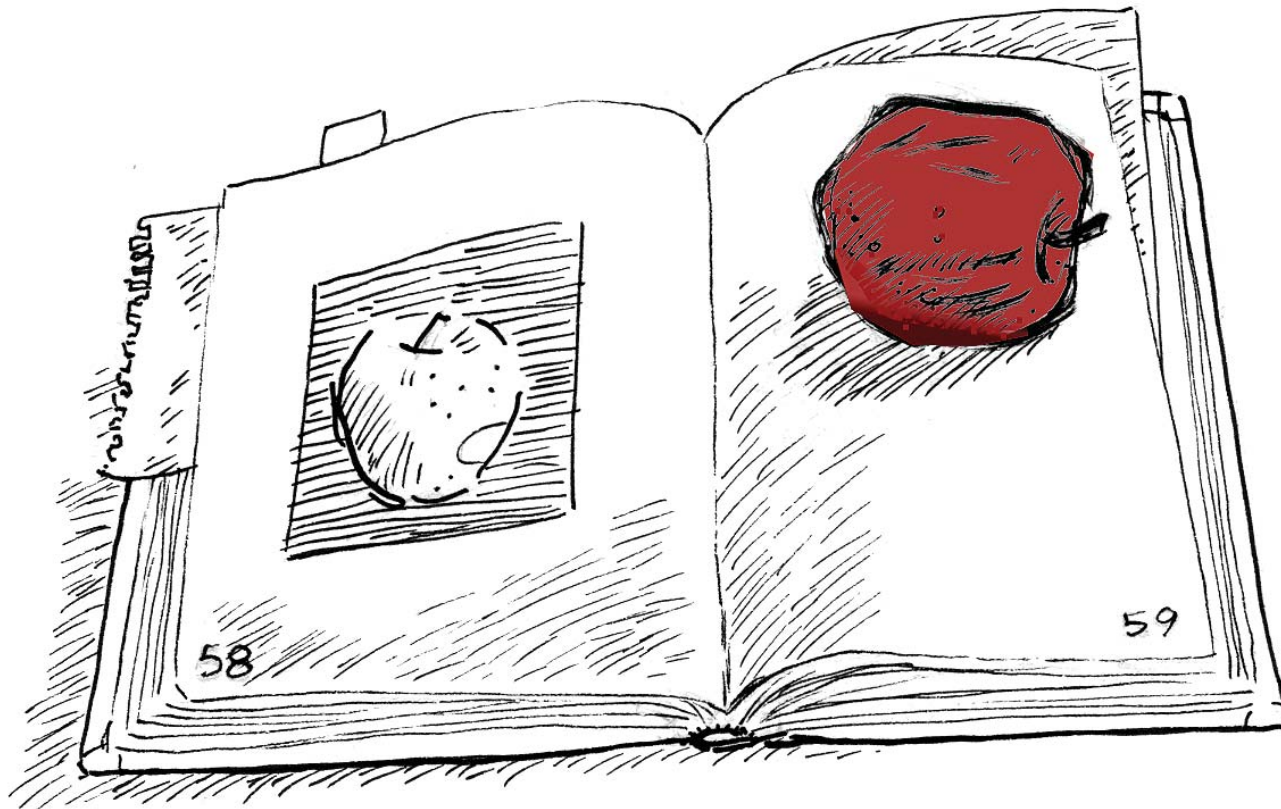


Early Colonial Ideology



Time Line overview

- 1621 • William Bradford becomes leader of Plymouth Colony > Separatists = “Pilgrims”
- 1630 • John Cotton delivers sermon, “Divine Right to Occupy the Land”
- John Winthrop becomes leader of Massachusetts Bay Colony= Puritans
- Anne Bradstreet, Simon Bradstreet (her husband, future governor), and Thomas Dudley (her father / another future governor) are members of Puritans.
- 1631 • Roger Williams arrives at Plymouth Colony from England
- 1632 • Williams publicly condemns the King’s charters and the right of Plymouth Colony to occupy the land; recants position under pressure
- 1633 • Roger Williams moves to Salem; raises issues regarding the charter again
- 1633/4 • John Cotton sails to New World
- Anne Hutchinson sails to New World
- 1635 • Roger Williams flees Salem
- 1636 • Roger Williams founds Providence Plantation (Rhode Island)
- 1637 • Anne Hutchinson exiled from Massachusetts Bay Colony
- 1643 • United Colonies of New England is formed, one of the first notions of a collected governmental body
- 1649 • Charles I of England beheaded; England is declared a Commonwealth
- 1652 • Providence Plantation abolishes slavery within its colony
- February 1692 / May 1693
 - Witch Trials in Salem Village, Ipswich, Andover and Salem Town.

The Puritan Mind-Set

For a majority of the Puritans—all words were a necessity, even sensuous words, despite their limitations.

The Puritans viewed all forms of words (spoken, printed, casual thoughts, prayers) played in the plans for salvation — because all words were created by God and should serve to glorify God.

They believed New England was established as a means of redeeming the sins of Europe—through their actions as English citizens.

- Puritans did not consider themselves as a new form of government but rather as an off-shoot of the established English government.

The Puritan Mind-Set

The Separatists/Puritans' main break with the Church of England

- they felt a stronger conservative measure was needed
- the English Reformation was still too closely linked to the Church of Rome
- one of the major conflicts was the belief of Predestination

Puritans Believed Strongly in Predestination

- as an omnipotent being, God knows in advance the fate of the Universe
- some humans are already on the salvation list, and others are not
- one cannot escape the pre-determined list
- one cannot save themselves, no matter how hard one tries
- if God has established you are damned to hell, even as a chaste Puritan,
you are damned
- however, one should try to avoid sin and fight against its influences.

The Puritan Mind-Set

- No one is pure. Everyone is stained with Original Sin.

Everyone is equal in God's Eyes due to the Fall of Man.

- Despite this, the American Puritans did not establish a democratic system.
- Colonial Separatists and Puritans established religion controlled the politics, creating a theocracy.

Theocracy: a form of government in which God or a deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler, the God's or deity's laws being interpreted by the ecclesiastical authorities.

- The social order followed a rigorous system of order.
- No other religion was tolerated.
- No other form of Puritanism were allowed within individual colonies.

Puritan Plain Style

The Puritan Plain style requires both writing and artistic senses to be under full control of the *author* and in retrospect, the *reader* as well.

Creative works must:

- display a perspective of the wilderness as pagan and untamed
- display Puritan characters without rashness, without color
- always show them as civilized followers of God

The Puritans opposed:

- open declarations of affection, even a husband to his wife
- emotional, passionate sentiments
- heavily decorative metaphors
- erotic notions for literary themes