Puritanism in Mid-Seventeenth Century England

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Puritanism In Mid-17th Century England
A Religious, Political and Socioeconomic Exposition

**Religion**

England was divided into two main religious groups.
- **Anglicans and Puritans**
  Many viewed the Anglican Church as too closely aligned with the Roman Catholic Church.
- **Corrupt and Hierarchical**
- **Too centered on ceremonies**

Puritans wanted to reform the church and make it more accessible to the common people.
- **All members could participate in ceremonies**
- **Religious tolerance**

Evidence
- **Speech Made to the House of Commons Concerning Episcopacy**
- **Solemn League and Covenant of 1643**
- **The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church**

**Politics**

Charles I was unwilling to work with Parliament because of his pro-Catholic sentiments.
- **Relied on Archbishop William Laud too heavily**
- **Placed Catholics in the most important positions**

Parliament became divided into two groups.
- **Cavaliers and Roundheads**

The Puritans supported the Roundheads.
- **Wanted to expand rights to common people**

Evidence
- **England's Memorable Accidents**
- **Certaine Informations from Severall Parts of the Kingdome**
- **The Clarke Papers**

**Socioeconomics**

England was a pre-industrialized economy.
- **There was industry but it did not run the economy**
- **Still rooted in agriculture**

Landed Aristocracy had capital resources but needed finances to build industry.
- **Middle class merchants invest profits**

The Puritans made up most of the middle class
- **Educated business owners**
- **Emphasized productivity and hard work**

Evidence
- **The Pre-Industrial Economy in England, 1500-1750**
- **John Aylmer**
- **Economic Expansion and Social Change: England 1500-1700**