I should know; my dad is one of them. Young people often do not know the history of certain religions, or how that religion was shaped, or how it has changed. Those factors are incredibly important to know because it brings perspective to history. I think Americans are fantastically sensitive about religion, so much so that it's almost taboo to even talk about it. That partly explains why high school teachers are so reluctant to tackle it.

In the study of religion, particularly the role of the Puritans, we see the history of our country: what people thought and what they cared about, long before our government actually existed. In fact, Miller and Johnson point out that the Puritans believed, "The Fall made government necessary, so God created government." They suggest that the Puritans saw government as necessary in order to fulfill the will of God.

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Comparing Puritanism and Islam

by [Ethan Rubus](#) - Sunday, October 13, 2019, 11:34 PM

Are Puritanism and Islam one and the same? No, they are not, however, they do some have similarities. One of the similarities is how strict they both are with there religious laws and customs. Puritans would punish couples who had babies less than 9 months after marriage. They would hang men who had consenting sex (Web Vide "The Puritans" 4:20 minute mark). Islam also punishes followers when they break religious laws known as sharia law. This is just one thing that both have in common while they may or may not any else in common I am curious to find out what you guys think about this topic.

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Concerning Information

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 11:28 AM

I am concerned with the fact that Egyptian students have an easier time understanding other religious people than Americans do. I would like to believe that we are capable of understanding other people's points of view better than anyone because we are the land of the free, but according to Professor Scott Casper's audio file ""my Egyptian students can grapple with the intricate relationship of church and state in Puritan New England in a far more informed way that American students... casually dismiss". This concerns me because this information makes me think that America is not as free, and open minded as I thought. "The students of Cairo were stunned to learn that the Supreme Court in 1879 went absolutely the opposite way" (2:20 Professor Scott Casper's Audio file). How could the Supreme Court outlaw something that the Constitution guarantees?

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) 1[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Concerning Information**by [Caleb Willis](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 10:10 PM

I absolutely see where you're coming from with this perspective and I think it is a really deep question regarding values as a nation and such. Regarding the outlaw of polygamy (plural marriage), the Pew Religious Landscape Study cites that 70.6% of Americans categorize themselves as Christians and it's many sects. These sects view polygamy as an immoral act (going against God's word), hence most likely what I believe to be the result of the Supreme Court siding with the majority, that is making plural marriage illegal in the U.S.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) 1[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Puritanism & Islam**by [alex Henshen](#) - Thursday, October 17, 2019, 10:56 AM

The first amendment which the Egyptian students based their answer on in (Casper audio file) is the freedom of religion. But polygamy itself is illegal in the United States and legal in Egypt. Therefore the Egyptians don't have all the same tools and will make different decisions.

Sum of ratings: [0 \(1\)](#) 0[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Polygamy may be Illegal**by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Thursday, October 17, 2019, 12:32 PM

Polygamy may be illegal in the United States, but not federally. Some small groups part of the LDS Church still practice polygamy and show awareness for it in media, such as the TLC reality show, 'Sister Wives'. Even a small minority of American Muslims still practice it because of their faith. They are protected by the First Amendment of freedom of speech. Going back to what you said, Egyptian children do not have the same insight and may make different decisions based on what they are taught and what their faith is.

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**Re: the differences of students**by [alex Henshen](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 11:40 AM

Some difference between Egyptian and American students. The Egyptian students had a better understanding of the Puritans and could relate with them. In an exercise performed by professor Scott Casper, he had his student restage constitutional debates. He concluded that they wanted the Mormons to keep their religion. So "The students of Cairo were stunned to learn that the supreme court in 1879 went the absolute opposite way." (2:20 Professor Scott Casper interview) As for the American students, they automatically agreed with the supreme court. They have a hard time relating and agreeing with other religious establishments.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Cultural Views on Puritanism**by [Caleb Willis](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 4:25 PM

I am concerned with the finding, as it seems to show students in Cairo grasp the Puritans better than actual American students. I can understand the Puritans better and their experience and influence in the new world, so it would be false for me to say my eyes simply "glaze over". Difference wise for these students would be the fact their backgrounds and cultures are greatly different. Similarity wise, they're both a group of students who are learning the same material, and getting the same sides of the story, just their views differ. Essential elements of Puritanism a well educated American should know is that obeyed religious rules, dress simply, live a modest life, and be morally pure. The fact that 70.6% of Americans consider themselves Christian plays a huge role in terms of the Indiana students. Christians do believe polygamy is morally wrong and against morals, hence siding with the Supreme Court. The Cairo students are not predominantly Christian, and polygamy may be a norm for them, or at least much more widely acceptable, making sense that they would be surprised to know the U.S sides with the Supreme Court. I can understand and sort of relate to the Puritans in terms of living morally, faith through worship, following the Bible, etc... In Dr. Nash's book "Red, White, and Black" I do find it particularly interesting that in the Native American worldview, they do not separate their religious and secular views, but instead, mixing them together. I do believe that can be a beneficial way of living, and possibly an easier way of life, too. Now, I do not believe religion can be removed from its influence on the government's decisions. To govern the nation strictly under a secular view would be impossible. For starters, as previously stated, the US is a dominantly Christian country, with 70.6% of the nation following Christian faiths, according to the Pew Religious Landscape Study. I do believe religious and secular views can both be intertwined to govern the nation. This scenario would not work for the majority of the nation. This whole thing is seen to be a "wonderful insight", as many students in the Cairo class understood Puritanism, unlike many of the American students. I believe this is due to the differences in cultures and their upbringing. How the Cairo students picked it up better because the western culture is vastly different, whereas for the Americans, hearing about Puritanism doesn't really hit them as hard, hence their "eyes glazing over" the topic, hence such a wonderful insight that professor Scott Casper claims to be in the video at the 4:47 mark. The fact that Mason is American and teaches about American history to other, non-American students with a different culture and upbringing makes them more attentive to the topic of Puritanism and their history, whereas it may not be the same for the students in Indiana because their culture is the same and hearing about it would simply not be as interesting for them.

Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Cultural Views on Puritanism**by [Clay Noteboom](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 9:25 PM

Yes, you made a really good point that a majority of Americans claim to be religious.

But how many actually live by the religious principles they profess? If the rate of infidelity in marriage is 50+%, how can 70% of Americans say they live by Christian rules? I don't know much about specific rules and denominations, but I bet Christianity does not approve of extramarital affairs.

It seems like there is Christianity, and there are people who say they are Christians, and they are not completely aligned.

~Clay

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Cultural Views on Puritanism**by [Zach Trotter](#) - Thursday, October 17, 2019, 9:12 PM

I agree with your closing sentence, I was thinking about how in the US school is normal, and something that everyone is a part of as a child and teenager for the most part. So for some topics like American History, students may see the learning and relating aspect as more of a chore. In other parts of the world (not sure about the education system in Cairo but just speaking about parts of the world in general) education is a privilege and students may be more excited or intrigued to learn about the US and its early history, and based on their religion and/or the development of their country they may be able to relate to early America more than the average student in the US today.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Puritanism & Islam**by [Jacob Yates](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 4:59 PM

In my opinion it makes sense that the Muslim students came to different conclusions than their American counter-parts. To start with at around 2:40 in the audio clip Casper said that the American students agreed with the supreme court on the case about polygamy, and on the other hand the Muslim students did not. The Muslim students used the constitution, First amendment so its the Bill of Rights, saying that polygamy should be allowed because of our religious freedoms. These Muslim students live in a completely different environment than the American Students, they live in Egypt where polygamy is legal and it says in the Quran that a man can have up to four wives (Quran 4:3). So these students have very different exposure than us American's on what is the "norm" and what's okay, because here in the U.S. polygamy is illegal and seen as wrong.

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**Polygamy with Mormons**by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 9:40 PM

I have not read the Quran, so I learned a little more about polygamy in Islam. I forgot to bring that up when I designed my response and will remember that in the future. When reading your response, I got reminded that polygamy is also practiced unofficially in Mormonism. The founder, Joseph Smith, was noted to have multiple wives (49 as of right now) and wanted to father his own church. Adding Mormonism into the equation, would children of Mormonism see the Puritans and Muslims as having similar ideas, but from different view points on how it is taught?

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Puritanism & Islam Jacob Yates**by [Glorianna Whiteman-Reyes](#) - Thursday, October 17, 2019, 3:15 PM

I agree that it makes sense for Cairo students to reach the conclusion that they did about the supreme court case. (name) says so himself at the 2:27 mark of the podcast, those students were viewing this case through the context of their own society with the tools of ours. To me, that was bound to show differing results across the middle east and the U.S. A big part of this, I think, is that though we may feel separated from the puritans now, their time wasn't that long ago and their values and cultural ideas had a lasting effect on their descendants and, therefore, us and the legal decisions we make.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Modern Egyptians Connection to the Past Americans**by [Abraham Millan](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 8:49 PM

In current events America is a pretty secular state. In the first amendment of our constitution it says "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." However students in Cairo Egypt do not obey or have laws as such. Instead their country has chosen Islam as its state religion. I am not shocked how students there feel more relateable to puritans than American students. Religion is a much bigger part of their daily lives than modern Americans. This statement could in itself be biased since I am a catholic and grew up in Texas. A place where religion may not be part of government but it sure is part of daily life.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Modern Egyptians Connection to the Past Americans**by [Clay Noteboom](#) - Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 9:38 AM

It sounds like the Puritans would have been at home in Texas. They favored government because they saw it as a way for God to organize his followers and keep them in line. For them, government and God were closely intertwined (from the Miller and Johnson essay).

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Re: Modern Egyptians Connection to the Past Americans

 by [Abraham Millan](#) - Friday, October 18, 2019, 5:46 PM

Though the Puritans would have enjoyed Texas and its vast wealth. They would however wouldn't necessarily enjoy it at all for some reasons. For example colonial Texas wasn't a religious settlement and worst it was a Spanish colony meaning it would have been governed by Catholics. Also as mentioned in the web video about puritans only allowed citizen of their own protestant religion were allowed to vote or be elected into public office. Texas has not embraced that ideal and nor it will. As Thomas Jefferson says "our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinion."

Even though Puritans would not agree with the religious aspect of the state, it would agree with its priority of towns. In web video Puritans believed that towns and local communities were the best way to govern. In which many Texas like myself would agree with. Putting local towns and communities as a top priority is a way to govern than to have the central governments control everything.

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Re: Puritanism & Islam

 by [Zach Trotter](#) - Monday, October 14, 2019, 10:22 PM

During class last week Professor Escobar spoke to the class about the significance of religion and its influence of the founding of the United States. A lot of people understand this, and I think a lot of Americans "eyes glaze over" when the topic is brought up because of the lack of influence of religion nowadays. The Pew Religious Landscape shows us that as of 2014, 22.8% of the U.S. is religiously unaffiliated. The population of the United States in 2014 was 318.6 million (simple google search) that means that about 72.2 Million people in the U.S. do not affiliate themselves with any religion. That puts me under the impression that 1/4 of our population just doesn't really care about religion or its influence, and that's a rather large percentage of our population compared to the population of Egypt. After another google search of the percentage of Egypt's religious population, Wikipedia stated, "The country is majority Sunni Muslim (estimates ranging from around 80% to 94%), with the next largest religious group being Christians (estimates ranging from 6% to 25%)". If we take both those low figures it comes out to be about 86% of their population divided between 2 religions, not counting any other religion. So of course it would make more sense that the students in Cairo would "grapple with the intricate relationship of church and state in Puritan New England in a far more informed way than American students" Also just off of common knowledge I know that Northern African countries and also countries across the Middle East have a way stronger impact of religion on their everyday life and also their Governments. Students in Cairo I'm sure don't learn about early American History as often as American students (if at all other than this rare instance), so those students may have been very intrigued to learn that religion had such an impact on American history because in present day it may not seem as though religion has much impact on the U.S. in general, if you're not from the U.S. All in all, I am not concerned with the finding that students from another country with a massive religious influence apparently "grapple with the relationship of church and state" in a more informed way than Americans students.

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Re: Puritanism & Islam



by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 6:51 PM

When I was listening to the audio file about Islam and Puritanism, I had an understanding why Egyptian children of the Islam faith can understand the Puritan faith better than most 21st century American student since the Islam faith and the Puritan faiths have high connections between church and state. Both are cultures that rely on their faith to go about their day. In the audio file, the narrator reads from the document that Professor Mason wrote about how the Egyptian children have a, "totalizing, undifferentiated world view," and how the, "lines between religion and state are often blurry." (Audio 3:40, 4:00) This can be inferred that both ways of life have similar ways of their connection between what they teach and what their beliefs are. However, Puritans were very strict Christians and many Muslims adhere to a strict Islamic faith.

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why the discussion about the Puritans isn't taught correctly in America

by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 9:38 PM

I believe that the Puritans played an important role in American history. Puritans came to the New World in search of religious toleration, yet they refused to accept people who did not share the same beliefs as them. Many public schools in America today won't teach into greater detail about the Puritans and their influence on the founding of the nation, because schools are typically taught, and encouraged to not promote religion unless it is a private school. It is said that no one should be forced into religious education whether they disagree, or even agree with what is taught.

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Re: why the discussion about the Puritans isn't taught correctly in America

by [Robert Whitney](#) - Saturday, October 19, 2019, 9:49 PM

One thing I remember when I read about the Puritans being unaccepting or intolerant is that they believed that if people were sinning in their town, God would punish everyone (Escobar, 10/17). I feel like they were just trying to protect themselves and the people around them. I would also agree that schools forego teaching very much about religion and its effects on the colonization of our nation. In doing that, I feel like public schools gloss over some of the most interesting and important times in American history.

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Puritanism for American students

by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 9:59 PM

Essential elements of Puritans that educated Americans should know, would be that strict Puritanism died out in the mid-1700's. By that time many Puritan ways and beliefs had become a permanent part of our American culture. An example from an article called "The Puritans" discussed how "They supplied an ethics that somehow balanced charity and self-discipline. It counseled moderation within a psychology that saw worldly prosperity as a sign of divine favor. Such ethics were particularly urgent in a New World where opportunity was rich, but the source of moral authority obscure." (History article)

Even to this day, immigrants from other countries share the Puritan dream, that life will be better for those who come to America.

Citations: <https://www.history.com/topics/colonial-america/puritanism>

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Re: Puritanism & Islam understanding relating to puritanism

by [Samson Maberry](#) - Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 8:44 PM

Personally I find the subjects of Puritanism and how they influenced the culture of the "new world". I can't personally relate to them or some of their believes because I do not have any of my own spiritual connection. The finding that students from other countries have an easier time understanding and connecting to the religious group doesn't shock or alarm me, because in america it is apparent to most that if it isn't your own religion most Americans don't learn about it. In today's times it isn't possible for religion to stay out of government, this doesn't bother me as a non spiritual person and I don't think it bothers many others because as long as it isn't harming others or taking away rights that you yourself would want to be available then religion is fine.

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Re: Puritanism & Islam

by [Matthew Hendricks](#) - Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 8:48 PM

After reading the source and the first three chapters of the textbook, I can feel confident in saying that some Puritan ideals are still embedded in our political climate without many of us realizing it. Think about how a large portion of our nation would prefer someone who they felt was whom God chose (Donald Trump) even with the reality of his horrible and numerous sins in their face. After reading about Puritan ideals such as how the "Covenant of Works" failed and that humans could be redeemed only by this predestination concept rather than by their actions. This kind of closed mind mentality still exists today without a Puritan in sight. It has been interesting to take this class alongside a United States Gov. and Politics course. In the aforementioned course I have learned a good deal already about the Constitution, I specifically heard what you (Prof. Escobar) said in regards to separation of church not being prohibited within the seven articles was in fact true. I also learned, in the same course that your statement, while factually accurate, was not at all the whole story. In the 1st Amendment of the Constitution, included in the bill of rights, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" (Bill of Rights Amendment #1). I would argue that this statement within the first amendment is ample evidence to suggest that state acting under the behalf of religious values is clearly unconstitutional. I would like to make a point that given the ratification of the Constitution being conditional on the development of the bill of rights that the bill of rights cannot be separated from the Constitution.

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Understanding Puritanism & Islam

by [Ethan Rubus](#) - Thursday, October 17, 2019, 5:21 PM

I personally can't relate to how the Puritan lived there live even though I would consider my self religious, its nothing like the Puritan's ways. However, I do understand why they lived the way they did. It's important to remember how different things are. Puritan lives were centered around religion it affected a lot of there daily lives. They made a lot of decisions like public hangings and public shaming based on their religion. Whereas today religion isn't as big of a factor in a lot of people's daily lives. It's hard to relate to things that are so much different then our lives today. However, One doesn't need to be able to relate to something to understand it.

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[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Government and Religion**by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Thursday, October 17, 2019, 5:58 PM

In today's world, it is impossible for the government to not be influenced by religion. We are taught that there is a separation between church and state, but in actuality, religion permeates our everyday lives. "In God we trust" is on our money, we swear on a Bible in court, we have several religious national holidays (such as Easter and Christmas), and "Under God" has been added to the Pledge of Allegiance. All governments have been influenced by religion, worldwide. There is no way to separate an influential force, like religion, because religion plays a large part in many people's lives. I think that religion can add a moral compass to our government.

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[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Government and Religion**by [Caleb Willis](#) - Friday, October 18, 2019, 2:13 PM

You make a good point. It would be impossible to remove religion. In the post I made, I stated how 70.6% of U.S citizens identify themselves as Christians and Christian faiths, falling under many sects of it, according to the Pew Religious Landscape Study. I also think it adds a moral compass to our government. Simply removing religion from governmental forces wouldn't work due to the majority of U.S citizens being part of Christian faiths, and that would be a terrible mistake. Religion is very much intertwined with American lives. It also would cause much outrage, too, with the majority.

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[Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Comparing Today and 17th Century**by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Friday, October 18, 2019, 7:58 PM

Many religious people do not actively practice their religion. I think the United States as a whole is pretty relaxed about religion. A lot of people take it very seriously, but a lot do not. I, for example, would define myself as a Christian. I have never read the full bible, and I do not pray very often. I also believe that religion is not about all or nothing though. Having faith is really all that matters. This is how religion has changed. Back in the day the Puritans were strictly religious. (Lecture notes from Tuesday) Massachusetts had the highest literacy rate because most everyone read the bible. It didn't matter if you were young, or even a

woman. The Bible was used to teach children how to read. The Puritans banished people who went against their set rules, for example Roger Williams, and Anne Hutchinson. Also all people had to give the church money as a part of taxes. Today we are easier going on our religion, in the past people would not have gotten away with not reading the Bible and being actively religious.

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Re: Comparing Today and 17th Century

by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Saturday, October 19, 2019, 11:19 AM

You make a good point, however, it's not really fair to compare religion today and in the 17th Century. Today, we have so many different things to occupy our time and attention. We have Social Media, TV, Internet, Cell Phones, and about a million other distractions. Then you have the 17th Century, which had none of these. Many towns revolved around religion. Religion was the central core that held the towns together. These people didn't have electricity, so from dusk to dawn, they were stuck in their homes with not much to do. Reading, including the Bible, was a big part of their time. This made religion the biggest part of most people. And we just don't see that today, since we have so many distractions.

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Puritanism & Islam In today's world

by [Ethan Rubus](#) - Friday, October 18, 2019, 11:25 PM

I as well consider my self to be a Christian but I do not practice the religion nor have I read the bible all the way through. It just goes to show how much has changed over time. Which makes it much harder for people today to relate with the Puritans. The Puritans where strict when It came to there religion they would punish those who broke there religious law(Puritans Video 4:20 mark). For most people, today that hard for them to comprehend that, especially in the US because most people don't have or follow a religion like it. Another religion that is like this is Islam with Sharia law. Because Islam and the Puritans have this strictness of religion in common it makes it much easier for people like the Cairo students to understand and relate to the Puritans religion.

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Muslim Students vs American Students

by [Robert Whitney](#) - Friday, October 18, 2019, 11:27 PM

After hearing about the Muslim students relating and understanding the English Puritans better than the American students, I was less concerned and more reassured of my opinions, those being that the American public school system is inferior to many school systems abroad. Before coming to college and taking higher education history courses, I had heard of almost NOTHING we went over in class. As far as I've experienced, public education failed me in sense of American history.

Additionally, living in the Middle East, I'm sure, there is a much more religiously inclusive culture. In my experiences here in America, and especially in a religiously devoid state such as Oregon, there has been little talk of Christianity let alone 17th century Puritanism. I think that because of my previous experiences in life and of my personal views, it is hard for me to relate to the English Puritans. I believe that because Muslim students experience a lot of religion in their daily lives, it is easier for them to relate to people with religious goals.

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Re: Muslim Students vs American Students

by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Saturday, October 19, 2019, 3:29 PM

After listening to the podcast, I wasn't surprised students from Egypt knew more about American's religious history revolving the puritans, and had a greater interest compared to the American students. I completely agree with your statement, considering i'm in the same boat. I also hadn't learned much to do with history and the religion while in high school, which really made it hard to believe that I had been in the dark about so much of our nation's history, and how it has impacted us today.

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The difference between U.S and Egypt

by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Saturday, October 19, 2019, 3:31 PM

While listening to the interview with the professor Scott Casper, it was obvious to know that the students in Cairo aren't going to be mainly Christian, unlike the Pew Religious Landscape Study, showing that the United States is 70.6% Christian. When the students learned about the polygamy, it wasn't going to be something that seems normal, and make sense. U.S siding with the Supreme Court came to be a huge shock the students

" The students of Cairo were stunned to learn that the supreme court in 1879 went the absolute opposite way." (Interview with Scott Casper)

I also think that because Pologamy is illegal in the U.S, it will be seen differently compared to the students in Egypt due to the fact that it is legal there. So I think it is hard to compare students from a country where religion is seen more in their daily lives.

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