The first truly comprehensive account of puritanism and its rich, dense, tumultuous history on both sides of the Atlantic

Puritanism began in England in the 1540s and ended on both sides of the Atlantic around 1690. During that span of time, "hot protestants"—puritans—executed one king, helped remove another, founded a short-lived republic in England, and established quasi-republics in New England. Coming from all levels of society, puritans reshaped England's religious culture, destroyed much of its great medieval artistic legacy, wrote creeds and catechisms with worldwide impact, and created a lasting body of religious literature.

In this groundbreaking book, Michael Winship traces puritanism's history, beginning with its initial attempts to reshape the Church of England and the stalemate that followed as it encountered growing official hostility. He goes on to explore the immigration of some puritans to America and their establishment of godly quasi-republics, the splitting of ranks within the movement, and its demise at the end of the seventeenth century.

Told through exemplary episodes, individuals, and experiences, Hot Protestants sheds new light on the way the puritan project of creating reformed churches and intolerant societies evolved—and on how political and religious developments finally brought puritanism to an end, in both England and America.

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