



Puritanism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

By Francis J. Bremer

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Written by a leading expert on the Puritans, this brief, informative volume offers a wealth of background on this key religious movement. This book traces the shaping, triumph, and decline of the Puritan world, while also examining the role of religion in the shaping of American society and the role of the Puritan legacy in American history. Francis J. Bremer discusses the rise of Puritanism in the English Reformation, the struggle of the reformers to purge what they viewed as the corruptions of Roman Catholicism from the Elizabethan church, and the struggle with the Stuart monarchs that led to a brief Puritan triumph under Oliver Cromwell. It also examines the effort of Puritans who left England to establish a godly kingdom in America. Bremer examines puritan theology, views on family and community, their beliefs about the proper relationship between religion and public life, the limits of toleration, the balance between individual rights and one's obligation to others, and the extent to which public character should be shaped by private religious belief.

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Review

"A delightfully rich little volume...An engaging read, enlivened with primary quotes and illustrations, this overview of Puritan political history, beliefs, practices, and interpretation demonstrates the flexibility rather than the rigidity of this fascinating religious culture...Bremer's *Short Introduction* provides an elegant and accessible gateway into this world." --*Christian History & Biography*

About the Author

Francis J. Bremer is Professor of History at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. A leading authority on Puritanism, he is the author of the award-winning biography *John Winthrop: America's Forgotten Founding Father*.

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