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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*
- *Certain 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*