

# The Puritans

In Early America

# Origins of Puritanism

- The Puritans were an English religious group who came to the United States to practice their religion without interference from the Church of England. The Puritans were pilgrims, but not all pilgrims were Puritans. Most Puritans settled in towns in coastal Massachusetts slightly north of Boston.



# Origins of Puritanism

- In the early 1500s many English citizens were unhappy with the Church of England and its morally questionable actions.
- The Protestant Reformation was an effort to “clean up” some of the bad policies and practices of the Church of England.



# Origins of Puritanism

- Puritans were a group that felt that the Church of England was so corrupt that it was beyond reform.
- In a time when hatred and persecution existed between many denominations, every denomination in Europe hated and persecuted the Puritans. One small group after another boarded ships and came to America.

# Puritan Society

- Religion played an important role in Puritan life. The Puritans felt that they were chosen by God for a special purpose and that they must live every moment in a God-fearing manner. Every man, woman, and child was expected to attend the meeting on the Sabbath without question. Puritans were required to read the Bible which showed their religious discipline. If they did not read the Bible, it was thought that they were worshiping the devil.



# Puritan Society

- The Puritans had their own unique community and cultural practices, most of them based on their religious beliefs.
- Puritans rejected the rituals and extravagant buildings of the major denominations in Europe. Puritans emphasized individual conscience before God, and rejected the dogmas of organized religion.

# Strict Beliefs

- After the prayer, the minister would continue with an emotional sermon. The minister's sermon would last for two, three, even four hours at a time without restroom breaks or intermissions. The Puritans listened intently to the terrible warnings of sin and punishment.

# Strict Beliefs

- Puritans did not like music in their services. They also felt that music and celebrating were not appropriate in the church meeting house. It was many years before any musical instruments were allowed in the church.



# Religious Fervor

- The most infamous occurrence involving the Puritans were the events that transpired in Salem, Mass. in 1692.
- Launching the hysteria was the bizarre, seemingly inexplicable behavior of two young girls; the daughter, Betty, and the niece, Abigail Williams, of the Salem Village minister, Reverend Samuel Parris.

# Slavery in America

- European settlers brought the first slaves to America in 1619.
- The slave trade was incredibly brutal and inhumane, as narratives of the kidnapping and transportation of slaves make clear.



# Slavery

- In early America, slavery existed in every one of the original colonies.
- In the early 1600's slaves were so numerous in America that comprised approximately 20% of the population of the 13 colonies.
- Ironically, Puritans could be very intolerant of their slaves' religious beliefs.

# Slavery

- Great Britain banned the importation of slaves in 1807.
- Later, in 1833 Great Britain abolished slavery throughout the British Empire.
- The United States did not abolish slavery until 1865, over 30 years after most European countries.

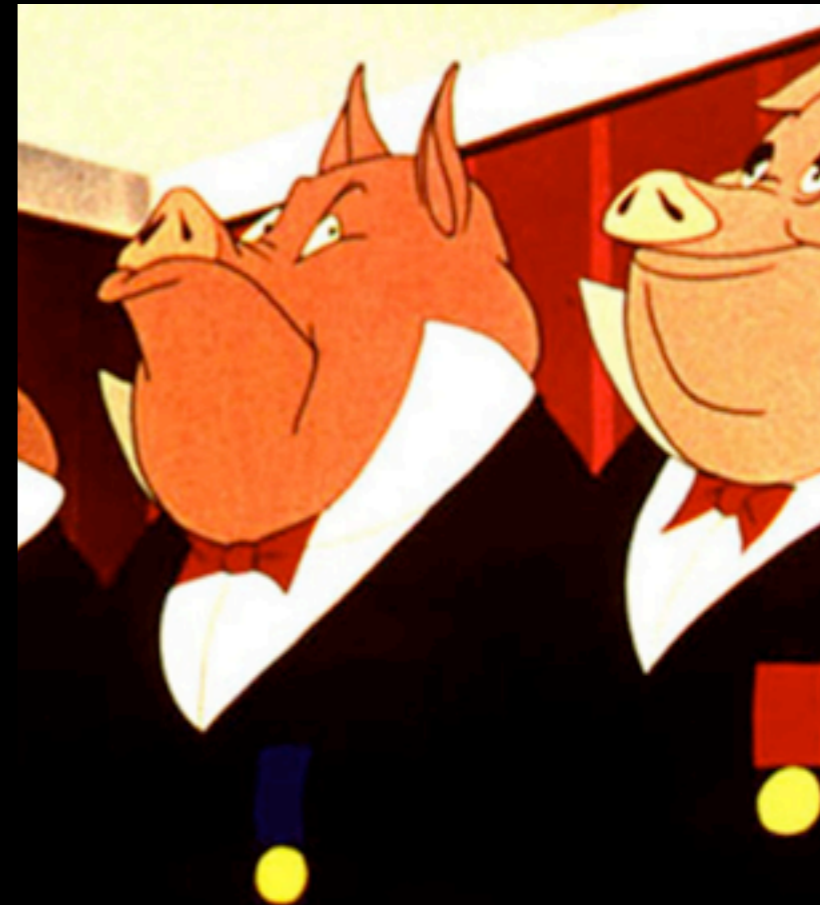
# The Red Scare

- In the 1940's & 1950's much of America was suspicious of communism.
- Senator Joseph McCarthy accused many Americans, including government officials of being communists.



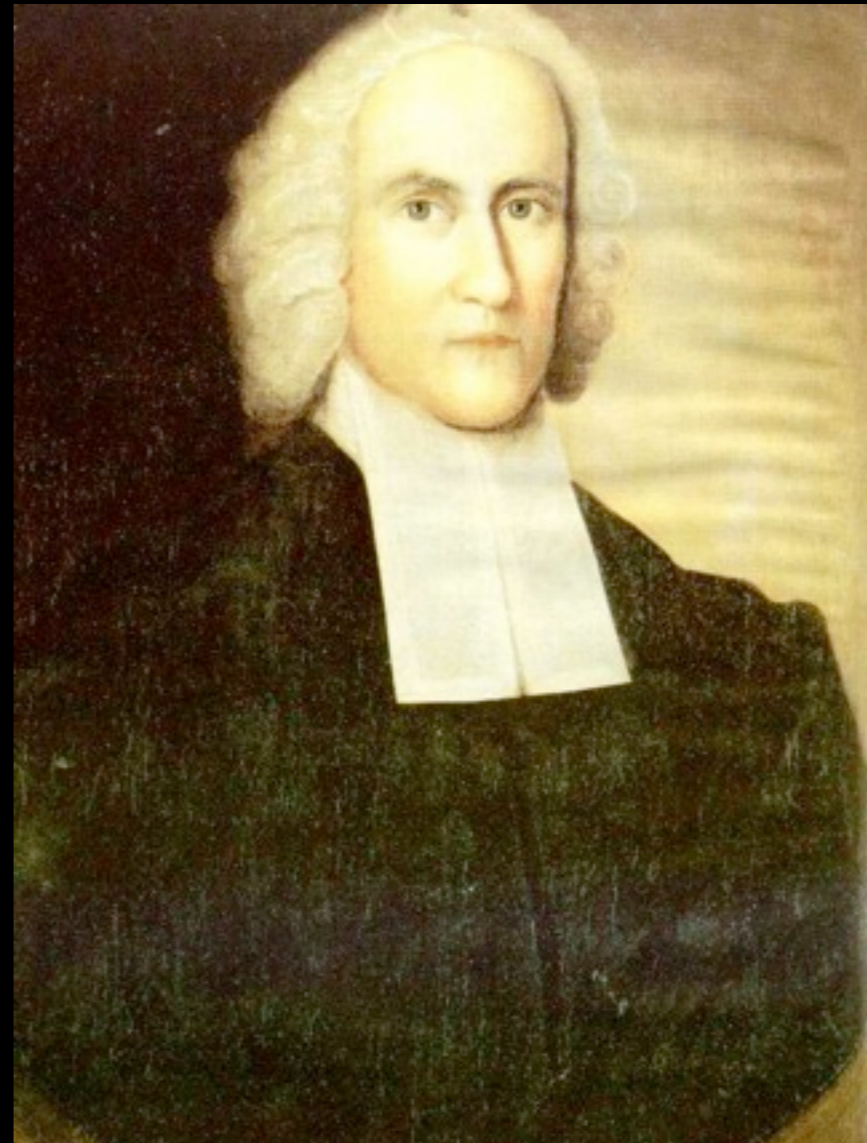
# Allegory

- An allegory is a symbolic narrative. In an allegory, many characters and events represent something else, symbolically.
- “The Crucible” is a very famous form of allegory.



# Jonathan Edwards

- Jonathan Edwards was a Puritan minister. He authored a very famous sermon entitled Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.



# Jonathan Edwards

- The Sermon is found on pages 106-112 in your textbooks.
- For tomorrow, you should have finish the sermon and answer question #2 on pg. 112 in your notebooks.

