

The decline of puritanism essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Although most had a pessimistic attitude toward the ability to live in way hat was acceptable to God, Puritans believed that they were to live in the world and not seclude themselves behind the closed doors of a monastery.

Through hard work, correct living, and a good moral compass, the early community believed they would receive Gods glory and prosperity would be granted to them. Diligently working in a variety of Jobs, ranging from merchants to city leaders, the townspeople could enjoy their free time with lotteries, approved dancing, and an assortment of other fun activities that did not consume copious amounts of time from the work force.

Women were not looked at as evil, Impure creatures. Instead, there were realized as a necessity, not only to life, but a man's happiness as well.

Marriages were common and considered virtuous throughout the colonies.

Through all of this, the people did not trust England's hierarchy of church ruling and believed that churches should be ran from within; starting at the bottom. Colonies were ran with a separation of church and state, but the state was guided by the rules of the church. Sunday was considered the Sabbath, all work and play, to include cooking was not to be done As the population of colonies increased, so did the number of towns.

In order to support the economy and encourage growing families, land was given to families and not individuals. The amount of land giving was large enough to build a home and plow a crop. By law, everyone was to read the Bible. In order to aid in enforcing this, towns with 50 or more households were to teach all children to read.

If the number of households increased to 100, a school teacher was required to help in preparing the children for acceptance into a university. New England became quite an attractive place to live, causing communities to continue to grow.

As with most societies, when the number of inhabitants grows, so does the amount of problems. With the influx of people beginning to spread throughout the land, control and enforcement of rules became increasingly difficult with less supervision able to be placed upon the citizens. Children who had been baptized as infants were not reaching full riotousness.

Individuals such as Roger Williams wanting to break completely away from the Church of England or Ann Hutchison pushing the limits of authority, proved to be precursors to the fall of the Puritans. With problems becoming uncontrollable, the colonies leaders put themselves on offense.

Rumors started to spread that nearby catastrophes such as Indian attacks, town fires, and sickness were all caused by the wrath of God, showing the towns were falling from his grace. Stories of witchcraft and supporting books from England started to run rampant, causing several executions throughout the land.

These executions came to a short cease and assist once a prominent town lady was accused was settled, second wave started. With the father and son of the Matter family releasing books about the supernatural, witchery and other hearsay began to spread once again.

Executions for any act considered outside of religion to be witchery were met with more executions. This took place until New England realized it was an attempt to get the churn back together and put a stop to it.

During this time, psychological warfare style sermons were beginning to broadcast from the pulpits. On one occasion a message was preached that individuals could have a direct line of communication to God. This went against all former teachings and caused the ultimate fall of the Puritans. Through the real life events to those that were spread wrought falsehood, the Puritan way of life did not completely disintegrate.

The Puritanism way of life left several emotions and thoughts through history that continue to rear their heads in America.

The Puritan thought that mankind will never be good enough tends to fly in the face of American ideology. Through severe hardships in American history such as war or natural disasters, Puritanism thought process can sometime return. Ideas such as we are not going to make it through this, or this is punishment bestowed upon us by God tend to lock themselves back into play, if only for a short time.